

LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL

HELD AT 7.00 P.M. ON WEDNESDAY, 17 MARCH 2021

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

Members Present:

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

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Agenda order changed at the meeting to consider an Urgent Motion at 13, as the first item of business.

**Speaker of the Council, Councillor Mohammed Ahabab Hossain
in the Chair**

The Speaker of the Council addressed the meeting.

The Speaker recognised that this had been a very difficult year for the community. Everyone had been personally affected by the pandemic. In recognition of this, he had held a special virtual interfaith gathering on 25th February, with a range of faith leaders and elected representatives. This was

for the purposes of giving prayers and messages of comfort and support to the community. He was pleased to report that it had been very well received.

He looked forward to a number of future events to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Independence of Bangladesh. This was a very special occasion which is celebrated around the world and highlighted the importance of learning to live with and respect one another. In particular, he invited Members to join him at a Speaker's event on 26th March to read out messages from the community. He looked forward to sharing this.

With reference to Mother's Day and International Women's Day, he paid tribute to all mothers and the achievements of women.

He also expressed concern about the number of women affected by violence, following the recent events.

At the invitation of the Speaker, the Council observed a minute's silence to remember Sarah Everard and all those women who have been the victims of violence. The Council also paused to remember those who gave their lives for the Independence of Bangladesh.

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of:

- Councillor Dipa Das
- Councillor Puru Miah
- Councillor John Pierce
- Councillor Zenith Rahman

2. DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS AND OTHER INTERESTS

Regarding Motion 12.1 relating to Care Full Pay, the Speaker noted that a number of Members had recorded membership of the GMB Union in their register of interests. Whilst he noted this declaration, he had been advised that all Members may participate in the debate and vote on this item.

Councillor Kahar Chowdhury declared a Non - Disclosable Pecuniary Interest (Non DPI) in Agenda item, 12.1 Motion regarding Care Full Pay. This was on the basis of his wife's employment in the care sector. He advised that she did not benefit from the proposals. He did not vote on the motion.

Councillor Krysten Perry declared a Non - DPI in agenda item 7, Administration Motion debate – regarding Climate Change. This was on the basis that she was Chair of the Council's Pensions Committee.

3. MINUTES**RESOLVED:**

1. That the unrestricted minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on Wednesday 20th January 2021 and the Meeting of the Budget Council meeting held on 4th March 2021 be confirmed as a correct record and the Speaker be authorised to sign them accordingly.

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

The Speaker was pleased to announce the set up of a Freedom of the Borough Panel to consider nominations from the community for the award. Full Council would ultimately have the final vote on the nominations to decide the winner(s). The Speaker also expressed an intention to coordinate this award with honouring other activities, for example those who had done so much during the pandemic.

The Chief Executive, Will Tuckley provided an update in relation to the following issues:

- Violence Against Women. He advised of the plans to light up the Bromley Public Hall in orange this evening to recognise the UN's Elimination of Violence against Women campaign and following the death of Sarah Everard.
- The Covid/Vaccines programme. Over 57,000 residents had received their first dose of the vaccine. The Council were working hard with the NHS to reach the 100% target for the most vulnerable residents. He also reported that, next Tuesday, there would be a National Day of Reflection and a national minutes silence at 12 noon. Bromley Public Hall would also be lit up as a mark of respect.
- Staffing issues. Following a successful recruitment process, he was pleased to welcome to the Council, Stephen Nayakatawa as Director of Education. Neville Murton and Asmat Hussain had left the Council. Work was underway to recruit to the new post of Corporate Director, Resources and Governance and Section 151 Officer.
- Success at Awards. He was pleased to report that the Council's Asthma and Wheeze project has been shortlisted for an award by the Health Services Journal.
- Elections. The council continued to make good process in preparing for the various elections on 6th May 2021 – (for the London Mayor, the local GLA Member and the referendums on the Council's Governance arrangements and the Isle of Dogs Neighbourhood Plan). The count for these elections would be held on Saturday 8th May at the Excel Centre.
- Census 2021. It was very important that residents were encouraged to complete their survey.

5. TO RECEIVE PETITIONS**6. MAYOR'S REPORT**

The Mayor presented his report to the Council. Following which:

- Councillor Peter Golds, Leader of the Conservative Group, responded briefly to the Mayor's report.

7. ADMINISTRATION MOTION DEBATE- REGARDING CLIMATE CHANGE

Councillor Asma Islam **moved** and Mayor John Biggs **seconded** the motion as printed in the agenda.

Councillor Rabina Khan **moved** and Councillor Andrew Wood **seconded** the following amendment to the motion as set out in the supplementary agenda:

To be added to the existing text:

The Council Notes:

- Friends of the Earth claims that the environment movement is “still overwhelmingly white and middle-class. It further states that we need a “diverse range of voices to solve global problems and achieve social justice.”
- In January 2020 in Davos, Switzerland, Ugandan climate activist, Vanessa Nakate, posed for a photo with Greta Thunberg and three other white climate campaigners. However, when Vanessa subsequently “struggled to find photos” that included her, she discovered that the Associated Press news agency had cropped her out of the image with Greta and that none of her comments from the press conference were included.
- Theo Cullen-Mouze, an Irish climate activist was appalled that Africa is “deliberately removed from the picture. He said: “Africa has contributed the least [carbon emissions] but will suffer the most from climate breakdown.”
- The Archdeacon of Croydon, the Venerable Dr Rosemarie Mallet, is a leading figure within the Church of England on climate change. Her aim is to give a voice to those who are keen to bring about change, but fear the repercussions of doing so. During Extinction Rebellion protests for example, people from BAME backgrounds fear being targeted by the police in a less favourable way than white protesters.
- When Lucy Craig, a 73-year-old white activist was asked whether she thought that being a middle-class, well off white woman helped her within the protest, she said: “Absolutely. Everything is fuelled by white privilege.”

The Council Believes:

- Despite the fact that BAME people have been involved in climate activism for decades, their views and efforts seem to be excluded from

debates. International climate lawyer, Farhana Yamin, for example, was a lead proponent of the net zero emissions by 2050 goal in the Paris Agreements. She was tired of the promises made by the carbon emission trading system. “I wanted to think bolder and bigger – no more mucking around with carbon budgets. These gases are toxic. We shouldn’t create trading systems for toxic pollutants.”

- Although people from BAME backgrounds have been invisible in the climate debate and protests, they are disproportionately affected by air pollution, not least because areas of London with the highest levels of pollution are occupied by a large BAME population. Most people will recall the tragic case of Ella Kissi-Debrah, the 9-year-old whose mother believes that her daughter’s fatal asthma attack was linked to illegal levels of pollution.
- In August 2020, Anjali Raman-Middleton set up the pollution advocacy group Choked Up with three other students. Anjali had attended the same primary school as Ella.

The Council Resolves:

- The council proposes a programme called Tower Hamlets Diversity in Climate Change Engagement to deliver effective engagement with all communities, particularly the hard-to-reach communities and people from Black, Asian, Minority and diverse communities, people with access and mobility requirements.
- To engage with organisations such as Climate Reframe, which amplifies diverse voices in the UK Environmental Movement, and Choked Up.
- The programme also works with faith communities to look at how faith and climate change can work together. During Ramadan, for example, families and communities come together to celebrate and help each other. Muslims deliver food packages to the needy and recognise the importance of never wasting food, which in turn benefits the environment.
- That the council actively seeks climate change campaigners from Black, Asian, Ethnic Minority, Diverse and disabled backgrounds to speak at climate change events and become involved in the third sector, thereby empowering other marginalised communities to participate and make a valuable contribution to tackling climate change.

Councillor Andrew Wood **moved** and Councillor Peter Golds **seconded** the following amendment to the motion as set out in the supplementary agenda

Amendments showed underlined:

This Council notes:

1. In March 2019, Tower Hamlets became one of the first councils in the country to declare a climate emergency, more than three years after the Paris Agreement was signed;
2. That the Oxford English dictionary defines emergency as a “situation requiring immediate action”
3. The Council has committed to becoming a net zero carbon Council by 2025 and a net zero carbon borough by 2050;

4. The Council is implementing its Net Zero Carbon Action Plan which sets out the aim to do all we can to reach zero carbon by 2025, including actions around the new Town Hall, procurement, the electrification of the council's vehicle fleet, amongst other actions. The Net Zero Carbon 2025 action plan sets out our commitment to tackling the climate emergency:
<https://democracy.towerhamlets.gov.uk/mgConvert2PDF.aspx?ID=165906>
5. The council is delivering against its climate emergency ambitions through a number of actions and decisions including:
 1. Switching to a renewable energy supplier – in October 2019 LBTH transferred to a 100% renewable electricity tariff more than ten years after it was possible to do so.
 2. The Pensions Committee have actively engaged with the climate change agenda and are looking at revising their investment strategy towards a greener portfolio
 3. Commenced a Sustainable Workplace programme to instil sustainable behaviours for council employees including: promoting resource efficiency (reducing energy use; moving to paperless working); reduction in single use plastics including elimination of plastic cups from buildings; and introduction of food waste collection to council offices to reduce waste being sent to landfill and incineration.
 4. Tower Hamlets has one of the worse records in the country for dealing with litter and punishing fly tipping.
 5. Adoption of Tower Hamlets Transport Strategy which sets out our vision and priorities for travel in Tower Hamlets from 2020 – 2041 through sustainable means of transport
 6. Which will include enforcement of parking restrictions on double yellow lines as opposed to the recent situation in Blackwall where a resident parked a vehicle so regularly on double yellow lines, without penalties that it could be seen on Google Maps. Ensuring that parking fines are collected, rather than the situation where one person alone ran up unpaid fines of over £30,000 for a single vehicle and when the council describes no residences as car free, this means that rather than the current situation whereby the developments and surrounding streets are clogged with residents ignoring the car free status because of the lack of enforcement by estate management and the Council.
 7. Commenced the Liveable Streets programme which aims to improve the look and feel of public spaces in neighbourhoods across the borough and make it easier, safer, and more convenient to get around by foot, bike and public transport and it seems delay the arrival of ambulances through blocking roads rather than providing lockable access.
 8. Continuing to deliver our tree planting programme to deliver over 1,000 street trees. This programme will increase carbon capture
 9. That the Council continue to agree to the cutting down of mature trees well in advance of construction work taking

- place including on sites it owns despite being areas of low air quality.
10. Agreeing to the removal of two mature trees on what is becoming the densest road in the UK for a temporary sales office;
 11. Our programme of installation of electrical vehicle charging points across the borough, with 159 new points to be installed between February and April 2021 but none installed in 2019 and 2020 after the emergency was declared except for some test sites. That there are over 30,000 parking bays on Tower Hamlets streets.
 12. That there are no electric vehicle charging points in any Council building
 13. That the Council still only operates two all-electric vehicles, neither of them road worthy as can only be used in a park and the other at the transport depot. That it only has a couple of hybrid vehicles.
 14. That the Council spent £10 million on a fleet of new diesel refuse vehicles a year ago while our neighbours in the City of London now have an all-electric refuse fleet.
 15. That the Council after it declared a climate emergency installed new diesel storage tanks at its transport depot.
 16. That an increasing number of local petrol stations are being lost which has the short term impact of creating more traffic as drivers have to drive further to refill.
 17. That the new Local Plan 2031 only requires new developments to have 40% electric vehicle charging in their parking bays, most new development going through planning now won't complete until close to 2030.
 18. Tower Hamlets Councils record in recent years of locating new schools and permitting new housing right next to major roads..
 19. Adopted Local Plan policies that require all new developments to achieve net-zero carbon status.
 20. Only one Council building has a solar panel or other form of renewable energy.
 21. That solar panels are extremely rare in Tower Hamlets and even rarer are wind turbines.
 22. Commenced a review of Council Assets for Zero Carbon retrofit feasibility and successfully bid for the public sector decarbonisation fund to tackle our highest emitting buildings
 23. Completed initial feasibility for decarbonisation of Barkantine district heating network
 24. Undertaking a review of design standards for new council development to ensure that requirements align to the climate emergency declaration and deliver net-zero carbon objectives
 25. Developed a draft Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) for waste and recycling developments, currently out for consultation, which aims to revise planning policies to encourage and enforce waste reduction and recycling
 26. That the recycling rate in Tower Hamlets has been falling for years from 28% in 2016/17 to 19.9% in Q2 2020/21.
 27. Commenced a review of Tower Hamlets Homes properties

for Bio-solar retrofit

- o Other retrofit initiatives as set out in the housing capital programme, and the Net Zero Carbon Plan
- o Continued delivery of carbon reduction projects: grants programme for schools to deliver carbon reduction measures; grants programme for SME's for energy efficiency measures; residential heating efficiency project
- o Undertaking a review of new civic centre proposals to ensure design is as energy efficient as possible and the operating environment and systems are low carbon which we should have already done.
- o Continuing to roll out the phased programme of LED street lighting upgrades to replace all lamp columns in the borough and missing the opportunity in the early phases to equip them with EV chargers in the base when located next to parking bays.
- o That Brent Council has more EV chargers in its Town Hall car park than Tower Hamlets Council has in the whole of the Borough.
- o Focus on delivering the proposal to roll out flats recycling package, as recommended by the Resource London project "making recycling work for people in flats".

This Council also notes:

1. The Climate Engagement Event organised for 17th March to raise awareness and demonstrate progress made by the Council and its partners since the Climate Emergency Declaration as we realised two years were up and we had not done very much yet.

This Council believes:

1. We continue to face a climate emergency and need to take immediate action at a local, national and international level;
2. ~~That since the declaration of a Climate Emergency in Tower Hamlets, the Council has made significant progress but must continue to focus on this as a priority issue for the borough~~ That since the declaration of a Climate Emergency in Tower Hamlets, the council has made little progress except in publicity and must therefore focus on actual delivery;
3. The Council must continue to lead by example but given it accounts for a relatively small amount of the borough's carbon, it is vital that we use our community leadership role to encourage and work alongside residents, businesses and partners to make changes in order to address the crisis;
4. Tower Hamlets is known for its diversity and we will use positive approaches to engage BAME residents with the climate emergency agenda.

This Council resolves:

1. To deliver its Net Zero Carbon Action Plan;
2. To continue to work with local residents, businesses and council partners to achieve our net zero commitment, including developing an

- action plan to meet our target;
3. To review our recycling targets and revise our waste strategy;
 4. To make pink recycling bags easy to access;
 5. To set up a new waste and recycling board representative of the Borough and not just the administration to enable us to work with our partners and residents which will work towards mitigating issues and help us work towards the aims of our waste strategy;
 6. To adopt a targeted campaign strategy to decrease contamination and encourage recycling amongst residents and businesses.
 7. To stop cutting down its own trees or permitting others to do so until there is no other choice, to look instead at pruning trees rather than cutting them down as a compromise and with the knowledge that replacements are being grown in nurseries elsewhere in the country

Following debate, the amendment moved by Councillor Rabina Khan was put to a vote and was **defeated**.

The amendment moved by Councillor Peter Golds was put to a vote and was **defeated**.

The substantive motion was put to a vote and was **agreed**.

RESOLVED:

This Council notes:

1. In March 2019, Tower Hamlets became one of the first councils in the country to declare a climate emergency;
2. The Council has committed to becoming a net zero carbon Council by 2025 and a net zero carbon borough by 2050;
3. The Council is implementing its Net Zero Carbon Action Plan which sets out the aim to do all we can to reach zero carbon by 2025, including actions around the new Town Hall, procurement, the electrification of the council's vehicle fleet, amongst other actions. The Net Zero Carbon 2025 action plan sets out our commitment to tackling the climate emergency:
<https://democracy.towerhamlets.gov.uk/mgConvert2PDF.aspx?ID=165906>
4. The council is delivering against its climate emergency ambitions through a number of actions and decisions including:
 - Switching to a renewable energy supplier – in October 2019 LBTH transferred to a 100% renewable electricity tariff
 - The Pensions Committee have actively engaged with the climate change agenda and are looking at revising their investment strategy towards a greener portfolio
 - Commenced a Sustainable Workplace programme to instil sustainable behaviours for council employees including: promoting resource efficiency (reducing energy use; moving to paperless working); reduction in single use plastics including elimination of plastic cups from buildings; and introduction of

- food waste collection to council offices to reduce waste being sent to landfill and incineration
- Adoption of Tower Hamlets Transport Strategy which sets out our vision and priorities for travel in Tower Hamlets from 2020 – 2041 through sustainable means of transport
 - Commenced the Liveable Streets programme which aims to improve the look and feel of public spaces in neighbourhoods across the borough and make it easier, safer, and more convenient to get around by foot, bike and public transport
 - Continuing to deliver our tree planting programme to deliver over 1000 street trees. This programme will increase carbon capture
 - Our programme of installation of electrical vehicle charging points across the borough, with 159 new points to be installed between February and April 2021
 - Adopted Local Plan policies that require all new developments to achieve net-zero carbon status.
 - Commenced a review of Council Assets for Zero Carbon retrofit feasibility and successfully bid for the public sector decarbonisation fund to tackle our highest emitting buildings
 - Completed initial feasibility for decarbonisation of Barkantine district heating network
 - Undertaking a review of design standards for new council development to ensure that requirements align to the climate emergency declaration and deliver net-zero carbon objectives
 - Developed a draft Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) for waste and recycling developments, currently out for consultation, which aims to revise planning policies to encourage and enforce waste reduction and recycling
 - Commenced a review of Tower Hamlets Homes properties for Bio-solar retrofit
 - Other retrofit initiatives as set out in the housing capital programme, and the Net Zero Carbon Plan
 - Continued delivery of carbon reduction projects: grants programme for schools to deliver carbon reduction measures; grants programme for SME's for energy efficiency measures; residential heating efficiency project
 - Undertaking a review of new civic centre proposals to ensure design is as energy efficient as possible and the operating environment and systems are low carbon
 - Continuing to roll out the phased programme of LED street lighting upgrades to replace all lamp columns in the borough
 - Focus on delivering the proposal to roll out flats recycling package, as recommended by the Resource London project “making recycling work for people in flats”.

This Council also notes:

1. The Climate Engagement Event organised for 17th March to raise awareness and demonstrate progress made by the Council and its partners since the Climate Emergency Declaration.

This Council believes:

1. We continue to face a climate emergency and need to take immediate action at a local, national and international level;
2. That since the declaration of a Climate Emergency in Tower Hamlets, the Council has made significant progress but must continue to focus on this as a priority issue for the borough;
3. The Council must continue to lead by example but given it accounts for a relatively small amount of the borough's carbon, it is vital that we use our community leadership role to encourage and work alongside residents, businesses and partners to make changes in order to address the crisis;
4. Tower Hamlets is known for its diversity and we will use positive approaches to engage BAME residents with the climate emergency agenda.

This Council resolves:

1. To deliver its Net Zero Carbon Action Plan;
2. To continue to work with local residents, businesses and council partners to achieve our net zero commitment, including developing an action plan to meet our target;
3. To review our recycling targets and revise our waste strategy;
4. To set up a new waste and recycling board to enable us to work with our partners and residents which will work towards mitigating issues and help us work towards the aims of our waste strategy;
5. To adopt a targeted campaign strategy to decrease contamination and encourage recycling amongst residents and businesses.

| Results of Vote on Councillor Rabina Khan's amendment to the Motion | |
|--|---------|
| Councillor Faroque Ahmed | Against |
| Councillor Rajib Ahmed | Against |
| Councillor Sabina Akhtar | Against |
| Councillor Sufia Alam | Against |
| Councillor Amina Ali | Against |
| Councillor Shah Ameen | Against |
| Councillor Asma Begum | Against |
| Mayor John Biggs | Against |
| Councillor Rachel Blake | Against |
| Councillor Kevin Brady | Against |
| Councillor Mufeedah Bustin | Against |
| Councillor Kahar Chowdhury | Against |
| Councillor Shad Chowdhury | Against |
| Councillor David Edgar | Against |
| Councillor Marc Francis | Against |
| Councillor Peter Golds | Against |
| Councillor Ehtasham Haque | Against |
| Councillor Danny Hassell | Against |
| Councillor Mohammed Ahbab Hossain | Against |
| Councillor Asma Islam | Against |
| Councillor Sirajul Islam | Against |

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|------------------------------------|---------|
| Councillor Denise Jones | Against |
| Councillor Rabina Khan | For |
| Councillor Tarik Khan | Against |
| Councillor James King | Against |
| Councillor Eve McQuillan | Against |
| Councillor Ayas Miah | Against |
| Councillor Abdul Mukit MBE | Against |
| Councillor Victoria Obaze | Against |
| Councillor Mohammed Pappu | Against |
| Councillor Kyrsten Perry | Against |
| Councillor Leema Qureshi | Against |
| Councillor Candida Ronald | Against |
| Councillor Gabriela Salva Macallan | Against |
| Councillor Dan Tomlinson | Against |
| Councillor Helal Uddin | Against |
| Councillor Abdal Ullah | Against |
| Councillor Motin Uz-Zaman | Against |
| Councillor Val Whitehead | Against |
| Councillor Bex White | Against |
| Councillor Andrew Wood | For |
| Rejected | |

| Results of Vote on Councillor Peter Golds amendment to the Motion | |
|--|---------|
| Councillor Faroque Ahmed | Against |
| Councillor Rajib Ahmed | Against |
| Councillor Sabina Akhtar | Against |
| Councillor Sufia Alam | Against |
| Councillor Amina Ali | Against |
| Councillor Shah Ameen | Against |
| Councillor Asma Begum | Against |
| Mayor John Biggs | Against |
| Councillor Rachel Blake | Against |
| Councillor Kevin Brady | Against |
| Councillor Mufeedah Bustin | Against |
| Councillor Kahar Chowdhury | Against |
| Councillor Shad Chowdhury | Against |
| Councillor David Edgar | Against |
| Councillor Marc Francis | Against |
| Councillor Peter Golds | For |
| Councillor Ehtasham Haque | Against |
| Councillor Danny Hassell | Against |
| Councillor Mohammed Ahbab Hossain | Against |
| Councillor Asma Islam | Against |
| Councillor Sirajul Islam | Against |
| Councillor Denise Jones | Against |
| Councillor Rabina Khan | Abstain |
| Councillor Tarik Khan | Against |
| Councillor James King | Against |
| Councillor Eve McQuillan | Against |

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|------------------------------------|---------|
| Councillor Ayas Miah | Against |
| Councillor Abdul Mukit MBE | Against |
| Councillor Victoria Obaze | Against |
| Councillor Mohammed Pappu | Against |
| Councillor Kyrsten Perry | Against |
| Councillor Leema Qureshi | Against |
| Councillor Candida Ronald | Against |
| Councillor Gabriela Salva Macallan | Against |
| Councillor Dan Tomlinson | Against |
| Councillor Helal Uddin | Against |
| Councillor Abdal Ullah | Against |
| Councillor Motin Uz-Zaman | Against |
| Councillor Val Whitehead | Against |
| Councillor Bex White | Against |
| Councillor Andrew Wood | For |
| Rejected | |

| Results of Vote on Substantive Motion | |
|--|---------|
| Councillor Faroque Ahmed | For |
| Councillor Rajib Ahmed | For |
| Councillor Sabina Akhtar | For |
| Councillor Sufia Alam | For |
| Councillor Amina Ali | For |
| Councillor Shah Ameen | For |
| Councillor Asma Begum | For |
| Mayor John Biggs | For |
| Councillor Rachel Blake | For |
| Councillor Kevin Brady | For |
| Councillor Mufeedah Bustin | For |
| Councillor Kahar Chowdhury | For |
| Councillor Shad Chowdhury | For |
| Councillor David Edgar | For |
| Councillor Marc Francis | For |
| Councillor Peter Golds | Abstain |
| Councillor Ehtasham Haque | For |
| Councillor Danny Hassell | For |
| Councillor Mohammed Ahbab Hossain | For |
| Councillor Asma Islam | For |
| Councillor Sirajul Islam | For |
| Councillor Denise Jones | For |
| Councillor Rabina Khan | Abstain |
| Councillor Tarik Khan | For |
| Councillor James King | For |
| Councillor Eve McQuillan | For |
| Councillor Ayas Miah | For |
| Councillor Abdul Mukit MBE | For |
| Councillor Victoria Obaze | For |
| Councillor Mohammed Pappu | For |
| Councillor Kyrsten Perry | For |

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|------------------------------------|---------|
| Councillor Leema Qureshi | For |
| Councillor Candida Ronald | For |
| Councillor Gabriela Salva Macallan | For |
| Councillor Dan Tomlinson | For |
| Councillor Helal Uddin | For |
| Councillor Abdal Ullah | For |
| Councillor Motin Uz-Zaman | For |
| Councillor Val Whitehead | For |
| Councillor Bex White | For |
| Councillor Andrew Wood | Abstain |
| Carried | |

8. OPPOSITION MOTION DEBATE REGARDING THE IMPACT OF CONSTRUCTION ON THE ISLE OF DOGS AND SOUTH POPLAR

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

Councillor Eve McQuillan **moved** and Councillor Danny Hassell **seconded** the following amendment to the motion, as set out in the supplementary agenda.

Added text underlined
Deleted text scored out

That the scale of development in the London Borough of Tower Hamlets is the highest in the country, which is why we receive the most New Homes Bonus of any local authority and that the Councils Local Plan 2031 allocates 57% of all new homes in the Borough to the Isle of Dogs and South Poplar area which already contains three of the ten densest small places in the country.

~~This scale of development seriously impacts on the health and quality of life of existing residents as well as visitors to the area. It also disrupts local roads and transport.~~ needs to be managed carefully to mitigate the impact on residents and businesses but also to ensure that we continue to provide the much-needed new council and affordable homes across the borough.

We note the positive work that the Council does to minimise the impact of construction, to support residents, and to promote and enforce good standards, and we note the ongoing reviews – including a review of the Construction Code of Practice – and the establishment of the Development Coordination Pilot which means we can take an holistic approach to addressing recurring issues.

The Council recently launched the Development Coordination Pilot, with a team formed in February 2021, to complement the wide range of compliance activity the Council already undertakes. The team are currently engaging all stakeholders, including service areas, developers, residents, members and more.

We recognise the challenges involved in accommodating the significant levels of construction activity and the establishment of this team demonstrates the Council's desire to address those challenges.

Two residents have died in construction related injuries while living next to or walking past a construction site, namely in Bow and Burdett Road, Limehouse.

There have also been dangerous incidents in the Isle of Dogs and South Poplar caused by construction. During construction of the Calders Wharf development a crane accidentally hit the residential property located on Douglas Path. This year, a bollard being lifted by a crane fell onto Marsh Wall. A metal pole fell from a site next to a dockside path in Crossharbour in February. During the demolition of Robin Hood Gardens concrete fell onto a pavement by the site. Although there were no injuries resulting from these latter incidents they did cause concern to residents.

The impact of construction noise also affects peoples mental health and air quality is affected by construction dust and particles.

This Council believes that we should promote and focus on good industry standards and champion those who meet those standards.

The Council also notes the move of economic activity from offices to homes in the area as working from home becomes more common.

We believe as a Council that we should discourage the unnecessary destruction of trees and green cover adjacent to and within sites, and work to ensure the maintenance of street furniture and bollards, and to protect pavements and accessible walking routes.

This Council therefore welcomes the commencement of an eighteen-month pilot project to explore opportunities to address the cumulative impacts of construction predominantly focussed on the Isle of Dogs and South Poplar.

We note that a review of the Construction Code of Practice is currently underway, and the Council will also be reviewing:

- The potential for setting up an off-site waiting area for construction vehicles;
- The Council's approach to Considerate Constructors Scheme and other similar initiatives;
- Considerations for setting and reviewing hours of construction;
- Management of trees near construction sites;
- Opportunities to monitor and mitigate construction impacts including air quality, dust, noise and vibrations;
- Public safety and accessibility around construction sites including the use of bollards;
- Provision and access for emergency vehicles around construction sites;

The Council has also put in place a planning obligation requiring developers to contribute funds to Council coordination of construction impacts in the future. The pilot will also therefore set out the longer-term plans for this funding to ensure resilient and on-going solutions are put in place.

This Council therefore resolves to note the following actions that the Council takes: ~~recommends that the following issues be addressed as part of that project;~~

- We are reviewing the Construction Code of Practice.
- That we are committed to greater transparency and easier access to information on construction sites and regulatory requirements and conditions, including Construction Management Plans.
- That we take careful consideration of the impact of construction in close proximity to residential areas, whilst noting that very few sites in Tower Hamlets are not in close proximity to residential areas.
- That within the powers available to us, we, the GLA, and good constructors, work to coordinate road and lane closures to reduce their impact on others, and where multiple sites and events are involved, and including the safe access for emergency vehicles to residential areas due to development.
- That we encourage and promote compliance with Considerate Construction Schemes, ensuring that there is publicity on site and via websites and other information to enable residents to know who to contact in case of problems.
- ~~To update the Construction Code of Practise which we think may now be over 14 years old, it refers to Council buildings that no longer exist.~~
- ~~The Council learn to say no to construction companies that ask for an extension of working hours. To address the culture that seems to prioritise the needs of construction companies over that of residents health.~~
- A key priority for the Development Coordination Pilot is to review the way we engage and share information with residents about construction timelines, road closures, hours of construction (including any extensions), key contacts and construction management plans, and it is important that we review how we publicise information.
- ~~That where it says no or modifies what the construction companies have asked for, that it publicises that in order to regain the confidence of residents in its willingness to stand up for them.~~
- ~~That it makes it easier to find information about construction, construction management plans, permission to grant extended hours and road works and road or lane closures.~~

- ~~• That it considers requests for out of hours street works in the same way as it does for work on construction sites.~~
- That Construction Management Plans become live easy to find documents that guide everybody (including other Council departments) in the progress of construction and what is being done to mitigate the negative impacts.
- ~~• That the Council demonstrates how it complies with the;~~
 - ~~• Noise Policy Statement for England~~
 - ~~• Section 79 of Environmental Protection Act 1990~~
 - ~~• Section 60(4)(d) Control of Pollution Act 1974~~
- That the Council will work closely with residents and community groups to understand the impact on communities and use local people's expertise on how best to coordinate work.
- That the Council complies with the Noise Policy Statement for England through the use of planning conditions seeking to mitigate noise impacts.
- That in accordance with Section 79 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990, the Council provides a noise nuisance investigation service from Monday to Friday (9am-5pm) and Thursday to Sunday evening (8pm-3.30am). The Environmental Protection Team record and investigate all noise nuisance complaints and take relevant action when statutory nuisance is witnessed including the issuing of noise abatement notices where appropriate. On many occasions noise nuisance is abated through dialogue, informing, educating and warnings.
- That to comply with Section 60(4)(d) Control of Pollution Act 1974, the Environmental Protection Team serve s60 notices on construction sites restricting the hours of operation and the noise and vibration limits a site can make. They also consider s61 applications for consent and issue consents limiting hours of operation together with noise and vibration limits whilst at the same time making it clear to contractors that best practical means to minimise noise are adhered to. If continuous non-compliance is witnessed legal action is taken. The Team also carry out surveillance visits at the weekends.
- ~~• That careful consideration will need to be given to applications which are made in relation to sites in close proximity to residential areas where the request for changing hours is likely to have a significant impact on health (to quote the government guidance on extending working hours during COVID)~~
- ~~• That were work results in closed roads or lanes that it be better coordinated with other closures or events.~~

- ~~• That it installs its own live online air quality sensors and noise monitoring sensors close to construction sites which enable the monitoring of a range of pollutants. That the results be made available online in real time.~~
- ~~• That like one central London Borough it only allows noisy works five days of the week where close to homes or at least gives residents an extra hour of rest on Saturday mornings.~~
- ~~• To ensure the safe access for emergency vehicles to residential areas due to development.~~
- ~~• That it discourages the chopping down of trees on or next to sites unless absolutely necessary and even then only at the last moment.~~
- ~~• To replace bollards in some areas like Marsh Wall which are being continuously knocked over and damaged, they are clearly not strong enough to protect pedestrians on pavements.~~
- ~~• That the council requiring developers to sign up to the Considerate Construction Scheme, and ensuring that there is publicity on site and via websites and other information to enable residents to know who to contact in case of problems.~~
- Establish an offsite waiting area for construction vehicles, as happened on the London 2012 Olympic site, rather have them wait next to people's homes to be called onto site.

Following debate, the amendment was put to a vote and was **agreed**

The motion as amended was put to a vote and was **agreed**

RESOLVED:

That the scale of development in the London Borough of Tower Hamlets is the highest in the country, which is why we receive the most New Homes Bonus of any local authority and that the Councils Local Plan 2031 allocates 57% of all new homes in the Borough to the Isle of Dogs and South Poplar area which already contains three of the ten densest small places in the country.

This scale of development needs to be managed carefully to mitigate the impact on residents and businesses but also to ensure that we continue to provide the much-needed new council and affordable homes across the borough.

We note the positive work that the Council does to minimise the impact of construction, to support residents, and to promote and enforce good standards, and we note the ongoing reviews – including a review of the Construction Code of Practice – and the establishment of the Development Coordination Pilot which means we can take an holistic approach to addressing recurring issues.

The Council recently launched the Development Coordination Pilot, with a team formed in February 2021, to complement the wide range of compliance activity the Council already undertakes. The team are currently engaging all stakeholders, including service areas, developers, residents, members and more.

We recognise the challenges involved in accommodating the significant levels of construction activity and the establishment of this team demonstrates the Council's desire to address those challenges.

Two residents have died in construction related injuries while living next to or walking past a construction site, namely in Bow and Burdett Road, Limehouse.

There have also been dangerous incidents in the Isle of Dogs and South Poplar caused by construction. During construction of the Calders Wharf development a crane accidentally hit the residential property located on Douglas Path. This year, a bollard being lifted by a crane fell onto Marsh Wall. A metal pole fell from a site next to a dockside path in Crossharbour in February. During the demolition of Robin Hood Gardens concrete fell onto a pavement by the site. Although there were no injuries resulting from these latter incidents they did cause concern to residents.

The impact of construction noise also affects peoples mental health and air quality is affected by construction dust and particles.

This Council believes that we should promote and focus on good industry standards and champion those who meet those standards.

The Council also notes the move of economic activity from offices to homes in the area as working from home becomes more common.

We believe as a Council that we should discourage the unnecessary destruction of trees and green cover adjacent to and within sites, and work to ensure the maintenance of street furniture and bollards, and to protect pavements and accessible walking routes.

This Council therefore welcomes the commencement of an eighteen-month pilot project to explore opportunities to address the cumulative impacts of construction predominantly focussed on the Isle of Dogs and South Poplar.

We note that a review of the Construction Code of Practice is currently underway, and the Council will also be reviewing:

- The potential for setting up an off-site waiting area for construction vehicles;
- The Council's approach to Considerate Constructors Scheme and other similar initiatives;
- Considerations for setting and reviewing hours of construction;
- Management of trees near construction sites;
- Opportunities to monitor and mitigate construction impacts including air

- quality, dust, noise and vibrations;
- Public safety and accessibility around construction sites including the use of bollards;
- Provision and access for emergency vehicles around construction sites;

The Council has also put in place a planning obligation requiring developers to contribute funds to Council coordination of construction impacts in the future. The pilot will also therefore set out the longer-term plans for this funding to ensure resilient and on-going solutions are put in place.

This Council therefore resolves to note the following actions that the Council takes:

- We are reviewing the Construction Code of Practice.
- That we are committed to greater transparency and easier access to information on construction sites and regulatory requirements and conditions, including Construction Management Plans.
- That we take careful consideration of the impact of construction in close proximity to residential areas, whilst noting that very few sites in Tower Hamlets are not in close proximity to residential areas.
- That within the powers available to us, we, the GLA, and good constructors, work to coordinate road and lane closures to reduce their impact on others, and where multiple sites and events are involved, and including the safe access for emergency vehicles to residential areas due to development.
- That we encourage and promote compliance with Considerate Construction Schemes, ensuring that there is publicity on site and via websites and other information to enable residents to know who to contact in case of problems.
- A key priority for the Development Coordination Pilot is to review the way we engage and share information with residents about construction timelines, road closures, hours of construction (including any extensions), key contacts and construction management plans, and it is important that we review how we publicise information.
- That the Council will work closely with residents and community groups to understand the impact on communities and use local people's expertise on how best to coordinate work.
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- That in accordance with Section 79 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990, the Council provides a noise nuisance investigation service from

Monday to Friday (9am-5pm) and Thursday to Sunday evening (8pm-3.30am). The Environmental Protection Team record and investigate all noise nuisance complaints and take relevant action when statutory nuisance is witnessed including the issuing of noise abatement notices where appropriate. On many occasions noise nuisance is abated through dialogue, informing, educating and warnings.

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| Results of Vote on Amendment proposed by Councillor Eve McQuillan | |
|--|---------|
| Councillor Faroque Ahmed | For |
| Councillor Rajib Ahmed | For |
| Councillor Sabina Akhtar | For |
| Councillor Sufia Alam | For |
| Councillor Amina Ali | For |
| Councillor Shah Ameen | For |
| Councillor Asma Begum | For |
| Mayor John Biggs | For |
| Councillor Rachel Blake | For |
| Councillor Kevin Brady | For |
| Councillor Mufeedah Bustin | For |
| Councillor Kahar Chowdhury | For |
| Councillor Shad Chowdhury | For |
| Councillor David Edgar | For |
| Councillor Marc Francis | For |
| Councillor Peter Golds | Against |
| Councillor Ehtasham Haque | For |
| Councillor Danny Hassell | For |
| Councillor Mohammed Ahabab Hossain | For |
| Councillor Asma Islam | For |
| Councillor Sirajul Islam | For |
| Councillor Denise Jones | For |
| Councillor Rabina Khan | For |
| Councillor Tarik Khan | For |
| Councillor James King | For |
| Councillor Eve McQuillan | For |
| Councillor Ayas Miah | For |
| Councillor Abdul Mukit MBE | For |
| Councillor Victoria Obaze | For |
| Councillor Mohammed Pappu | For |
| Councillor Kyrsten Perry | For |
| Councillor Leema Qureshi | For |

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|------------------------------------|-----|
| Councillor Candida Ronald | For |
| Councillor Gabriela Salva Macallan | For |
| Councillor Dan Tomlinson | For |
| Councillor Helal Uddin | For |
| Councillor Abdal Ullah | For |
| Councillor Motin Uz-Zaman | For |
| Councillor Val Whitehead | For |
| Councillor Bex White | For |
| Councillor Andrew Wood | For |
| Carried | |

| Results of Vote on Motion as amended | |
|---|-----|
| Councillor Faroque Ahmed | For |
| Councillor Rajib Ahmed | For |
| Councillor Sabina Akhtar | For |
| Councillor Sufia Alam | For |
| Councillor Amina Ali | For |
| Councillor Shah Ameen | For |
| Councillor Asma Begum | For |
| Mayor John Biggs | For |
| Councillor Rachel Blake | For |
| Councillor Kevin Brady | For |
| Councillor Mufeedah Bustin | For |
| Councillor Kahar Chowdhury | For |
| Councillor Shad Chowdhury | For |
| Councillor David Edgar | For |
| Councillor Marc Francis | For |
| Councillor Peter Golds | For |
| Councillor Ehtasham Haque | For |
| Councillor Danny Hassell | For |
| Councillor Mohammed Ahbab Hossain | For |
| Councillor Asma Islam | For |
| Councillor Sirajul Islam | For |
| Councillor Denise Jones | For |
| Councillor Rabina Khan | For |
| Councillor Tarik Khan | For |
| Councillor James King | For |
| Councillor Eve McQuillan | For |
| Councillor Ayas Miah | For |
| Councillor Abdul Mukit MBE | For |
| Councillor Victoria Obaze | For |
| Councillor Mohammed Pappu | For |
| Councillor Kyrsten Perry | For |
| Councillor Leema Qureshi | For |
| Councillor Candida Ronald | For |
| Councillor Gabriela Salva Macallan | For |
| Councillor Dan Tomlinson | For |
| Councillor Helal Uddin | For |
| Councillor Abdal Ullah | For |

| | |
|---------------------------|-----|
| Councillor Motin Uz-Zaman | For |
| Councillor Val Whitehead | For |
| Councillor Bex White | For |
| Councillor Andrew Wood | For |
| Carried | |

9. REPORTS FROM THE EXECUTIVE AND THE COUNCIL'S COMMITTEES

9.1 Community Safety Partnership Plan 2021-2024

The Council considered the Community Safety Partnership Plan 2021-2024

RESOLVED:

1. That the Council adopt the Community Safety Partnership Plan 2021-24

9.2 Report of the General Purposes Committee: Pay Policy 2021

The Council considered the Report of the General Purposes Committee setting out a Pay Policy Statement for 2021 – 22.

RESOLVED:

1. That the Council adopt the Pay Policy Statement for 2021-22.
2. Delegate to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Divisional Director HR and Organisational Development, Chair of the GP Committee and Monitoring Officer, any minor changes to the 2021/22 pay policy statement

10. OTHER BUSINESS

10.1 Appoint Co-Opted Member to the Standards Advisory Committee

The Council considered the report of the Standards Advisory Committee regarding the appointment of a Co-Opted Member to the Committee.

RESOLVED:

1. That the Council appoint Denzil Johnson as a Co-opted Member of the Standards Advisory Committee for a four-year term, expiring on 17 March 2025

10.2 Waiver of 6 Month Councillor Attendance Rule and Appointment of Chair of Strategic Development Committee

The Council considered the report regarding the extension of Councillor John Pierce's period of non attendance of office. The Council were also asked to appoint a Chair of the Strategic Development Committee in Councillor Pierce's absence.

Mayor John Biggs **moved** and Councillor Motin Uz – Zaman **seconded** a nomination to appoint Councillor Kevin Brady to the position until the May 2021 Annual Council Meeting.

RESOLVED:

1. That the Council agree to the request to extend Councillor John Pierce's period of office beyond the six-month period of non-attendance provided for within Section 85(1) of the Local Government Act 1972 on the grounds of being on adoption leave.
1. That Council approve the requested extension of time to expire on 31 December 2021.
2. That Councillor Kevin Brady is appointed the Chair of the Strategic Development Committee until the Annual Council Meeting in May 2021

10.3 Member Allowances Scheme

The Council considered the report of the Director of Legal and Interim Monitoring Officer, proposing the adoption of the Members' Allowance Scheme for 2021/22.

RESOLVED:

1. That the Council adopt the London Borough of Tower Hamlets Members' Allowances Scheme 2021/22 as set out at Appendix 'A' to the report.
2. Agree that the Members Allowances Budget be adjusted as necessary to cover the costs following the uprating of the local government pay award as set out at 3.4 of the report.

10.4 Committee Calendar 2021-22

The Council considered the report of the Director of Legal and Interim Monitoring Officer proposing a Calendar of Meetings for 2021/22

RESOLVED:

1. That the Council approve the proposed calendar of meetings for the municipal year 2021/22 as set out in Appendix 1 of the report, subject to the change to the June meeting of the Grants Determination Sub – Committee from 9th June to 23rd June 2021.
2. To delegate to the Interim Monitoring Officer the authority to agree meeting dates for any new Committees or Panels that are set up subsequent to this report being presented to Council, subject to appropriate consultation with Members.

11. TO RECEIVE WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

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

11.1 Question from Councillor Gabriela Salva Macallan:

Recently the major US health insurance group Centene Corporation took over GP services provided by AT medics, affecting half a million patients, in what has been described as privatisation of the NHS by stealth. Can the Mayor or Cabinet Member provide an update on the impact in Tower Hamlets, and how this privatisation might impact our outstanding public health services which have worked so hard to keep our communities safe during the pandemic?

Response of Councillor Rachel Blake, Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Adults, Health and Wellbeing:

We consider that this is a really important issue. At the heart of it, lies the question of how we govern the NHS and it's accountability. We consider that this issue requires much more careful public scrutiny. Local residents should gain assurances from the Government about patient care. Above all, we believe that the NHS should remain in public hands and we are deeply concerned that this is further evidence of privatisation by stealth.

No supplementary question was asked.

11.2 Question from Councillor Peter Golds

Will the Mayor provide an update and likely timetable regarding the rebuild of George Green's Secondary School?

Response of Councillor Mufedah Bustin, Cabinet Member for Planning and Social Inclusion - Lead on Social Inclusion:

I am pleased to confirm that we have secured funding for the following three new schools in the Borough. These are London Dock, Westferry School and the rebuild of the George Green's Secondary School. Following the initial feasibility study, a design consultant was about to be appointed, with the aim of completing the rebuild of the school by August 2024, with an option of an accelerated or a phased programme, where possible, to open in September 2023. The Council have committed in total £51.4 million to the school's rebuild, which was a fantastic investment of infrastructure money on the Isle of Dogs.

Supplementary question from Councillor Peter Golds:

I am pleased that the work covered the three schools including the Westferry School development. Can you confirm whether the Council had exchanged leases for that school?

Councillor Mufedah Bustin's response to supplementary question:

I will find out and provide a written response to you.

11.3 Question from Councillor Sufia Alam

Can the Mayor or Cabinet Member tell us how we are supporting young people into work?

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

It is noted that the economic impact of the pandemic has had a huge impact on young people and families. The Council were working hard to make sure, that as the economy recovers, that we support young people into work. This was a top priority of the Mayor, myself and the Cabinet.

I can provide you with an example of this. In September 2020, the Work Path scheme, began the co-location of the Job Centre Plus to deliver Youth Hub Services, including Kick Start. So far, we have secured 576 Kick – Start placements for 16-24 year olds, on Universal Credit, with recruitment beginning last week. We hope to secure more placements and we have received tremendous support from businesses who would like to take part and will continue to do so.

No supplementary question was asked.

11.4 Question from Councillor Andrew Wood:

How much of the £4.8 billion that the government gave to the Mayor of London in grants to build new affordable homes between 2016 and 2023 as

well as the £4 billion allocated 2021 to 2026 has been allocated to Tower Hamlets Council as well as housing association projects in Tower Hamlets?

Response of Councillor Danny Hassell, Cabinet Member for Housing:

The Council had a strong record in delivering new homes and a commitment to delivering 2000 new Council homes in the Borough.

£12.1 million of funding had been made available to the Council as part of the Building Homes for London Programme. A further £55million per unit had been made available, with an allocation of £11million to the Council, and other Local Authorities working on the Place scheme. This was a partnership initiative to deliver innovative modular homes. The GLA allocated this funding to registered providers across the whole development programme and not by Local Authority area. This is positive, but in recent years, there had been a steep decline in funding. Despite this, we have continued to honour our commitments. In the previous round of GLA funding, we have chosen to prioritise the use of right to buy receipts, so they are not lost. We are actively looking at our bid for the coming round.

No supplementary question was asked.

11.5 Question from Councillor Leema Qureshi:

Can the lead member tell us how we will prioritise tackling the climate emergency as we go through the recovery phase of the world pandemic?

Response of Councillor Asma Islam, Cabinet Member for Environment and Public Realm - Lead on Environment:

During the pandemic, the Council had continued to carry out a number of initiatives including:

- Our Residential Boiler Replacement Programme, which replaced 96 boilers, reducing carbon emissions by 70 tons.
- Providing 87 grants to SMEs, totalling £403,000 to help reduce carbon emissions, to reduce emissions by 198 tons.
- Grants to 26 schools, a total of £618,000, to reduce carbon emissions by 348 tons.
- Securing £721,000 of external funding, as part of the public sector decarbonisation scheme, for works to four Council buildings.
- Joining the GLA Solar Together Project to bring households together to support solar panel installations.
- Use of the Carbon Fund to deliver community led renewable energy projects.

These measures not only help reduce carbon emissions, they also help to support a range of new jobs and encourages the skills we need for a low carbon future.

As we emerge from the pandemic, creating new job opportunities is vital.

No supplementary question was asked.

11.6 Question from Councillor Shad Chowdhury

What support will the council provide small businesses in Spitalfields after Covid, for the Covid recovery?

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

Our vibrant local business sector will be a cornerstone of the recovery plans. The Council had worked tirelessly to help local small businesses including those in Spitalfields. The Council had distributed over £200million in grant support, including rent relief, to businesses and market traders. This work has also involved exploring ways of helping tenants in our properties.

The Mayor has also made funding available to help local businesses undertake necessary adaptations and training.

No supplementary question was asked.

11.7 Question from Councillor Bex White:

What is the Council doing to minimise plastic waste in the Borough, and how is it working in partnership with other local organisations to do this?

Response of Councillor Asma Islam, Cabinet Member for Environment and Public Realm - Lead on Environment:

As highlighted during the previous debate, I can confirm that this remains a key priority for us. We engage in a number of activities with partners with the aim of promoting sustainable living practices.

For example we have:

- Participated in the reusable shopping bag campaign and have carried out workshops regarding single use plastics items.
- Carried out a reusable cup pilot with high street teams.
- Worked to encourage businesses to take part in the National Refill Campaign.
- Put in place measures to phase out single use plastic at the Town Hall and other Council buildings. Staff have been encouraged to use reusable water bottles and lunch containers.

It is noted that a lot of initiatives have had to be put on pause at the moment, However, work would recommence when the restrictions were eased.

No supplementary question was asked.

11.8 Question from Councillor Tarik Khan:

What role will sports play in the Covid recovery for young people, and will there be any funding allocated for this?

Response of Councillor Sabina Akhtar, Cabinet Member for Culture, Arts and Brexit:

Sports services and activities had been affected by the pandemic and the regulations. However, with the lifting of restrictions, outdoor sports will be permitted from 29th March. In light of this, we look forward to providing outdoor and adventure based activities for schools and young people. We are also keen to ensure the continued provision of the Duke of Edinburgh programme on line, with options for limited direct delivery, subject to the guidance.

In addition, the Mayor has recently announced a £3 million Covid Recovery Plan. We are currently looking at what sort of projects this could support. This could include funding for sports and activities for families and young people. I would be grateful to hear your views on this.

Supplementary question from Councillor Tarik Khan

Will the Lead Member commit to a meeting to discuss the delivery of a sports recovery programme for young people?

Councillor Sabina Akhtar's response to supplementary question:

Yes - as well our plans for the Summer Activity programme.

No supplementary question was asked.

11.9 Question from Councillor Amina Ali:

What are we doing to support foodbanks in the borough, which have provided such an important lifeline during the pandemic?

Response of Councillor, Mufeedah Bustin, Cabinet Member for Planning and Social Inclusion - Lead on Social Inclusion:

Yes, the Council remains committed to reducing food poverty. In June the Council set up a food hub to support Voluntary and Community Sector organisations, covering existing food banks and those who had set up food support in response to the pandemic. Our Hub had received a lot of donations, from food redistribution charities and corporate and local organisations. In addition to this, the Council had been purchasing additional food and items through the Covid Winter Grant, which we deliver through our partners on a weekly basis. From June 2020 to February 2021, the Council had sorted and delivered 400 tons of food to support approximately 20,000 residents per week. We have also supported organisations to raise funds through our Space Hive page. We have also put grant providers and

companies offering one off donations of food in direct contact with appropriate organisations.

I wish to thank the Council's Tackling Poverty Team and VCS organisations for their hard work during this year. We need a Government that ensures our residents are protected by an adequate safety net and not the kindness of strangers.

No supplementary question was asked.

11.10 Question from Councillor Ehtasham Haque:

Can the residents of the Isle of Dogs have absolute assurances that the historical Cubitt Town Library will not be closed and will always be protected as a community asset and continue to serve the residents of the Isle of Dogs?

Response of Councillor Sabina Akhtar, Cabinet Member for Culture, Arts and Brexit:

Thank you for all your input on this issue. Members will be aware of the scale of the financial challenges facing the Council and the need to make significant savings and to prioritise such measures as the Council Tax Reduction Scheme. We are mindful of the strong public feedback about the future of libraries and Ideas Stores. The Cabinet had agreed to retain a 5 day opening schedule at the Cubitt Town and Bethnal Green Libraries and the Watney Market Idea Store. Our commitment is to protect Cubitt Town Library until such a time that an alternative library or Idea Store opened in the Crossharbour development site. I believe this is the right outcome and it shows that we listen to feedback. I note that the Conservative and Liberal Democrat Councillors had campaigned on this, but it was the Coalition Government that kick started the austerity measures and caused libraries to close.

Supplementary question from Councillor Ehtasham Haque

What action does the Council intend to take to prevent the Library from facing cuts, given the strong reaction from the public and the need to preserve it as a public asset?

Councillor Sabina Akhtar's response to supplementary question:

The Council were looking at ways of working with community organisations to ensure the continued provision of a community use and a Library. We remain committed to continue to work with the community.

11.12 Question from Councillor David Edgar:

The government has launched an independent review of children's social care. Will the council be making a response to the review?

Response of Councillor Asma Begum Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Children, Youth Services and Education:

Yes, I can confirm that we do intend to submit a response. This is with a view to ensuring that the response focuses on how the National Framework could help us with meeting the needs of children and young people in Tower Hamlets. We believe in every chance for every child and are committed to improving the care and quality of life of children in the Borough

Supplementary question from Councillor David Edgar

Can you ensure that this issue is discussed at the Children in Care Council and the Corporate Parenting Board?

Councillor Asma Begum's response to supplementary question:

Yes we will ensure that.

11.13 Question from Councillor Kyrsten Perry

Will the council continue to lobby national government to fully resolve the fire cladding issue which currently leaves many residents in limbo?

Response of Councillor, Eve McQuillan, Cabinet Member for Planning and Social Inclusion - Lead on Planning:

The Mayor and the Council have raised the concerns of residents regarding fire safety issues and cladding with the Minister of Housing, Communities and Local Government and the Greater London Authority. We meet regularly and will continue to do so.

The Mayor and Officers have met with the residents and landlords from various housing blocks and raised the issues with the Government Department and the relevant Minister. We have also backed the national 'End Our Cladding Scandal Campaign' and remain committed to lobbying on this issue. This issue continues to be a key concern for us, as the Borough with the largest number of buildings affected. Leaseholders have been left with an uncertain future and with unsaleable or un-mortgageable homes. The Government's funding announcements do not go far enough and saddle residents with debts.

We are very concerned that the Government had still not implemented the Grenfell Enquiry recommendations, over three years after the tragic fire.

No supplementary question was asked

Question 11.11 was not put due to the absence of the questioner. Questions 11.14 -11.19 were not put due to lack of time. A written response would be provided to these questions. (Note the written responses are included in Appendix A to these minutes)

12. TO CONSIDER MOTIONS SUBMITTED BY MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL**Procedure Motion**

Councillor Kevin Brady **moved** and Councillor Ehtasham Haque, **seconded**, a procedural motion “that under Procedure Rule 9.3, the Members Questions conclude and the remaining motions, 12.1-12.3 be put to a vote without discussion due to lack of time”. The procedural motion was **agreed**.

12.1 Motion regarding Care Full Pay

Councillor Rachel Blake **moved** and Councillor Val Whitehead **seconded** the motion as printed in the agenda

The motion was **agreed**

RESOLVED:

This Council notes

This council notes:

1. The GMB union has launched its Care Full Pay campaign calling for full occupational sick pay for residential social care staff with the aim of persuading care providers and Government that full sick pay is one of the most effective forms of infection prevention in care homes. The main objectives being
 - a. Full occupational sick pay for those working in residential social care.
 - b. Covid-19 full sick pay as a step to full sick pay.
 - c. Promote full sick pay as an infection control measure
2. The UK has one of the lowest levels of Statutory Sick Pay (SSP) in Europe. Over time, the value of the payment has been eroded, and it now equates to around a fifth of median earnings. The April 2020 SSP rate is £95.85 per week.
3. According to the 2020 Vivaldi study, 77 per cent of care home workers received SSP-only (and a further 7 per cent did not receive any sick pay coverage).
4. The Government set up the Adult Social Care Infection Control Fund with the primary purpose of this fund to support adult social care providers to reduce the rate of COVID-19 transmission in and between care and support wider workforce resilience.
5. The Adult Social Care Infection Control Fund was initially set up with £600 million in funding and was paid out in two tranches. The first has been paid to local authorities on 22 May 2020. The second tranche paid in July 2020.

6. The Government have now agreed to extend the Adult Social Care Infection Control Fund for social care until March 2021, with an additional £546 million for infection control in care in September 2020.
7. Dealing with our post Covid-19 future we will need more rigid infection control measures in our care system.
8. That social care workers provide a vital service in Tower Hamlets and across the country, and are greatly valued.

This council understands that:

1. A strong body of emerging evidence links inadequate sickness pay to higher infection rates, and a reluctance to return to work including:
 - a. The initial findings of the Vivaldi study include tentative evidence that 'in care homes where staff receive sick pay, there are lower levels of infection in residents.'
 - b. A recent survey of furloughed and non-furloughed workers found that 'workers without employer-provided sick pay have a significantly lower willingness to pay to return to work,' and also that 'workers without additional sick pay are significantly more likely to continue to work even with mild coronavirus symptoms.'
 - c. In Spain, a reduction in the generosity of sick pay arrangements was associated with 'huge increases in both the proportion of relapses and working accidents rates.'
2. A GMB survey of nearly 1000 social care workers found that:
 - a. 77 per cent of care workers said they would be inclined to return to work before they were ready if they were on SSP.
 - b. 80 per cent of respondents said they would be forced to borrow off family or friends to make ends meet if they were put on SSP.

This council resolves to:

1. Express its public support for GMB union's Care Full Pay campaign.
2. To call on the government to fund local authorities sufficiently so that they can commission care home providers and domiciliary care agencies to pay full occupational sick pay to the social care workforce
3. To recommend to providers receiving allocated funds from the Adult Social Care Infection Control Fund to pay full occupational sick pay as a priority, noting that guidance does give other uses for the ICF that minimise staff movement and reduce the risk of transmission.
4. To report how the Adult Social Care Infection Control Fund granted to the council in May and July 2020 was spent by care providers, to inform future ICF.
5. To call on the government to ensure guidance for all future Adult Social Care Infection Control Fund strongly stipulate full sick pay as a priority.

12.2 Motion regarding Martyn's Law and the Protection of our residents and visitors'

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

Councillor Sirajul Islam **moved** and Mayor John Biggs **seconded** the following amendment to the motion, as set out in the supplementary agenda:

This council notes:

That there have been a number of attacks in London identified as terrorism, these have involved the lethal use of knives and the use of vehicles to knock down, kill and maim vulnerable pedestrians in well visited areas of the city and in a location in the vicinity of a Mosque. Tower Hamlets is a borough with many tourist attractions and places of worship, many located on streets which have large numbers of pedestrians in the past and are likely to have again once travel resumes.

A feature of concern has been crowded places which includes shopping centres, sports stadia, bars, pubs and clubs and residential areas which are easily accessible to the public and attractive to terrorists. Concerns have grown with regard to public security inside venues where people congregate as well as measures to protect our streets. The Shoreditch Triangle which includes, Bishopsgate, Spitalfields and parts of Bethnal Green is already a visitor hotspot with a large night-time economy and is intersected by busy roads. We now also have the prospect of a major Embassy moving to Tower Hamlets.

Since 2018, the local authority has employed a Protective Security Manager – one of few councils to do so – to develop our protective security response and work closely with the police and other partners on mitigating identified areas of risk. The Protective Security Manager has a close working relationship with the Metropolitan Police Counter Terrorism Security Advisors and is a standing member of the Metropolitan Police monthly Security Review Meeting. The CONTEST Board oversees the protective security work for the local authority.

The Metropolitan Police Counter Terrorism Security Advisors have their own 'priority location assessments' which is part of their normal business and which the local authority may not necessarily be part of. The CTSA's also provide routine protective security advice to businesses as part of their normal business.

The Council also invests significantly in public space CCTV, which plays an important role in security and policing, and the Council is also upgrading the existing infrastructure through a £3m capital investment programme.

The government on the 26th February 2021 set out its proposals on a new Protect Duty; a legal requirement for public places to ensure preparedness for and protection from terrorist attacks. It would require those in scope to consider terrorist threats, and consider and implement appropriate and proportionate protective security and organisational preparedness measures.

The Home Office's proposed Protect Duty, which is currently out for consultation, delivers on a manifesto commitment to improve the safety and security of public venues and spaces, drawing on lessons learned from previous terrorist incidents. Tower Hamlets Council will be responding to the consultation.

These changes follow a campaign run by the mother of Martyn Hett who was among 22 people killed in the 2017 Manchester Arena bombing. The changes will be to consider airport-style security checks to be mandatory at major sporting and entertainment venues. No such law currently exists so security remains the decision of individual operators.

That the proposed new law would require venue operators to consider the risk of a terrorist attack and take "proportionate and reasonable measures to prepare for and protect the public from such an attack", according to the Home Office. This could include increased physical security, training, incident response plans and exercises for staff on what to do during an attack

There is an existing Capital Project for the development of protective security measures around identified key locations on the borough including the East London Mosque, Brick Lane and Columbia Road Market. All work in these locations goes through a rigorous technical assessment process with relevant experts in the protective security field including our Protective Security Manager. In addition the Liveable Streets project is improving local infrastructure at Brick Lane, Columbia Road and Whitechapel to reduce vehicle access in these areas which complements the protective security work. Both the CTSA's and the Protective Security Manager are providing advice and support to Liveable Streets and Planning as appropriate.

All faith centres on the borough have previously been invited to bid for additional funding from the Home Office 'Places of Worship' fund for any specific protective security work they wished to undertake, and the Mayor has also lobbied the Home Office to provide more funding. During 2019, 13 locations applied, with 4 locations accepting funding. Other institutions were either not successful or withdrew their applications for various reasons. In 2020 only one institution applied and were successful.

That the City of London continues to invest in security measures which include manned checkpoints, rising street bollards, restricted roads and crash-proof barricades. These precautions follow a warning by MI5 that the "eastern cluster" of towers planned around Bishopsgate is "highly sensitive to the threat of a hostile, vehicle-borne" attack and will replace the previous ring of steel installed to ward off IRA attacks.

That in addition the City of London is seeking S106 funds from developers in order to help fund this work.

That within Tower Hamlets only the Canary Wharf estate and the Tower of London has a similar level of physical protection.

That elsewhere in London concrete or other barriers have been erected to protect pedestrians from vehicle attacks.

The Council further notes;

That in February 1996 the IRA bombed Marsh Wall which killed two and injured and maimed many more, some who died of their wounds years later. This location was deliberately chosen as a less defended target than Canary Wharf estate to the immediate north but one with the same level of publicity value.

That like the City of London Tower Hamlets has emerging clusters of tall towers in Aldgate, Blackwall, Marsh Wall and the areas to the north of Canary Wharf.

The Chinese Embassy planning application.

That some areas containing high value targets have no public CCTV cameras.

This Council believes that;

The borough needs to continue to review our security measures and have appropriate security measures in place to protect and deter potential attacks.

The Council resolves ~~calls on the Mayor to;~~

Forward a copy of this motion to the Protective Security Manager and the BCU Commander to ensure that these matters are raised with the relevant security professionals and to ensure that ~~initiate a full security and safety is continually reviewed of the Borough which will be submitted to Cabinet, Overview and Scrutiny and the full council for consideration and final recommendations, and;~~

1. Continue to ~~c~~Consult with the Security Services on the potential threats to Tower Hamlets given its strategic location and national assets
2. ~~Consider adding to~~Explore the role of future S106 agreements additional funding for additional security measures over and above those funded through CIL
3. Note the ongoing work of the Protective Security Manager and others in ~~Identifying~~ in advance likely targets and considering what steps would be required to mitigate the impact of any future attack using vehicles or other methods as the new Protect Duty requires us to do.
4. Publicise such preparation where appropriate, in order to reassure residents and deter potential attackers
5. Implement existing capital projects for the development of protective security measures including areas ~~security measures in the areas adjoining Canary Wharf and other possible targets such as the Whitechapel Road, Brick Lane, Columbia Road Flower Market and mosques including the East London Mosque.~~

The motion as amended was **agreed**

RESOLVED:

That there have been a number of attacks in London identified as terrorism, these have involved the lethal use of knives and the use of vehicles to knock down, kill and maim vulnerable pedestrians in well visited areas of the city and in a location in the vicinity of a Mosque. Tower Hamlets is a borough with many tourist attractions and places of worship, many located on streets which have large numbers of pedestrians in the past and are likely to have again once travel resumes.

A feature of concern has been crowded places which includes shopping centres, sports stadia, bars, pubs and clubs and residential areas which are easily accessible to the public and attractive to terrorists. Concerns have grown with regard to public security inside venues where people congregate as well as measures to protect our streets. The Shoreditch Triangle which includes, Bishopsgate, Spitalfields and parts of Bethnal Green is already a visitor hotspot with a large night-time economy and is intersected by busy roads. We now also have the prospect of a major Embassy moving to Tower Hamlets.

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The Metropolitan Police Counter Terrorism Security Advisors have their own 'priority location assessments' which is part of their normal business and which the local authority may not necessarily be part of. The CTSA's also provide routine protective security advice to businesses as part of their normal business.

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The government on the 26th February 2021 set out its proposals on a new Protect Duty; a legal requirement for public places to ensure preparedness for and protection from terrorist attacks. It would require those in scope to consider terrorist threats, and consider and implement appropriate and proportionate protective security and organisational preparedness measures.

The Home Office's proposed Protect Duty, which is currently out for consultation, delivers on a manifesto commitment to improve the safety and security of public venues and spaces, drawing on lessons learned from previous terrorist incidents. Tower Hamlets Council will be responding to the consultation.

These changes follow a campaign run by the mother of Martyn Hett who was among 22 people killed in the 2017 Manchester Arena bombing. The changes will be to consider airport-style security checks to be mandatory at major sporting and entertainment venues. No such law currently exists so security remains the decision of individual operators.

That the proposed new law would require venue operators to consider the risk of a terrorist attack and take "proportionate and reasonable measures to prepare for and protect the public from such an attack", according to the Home Office. This could include increased physical security, training, incident response plans and exercises for staff on what to do during an attack

There is an existing Capital Project for the development of protective security measures around identified key locations on the borough including the East London Mosque, Brick Lane and Columbia Road Market. All work in these locations goes through a rigorous technical assessment process with relevant experts in the protective security field including our Protective Security Manager. In addition the Liveable Streets project is improving local infrastructure at Brick Lane, Columbia Road and Whitechapel to reduce vehicle access in these areas which complements the protective security work. Both the CTSA's and the Protective Security Manager are providing advice and support to Liveable Streets and Planning as appropriate.

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That the City of London continues to invest in security measures which include manned checkpoints, rising street bollards, restricted roads and crash-proof barricades. These precautions follow a warning by MI5 that the "eastern cluster" of towers planned around Bishopsgate is "highly sensitive to the threat of a hostile, vehicle-borne" attack and will replace the previous ring of steel installed to ward of IRA attacks.

That in addition the City of London is seeking S106 funds from developers in order to help fund this work.

That within Tower Hamlets only the Canary Wharf estate and the Tower of London has a similar level of physical protection.

That elsewhere in London concrete or other barriers have been erected to protect pedestrians from vehicle attacks.

The Council further notes;

That in February 1996 the IRA bombed Marsh Wall which killed two and injured and maimed many more, some who died of their wounds years later. This location was deliberately chosen as a less defended target than Canary Wharf estate to the immediate north but one with the same level of publicity value.

That like the City of London Tower Hamlets has emerging clusters of tall towers in Aldgate, Blackwall, Marsh Wall and the areas to the north of Canary Wharf.

The Chinese Embassy planning application.

That some areas containing high value targets have no public CCTV cameras.

This Council believes that;

The borough needs to continue to review our security measures and have appropriate security measures in place to protect and deter potential attacks.

The Council resolves to;

Forward a copy of this motion to the Protective Security Manager and the BCU Commander to ensure that these matters are raised with the relevant security professionals and to ensure that security and safety is continually reviewed-and;

1. Continue to consult with the Security Services on the potential threats to Tower Hamlets given its strategic location and national assets
2. Explore the role of future S106 agreements additional funding for additional security measures over and above those funded through CIL
3. Note the ongoing work of the Protective Security Manager and others in Identifying in advance likely targets and considering what steps would be required to mitigate the impact of any future attack using vehicles or other methods as the new Protect Duty requires us to do.
4. Publicise such preparation where appropriate, in order to reassure residents and deter potential attackers
5. Implement existing capital projects for the development of protective security measures including areas such as the Whitechapel Road, Brick Lane, Columbia Road Flower Market and mosques including the East London Mosque.

12.3 Motion regarding the proposed new Chinese Embassy in Tower Hamlets and a proposal to investigate naming of roads or new buildings – Tiananmen Square, Uyghur Court, Hong Kong Road and Tibet Hill and establish that any collaboration between the Chinese Embassy and local schools reflects the borough’s heritage of standing up for each other.

Councillor Rabina Khan **moved** the motion as printed in the agenda subject to the addition of ‘Tibet Hill’ as a potential road name choice.

Councillor Asma Islam **moved** and Councillor Mayor John Biggs **seconded** the following amendment to the motion, as set out in the supplementary agenda.

Changes underlined:

This Council notes:

1. The purchase of the Royal Mint site in Tower Hamlets for the new People’s Republic of China London embassy building.

2. The number of residents living in Tower Hamlets from the People's Republic of China including Hong Kong residents. In addition, the number of businesses from there that are active and investing in Tower Hamlets. There is also a Tibetan community in the borough and Tibet has also been subjected to human rights' violations by the CCP.
3. The long history dating back to before the 1880's of the Chinese community in Tower Hamlets and that many people from the region are now citizens of the United Kingdom.
4. The historic ties between China, Hong Kong and Tower Hamlets due to the trade between these two countries, whether tea shipped into the docks or from the trading desks of the Hong Kong & Shanghai Banking Corporation (now HSBC) whose global headquarters are in Tower Hamlets.
5. Discussions on the potential to raise the Tibetan Flag and rename roads near the Royal Mint site as Tiananmen Square, Uyghur Court and Hong Kong Road.'
6. We are very proud of the fact that Tower Hamlets is such an open and tolerant borough where we truly value our diversity and understand the strength that it brings, and where we also understand and appreciate the need to be good partners and to foster good relationships.
7. We remain deeply concerned about China's human rights' record on a number of issues, in particular the appalling treatment of the largely Muslim Uyghurs, and the situations in Hong Kong and Tibet.
8. The BBC coverage of the allegations of systematic rape of Uyghur women in China.
9. That the Chinese Embassy in the UK has written to a [number of local schools](#) as part of its consultation to explore opportunities for future collaboration.

This Council further notes:

1. That Mayor Biggs wrote to the Chinese Ambassador on behalf of the Council to express deep concerns about China's human rights record.
2. Cllr Peter Golds has written to English Heritage regarding the heritage of the Royal Mint Street site; the plague pits at the Royal Mint Street site (New Chinese Embassy plans plagued by Black Death burial pits (<https://bit.ly/3r9nB3h>)).
3. That the Tibetan Community in Tower Hamlets wrote to the Mayor, Cllrs Khan, Wood and Golds requesting to raise the Tibetan Flag on 10th March 2021.
4. 10th March is Tibet's National Uprising Day, and the Tibetan flag is currently raised annually by Waltham Forest, Northampton, Woolwich and others.
5. Cllrs Khan, Wood and Golds responded that they welcomed raising the Tibetan Flag on 10th March 2021.
6. Mayor Biggs met with a representative of the Chinese Embassy last year to convey the council's concerns about China's actions and passed the request to raise the Tibetan flag to the Council's Chief Executive who has responsibility for such matters.
7. The Council's Chief Executive rejected the call for the Tibetan flag to be raised, citing protocols, even though other councils are raising the flag,

as mentioned above.

This Council Resolves:

1. That Tower Hamlets Council investigates whether roads or possibly new buildings near the location of the proposed Chinese Embassy could be renamed appropriately as acts of solidarity with historic symbols or place names of Chinese significance; for example: Tiananmen Square, Uyghur Court, Hong Kong Road and/or "Xiaobo Road" (in memory of Xiaobo Liu) – noting also the Council's review of the borough's public realm which included a resident consultation to identify monuments, plaques, buildings, roads which celebrated legacies which are not in keeping with the borough's values of diversity – and to investigate what other actions the council could take to show solidarity.
2. That there is no financial cost associated with naming roads and buildings to residents, businesses and schools or any other stakeholder.
3. Welcomes the relocation of the Chinese Embassy and its staff moving to Tower Hamlets. But that as new neighbours and friends we must continue to make clear where our own standards and principles apply, and we will not refrain from expressing the views of the Council, on behalf of our community, or asserting our support for the freedom and diversity of our borough.
4. That we in Tower Hamlets welcome residents of Hong Kong who wish to take advantage of their now increased ability to move to the United Kingdom (even if more could be done). The Borough has a long and proud history of being the first home in the UK for many people fleeing persecution in their original countries. And that those earlier arrivals are now British citizens.
5. To establish what kind of collaboration the Chinese Embassy in the UK is seeking with local schools and whether it will reflect the Borough's Strategic Plan, which states clearly: "We have a proud history of standing up for each other as one community and celebrating our differences." <https://democracy.towerhamlets.gov.uk/mgConvert2PDF.aspx?ID=130890>

Councillor Rabina Khan indicated that she accepted the amendment subject to the inclusion of the additional road name 'Tibet Hill' she had set out' under the 'Council resolves, point 1.

The motion as amended was **agreed**.

RESOLVED:

This Council notes:

1. The purchase of the Royal Mint site in Tower Hamlets for the new People's Republic of China London embassy building.
2. The number of residents living in Tower Hamlets from the People's Republic of China including Hong Kong residents. In addition, the number of businesses from there that are active and investing in Tower Hamlets. There is also a Tibetan community in the borough and Tibet

- has also been subjected to human rights' violations by the CCP.
3. The long history dating back to before the 1880's of the Chinese community in Tower Hamlets and that many people from the region are now citizens of the United Kingdom.
 4. The historic ties between China, Hong Kong and Tower Hamlets due to the trade between these two countries, whether tea shipped into the docks or from the trading desks of the Hong Kong & Shanghai Banking Corporation (now HSBC) whose global headquarters are in Tower Hamlets.
 5. Discussions on the potential to raise the Tibetan Flag and rename roads near the Royal Mint site as Tiananmen Square, Uyghur Court and Hong Kong Road.'
 6. We are very proud of the fact that Tower Hamlets is such an open and tolerant borough where we truly value our diversity and understand the strength that it brings, and where we also understand and appreciate the need to be good partners and to foster good relationships.
 7. We remain deeply concerned about China's human rights' record on a number of issues, in particular the appalling treatment of the largely Muslim Uyghurs, and the situations in Hong Kong and Tibet.
 8. The BBC coverage of the allegations of systematic rape of Uyghur women in China.
 9. That the Chinese Embassy in the UK has written to a [number of local schools](#) as part of its consultation to explore opportunities for future collaboration.

This Council further notes:

1. That Mayor Biggs wrote to the Chinese Ambassador on behalf of the Council to express deep concerns about China's human rights record.
2. Cllr Peter Golds has written to English Heritage regarding the heritage of the Royal Mint Street site; the plague pits at the Royal Mint Street site (New Chinese Embassy plans plagued by Black Death burial pits (<https://bit.ly/3r9nB3h>)).
3. That the Tibetan Community in Tower Hamlets wrote to the Mayor, Cllrs Khan, Wood and Golds requesting to raise the Tibetan Flag on 10th March 2021.
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6. Mayor Biggs met with a representative of the Chinese Embassy last year to convey the council's concerns about China's actions and passed the request to raise the Tibetan flag to the Council's Chief Executive who has responsibility for such matters.
7. The Council's Chief Executive rejected the call for the Tibetan flag to be raised, citing protocols, even though other councils are raising the flag, as mentioned above.

This Council Resolves:

1. That Tower Hamlets Council investigates whether roads or possibly new buildings near the location of the proposed Chinese Embassy could be renamed appropriately as acts of solidarity with historic symbols or place names of Chinese significance; for example: Tiananmen Square, Tibet Hill, Uyghur Court, Hong Kong Road and/or "Xiaobo Road" (in memory of Xiaobo Liu) – noting also the Council's review of the borough's public realm which included a resident consultation to identify monuments, plaques, buildings, roads which celebrated legacies which are not in keeping with the borough's values of diversity – and to investigate what other actions the council could take to show solidarity.
2. That there is no financial cost associated with naming roads and buildings to residents, businesses and schools or any other stakeholder.
3. Welcomes the relocation of the Chinese Embassy and its staff moving to Tower Hamlets. But that as new neighbours and friends we must continue to make clear where our own standards and principles apply, and we will not refrain from expressing the views of the Council, on behalf of our community, or asserting our support for the freedom and diversity of our borough.
4. That we in Tower Hamlets welcome residents of Hong Kong who wish to take advantage of their now increased ability to move to the United Kingdom (even if more could be done). The Borough has a long and proud history of being the first home in the UK for many people fleeing persecution in their original countries. And that those earlier arrivals are now British citizens.
5. To establish what kind of collaboration the Chinese Embassy in the UK is seeking with local schools and whether it will reflect the Borough's Strategic Plan, which states clearly: "We have a proud history of standing up for each other as one community and celebrating our differences." <https://democracy.towerhamlets.gov.uk/mgConvert2PDF.aspx?ID=130890>

13. URGENT MOTIONS

13.1 Urgent Motion regarding aftermath of Sarah Everard protests

Under Council Procedure Rule 11.2, Councillor Asma Begum **moved** and Councillor Rachel Blake **seconded** the motion as published in the supplementary agenda.

Following debate, the motion was **agreed** unanimously.

RESOLVED:

This Council notes:

1. The murder of Sarah Everard has launched a wave of anger and protest across the country. Reports from the vigil held at Clapham Common show police officers using excessive force against protestors
2. Blessing Olusogun's death remains unexplained
3. Nicole Smallman and Bibaa Henry were killed after meeting friends in a park. Police officers were detained at the time on suspicion of

- misconduct in public office on the grounds that they took and shared unofficial and inappropriate photographs of the women at the crime scene
4. Deaf and Disabled women, women from Black Asian Minority Ethnic backgrounds and LGBTQ women are even more likely to experience harassment, discrimination and abuse. Women from diverse backgrounds experience abuse differently and male power is used against them differently.
 5. Women living in poverty are particularly vulnerable to experiencing violence and face disproportionate challenges in accessing the necessary support to make them safe. Lack of access to secure housing, precarious employment, difficulty accessing social security and poverty work to keep women in abusive situations.
 6. There are on average 12 honour killings every year in the UK
 7. Whilst serious physical assaults by strangers are rare, street harassment and violence against women and girls is endemic in the UK:
 - 80% of women of all ages have been sexually harassed in public
 - 97% of young women have been sexually harassed
 - One in two women are sexually harassed in the workplace
 - One in three women experience domestic violence in their lifetime
 - One in five women will be raped in their lifetime
 - 2 women a week are killed by a current or former partner, and 3 women take their own lives following domestic abuse
 8. Women who report rape have a 3% chance of it ever being heard in court. Most women who survive domestic violence do not receive justice from the criminal justice system.
 9. In Nottingham, police have trialled treating misogyny as a hate crime.
 10. Tower Hamlets Council has an established a Champions programme to tackle Violence Against Women and Girls
 11. Tower Hamlets has a No Place for Hate campaign to send a clear and consistent message that hate will not be tolerated in our borough
 12. Tower Hamlets has invested in Independent Domestic Violence Advocates

This Council believes:

1. Male violence against women and girls is part of a broader culture of misogyny in society.
2. Perpetrators of serious violence usually have a history of inflicting abuse and harassment against other women and girls. Tackling violence against women and girls means dismantling this culture.
3. It also means tackling other forms of discrimination and the economic system that further enables abuse against women and girls.
4. That a justice system that allows one of the most heinous crimes to be effectively decriminalised is not fit for purpose. Sustained cuts to all elements of the justice system, as well as institutional misogyny mean that crimes against women and girls that are reported are not effectively investigated. The decision to fail to resource this work is a political choice.

This Council resolves to:

1. Stand in solidarity with protestors against violence against women and girls
2. Call for an urgent and thorough investigation into the operational policing of the vigil which took place on 13 March 2021 and for swift action to be taken
3. Call on the Home Secretary to thoroughly investigate the leadership of the policing of the vigil which took place on 13 March 2021
4. Call for this investigation to be held sensitively in public
5. Call for investment in the whole justice system
6. Call for the CPS not to insist that victims phones are confiscated, particularly when this isn't necessary, and making this a condition for the crime to be investigated
7. Call on the Government to ratify the Istanbul Convention on preventing and combatting VAWG
8. Call on the Government to ratify the International Labour Organisation's No.190, recognising the right of everyone to work free from gender based violence and harassment
9. Work with women across Tower Hamlets, organising listening and peer engagement events, to submit evidence to the investigation into the policing at the weekend
10. Call on the Tower Hamlets Borough Command Unit to prioritise investigating crimes against women and girls and ask them to ensure that people aren't penalised when they report a crime
11. Deliver culturally competent services which fully serve our diverse population
12. Support the design of a feminist city through our planning and design processes
13. Work with the Tower Hamlets Borough Command Unit on improving women's safety
14. Educate men through campaigns and bringing in male "allies"
15. Utilise all our resources to publicise all missing women and girls
16. Strengthen ward panels to have agenda items on hate crime incidents and domestic violence.
17. Continue the Violence Against Women and Girls Champions Programme
18. Work with schools and families to tackle toxic masculinity culture
19. Join local, London and national networks working to end Violence Against Women and Girls
20. Campaign for misogyny to legally recognised as a hate crime.

The meeting ended at 10.15 p.m.

Speaker of the Council

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Responses to Questions not asked at the Council Meeting on 17th March 2021

11.11 Question from Councillor Dipa Das

What support has the council given to help businesses recover from the impact of Covid -19?

Response from Councillor Motin Uz-Zaman, Cabinet Member for Work and Economic Growth

Thank you Cllr Das. As I said in my response to Cllr Chowdhury, the council can be proud of the work we have done to support local businesses during the pandemic and help their recovery.

In addition to the wide range of support measures discussed at the council meeting, there are numerous projects which illustrate how we are supporting businesses to emerge successfully from the pandemic. To give just one example I would highlight the 'Wick Together' project which provides new funding to stimulate the creative sector at Hackney Wick & Fish Island by commissioning projects for freelance creatives who have lost work because of the pandemic.

Alongside this the council also launched the White Post Lane Makers Market, giving local makers, designers and artists the opportunity to showcase their products. It is initiatives like this which we want to see across the borough and we would welcome your input as we continue to develop new proposals to support local businesses.

11.14 Question from Councillor Marc Francis

Will the Lead Member for Planning & Social Inclusion set out the enforcement action that has been taken against the developer of 329 Morville Street for its persistent breaches of the hours of operation on that site?

Response from Cabinet Member for Planning and Social Inclusion (job share) Cllr Eve McQuillan:

The Council currently has an open planning enforcement investigation concerning the allegations of working taking place outside of the permitted hours for this site.

The investigation began in March 2020, although due to the national restrictions on movement visits were not made to the site. Letters were still sent to the developers informing the investigation being carried out.

Towards the end of 2020 concerns were raised alleging Sunday working at the site. A local resident was contacted about these allegations, although at that time the working outside of the permitted hours appeared to have ceased which the resident agreed was most likely due to the external structure having been completed. The local resident in question was given contact details for the enforcement team should the breach reoccur. To date no further reports have been made to the team.

Noise pollution has a negative impact on resident's health and quality of life and the council will continue to take such allegations seriously.

11.15 Question from Councillor Victoria Obaze

What is the council doing to keep our streets clean during the pandemic?

**Response from Cabinet Member for Environment and Public Realm (job share)
Cllr Asma Islam:**

There is no doubt that keeping our streets clean has been more challenging during the pandemic. Not only are far more people rightly staying local, sickness and self-isolation has also affected our waste service crews.

Our first priority has been to ensure staff are kept safe and have the tools available to prevent potential spread of coronavirus. This means gloves, hand sanitisers and protective wear but also a testing centre specifically set up at the depot.

Despite the challenges we have continued to deliver an effective service including:

85 barrow sweepers working on any given day

Mechanical brooms are also deployed throughout the day

Daily cleaning of our markets

Targeted clearing of fly tipping hotspots including issuing 162 Fixed Penalty Notices for fly tipping since October.

11.16 Question from Councillor Ayas Miah

How much Covid grant have we received so far from government, can the lead member provide a breakdown of how we have spent it, and is there any further discretionary grant available for charities or non-rateable businesses?

Response from Cabinet Member for Resources and the Voluntary Sector, Cllr Candida Ronald:

The council has received around £62m from government in direct grants and reimbursements. These vary from un-ringfenced grant to reimbursements of lost income. In addition to this funding we have received and allocated over £200m in grants and business rate relief for businesses through statutory and discretionary schemes throughout the pandemic. We have also given rent free periods and other support to eligible charities and community organisations.

The Council has not been notified to date of any further discretionary grant specifically available for charities or non-rateable businesses.

11.17 Question from Councillor Shah Ameen

As the Liveable Streets scheme has been suspended in Whitechapel, will funding still be made available for cleaner streets, as that is needed?

Response from Mayor John Biggs:

Liveable Streets funding is for improving access to active travel and public transport, public realm and road safety.

However, there will be no Whitechapel Liveable Streets programme taking place until at least 2023. We think it makes sense for any changes to the roads in our ward to follow after the other big changes that are taking place locally. A number of large new housing developments, the opening of the new Town Hall and planned Whitechapel Road improvements will all affect Whitechapel significantly. We want to look at the impact these changes have before doing any more work to improve our streets. There may however be some smaller individual road works, for example

associated with public realm works in Whitechapel Road, to address individual traffic issues in specific streets and possible improvements to pedestrian access in the Ford Square and Cavell Street areas, together with ongoing school street proposals. There is also a proposal to improve the street scene in Cannon Street Road, on the boundary between Shadwell and Whitechapel Wards. Any such changes will be subject to local consultation.

Funding allocated for Whitechapel Liveable Streets project will be carried forward.

We are committed to ensuring that all the streets in the borough are kept clean and safe. We welcome suggestions from residents, businesses and councillors on areas which they think need attention and we will look to take appropriate actions based on need.

11.18 Question from Councillor Rabina Khan

Following the full council motion Regarding Fire Safety & The Security of The Housing Sector in Tower Hamlets when will there be an online cladding portal on the council website to provide information, updates on funding and remediation progress on what the council is doing for residents and leaseholders affected by the cladding crisis. This is not the generic fire safety information page on the council website but one specifically to address the Cladding Crisis.

Response from Cabinet Member for Planning and Social Inclusion (job share) Cllr Eve McQuillan:

While the information that the council holds on individual blocks is sensitive information and not for public consumption to ensure the safety of residents I can assure you that council officers regularly engage with resident groups and developers on individual buildings to ensure they are aware of their situation and what interim measures are in place as per the advice of the London Fire Brigade who undertake regular checks.

We regularly review our webpage content in relation to fire safety and have recently uploaded FAQs in relation to EWS1 alongside other cladding and fire safety advice.

We continue to regularly press Government for greater support for residents affected by the cladding crisis and the Mayor has spoken directly with the Minister responsible on multiple occasions in recent months to make this case.

11.19 Question from Councillor Puru Miah

Can the mayor confirm that the relevant Covid 19 risk assessment have been carried out for all front line council staff who have interaction with members of the public?

Response from Mayor John Biggs:

Thank you for your question. We greatly value our council staff who have all been there to support our community during the pandemic.

All services that have been open during the pandemic have been required to complete a risk assessment which has been reviewed by Corporate Health and Safety and Public Health as well as the cross-council Back to Business group, chaired by the Corporate Director of Place.

These risk assessments include the measures which have been taken to ensure staff are protected from Covid-19. As government policy has changed, services have refreshed and updated these risk assessments.

While many staff have been working from home to reduce risks to them and our residents those who are front line council staff have been required to complete an individual risk assessment and discuss this with their manager to ensure any individual circumstances are taken into account and acted upon.