

LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

COUNCIL MEETING

WEDNESDAY 13th JULY 2011

**MOTIONS SUBMITTED BY
MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL**

**REPORT OF THE SERVICE HEAD,
DEMOCRATIC SERVICES**

SUMMARY

1. Fourteen motions have been submitted by Members of the Council under Council Procedure Rule 13 for debate at the Council meeting on Wednesday 13th July 2011.
2. In accordance with the protocol agreed by the Council on 21st May 2008, the order in which the motions are listed is by turns, one from each group, continuing in rotation until all motions submitted are included. The rotation starts with any group(s) not reached at the previous meeting.
3. Motions must be about matters for which the Council has a responsibility or which affect the Borough. A motion may not be moved which is substantially the same as a motion which has been put at a meeting of the Council in the previous six months; or which proposes that a decision of the Council taken in the previous six months be rescinded; unless notice of the motion is given signed by at least twenty Members.
4. There is no specific duration set for this agenda item and consideration of the attached motions may continue until the time limit for the meeting is reached. The guillotine procedure at Council Procedure Rule 9.2 does not apply to motions on notice and any of the attached motions which have not been put to the vote when the time limit for the meeting is reached will be deemed to have fallen. A motion which is not put to the vote at the current meeting may be resubmitted for the next meeting but is not automatically carried forward.

MOTIONS

Set out overleaf are the motions that have been submitted.

12.1 Academy Schools – Bethnal Green Technology College

Proposer: Councillor Bill Turner

Seconder: Councillor Amy Whitelock

This Council notes:

1. That education results in Tower Hamlets have improved at a faster rate than in any other area of the country over the last 10 years.
2. This significant improvement in attainment has been achieved through collective working between schools and the Local Authority, under previous Labour administrations.
3. That the previous Labour Government initiated the academy programme as a way of leveraging funding for improvements in failing schools.
4. That the Tory-led coalition Government's policy to allow outstanding schools to automatically become academies and others to apply for academy status is an extension of their policy of opt-outs in the 1990s and will allow thousands of privately owned and managed schools to operate, fully funded by the taxpayer.
5. That Tower Hamlets Council has consistently maintained its support for non-selective comprehensive education and has previously declined the prospect of an academy in the borough, believing our schools are stronger together than apart.

This Council further notes:

1. Bethnal Green Technology College (BGTC) proposes to become an academy with the intended conversion date of 1st January 2012.
2. BGTC has moved rapidly from special measures and made significant progress in the last three years with exam results rising from 27% 5+ A* to C including English and Maths in 2007 to 59% in 2010.
3. This improvement has been achieved with support from the Local Authority, including £17 million of funding from Building Schools for the Future (BSF).
4. Officers at Tower Hamlets Council are committed to working closely with the leadership and governors of BGTC to achieve the highest aspirations of the school, and the Lead Member for Children's Services has stated his own commitment in this regard.
5. That the leadership of the school however has identified a problem with high levels of midterm admissions, that they believe the Council has failed to resolve.
6. Sir William Burrough and Ian Mikardo schools have also registered interest in academy status.

7. Many local groups and individuals are opposed to BGTC's and other schools' applications for academy status, including the National Union of Teachers, East London Teachers' Association and local headteachers, several of whom have publicly made a convincing case for the damage academy status would do to the community of schools in our borough, with few tangible benefits for the schools in question.

This Council further notes:

1. That academies are removed from local accountability structures, meaning parents and pupils have no recourse to assistance from local authorities.
2. That academies are not subject to the admissions procedures of the local authority.
3. That there is no conclusive evidence that academy schools are more effective at raising educational standards than other types of maintained school.
4. That academies have a destabilising effect on the ability of neighbouring schools to achieve a balance of abilities amongst their pupil intakes.
5. That exclusions of pupils in academies have been significantly higher than the national average.
6. That parental representation on governing bodies is minimal.
7. That unlike maintained schools, academies are not required to automatically recognise trade unions and many choose not to and that academies are not required to adhere to the national terms of pay and conditions for teachers, meaning that many teachers are subject to inferior arrangements for pay, conditions of service or working time.

This Council believes:

1. That the long-standing principle of the non-selective comprehensive system must be defended, to ensure all our children in Tower Hamlets have free and equal access to a high quality education, regardless of background or income.
2. That the Tory-led Government's academy programme is intended to break up Local Authority involvement in education and extend privatisation in education, removing schools from local, democratic control.
3. That if one school converts to an academy, this will undermine the collective agreement to date between schools that remaining with the Local Authority is in the best interests of local children and there is too much to lose by opting out.
4. That this could lead to more schools becoming academies and result in a two-tier system of state education in Tower Hamlets, with the Local Authority powerless to drive up standards or ensure consistent admission standards or curriculums.

5. That BGTC has significantly benefitted from the strong collective approach to education in Tower Hamlets, not least agreement among local schools that BGTC should be prioritised for BSF funding.
6. That the principle aims of BGTC's academy bid – to become an outstanding school and to become popular and fully subscribed – can be achieved under the current system with support from the Local Authority, as with Stepney Green school before.

This Council resolves:

1. To oppose any future proposal to establish an academy school in Tower Hamlets.
2. To urge the Headteacher and Governors of Bethnal Green Technology College to reconsider their application for academy status and stay within the Local Authority family of schools.
3. To work with other schools to maintain support for the collective system of state education provision in Tower Hamlets.
4. To work with BGTC to effectively address its concerns with high levels of midterm admissions.
5. Where schools do convert to academies, to work with parents, teachers and the unions to encourage cooperation with the Local Authority and other schools, to ensure local children's access high quality education is not undermined.

12.2 Parks and Open Spaces

Proposer: Councillor David Snowdon

Seconder: Councillor Zara Davis

This Council notes:

- That there are plans to hire out Sir John McDougal Gardens, Millwall Park and Island Gardens for commercial and private events
- Local residents and users of these parks have gathered a petition to oppose the introduction of any commercial or private events in these parks
- Commercial events held in Victoria Park have caused a number of problems including excessive noise, high levels of traffic congestion and local residents being unable to use the park for peace and recreation

This Council believes:

- That our parks and open spaces are a vital resource for leisure, enjoyment and wellbeing, particularly in Tower Hamlets where so many residents live in flats

This Council resolves:

- That Sir John McDougal Gardens, Millwall Park and Island Gardens will remain solely for the use of residents and community groups for the purposes of recreation, leisure and sports.

12.3 No to Academy Conversion

Proposer: Councillor Fozol Miah

Seconded: Councillor Harun Miah

This Council notes that

- a) Bethnal Green Technology College has started the process of converting to an academy
- b) Bethnal Green Technology College has received almost £20 million of public money as part of the previous Labour government's excellent Building Schools for the Future programme
- c) Bethnal Green Technology College's results have been improving after a long, troubled period
- d) These improvements in buildings and standards have taken place in co-operation with Tower Hamlets Local Education Authority
- e) Bethnal Green Technology College has rolls that are still too small placing current staffing levels in jeopardy
- f) the Cabinet member for Education has pledged to do all he can to promote the standing of the school amongst parents
- g) conversion to an academy will place the school in the hands of a private limited company which could then be taken over by one of the new "edubusinesses"
- h) there is no evidence that academy status leads to an improvement in results and a number of academy conversions have gone on to fail
- i) academy conversion will lead to a loss of LEA support for the school which is vital for its future success
- j) academy conversion will lead to destructive competition between schools, undermine social inclusion and lead to selection by the back door
- k) academy conversion will lead to the undermining of teachers' national pay and conditions
- l) the consultation period for academy conversion was only three weeks long and very one-sided, with promoters of conversion able to use the school's facilities and authority to promote conversion whilst there was no statutory provision for parents to hear the many arguments against academy conversion.

This Council believes that

- a) the "consultation" process conducted by those seeking to convert Bethnal Green Technology College into an academy has been wholly inadequate

- b) the introduction of academies in Tower Hamlets will undermine the Tower Hamlets family of schools and the integrated comprehensive public education system on which our children depend for their success
- c) strong action needs to be taken to promote Bethnal Green Technology College and overcome the stigma attached to it and the Mayor should take all necessary action to achieve this
- d) academy conversion is not the means by which either BGTC or schoolchildren in general in the borough will see their education standards raised and the quality of education improved
- e) those promoting academy conversion at Bethnal Green Technology College should abandon this process forthwith and instead work with the council to ensure that the recent improvements and successes at Bethnal Green Technology College become sustainable for the long term.

12.4 Housing Benefit Leaks to the Press

Proposer: Councillor Rabina Khan

Seconder: Councillor Alibor Choudhury

This Council notes:

- The un-amended passing of the Housing Benefit Motion at the last Full Council Meeting which condemned the reduction in Housing Benefit brought about by the Coalition Government.
- We have a duty of care to all our residents and service users.
- The East London Advertiser article on April 21st which detailed the Council's spending on housing benefit and singled out payment to one family.

This Council believes that:

- Housing Benefit is a vital benefit for residents in this borough, ensuring that residents can stay in the borough, families can stay above the poverty line and helping to tackle overcrowding.
- The singling out the level of benefit received by a single family in the press is irresponsible journalism.
- The only way for this information to be out in the open would be through a Members Inquiry and/or the leaking of confidential information.

This Council resolves:

- To continue to help residents and those to whom we have a duty of care, to access all the benefits they are entitled to.
- To exhort Councillors and Officers to ensure that any confidential information they are privy to is not leaked to the press, where it can be used to persecute a single family and divide the community.

12.5 Housing Sales Phases 2 and 3

Proposer: Councillor Judith Gardiner

Seconder: Councillor Helal Uddin

This Council notes that:

1. Tower Hamlets has amongst the highest levels of housing need in London with the waiting list standing at about 23,000 households. Of these, over 1,677 households need a home with four bedrooms or more.
2. Despite this, in December 2010, the newly elected Mayor and his Cabinet agreed to dispose of 5 properties in Swaton Road and two other properties – 19 Parfett St (a 6 bed house) 102 Tredegar Road. In April 2011 the Cabinet also agreed to dispose of 63A Sewardstone Road - on the open market by auction.
3. A further 12 properties in Bruce Road, Old Ford Road and Mount Terrace have also been identified for sale.
4. The sales of Swaton Road properties have now taken place and have achieved some £1.6m, the sale of 19 Parfett St, 102 Tredegar Road and 63A Sewardstone Road have already been advertised.

This Council believes

1. That given the desperate need for family size and street level properties in this Borough, disposal of such properties should be halted.
2. That it was wrong for the Mayor to reverse the Labour cabinet's decision to seek to maintain family sized homes as social housing and instead sell them to the highest bidder.

This Council therefore calls upon the Mayor to ensure

1. That receipts from any such sales are ring-fenced for the provision of new family size homes, preferably in the areas where these homes are being lost, rather than for other housing purposes.

12.6 London Permit Scheme

Proposer: Councillor Zara Davis

Seconder: Councillor Gloria Thienel

This Council notes that:

- Boris Johnson introduced the London Permit Scheme for road works and street works in January 2010
- Fifteen boroughs, the City of London and TfL participated the scheme from the outset
- A further nine boroughs have since joined the London Permit Scheme and two more intend to join shortly
- The first year evaluation report on the permit scheme has shown that it is a success
- The total of number of works undertaken by utility companies has reduced by 17% in the permitting authorities, compared to only 7% in non-permitting authorities
- The number of collaborative work sites, where utility companies and the highway authority undertake works on the same road at the same time has increased by 130% in permitting authorities, thereby enormously reducing the number of times that the same stretch of road is dug up
- The number of days of disruption saved through joint working and collaboration increased from 726 days in 2009 to 1793 days in 2010, i.e. an increase of 147%.

The Council resolves to:

- Join the London Permit Scheme as soon as possible to ensure that residents in Tower Hamlets can benefit from a reduced number of road works and reduced disruption to their journeys

12.7 Public sector pensions and strike action

Proposer: Councillor Harun Miah

Seconder: Councillor Fozol Miah

This Council notes

- a) the draconian changes to public sector pension contributions and entitlement being proposed by the Con Dem government
- b) the misleading impression initially conveyed by this government that public sector pensions as currently constituted are “unaffordable”
- c) that in fact the cost of public sector pensions as a proportion of the total wealth and income of the economy is going to fall dramatically over the next few years under current provisions
- d) that the government has shifted its justification to claiming that public sector pensions are “untenable” but that nowhere in the Hutton report on public sector pensions does the word “untenable” appear
- e) that the attack on public sector pensions represents a dramatic attack on the standards of living of huge numbers of public servants, many of whom are low paid
- f) that 750,000 public sector unions representing civil servants and teachers at all levels of education went on strike on 30th June against this attacks on their pension rights
- g) that more public sector workers will almost certainly come out on strike in October in the biggest wave of strike action since the worst days of Margaret Thatcher if the government does not withdraw its proposals to attack public sector pension rights

This Council believes

- a) the attack on public sector pensions is grossly unfair
- b) that the media campaign of vilification against public servants and their trade unions encouraged by the government is a disgrace
- c) that public sector trade unions were entirely justified in their strike action on 30th June
- d) that public sector trade unions will be justified in taking strike action in October if the attack on public sector pension rights are not withdrawn
- e) that private sector pension provision which itself has been under attack over the last few years should be levelled up rather than public sector pensions levelled down to average private sector provision

- f) the government should withdraw its proposals to slash public sector pension rights immediately

This Council will support public sector trade unions taking legitimate strike action against the attack on public sector pension rights by this government of the rich for the rich and strike action against the unnecessary and counter-productive cuts that are adversely affecting the least well off and ordinary working families in our community

12.8 Proposed NHS Reforms

Proposer: Councillor Rania Khan

Seconded: Councillor Alibor Choudhury

This Council notes that:

- The Tory led government is pushing through the Health and Social Care Bill despite criticisms from all sides: patient groups, professional groups and health experts.
- The proposed reforms are too risky, too costly, a danger to the commissioning of key health services and a distraction from the need to find efficiencies.
- The Conservatives broke their promise not to conduct a top-down reorganisation of the NHS (“With the Conservatives there will be no more of the tiresome, meddlesome, top-down re-structures that have dominated the last decade of the NHS” – *David Cameron, speech at the Royal College of Pathologists, 2 November 2009*).
- The so called ‘listening exercise’ is a sham as the policy is carrying on as if nothing had happened.
- The proposed reforms will expose every part of the NHS to the private sector.

This Council believes that:

- The reforms will fragment the NHS, with free market principles destroying the delicate work that has been undertaken to promote integration of NHS services.
- “Any Willing Provider” allows for large national conglomerates to eclipse local medics and third-sector organisations in competition for service contracts.
- There is the potential for large, national, profit-making conglomerates to ‘cherry-pick’ low-risk, profitable services and leave local medics and the voluntary sector to pick up those services that are more difficult to manage. This will adversely impact on vulnerable patients.
- Imposing UK and EU Competition law on our health service will compromise patients’ welfare as decisions will be made by lawyers and judges rather than doctors and nurses.

This Council resolves:

- To lobby against the government’s reforms which will clearly put profits before public welfare.
- To campaign for the core value of the NHS to be unaffected: care provided on the basis of need, not of ability to pay, through one universal service.

- To ensure that the interests of the most vulnerable in the community are not sidelined in the commissioning process.
- To offer support and guidance to relevant stakeholders in adjusting to changes.

12.9 Neighbourhood Policing

Proposer: Councillor Kosru Uddin

Secunder: Councillor Joshua Peck

This Council notes:

- That Safer Neighbourhood Teams (SNTs) were a Labour innovation and that Tower Hamlets was one of the first areas in the country to have an SNT in every ward.
- That SNTs in liaison with local ward panels have helped to tackle local crime and safety issues such as anti-social behaviour and have improved residents' confidence in the police.
- That the principle that SNTs were dedicated to their ward and could only be moved off in a very limited number of events guaranteed each area a minimum level of policing
- That police station counters provide an important service to residents who want to report crime, or seek the advice of the police in their area.

This Council further notes:

- The Metropolitan Police's recent review of neighbourhood policing, which proposed retaining SNTs, aligned to political ward boundaries with the same number of PCs and PCSOs based in each ward.
- That the review also proposed keeping the SNTs under the control of the Borough Commander and retaining their focus on addressing local crime and safety concerns.
- That the review also examines the possibility of closing front counter services at Brick Lane, Bow Road, Poplar, Limehouse and Isle of Dogs at police stations in the Borough, leaving only Bethnal Green remaining.
- That this review is driven by the Conservative-led government's 20% cuts to policing budgets nationally and Conservative Mayor Boris Johnson failure to protect London from bearing the brunt of these cuts.

This Council believes

- That the decision to retain the SNTs is a welcome one which will have a positive effect on the safety of local residents in the Borough.
- That proposals in the review for temporary re-deployment of PCs and PCSOs to other wards at the discretion of the Borough Commander raise concerns about whether all wards will continue to receive the level of support from SNTs they currently do.

- That proposals in the review allowing Sergeants to be responsible for more than one SNT raise similar concerns.
- That proposals in the review to make crime and anti-social behaviour explicit objectives of the SNTs should not take precedence over the priorities of the community as represented by local ward panels.
- That the closure of counter services in the Borough combined with national police cuts and declining officer numbers across London will have a significant impact on tackling crime.

This Council Resolves:

- To ensure the Council responds to the Metropolitan Police's consultation raising these concerns and opposing police station counter closures.

12.10 Reduction in size of Council

Proposer: Councillor Peter Golds

Seconder: Councillor Craig Aston

This Council notes:

- That with the introduction of the Executive Mayor the role of councillors has changed.
- That as a result of operating under an Executive Mayor the Unitary Borough of Hartlepool will be reduced in size from 48 to 33 members from May 2012.
- The London Borough of Lewisham has a smaller number of councillors compared to London boroughs with a similar population due to the Mayoral system and that Hammersmith likewise has a reduced council membership, although not proceeding to function with an Executive Mayor.
- The London Boroughs of Bromley and Redbridge, although working under the Cabinet system are seeking to reduce council membership to streamline their operation and save money.

Therefore, this Council calls upon the Local Government Boundary Commission for England to review the membership of Tower Hamlets Council and reduce numbers from 51 to 34 councillors by designating the existing seventeen wards to return two as opposed to three members from the 2014 local elections.

12.11 Olympic Route Network

Proposer: Councillor Denise Jones

Secunder: Councillor Anna Lynch

This Council notes:

- The Olympic Games offer a huge opportunity for London and the whole country. There is a need to strike a balance between ensuring the Olympics is run smoothly whilst minimising adverse impact on residents and businesses in the city.
- That TFL is consulting on temporary road changes for the London 2012 Games. TFL have stated "When the London 2012 Games come to the Capital, the Olympic Route Network (ORN) and Paralympic Route Network (PRN) will allow 55,000 key participants - like athletes, officials and the media - to travel reliably to and from events, while keeping London moving.
- These routes - which will operate mainly between July and September 2012 - will be open to general traffic and kept clear of general obstructions such as road works.
- Temporary Games Lanes, only accessible to Games Family and on-call emergency vehicles, will be introduced on around half of the ORN/PRN where there is sufficient road space. These will operate on offside lanes, while nearside lanes and some bus lanes will be open for general traffic"
- That the chosen route for Olympic route Network from Tower Hill to Blackwall will have the effect of 'cutting off' Wapping and reconsideration should be given to the TFL suggested closures and changes on the route.

This Council is concerned

- § That the plans to permit only one right turn onto East Smithfield/The Highway at Vaughan Way from Wapping and the numerous road closures, banned right and left turns, rerouting of buses, suspension of pedestrian crossings over the Highway will have a major detrimental impact on local business and residents, particularly elderly, disabled and school children.
- § That residents using the buses for appointments at the London Hospital and attendance at schools will be delayed in traffic jams.
- § That traffic on the Highway is already gridlocked going west in the morning and east in the evening during rush hours and also when the Blackwall Tunnel is closed due to accidents.
- § That the suggestion for deliveries to businesses in Wapping during the night time hours is impractical for most establishments.
- § That the opening of Tower Bridge on occasions could cause a traffic gridlock around the Tower Hill area.

- § That the timing of the ORN from late June until mid September 2012 from 6am until midnight each day is extended too long either side of the dates of the Olympic Games and the Paralympic Games.
- § That using lanes in going both east and west on the Highway concentrates the disruption in one area and is unfair to the residents and businesses in that location.

This Council resolves

To call on TFL and LOCOG to:

- § Run the ORN going East along the Highway and to run the ORN going West along either Whitechapel Road or Commercial Road thereby lessening the disruption in the Wapping area.

To accept that if this is not possible to call on TFL and LOCOG to make the following changes to the current proposed route:

- § To open another right turn exit from Wapping – at the top of Wapping Lane, Garnet Street or Glamis Road.
- § To introduce a yellow box junction at the Vaughan Way/Dock Street/East Smithfield/The Highway junction
- § For 24/7 police control of that junction at least while the Olympic Lane is operating (6am-midnight)
- § To rephase the traffic lights to allow more vehicles to exit Vaughan Way and Dock Street
- § To suspend parking on the north east side of Vaughan Way near the junction
- § To remove the Barclays Cycle Hire Docking Station in Vaughan Way
- § To grant exemptions (if not already factored in) for emergency vehicles.

12.12 English Defence League

Proposer: Councillor Shiria Khatun

Secunder: Councillor Kosru Uddin

This Council notes:

- That the English Defence League (EDL) has signalled its intention to hold a march in Tower Hamlets this August.
- That the EDL had planned to march through Tower Hamlets in June 2010, but after discussion with the Council, local police and community Groups, their plans were cancelled.
- That previous EDL marches around the UK have been marred by violence, racism and tension within communities.

This Council believes

- That Tower Hamlets is a community which is at its best when it is united.
- That any group or organisation that encourages division and tension in our communities is not welcome in the Borough.

This Council Resolves:

- To call on the Home Secretary to ban the proposed EDL march in Tower Hamlets.
- To work with the Mayor, political groups, the Police, Interfaith Forum and community organisations to respond to any planned action by the EDL and ensure the safety and security of residents.

12.13 Fairtrade

Proposer: Councillor Carlo Gibbs

Secunder: Councillor Anwar Khan

This Council Notes:

- That other councils have procured the following fairly traded products:
 - a) School canteens – bananas, fruit juices, bulk sugar, cereal bars, yoghurt, oranges, grapes, kiwi fruits, herbs & spices, rice – as well as other products for special events.
 - b) Cotton staff clothing - generic polo-shirts and specialised work wear such as overalls.
 - c) Helping schools purchase Fairtrade cotton uniform items by providing information. For example, John Roan School in Greenwich took a policy decision to switch all of their uniform polo-shirts and sweat shirts to Fairtrade cotton/polyester. (Over 1,000 sales annually)
 - d) Fairly traded sport balls for leisure centres and schools.
- That 'fairly-traded' should be defined in accordance with the European Parliament's Resolution on Fair Trade and Development (A6-0207/2006).

This Council Further Notes:

- That budgets for food and drink products only make up a minority of contract caterers' overall costs compared to the costs of staff wages and distribution.
- That relevant fairly traded products can only make up a tiny proportion of the overall range of products supplied to schools and council canteens.
- That several fairly traded products, like some mentioned are available at little or no extra cost compared to equivalent products,
- That one Fairtrade council paid a small premium for fairly traded bananas for schools, until their contractor managed to obtain sufficient volumes to supply all schools, which then reduced prices. Other councils have been charged no extra cost.
- Approved Product Lists – when bidding for contracts contractors often quote prices for all products on a council's Approved Product List (APL), which are then binding after the contract is awarded. At this stage they are motivated to trim margins to remain competitive. After the contract is awarded catering managers who order products not included on the APL are sometimes charged prices well in excess of the market value, if contractors use 'unlisted' items to boost margins.

- That in Africa and India cotton producers face unfair mass ‘dumping’ of US and EU subsidised surpluses which severely depress world market prices, disastrously undermining the ability of producers to improve their living standards through fair trade.
- That in the Sialkot district of Pakistan where many sports balls are made children are often involved in the manufacturing process to such an extent that they are prevented from attending school, a practice not allowed in Fairtrade certified production.
- That the living standards of many fruit farmers has been drastically undermined by large multi-national corporations driving down prices in a ‘race to the bottom’ to minimise costs. As a result in south and Central America attempts to form unions have been ruthlessly suppressed by local vested interests. In Guatemala fifty union activists have been killed since 2007, including five union leaders representing workers on banana plantations.

This Council Believes:

- That the Council should support initiatives which improve producers’ living standards by such measures as:
 - a) Guaranteed minimum prices that always cover production costs; part payments in advance; prohibiting the use of child labour where this prevents children attending school; empowering producers through building long term relationships and contracts.
 - b) Enabling communities to invest in development schemes and sustainable production, with environmental safeguards. Products certified by the Fairtrade Foundation have robust standards for both, independently verified. Equivalent ‘ethically traded’ products should also be considered where it can be demonstrated that they meet these criteria. The Council particularly applauds fair trade companies such as Divine Chocolate and Cafe Direct where producers also share in profits and are involved in decision making.

This Council resolves:

- That all relevant fairly-traded products should be considered for all council facilities or services: schools and social services; sixth forms; offices; leisure centres; libraries; community centres, Adult Education centres; theatres, civic centres, etc - including vending machines.
- That a Councillor and officer should be given responsibility for developing Fairtrade policy in consultation with procurement officers and the Steering Group. Relevant officers should be made aware of revised policies and their roles. Legal advice, support and training should be given where necessary.
- That as limited price premiums for a small minority of products cause a negligible increase in contract caterers’ costs, it is reasonable for the council to expect contractors to supply them at no extra cost. Judgements on this issue should be

made in transparent, collaborative consultations. If contractors require information on potential suppliers or products officers can assist them, in consultation with the Steering Group if helpful.

- Advertisements / Pre Tender Questionnaires / Pre Qualification Questionnaires (PQQ's) - Although PQQ's are primarily concerned with contractors' ability to deliver services, future documents should make it clear that, as a Fairtrade council, Tower Hamlets would expect contractors to support its fair trade policy where possible.
- That Fair trade should be included in the title of relevant contracts to send a clear signal that the council would like to maximise the range of fairly traded products supplied. Example of a suitable title – 'Catering services including the provision of fairly traded products.'
- That as EU procurement law and Office of Government Commerce (OGC) Guidelines make clear, although the provision of fairly traded products cannot be a decisive factor in evaluating which company is awarded a contract, fair trade can form part of 'quality' criteria, either separately or as part of Sustainability goals. These can then be given a minority weighting in tender documents, suitably quantified, to make contractors aware that the council wishes them to make all reasonable efforts to supply as many relevant products as possible should they win the contract.
- That tender documents should also ask contractors to commit to attending periodic reviews of progress in supplying fairly trade products, where they can also consult council officers on future possibilities as markets and available products change.
- That variant bids can be asked for if officers consider they might be useful in increasing the use or range of Fairtrade products supplied.
- That approved Product Lists – should include all relevant fairly traded products to ensure that contractors cannot charge prohibitive prices after the contract is awarded simply because fairly traded products were not listed in the original APL. This would also help contractors establish competitive sources at an early stage.

This Council further resolves:

- After awarding the contract, as part of evaluating contract performance, contractors should be expected to supply the fairly traded products detailed in their tender bid, and to attend review meetings.
- That existing contractors should be approached to ask them to support the council's Fairtrade policy by supplying as many fairly traded products as possible. If Fairtrade considerations were not incorporated in the tender documents under which they were awarded a contract, officers should consult them sensitively to ensure that they are not unduly inconvenienced and that any requests are reasonable and take account of their legitimate concerns.

- That as OGC guidelines make clear, the best value for money does not always mean buying at the lowest possible price. The council's policy is to use fairly traded products where practical within existing budgets. However, officers should not be discouraged from investigating economically viable options which may involve some limited or temporary extra costs, as in circumstances such as those outlined below:

a) Products of superior quality. For example, some fairly traded products can cost less than items of equivalent quality with 'brand name' premiums. If other cheaper products are of lesser quality buying them may be a false economy.

b) If a price differential is minimal and/or volumes used are small, thereby causing a negligible increase in costs, which may be offset by savings elsewhere.

c) If a price differential is likely to be temporary while a contractor establishes a source for large enough volumes to reduce prices. Costs should be considered over the whole life of the contract, not solely on initial 'list prices,' which may be temporary or negotiable.

d) Where a more costly product is only an extra option offered in addition to existing cheaper and similar products, because in this case consumers are free to choose at the point of sale, for example, between two brands of fruit juice.

e) Where negligible increased costs are passed on to the end user, staff or the public. Where a fairly traded product is replacing another and the price premium is more significant users should be consulted.

f) Joint procurement may reduce unit costs to viable levels. Possible initiatives should be actively investigated by councillors and/or officers contacting other Fair-trade councils or networks to obtain up to date information on initiatives and conferences.

g) Where the council is working with partners, on their behalf, and all or most costs would be paid voluntarily by the partners.

- That public notices should be displayed in catering facilities detailing products used and council policy.
- That where practical staff should be consulted to assess the potential demand for buying fairly traded products centrally in relatively large volumes to provide them at reduced cost - something other councils have arranged in collaboration with contractors. Officers should be responsible for this to avoid burdening contractors. If such schemes prove viable a suitable range of products should be offered to give staff choice.
- That officers should review requirements and possibilities for fairly traded clothing provided to council staff. Note, Fairtrade certified cotton garments can include cotton/polyester mixes where the cotton content is 50% or more. The Steering Group could be consulted over relevant products.

- That existing contractors should be requested to use fairly-traded sports balls and include this in future tender documents.
- That embroidered polo shirts and sweat shirts, and printed T-shirts are typically available at price premiums of 10-20% for fairly traded versions, for low volume orders. Joint procurement could achieve significant savings. As many schools are unaware of these products the council should consider contacting head teachers, governors, and teachers to provide information and facilitate consultative meetings.
- That the same initiative could provide information on fairly traded sports balls, as well as products or suppliers suitable for school breakfast clubs or staff rooms. Officers should consult the Steering Group to ensure that all information is accurate and inclusive of all relevant suppliers.
- That machines dispensing chocolate should include some fairly traded chocolate. Machines dispensing hot drinks should provide fairly traded tea, coffee, sugar, and hot chocolate if used. If fruit juices or cola is used fairly traded options should be included.

12.14 Motion on Enterprise

Proposer: Councillor Rachael Saunders

Seconded: Councillor David Edgar

This Council notes:

1. That failure on growth means that this government borrowed more in the first two months of this financial year than they did in the first two months of the last financial year (ONS Stats, 21st June)
2. That the Tory led government plan has meant cuts to police, cuts to jobs, and cuts to funding for social housing.

This Council believes

1. That the Conservative led plan for cuts is hurting people in Tower Hamlets, and that it isn't working in reducing the deficit, because they have failed in promoting growth.

This Council further believes:

1. That Tower Hamlets Council has a role in supporting business, especially where business growth and innovation helps provide jobs for local people
2. That we sit in the middle of Canary Wharf and the City. It is right that we do all we can to train and encourage our young people to go for jobs in finance and professional services. It is also right that we recognise that many in Tower Hamlets have different ambitions.
3. That big businesses should give legal, financial or other professional services advice as a greater part of their corporate social responsibility contribution, to local third sector organisations and small businesses.
4. That small and medium size businesses are a vital part of our social fabric and an important partner in creating a safer, more prosperous Tower Hamlets.
5. That the local authority can do more to ensure we create the best possible environment for local economic growth.

This Council resolves

1. To campaign for big businesses based in and near Tower Hamlets to sign a pledge to undertake a minimum of 20% of their procurement from local businesses
2. To call on the Mayor to negotiate with Canary Wharf on areas including supply chain, professional advice, provision of business mentors and access to lending for local businesses. The banks, professional services firms and others based in east London will benefit themselves if they contribute further to the building of

strong local
communities.

3. To call on the Mayor to take the voices small and medium size businesses seriously, including setting up a forum to discuss issues such as business space, co-ordinating business support, feedback on planning and licensing, change of Council and partners' policies and programmes, such as planned road works and waste management, or regeneration proposals.