

LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

MINUTES OF THE CABINET

HELD AT 5.33 P.M. ON WEDNESDAY, 28 JULY 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 Danny Hassell	(Cabinet Member for Housing)
Councillor Mufeedah Bustin	Cabinet Member for Planning and Social Inclusion (Job Share) - Lead on Social Inclusion
Councillor Eve McQuillan	Cabinet Member for Planning and Social Inclusion (Job Share) - Lead on Planning

Members Present remotely:

Councillor Rachel Blake	(Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Adults, Health and Wellbeing)
Councillor Sabina Akhtar	(Cabinet Member for Culture, Arts and Brexit)
Councillor Asma Islam	(Cabinet Member for Environment and Public Realm (Job Share) – Lead on Public Realm)
Councillor Candida Ronald	(Cabinet Member for Resources and the Voluntary Sector)
Councillor Motin Uz-Zaman	(Cabinet Member for Work and Economic Growth)

Other Councillors Present in person:

Councillor Peter Golds	(Leader of the Conservative Group)
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Other Councillors Present remotely:

Councillor Mohammed Pappu

Others Present remotely:

Fran Pearson	(Chair of the Safeguarding Adults Board)
Marcus Barnett	(Metropolitan Police)
Chetan Vyas	(Clinical Commissioning Group)
Keith Makin	(Independent Scrutineer, Children's Safeguarding)

Officers Present in person:

Janet Fasan	(Director of Legal & Monitoring Officer)
Denise Radley	(Corporate Director, Health, Adults & Community)
Will Tuckley	(Chief Executive)
Joel West	(Democratic Services Team Leader (Committee))

Officers Present remotely:

Zamil Ahmed	(Head of Procurement)
Kevin Bartle	(Interim Corporate Director, Resources and Section 151 Officer)
Claudia Brown	(Divisional Director of Adults Social Care)
Vicky Clark	(Divisional Director for Growth and Economic Development)
Sharon Godman	(Director, Strategy, Improvement and Transformation)
Patrick Harmsworth	(Senior Planning Officer, Planning Services, Place)
Fiona Heyland	(Head of Waste Strategy Policy and Procurement, Public Realm)
Adam Hussain	(Planning Officer, Development and Renewal)
Dan Jones	(Divisional Director, Public Realm)
Daniel Kerr	(Strategy and Policy Manager)
Ahsan Khan	(Chief Accountant)
Steve Nyakatawa	(Director of Education)
Marissa Ryan-Hernandez	(Plan Making Team Leader)
Mariana Schiller	(Central Area Design Guidance Project Manager, Planning and Building Control)
Ann Sutcliffe	(Corporate Director, Place)
James Thomas	(Corporate Director, Children and Culture)
Warwick Tomsett	Joint Director, Integrated Commissioning
Richard Williams	Business Manager Operational PR
Matthew Wong	Planning Officer
Matthew Mannion	(Head of Democratic Services, Governance)

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of:

- Councillor Asma Begum (Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Children, Youth Services and Education)
- Councillor Dan Tomlinson (Cabinet Member for Environment and Public Realm (Job Share) – Lead on Public Realm)
- Councillor Motin Uz-Zaman (Cabinet Member for Work and Economic Growth)

2. DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS AND OTHER INTERESTS

There were no Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests.

3. UNRESTRICTED MINUTES

RESOLVED

1. That the unrestricted minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on Wednesday 30 June 2021 be approved and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

4. ANNOUNCEMENTS (IF ANY) FROM THE MAYOR

The Mayor made a number of announcements, including that:

- The Council's adult social care 'Local Account 2020-21' was complete and would be published.
- He was likely to be taking a number of Individual Mayoral Decisions over the next month including the academisation of a school, summer food schemes, an Article 4 Scheme proposal and one in relation to the Spitalfields Neighbourhood Plan.

5. OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

5.1 Chair's Advice of Key Issues or Questions

Pre-Decision Scrutiny Questions were received on the following Agenda Items:

- 6.1 Tower Hamlets Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2020-21
- 6.4 Adoption of the South Poplar Masterplan SPD
- 6.6 Adoption of the Central Area Good Growth SPD
- 6.7 Adoption of the Reuse, Recycling and Waste SPD
- 6.11 Council Budget Monitoring Report – Provisional Outturn
- 6.12 Contracts Forward Plan 2021-22 Q1

All questions and responses were discussed during the debate on those items and written officer responses were also tabled on the questions for (6.1, 6.4, 6.6, 6.7, 6.12) with responses for (6.11) to be submitted to Overview and Scrutiny later in the week.

In addition, Councillor Mohammed Pappu, Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (OSC), provided an update to Cabinet of his Committee's recent work activities. He reported that they had held a meeting earlier in the week at which a number of issues had been discussed, including:

- Looking at the Council's Budget Outturn for 2020-21.
- Progress on the Safer Neighbourhood Action Plan
- Signed off the Committee's Empowering Communities report and its annual workplan.

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 Tower Hamlets Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2020-21

Councillor Rachel Blake, Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Adults, Health and Wellbeing, introduced the report. She began by thanking Christabel Shawcross for her work and support as the previous Chair of the Board before welcoming Fran Pearson to the meeting as the new Chair.

She welcomed the support the new Chair had already provided and looked forward to working with her in the future. She highlighted how impressed she was with the commitment of the Board and partners to continuous improvement to keep our communities safe. Safeguarding is about people, their wishes, aspirations and needs and it is everyone's responsibility.

Fran Pearson addressed the meeting and provided more detail about the report and how it set out the value and effectiveness on the partnership and its work. There had been clear evidence of effectiveness of the partnership working and she had been really impressed with many initiatives around community safety and also on how the Board linked into local strategic partnerships. She looked forward with working with the Cabinet on the many identified projects and work areas.

She also highlighted a number of her priorities as the new Chair including looking to work with all Councillors on supporting the work areas identified.

The Mayor welcomed the presentation. He thanked everyone for their hard work and dedication. He noted the Pre-Agenda Scrutiny Questions and officer responses. He proposed the recommendations as set out in the report and those Members present agreed the recommendations and it was:

RESOLVED

1. To note the Safeguarding Board Annual Report 2020-21 following its agreement at the July Safeguarding Board meeting.

6.2 Tower Hamlets Safeguarding Children Partnership Annual Report 2020-21

The Mayor introduced the annual report of the Tower Hamlets Safeguarding Children's Partnership. He invited representatives from the CCG and Police to speak as well as Keith Makin the independent scrutineer.

James Thomas, Corporate Director, Children and Culture, provided an initial introduction to the report and the work of the Partnership. He drew the

meeting's attention to the headline figures including around children in care and case numbers generally and how valuable early intervention and support with families was in keeping numbers down. The report also showed how the voice of young people was being significantly strengthened and three young scrutineers were soon to be recruited to work with Keith Makin.

The meeting then heard from Keith Makin, Marcus Barnett (Police) and Chetan Vyas (CCG). They highlighted key points from the report including reports on past cases, the more systematic approach to embedding learning, implementing lessons from child safety reviews, the passion and determination being shown by the partnership and finally the priorities for the coming years such as on domestic abuse and exploitation.

The partnership felt that there was already good progress being shown against priorities for the next year and these would be reported to Cabinet in the next Annual Report.

Keith Makin as the Independent Scrutineer reported that the borough was very well placed compared to many other boroughs and had shown good progress over recent months even despite the impact of the Covid pandemic.

The Mayor welcomed the presentation and the report. He highlighted that the work of all partners, in particular schools, were also really important in supporting the Partnership and he thanked them for their work.

He proposed the recommendations as set out in the report and those Members present agreed the recommendations and it was:

RESOLVED

1. To note the work that has been carried out by the Tower Hamlets Safeguarding Children Partnership over the year 2020-21 and the outcomes that members would like to see from the THSCP over the next year
2. To note the specific equalities considerations as set out in Paragraph 4.1 of the report.

6.3 SEND Improvement Board Annual Report 2020

The Mayor introduced the SEND Improvement Board Annual Report. He highlighted this was a really important role for the authority. In addition to the regular annual report content, the report had a particular look at the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic. He noted that the current local area inspection by OFSTED would be published soon. He brought the meeting's attention to the many strengths set out in the report and noted how important early diagnosis of problems was to support young people and increased capacity at local schools would be really important in providing this support.

James Thomas, Corporate Director, Children and Culture, took the committee through some of the key points in the report and in particular highlighted the

strong partnership work shown by this report. The Cabinet were also taken through many of the activities that took place to support the strategy and annual report including such as through children's centres and engagement from early years teams. There was also a big focus on the transitioning period to adult social care to ensure young people did not miss out on ongoing support.

The meeting heard from Councillor Rachel Blake, Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Adults, Health and Wellbeing on the improvement work led by the Health and Wellbeing Board to support SEND services.

The Mayor welcomed the presentations and proposed the recommendations as set out. Members present agreed the recommendations and it was:

RESOLVED

1. To note the contents of the SEND Improvement Board Annual Report 2020.

6.4 Adoption of the South Poplar Masterplan SPD

Councillor Eve McQuillan, Cabinet Member for Planning and Social Inclusion (Job Share) – Lead on Planning, introduced the report. She thanked officers in the planning service for their work in creating this proposal knitting together three sites within the area. It would support local businesses and communities whilst also improving links to Canary Wharf over Aspen Way. New open spaces would also be created with a good public realm making it a pleasant place to live.

During discussion Councillor Peter Golds, Leader of the Opposition, thanked officers for the recent online public consultation that had taken place. He noted concerns about the difficulty of linking the South Poplar area to Canary Wharf given the different (north/south – east/west) focus of the areas.

The Mayor welcomed the report. He noted the Pre-Decision Scrutiny Questions and officer responses and proposed that the recommendations be approved. Members present in the meeting agreed the recommendations and it was:

RESOLVED

1. To approve the South Poplar Masterplan SPD (appendix 1 to the report) for adoption and authorise officers to prepare an adoption statement and publish the Regulation 18(4)(b) Statement and adoption statement so it can be considered a material planning consideration in the assessment of planning applications within the designated South Poplar Masterplan boundary.
2. To authorise the Corporate Director of Place to make any necessary factual or minor editing changes prior to publishing the final South Poplar Masterplan SPD.

3. To note the Representation schedule summarising representations received during the consultation and the responses to these representations as set out in appendix 2 to the report.
4. To note the Strategic Environmental Assessment and Habitats Regulation Assessment Screening Report and consultation responses attached in appendix 3 to the report.
5. To note the Equalities Impact Assessment Screening as set out in Appendix 4 to the report.

6.5 Adoption of the Queen Mary University London SPD

Councillor Eve McQuillan, Cabinet Member for Planning and Social Inclusion (Job Share) – Lead on Planning, introduced the report. She explained that the intention of the document was to support Queen Mary University in its development plans whilst at the same time looking to increase the accessibility of the site to local residents, improving its environmental impact and protecting existing heritage features. Finally, she thanked Patrick Harmsworth, Local Plan Place Growth Modelling and Monitoring Officer for his work in helping prepare the report.

The Mayor welcomed the report, thanked the officers involved in the project and proposed the recommendations as set out. The Members present agreed the recommendations and it was:

RESOLVED

1. To approve the QMUL Mile End Campus SPD (appendix 1 to the report) for adoption and authorise officers to prepare an adoption statement and publish the Regulation 18(4)(b) Statement and adoption statement so it can be considered a material planning consideration in the assessment of planning applications for planning decisions in the SPD study area.
2. To authorise the Corporate Director of Place to make any necessary factual or minor editing changes prior to publishing the final SPD.
3. To note the representation schedule summarising representations received during the consultation and the responses to these representations as set out in appendix 2 to the report.
4. To note the Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening as set out in Appendix 3 to the report.
5. To note the Equalities Impact Assessment as set out in appendix 4 to the report.

6.6 Adoption of the Central Area Good Growth Supplementary Planning Document

Councillor Eve McQuillan, Cabinet Member for Planning and Social Inclusion (Job Share) – Lead on Planning, introduced the report. The report was designed to support housing development across the central area of the borough. It was expected that over 7,500 homes would be built within that area over the next ten years. In particular, it was looking at supporting development on smaller sites with protection for heritage where required. She thanked officers in the planning service for their work in creating this document.

The Mayor welcomed the report. He noted the Pre-Decision Scrutiny Questions and officer responses and proposed the recommendations as set out. Members present agreed the recommendations and it was:

RESOLVED

1. To approve the Central Area Good Growth SPD (Appendix 1 to the report) for adoption and authorise officers to prepare an adoption statement and publish the Regulation 18(4)(b) Statement and adoption statement so it can be considered a material planning consideration in the assessment of planning applications for residential developments on small sites in the Central Area of Tower Hamlets.
2. To authorise the Corporate Director of Place to make any necessary factual or minor editing changes prior to publishing the final Central Area Good Growth SPD.
3. To note the representation schedule summarising representations received during the consultation and the responses to these representations as set out in the Consultation and Engagement Report in Appendix 2 to the report.
4. To note the Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening as set out in Appendix 3 to the report.
5. To note the Equalities Impact Assessment Screening as set out in Appendix 4 to the report.

6.7 Adoption of Reuse, Recycling and Waste SPD

Councillor Eve McQuillan, Cabinet Member for Planning and Social Inclusion (Job Share) – Lead on Planning, introduced the report. The intention of the report was to set out to developers and residents clearly the Council's expectations in terms of provision for waste, reuse and recycling. She thanked officers in the planning service for their work in creating this document.

The Mayor welcomed the report. He noted concerns expressed in discussion around recent collection problems but officers set out how that was being addressed. The Mayor noted the pre-decision scrutiny questions and officer responses and he then proposed the recommendations as set out. The Members present agreed the recommendations and it was:

RESOLVED

1. To approve the Reuse, Recycle and Waste SPD('the SPD') (appendix 1 to the report) for adoption and authorise officers to prepare an adoption statement and publish the Regulation 18(4)(b) Statement and adoption statement so that the SPD can be considered a material planning consideration in the assessment of planning applications for new residential and mixed-use buildings.
2. To authorise the Corporate Director of Place to make any necessary factual or minor editing changes prior to publishing the final Reuse, Recycle and waste SPD.
3. To note the representation schedule summarising representations received during the consultation and the responses to these representations as set out in Appendix 3.2 to the report.
4. To note the Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening as set out in Appendix 3.3 to the report.
5. To note the Equalities Impact Assessment as set out in Appendix 3.4 to the report.

6.8 Service Action Plan – Environment Scrutiny Challenge Session, Recycling Behaviour Change

Councillor Asma Islam, Cabinet Member for Environment and Public Realm (Job Share) – Lead on Environment, introduced the report. She explained that this was an action plan prepared in response to a Scrutiny Challenge Session. Many actions had already been completed including in the last item on the agenda (Item 6.7 – Adoption of Reuse, Recycling and Waste SPD). A number of actions were still in progress including on communications, improved information and encouraging behavioural change. The work of partners was really important in helping to meet these targets.

The Mayor welcomed the report as a good example of thoughtful scrutiny and the actions would help to improve the work of the Council. He proposed the recommendations set out in the report. The Members present agreed the recommendations and it was:

RESOLVED

1. To note the report of the Environment scrutiny challenge on resident behaviour change to boost recycling; and
2. To agree the service action plan in response to the report recommendations.

6.9 Authority to renew the lease at Sonali Gardens to provide continuity of care

Councillor Rachel Blake, Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Adults, Health and Wellbeing, introduced the report. She explained that the specific contracts set out in the report supported the Council's overall vision for adult day support in the borough. The Council was confident it had the processes in place to ensure the services provided at the centres could be managed appropriately.

The Mayor welcomed the report and its key role in ensuring these services could continue to be provided. He noted the exempt appendices setting out confidential financial information. He thanked officers for their work on the report and proposed the recommendations as set out. The Members present agreed the recommendations and it was:

RESOLVED

1. To note the position with regard to the proposed new contracts for the provision of day care and community support hub and spoke activities service.
2. To note that premises at Sonali Gardens, which the Council holds on a lease from Clarion Housing, are required as an on-going location for the service and that the existing lease expires in March 2022.
3. To agree that the Council enters into a new lease for a term of up to 15 years, whilst seeking flexibility in the lease, and on the basis of the rent and other main commercial terms set out in Exempt Appendix 1 to the report.
4. To agree to delegate authority to the Corporate Director, Place Directorate to agree the remaining lease terms and any minor variations to the terms in the Appendices 1 to the report.
5. To Agree to issue a direct award to the Peabody Trust for the provision of day care at the maximum estimated value of £2,100,000 for up to 6 years (4+1+1 contract) at Sundial building and delegate authority to the Corporate Director, Health Adults and Communities Directorate, to agree the terms.

6. To agree that £135,000.00 funding (agreed by the Cabinet on 03/03/2021 to provide a community support hub service) will be added to the value of day care contracts in Sonali and Sundial to provide community support hub service. The proportion is yet to be determined.
7. To note that the contracts' value might increase in year 5 and 6 by a maximum of 3 % (based on forecasted inflation rate of the Retail Price Index in the United Kingdom from 2021 to 2025) of the contracts' value due to inflation.

6.10 Outcome of the public representations received in response, and decision in relation to, the statutory Notice on the proposal to establish an Autistic Spectrum Condition (ASC) provision at Hermitage Primary School

The Mayor introduced the report. He explained that this proposal was linked to the wider SEND strategy set out earlier on the agenda.

It was noted that this proposal came out of a previous review which highlighted a lack of school places at primary level for children with autism spectrum conditions. Up to this point many children had been having to look outside the borough for their school places.

The Mayor welcomed the report as providing an important bridge between specialist provision and mainstream schooling. He proposed the recommendation in the report. The Members present agreed the recommendations and it was:

RESOLVED

1. To approve the proposal to agree the prescribed alterations to Hermitage School as set out in the Statutory Notice at Appendix 2 to the report.

6.11 2020-21 Council Budget Monitoring Report – Provisional Outturn

Councillor Candida Ronald, Cabinet Member for Resources and the Voluntary Sector introduced the report providing the Council's Budget Outturn for 2020-21. She highlighted the massive uncertainty the Covid-19 pandemic had caused all councils but that government funding had helped to mitigate some of the impact but much of it had been last minute which made planning very difficult. Every forecast made had been wide of the mark for the year.

Despite this the Council was showing a small underspend overall compared to the expected small overspend. Departmental budgets varied significantly often impacted by the pandemic. Amongst other details of the report, she highlighted issues around business rates and council tax collection with a likely shortfall overall.

She noted concerns had been raised about loans to other local authorities but she reported that this was normal, low risk, activity.

During discussion officers provided an initial verbal response to the Pre-Decision Scrutiny Questions, detailed answers were to be provided later in the week. The significant government support during the pandemic was also noted.

The Mayor welcomed the report and proposed the recommendations set out in the report. The Members present agreed the recommendations set out and it was:

RESOLVED

1. To note the Council's 2020-21 provisional outturn position against General Fund, Dedicated Schools Budget, Housing Revenue Account and earmarked reserves for 2020-21;
2. To note that the reserves position of the Council remains somewhat uncertain pending the closure of the statement of accounts for the period 2016 – 2020;
3. To note the Council's provisional outturn position against General Fund and Housing Revenue Account capital programme approved budgets for 2020-21;
4. To note that there are no equalities implications directly resulting from this report, as set out in Section 4 of the report.

6.12 Contracts Forward Plan 2021/22 – Quarter One

Councillor Candida Ronald, Cabinet Member for Resources and the Voluntary Sector introduced the regular report listing planned tender processes for various contracts across the Council. The Pre-Decision Scrutiny Questions and officer responses were noted.

The Mayor and Cabinet confirmed that they were content for the contracts to be progressed as set out. The Mayor proposed the recommendations on that basis. The Members present agreed and it was:

RESOLVED

1. To note the contract summary at Appendix 1 to the report.
2. To agree that all listed contracts can proceed to contract award after tender by the appropriate Corporate Director for the service area.
3. To authorise the Director of Legal to execute all necessary contract documents in respect of the awards of contracts referred to at Recommendation 2 above.
4. To note the contracts listed in Appendix 2 to the report.

6.13 Nomination to Seahorse Homes Ltd

The Mayor introduced the report on nominations to outside bodies. It was noted that the report referred to appointments to London Housing Corporation as well as Seahorse Homes.

RESOLVED

1. To agree the nomination 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

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 7.15 p.m.

MAYOR JOHN BIGGS