

**LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS**

**MINUTES OF THE CABINET**

**HELD AT 5.45 P.M. ON WEDNESDAY, 30 JUNE 2021**

**C1, 1ST FLOOR, TOWN HALL, MULBERRY PLACE, 5 CLOVE CRESCENT,  
LONDON, E14 2BG**

**Members Present in person**

Mayor John Biggs\*

Councillor Sirajul Islam\*

Statutory Deputy Mayor for Community Safety,  
Faith and Equalities

Councillor Sabina Akhtar\*

Cabinet Member for Culture, Arts and Brexit

Councillor Eve McQuillan

Cabinet Member for Planning and Social  
Inclusion (Job Share) - Lead on Planning

\*Voting members

**Members Present remotely:**

Councillor Rachel Blake

Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Adults,  
Health and Wellbeing

Councillor Asma Begum

Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Children,  
Youth Services and Education

Councillor Candida Ronald

Cabinet Member for Resources and the  
Voluntary Sector

Councillor Motin Uz-Zaman

Cabinet Member for Work and Economic Growth

Councillor Mufedah Bustin

Cabinet Member for Planning and Social  
Inclusion (Job Share) - Lead on Social Inclusion

Councillor Asma Islam

Cabinet Member for Environment and Public  
Realm (Job Share) - Lead on Environment

Councillor Dan Tomlinson

Cabinet Member for Environment and Public  
Realm (Job Share) - Lead on Public Realm

**Other Councillors Present in person:**

Councillor Peter Golds

(Leader of the Conservative Group)

**Other Councillors Present remotely:**

Councillor Mohammed Pappu

**Officers Present in person:**

Janet Fasan

(Director of Legal & Monitoring Officer)

Will Tuckley

(Chief Executive)

Matthew Mannion

(Head of Democratic Services, Governance)

Joel West

(Democratic Services Team Leader (Committee))

**Officers Present remotely:**

Kevin Bartle

(Interim Corporate Director, Resources and

Raj Chand	Section 151 Officer)
Vicky Clark	(Director, Customer Services)
Thorsten Dreyer	(Divisional Director for Growth and Economic Development)
Emily Fieran-Reed	(Head of Intelligence and Performance)
	(Senior Strategy and Policy Manager, Communities Team, Corporate Strategy & Policy Strategy, Policy & Performance Division)
Sharon Godman	(Director, Strategy, Improvement and Transformation)
Steven Heywood	(Planning Officer, Plan Making Team)
Afazul Hoque	(Head of Corporate Strategy & Policy)
Ahsan Khan	(Chief Accountant)
Denise Radley	(Corporate Director, Health, Adults & Community)
Marissa Ryan-Hernandez	(Plan Making Team Leader)
Joanne Starkie	(Head of Strategy and Policy - Health Adults and Communities)
James Thomas	(Corporate Director, Children and Culture)
David Tolley	(Head of Environmental Health and Trading Standards)

## 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of:

- Councillor Danny Hassell, Cabinet Member for Housing.
- Ann Sutcliffe, Corporate Director, Place for whom Vicky Clark, Divisional Director, Growth & Economic Development was deputising.
- Andreas Christophorou, Divisional Director of Communications.

## 2. DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS AND OTHER INTERESTS

Councillors Asma Islam and Motin Uz-Zaman declared pecuniary interests in relation to Agenda Item 6.6 (Correction to Private Rented Sector Housing Selective Licensing Designation) due to owning properties which they rented out near the boundary of the scheme. They left the meeting for the duration of that item.

## 3. UNRESTRICTED MINUTES

### RESOLVED

1. That the unrestricted minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on Wednesday 28 April 2021 be approved and signed by the chair as a correct record of proceedings.
2. That the unrestricted notes of the Cabinet discussion held on Wednesday 26 May 2021 be noted.

#### **4. ANNOUNCEMENTS (IF ANY) FROM THE MAYOR**

The Mayor asked the cabinet to note the tragic and untimely passing of Councillor John Pierce. The cabinet and officers present joined the Mayor in observing a minutes silence and reflection for Councillor Pierce.

#### **5. OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

##### **5.1 Chair's Advice of Key Issues or Questions**

The Mayor advised that it had not been possible to circulate Pre-Decision Scrutiny Questions and officer responses prior to the meeting but these would be made available shortly after the meeting. He indicated he would invite Councillor Muhammed Pappu, Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Committee to highlight any pressing issues the Committee had raised during the discussion on each item.

Councillor Pappu provided Cabinet with an update on his committee's recent meeting. He reported that they had considered a number of issues including:

- The Committee's has approved its work programme for the year ahead. This followed a workshop on 19 June to develop the work programme.
- Councillor Bex White has been appointed Vice Chair of the Committee
- The Committee reviewed the Annual Council Performance & Delivery Report 2020/21 and has raised several issues that it will pursue with lead members and officers. The Committee has requested that future reports are presented in a more accessible way.

The Mayor thanked Councillor Pappu for his update.

##### **5.2 Any Unrestricted Decisions "Called in" by the Overview & Scrutiny Committee**

Nil items.

#### **6. UNRESTRICTED REPORTS FOR CONSIDERATION**

##### **6.1 Annual Council Performance & Delivery Report 2020/21**

Mayor John Biggs introduced the report that provided an annual update on the delivery and implementation of the council's Strategic Plan throughout 2020/21. The Mayor explained that the report captured the period dominated by the Covid-19 pandemic, which had required the council to reprioritise. The Mayor indicated that, whilst the impact of the pandemic on performance made it very difficult to compare this report with equivalent reports from previous years, it demonstrated the council was making good progress in making the borough a cleaner, safer and fairer place to live and work.

Will Tuckley, Chief Executive, responded to the report and highlighted some of the ways the Covid-19 pandemic had impacted on the council's performance. He acknowledged there was an ongoing challenge to demonstrate, where performance had fallen, whether this was related to the pandemic or to other factors.

Councillor Mohammed Pappu, Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Committee addressed the meeting and highlighted concerns with the performance data that had been raised by his committee at its last meeting. The Mayor and Mr Tuckley provided summary explanations to Cllr Pappu's queries and indicated that full responses to OSC's queries would be provided in the officers responses to the pre decision scrutiny questions that would be published shortly after the meeting.

The Mayor moved the recommendations as set out and they were agreed without dissent. It was:

### **RESOLVED**

1. To note the strategic delivery and performance report for 2020/21;
2. To note that in response to the Covid-19 pandemic, throughout the past year we have rapidly pivoted many of our services to support residents, businesses and partners in the borough and this has had an impact on our ability to deliver everything that we had planned;
3. To review the performance of the strategic measures, including those measures where the minimum expectation has been missed; and
4. To review progress in delivering the council's Strategic Plan.

## **6.2 Covid-19 Response - Annual Report 2020-21**

Mayor John Biggs introduced the report that provided an overview of the council's response to the Covid-19 pandemic over 2020-21. The Mayor described the council's objectives to responding to the crisis and asked lead members for each of the objectives to provide more detail on each.

- Councillor Rachel Blake, Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Adults, Health and Wellbeing highlighted the challenges the pandemic had placed on the council's health, adults and community services, and the key actions taken to address them.
- Councillor Mufedah Bustin, Cabinet Member for Planning and Social Inclusion (Job Share) lead on social inclusion, highlighted the challenges the pandemic had placed on the council's services to support vulnerable people, and the key actions taken to address them.
- Councillor Asma Begum, Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Children, Youth Services and Education highlighted the challenges the pandemic had placed on the council's services to support children and families, and the key actions taken to address them.

- Councillor Motin Uz-Zaman, Cabinet Member for Work and Economic Growth, highlighted the challenges the pandemic had placed on the local economy and the key actions the council had taken to support employees and businesses.
- Councillor Sirajul Islam, Statutory Deputy Mayor for Community Safety, Faith and Equalities highlighted the impact the pandemic had had on community safety and how the council had worked to ensure the borough remained a safe place.

The Mayor welcomed the report and contributions and highlighted the importance of engagement from the wider community in responding to the pandemic, including police and health partners, and the community and voluntary sector. He particularly applauded the work of Covid champions and other volunteers involved in such activities as awareness-raising, food delivery and vaccination drives.

The Mayor moved the recommendations as set out and they were agreed without dissent. It was:

### **RESOLVED**

1. To note the contents of the report outlining our response to the Covid-19 pandemic over 2020-21.

### **6.3 Covid Recovery Fund**

Councillor Sirajul Islam, Statutory Deputy Mayor for Community Safety, Faith and Equalities introduced the report that presented proposals for funding projects to support the Tower Hamlets community to recover from the impact of the pandemic.

Councillor Motin Uz-Zaman, Cabinet Member for Work and Economic Growth, highlighted the positive impact the grants were anticipated to have on helping recovery in the local economy.

Councillor Mohammed Pappu, Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Committee, addressed the meeting and highlighted a concern that had been identified by his committee at its last meeting, concerning an award for mindfulness services at the London Buddhist Centre. The Mayor welcomed the committee's question and provided a summary response and indicated that a full response would be provided in the officers' responses to the pre decision scrutiny questions that would be published shortly after the meeting.

The Mayor moved the recommendations as set out and they were agreed without dissent. It was:

### **RESOLVED**

1. To agree to fund projects listed in Appendix 1 to the report totalling £2,406,048 as Mayor's Covid Recovery Fund to support the recovery of the borough.

2. From the Mayor's Covid Recovery fund agreed in Recommendation 1, to add £50,000 to the cohesion theme of the Small Grants Programme in accordance with our current grants policy.
3. To authorise the relevant Corporate Director to enter into an agreement with East End Community Foundation (EECF) for the management of the fund referred to in recommendation 2 in line with the other small grants fund themes.
4. To authorise the relevant Corporate Director to enter into any other agreements to give effect to the recommendations in the report.
5. To note that details of any grants awarded from Mayor's Covid Recovery Fund monies will be reported to Grants Determination (Cabinet) Sub Committee.

#### **6.4 Additions to the Approved Capital Programme 2021-22 to 2023-24**

Councillor Rachel Blake, Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Adults, Health and Wellbeing introduced the report that sought approval for additions and amendments to the 2020-24 Approved Capital Programme.

During discussion, including contributions from Councillor Peter Golds, Leader of the Conservative Group and Councillor Mohammed Pappu, Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Committee it was noted that

- the reference to the Savills 'report' in paragraph 5.3 of the report should more accurately read as 'advice' and referred to an ongoing exercise to help the council map its growing capacity and use of reserves. The cabinet asked that officers provide a briefing for the overview and scrutiny committee to aid understanding of how this work related to the council's capital programme.
- new community spaces built as part of the council's home building programme would provide for wider community use, even where the primary use was faith-related.

The Mayor moved the recommendations as set out and they were agreed without dissent. It was:

#### **RESOLVED**

1. To approve the inclusion of £17.083m of the additional capital schemes and amendments to existing capital schemes, as set out in the report, into the council's 2020-24 Approved Capital Programme for the General Fund.
2. To note the detail of the first 1,000 new council homes delivery programme and approve the scheme-specific budgets and identified funding sources within the previously approved total budget of £232.768m.

3. To approve the allocation of £5.000m to enable the direct delivery of Landon Walk scheme as part of the HRA first 1,000 council homes programme, including the purchase and installation of the modular homes, instead of via a loan agreement to PLACE Ltd, currently included in the General Fund approved capital programme funded by £3.820m of borrowing.
4. To approve the inclusion of £1.400m for the delivery of the Sewardstone Road scheme to be funded by RTB receipts (£0.560m) and borrowing (£0.840m) (from the reduction in borrowing achieved through the removal of the PLACE Ltd scheme to fund this) as part of the General Fund programme.
5. To approve the inclusion of £2.980m for the purchase of additional buy-backs to be funded by borrowing (£2.980m) (from the reduction in borrowing achieved through the removal of the PLACE Ltd scheme to fund this).
6. To approve the funding sources for the additions and amendments to schemes in the Approved Capital Programme 2020/21 to 2023/24 as set out in para 4.7, Table 1 of the report.
7. To agree that approval to proceed to award contracts for works and services be delegated to the Corporate Director of Place, in consultation with the Corporate Director of Resources, subject to the procurement process and approval through the capital governance process and tenders being within agreed budgets.

#### **6.5 Response to Overview and Scrutiny's Challenge Session on 'Examining Council's Revised Approach to Idea Stores and Library Services'**

Councillor Sabina Akhtar, Cabinet Member for Culture, Arts and Brexit introduced the report that submitted the executive's response to the scrutiny challenge session recommendations which examined the council's revised approach to Idea Stores and library services. Councillor Akhtar explained how the timescales for delivery of the council's revised approach to Idea Stores and library services had made it impractical for formally respond to the scrutiny challenge session's recommendations prior to the decision made at cabinet in March 2021, but feedback from the session did influence the shape and content of the March cabinet paper.

Councillor Mohammed Pappu, Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Committee, welcomed the report, thanked the Mayor and cabinet for their response to the scrutiny proposals and encouraged engagement of scrutiny at formative stages of proposals as had been the case with this review.

The Mayor moved the recommendations as set out and they were agreed without dissent. It was:

**RESOLVED**

To note the report (Appendix 1 to the report) of the scrutiny challenge session on examining the council's revised approach to Idea Stores and library services; and

Agree the action plan (Appendix 2 to the report) in response to the scrutiny recommendations.

## **6.6 Correction to Private Rented Sector Housing Selective Licensing Designation**

Councillor Eve McQuillan, Lead Member for Planning and Social Inclusion – Lead on Planning, introduced the report that proposed to correct the designation, made at the 28 April 2021 cabinet meeting, to remove the student accommodation accredited to ANUK by geographical basis rather than by accreditation basis. Councillor McQuillan explained the change was a minor administrative amendment.

The Mayor moved the recommendations as set out and they were agreed without dissent. It was:

### **RESOLVED**

1. To vary/amend the Cabinet decision of 28 April 2021 relating to the selective licensing designation (due to commence 1st October 2021), to exclude the following post codes: E1 1ES, E1 1FA, E1 7HS, E1 8EU, E1 1LP and E1 1DQ.
2. To note that these postcodes relate to student accommodation accredited by ANUK and fall within the Weavers, Whitechapel and Spitalfields and Banglatown areas Selective Licensing scheme.(pre 2014 boundaries).

## **6.7 Roman Road Bow Neighbourhood Area – Boundary Correction**

Councillor Eve McQuillan, Lead Member for Planning and Social Inclusion – Lead on Planning, introduced the report that proposed to correct an error in the designation of the Roman Road Bow Neighbourhood forum to match the boundary between LBTH and the London Legacy Development Corporation, to allow neighbourhood planning process to move forward.

The Mayor moved the recommendations as set out and they were agreed without dissent. It was:

### **RESOLVED**

1. To approve the formal amendment of the neighbourhood planning area to the boundaries shown in appendix 1 to the report.

**6.8 Nomination to Outside Bodies**

The Mayor introduced the report setting out a number of nominations to Outside Bodies. He moved the recommendations as set out and they were agreed without dissent. It was:

**RESOLVED**

1. To agree the nominations to outside bodies as shown in Paragraph 3.3 of the report.

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

Nil items.

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

Nil items.

**9. EXEMPT / CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES**

Nil items.

**10. OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

Nil items.

**10.1 Chair's Advice of Key Issues or Questions in Relation to Exempt / Confidential Business**

Nil items.

**10.2 Any Exempt / Confidential Decisions "Called in" by the Overview & Scrutiny Committee**

Nil items.

**11. EXEMPT / CONFIDENTIAL REPORTS FOR CONSIDERATION**

Nil items.

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

Nil items.

The meeting ended at 7.31 p.m.

MAYOR JOHN BIGGS