

LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

MINUTES OF THE CABINET

HELD AT 5.10 P.M. ON THURSDAY, 11 NOVEMBER 2010

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

Members Present:

Mayor Lutfur Rahman (Mayor)	(Mayor)
Councillor Ohid Ahmed (Deputy Mayor)	(Deputy Mayor)
Councillor Rania Khan	(Cabinet Member for Regeneration)

Other Councillors Present:

Councillor Ann Jackson	(Chair, Overview & Scrutiny Committee)
Councillor Peter Golds	(Leader, Conservative Group)
Councillor Craig Aston	

Officers Present:

Kevan Collins	– (Chief Executive)
Isobel Cattermole	– (Acting Corporate Director, Children, Schools & Families)
Isabella Freeman	– (Assistant Chief Executive [Legal Services])
Stephen Halsey	– (Corporate Director, Communities, Localities & Culture)
Chris Naylor	– (Corporate Director, Resources)
Afazul Hoque	– (Scrutiny Policy Manager, Scrutiny & Equalities, Chief Executive's)
Mohammed Ahad	– (Scrutiny Policy Officer, Scrutiny & Equalities, Chief Executive's)
Dean Grant	– (Acting Leader's Executive Assistant, Democratic Services, Chief Executive's)
Beverley McKenzie	–
Jackie Odunoye	– (Service Head Strategy Regeneration and Sustainability, Development & Renewal)
Katharine Marks	– (Acting Service Head, Disabilities and Health, Adults Health & Wellbeing)
Takki Sulaiman	– (Service Head Communications, Chief Executive's)
Chris Saunders	– (Political Advisor to the Labour Group)
Terry Bryan	– (Head of Pupil Admissions & Exclusions)
John Williams	– (Service Head, Democratic Services, Chief Executive's)
Alan Ingram	– (Democratic Services)

MR L. RAHMAN (MAYOR) IN THE CHAIR

WELCOME

The Mayor opened the meeting and expressed his pleasure at being present. He informed those present that, before Cabinet consideration of the substantive business set out in the agenda, he felt it appropriate to allow an opportunity for the public to put questions to himself and the other Cabinet Members present.

Question & Answer Session

No questions were received from members of the public.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of:

- Mr A. Dalvi, Corporate Director Development and Renewal, for whom Ms J. Odunoye, Head of Strategy Innovation and Sustainability was deputising.
- Ms H. Taylor, Corporate Director Adults Health & Wellbeing, for whom Ms K. Marks, Interim Service Head Disabilities & Health was deputising.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Lutfur Rahman declared a prejudicial interest in Agenda item 7.1 – Determination of School Admission Arrangements for 2012/13. The declaration of interest was made on the basis that he had children attending school in the Borough.

Councillor Ohid Ahmed declared a prejudicial interest in Agenda item 7.1 – Determination of School Admission Arrangements for 2012/13. The declaration of interest was made on the basis that he had children attending school in the Borough.

3. UNRESTRICTED MINUTES

Mr K. Collins, Chief Executive, commented that Cabinet decisions were monitored by the Corporate Management Team and he confirmed that action had been taken on all decisions detailed in the minutes of the previous meeting.

The Mayor **Moved** and it was: -

Resolved

That the unrestricted minutes of the ordinary meeting of the Cabinet held on 6th October 2010 be approved and signed by the Mayor as a correct record of the proceedings.

Action by:

ASSISTANT CHIEF EXECUTIVE – LEGAL SERVICES (I. FREEMAN)

Executive Team Leader, Democratic Services, Chief Executive's (A. Taylor)

4. DEPUTATIONS & PETITIONS

No deputations or petitions had been received.

5. OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

5.1 Chair's advice of Key Issues or Questions in relation to Unrestricted Business to be considered

The Mayor informed Members that Councillor Jackson, Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, had **Tabled** a sheet detailing a question arising from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 9th November 2010, together with the Officer response, in respect of the unrestricted business contained in the agenda for consideration. A copy would be interleaved with the minutes.

Councillor Jackson, Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, addressed Members of the Cabinet:

- *Work Programme*
 - She would be discussing with the Mayor how his Office would be held to account for decisions. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee would continue in a role of critical friend and concentrate on policy issues.
- *Scrutiny Spotlight – Mr K. Collins – Chief Executive*
 - Wide discussions were held on changes necessitated by the Government's Comprehensive Spending Review, including:
 - Business rates and connections with Canary Wharf;
 - Reviewing the costs of keeping open the One Stop Shops;
 - A more proactive role for residents
 - Impact on the community of the Housing Benefit cap;
 - Working with Partnership stakeholders and the Police;
- *Scrutiny Challenge*
 - Necessity for recommendations for employment opportunities for 16 year olds and over and the huge implications for changes in the grants system that would deter many young people from attending university.

Councillor Jackson indicated that she would be grateful to receive any comments from the Mayor on the issues raised. The Mayor responded that he was looking forward to working with the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and engaging with Members over the Borough to address the complex issues

facing the Council. He thanked Councillor Jackson for presenting the Contribution of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. He **Moved** and it was

Resolved

That the question and comments of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee be noted and that these be given consideration during the Cabinet deliberation of the item of business to which the question/comments relate.

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

The Mayor informed Members of the Cabinet that no provisional decisions taken by the Cabinet at its meeting on 6th October 2010 had been referred back to Cabinet by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for further consideration.

He then indicated that he had made the following appointments to the Cabinet and the remaining complement would be appointed at a future date:

Councillor Alibor Choudhury – Cabinet Member for Resources
Councillor Rabina Khan – Cabinet Member for Housing
Councillor Rania Khan – Cabinet Member for Regeneration
Councillor Oliur Rahman – Cabinet Member for Children's Services

The Mayor further referred to his opening statement to the Council meeting on 27th October 2010, when he had addressed the scale of financial cuts the Council would have to make, in the order of £75-£90m. over the next four years and the necessity of having to front load some of these. He and the Deputy Mayor, with advisors, had been fully apprised by Officers of requirements to enable the Authority to move forward. He would set a budget at the appropriate stage aimed at dealing with the crisis arising from the Government's grant reductions. In the interim he would be attending the Partnership Board/Budget Congress on 22nd November when he would have discussions with representatives of housing organisations, the Police, Trades Unions, etc.

The Mayor added that he would be working with Directorates on the proposals for savings developed under the previous administration to consider service implications arising and would instruct Officers to prepare a paper for the December 2010 Cabinet meeting on how to close the funding gap and identify savings. His guiding principle would be the protection of front-line services and deliver priorities for housing; education; provision for young people; crime reduction and building a good community to live in.

6. A GREAT PLACE TO LIVE

Nil items.

7. A PROSPEROUS COMMUNITY**7.1 Determination of School Admission Arrangements for 2012/13 (CAB 053/101)**

Ms I. Cattermole, Corporate Director Children, Schools and Families, introduced the report as circulated with the agenda and indicated that Mr T. Bryan, Head of Pupil Admissions and Exclusions, was available to answer matters of detail. She added that the question tabled by the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee related to this agenda item. Ms Cattermole pointed out that the report was aimed particularly at ensuring access for children to local schools and 6th Forms, many of which were over-subscribed.

The Mayor **Moved** and it was:

Resolved: That the annual consultation be undertaken in relation to:

- The policies for school admissions, particularly the changes proposed to the primary school admissions policy, outlined in paras 4.3 – 4.24 of the report (CAB053/101);
- The proposed improvements to the arrangements for 6th form admissions from 2012/13, explained in para 4.26 of the report (CAB053/101);
- The co-ordinated schemes for admission to primary and secondary schools and for 'In – Year' Admissions from 2012/13;
- The published admission numbers for community and voluntary controlled schools, as set out in Appendix D of the report (CAB053/101).

Action by:

CORPORATE DIRECTOR CHILDREN, SCHOOLS & FAMILIES (I. CATTERMOLE)

Head of Pupil Admissions & Exclusions (T. Bryan)

8. A SAFE AND SUPPORTIVE COMMUNITY

Nil items.

9. A HEALTHY COMMUNITY

Nil items.

10. ONE TOWER HAMLETS

Nil items.

11. ANY OTHER UNRESTRICTED BUSINESS CONSIDERED TO BE URGENT

Nil items.

12. UNRESTRICTED REPORTS FOR INFORMATION

12.1 Exercise of Corporate Director Discretions (CAB 054/101)

Resolved:

That the exercise of Corporate Directors' discretions as set out in Appendix 1 of the report (CAB054/101) be noted.

Action by:

CORPORATE DIRECTOR RESOURCES (C. NAYLOR)

Chief Financial Strategy Officer, Corporate Finance, Resources (O. Shonola)

Finance Officer, Corporate Finance, Resources (L. Stone)

13. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

The resolution to exclude the Press and Public was not adopted as there was no Section 2 'Exempt' business for consideration.

14. EXEMPT / CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES

Nil items.

15. OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

15.1 Chair's advice of Key Issues or Questions in relation to Exempt / Confidential Business to be considered.

Nil items.

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

Nil items.

16. A GREAT PLACE TO LIVE

Nil items.

17. A PROSPEROUS COMMUNITY

Nil items.

18. A SAFE AND SUPPORTIVE COMMUNITY

Nil items.

19. A HEALTHY COMMUNITY

Nil items.

20. ONE TOWER HAMLETS

Nil items.

21. ANY OTHER EXEMPT/ CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS CONSIDERED TO BE URGENT

Nil items.

22. EXEMPT / CONFIDENTIAL REPORTS FOR INFORMATION

Nil items.

The Mayor thanked those present for their attendance and declared the meeting closed.

The meeting ended at 5.29 p.m.

Chair, Mayor Lutfur Rahman
Cabinet