

LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

**AT A MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 1 MARCH 2006
AT 7.30 PM AT THE TOWN HALL, MULBERRY PLACE, 5 CLOVE CRESCENT,
LONDON, E14 2BG**

PRESENT:

Councillor Doros Ullah, Mayor in the Chair

Councillor Helal Abbas	Councillor Abdul Matin
Councillor Ohid Ahmed	Councillor Ashton McGregor
Councillor Manir U Ahmed	Councillor Kevin Morton
Councillor Rofique U Ahmed	Councillor Hilary Phelps
Councillor Louise Alexander	Councillor Akikur Rahman
Councillor Alan Amos	Councillor Ataur Rahman
Councillor Abdul Asad	Councillor Lutfur Rahman
Councillor Richard Brooks	Councillor Oliur Rahman
Councillor Betheline Chattopadhyay	Councillor Martin Rew
Councillor Jainal Chowdhury	Councillor Simon Rouse
Councillor David Edgar	Councillor Mohammed Abdus Salique
Councillor Judith Gardiner	Councillor James Sanderson
Councillor Ray Gipson	Councillor A A Sardar
Councillor John Griffiths	Councillor Julian Sharpe
Councillor Shafiqul Haque	Councillor Abdus Shukur
Councillor Sirajul Islam	Councillor Brian Son
Councillor Denise Jones	Councillor M Shahab Uddin
Councillor Michael Keith	Councillor Salim Ullah
Councillor Azizur Rahman Khan	Councillor Motin Uz-Zaman
Councillor Janet Ludlow	Councillor Marian Williams
Councillor Julia Mainwaring	

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors Khaled Khan, Fanu Miah, Helal Rahman, Nigel McCollum, Tim O'Flaherty, Barrie Duffey and Rajib Ahmed.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The following declarations of interest were made:

- Councillor Gardiner declared a personal interest in Item 5.1, petition about the Housing Choice ballot on the Devons Estate and its proposed transfer to Poplar HARCA, as one of the council nominees on the Board of Poplar HARCA.
- Councillor Ohid Ahmed declared a personal interest in Item 5.1, petition about the Housing Choice ballot on the Devons Estate and its proposed transfer to Poplar HARCA, as one of the council nominees on the Board of Poplar HARCA.

- Councillor Sardar declared a personal interest in Item 5.1, petition about the Housing Choice ballot on the Devons Estate and its proposed transfer to Poplar HARCA, as one of the council nominees on the Board of Poplar HARCA.
- Councillor Morton declared a personal interest in Item 5.1, petition about the Housing Choice ballot on the Devons Estate and its proposed transfer to Poplar HARCA, as one of the council nominees on the Board of Poplar HARCA.
- Councillor Salique declared a personal interest in Item 5.1, petition about the Housing Choice ballot on the Devons Estate and its proposed transfer to Poplar HARCA, as one of the council nominees on the Board of Poplar HARCA.
- Councillor Uddin Ahmed declared a personal interest in Item 5.2 Deputation re the Council's Housing Choice Policies, as a council representative on the Board of Tower Hamlets Community Housing.
- Councillor Gipson declared a personal interest in Item 8.1, General Fund Budget 2006/07 Budget Requirement and Council Tax, as a representative on the Board of Age Concern.
- Councillor Asad declared a prejudicial interest in Item 8.4, Children and Young People's Plan, as an employee of a service provider of youth services, and withdrew from the room during consideration of that item.
- Councillor Salim Ullah declared a personal interest in Item 10.2, motion on Crossrail, as he lived within an area that might be affected by works on Crossrail.
- Councillor McGregor declared a personal interest in Item 10.4, motion on Policing on the Isle of Dogs, as an employee of the Metropolitan Police Service.
- Councillor Doros Ullah declared a personal interest in Item 10.2, motion on Crossrail, as he was employed by a company that might be affected by works on Crossrail.

3. MINUTES: RESOLVED:

That, subject to the inclusion of Councillor Simon Rouse's declaration that he had a personal interest in agenda item 10.2 – motion re Education White Paper, as a governor of a school in the Borough, the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on Wednesday 14th December, 2005 be confirmed as correct record of the proceedings and the Mayor be authorised to sign them accordingly.

Moved by Councillor Simon Rouse and **Seconded** by Councillor Oliur Rahman that the order of business be amended in accordance with Rule

14.1.3 of the Council Procedure Rules, so that the Review of the Constitution (Item 11.1) was brought forward and considered after Item 8.4.

After discussion the motion was put to the meeting and **LOST**

4. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE MAYOR, LEADER OF THE COUNCIL, MEMBERS OF THE CABINET OR THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

None.

5. TO RECEIVE ANY PETITIONS, OR DEPUTATIONS

5.1 Petition re transfer to Poplar Harca

Ms Jackie Turner presented a petition on the subject of the transfer of the Devons Estate to Poplar HARCA. The Lead Member for Housing responded and it was

RESOLVED:

That the petition be referred to the Director of Housing Management for response within 28 days.

5.2 Deputation re the Council's Housing Choice Policies

Mrs Carole Swords, on behalf of the deputation, addressed the meeting on the subject of the Council's Housing Choice Policies. After discussion the Lead Member for Housing responded and it was

RESOLVED:

That the deputation's comments be referred to the Director of Housing Management for response within 28 days.

5.3 Deputation re Co-operatives

Miss Carolyn Merion addressed the meeting on the subject of support for co-operatives. The Lead Member for Regeneration and Community Partnerships responded and it was

RESOLVED:

That the deputation's comments be referred to the Assistant Chief Executive for response within 28 days.

6. WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

13 questions had been submitted by members of the public to members of the Cabinet, set out at agenda item 6. The questions together with the draft responses in writing had been tabled on blue paper.

(i) Question from Clair Hawkins of St Stephen's Road E3, re drug dealing on the Ocean Estate to Councillor Judith Gardiner, Lead Member for Environment

Councillor Judith Gardiner referred to her written reply. Ms Hawkins asked a supplementary question regarding measures to tackle drug dealers in cars and drug paraphernalia left in stairwells. Councillor Gardiner detailed a number of steps being taken, and emphasised the importance of local intelligence in helping police and the Council to tackle this issue.

(ii) Question from Jo Coles, of Rainhill Way, E3, re young people's access to Councillor Ohid Ahmed, Lead Member for Education and Youth

Councillor Ohid Ahmed referred to his written reply. Ms Cole asked a supplementary question regarding the length of journey that young people at Bromley-by-Bow would have to take to get to a Youth Centre, and Councillor Ahmed advised that the young people would be within a bus ride of a youth centre.

(iii) Question from Peter Thon That, of Cartwright Street E1, re extending schools hours to Councillor Ohid Ahmed, Lead Member for Education and Youth

Councillor Ohid Ahmed referred to his written reply. Mr Thon That then asked a brief supplementary question to which Councillor Ahmed replied.

(iv) Question from Brian Boag, of Hollybush Gardens, E2, re fly tipping to Councillor Judith Gardiner, Lead Member for Environment

Councillor Judith Gardiner referred to her written reply. Mr Boag asked a supplementary question about measures to deal with fly tipping on open space, and Councillor Gardiner briefly detailed the measures taken variously by street sweepers or, if the open space was within an estate, caretakers. She highlighted the need to identify the perpetrators so that appropriate action would be taken against them, and added that any assistance from the public on this front would be most useful.

(v) Question from Alibor Chowdhury of Shandy Street, E1, re operation of the Safer Neighbourhoods Team in St Dunstan's and Stepney Green to Councillor Judith Gardiner, Lead Member for Environment

Councillor Judith Gardiner referred to her written reply. Mr Chowdhury asked a supplementary question about whether there were plans for Safer Neighbourhood Teams to work with young people, and Councillor Gardiner confirmed that there were.

(vi) Question from Bill Turner of Commercial Street, E1, re misuse of motorised scooters to Councillor Judith Gardiner, Lead Member for Environment

Councillor Judith Gardiner referred to her written reply.

In accordance with Rule 11.2 questions 2.7 to 2.13 were not dealt with due to lack of time. A copy of the tabled responses would be forwarded to the questioners.

7. WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

19 questions had been submitted by members of the Council for response by members of the Cabinet, set out at agenda item 7. The questions together with the draft responses in writing had been tabled on yellow paper.

(i) Question from Councillor Brian Son to Councillor Judith Gardiner, Lead Member for Environment, re assaults in the Aspen Way Underpass

Councillor Judith Gardiner referred to her written reply. Councillor Son then asked a supplementary question to which Councillor Gardiner replied saying that the longer term solution to this particular hotspot was to install pedestrian and cycle crossings at surface level. She regretted to hear that a member of staff had been subjected to a recent assault there and was sure she spoke for the Council when she asked for her good wishes to be conveyed to the victim.

(ii) Question from Councillor Simon Rouse to Councillor Judith Gardiner, Lead Member for Environment, re the number of anti-social behaviour obtained in the year 2005/06

Councillor Judith Gardiner referred to her written reply. In response to Councillor Rouse's supplementary question that the year-end target of 80 ASBOs was unattainable, Councillor Gardiner replied that the approximate total by the year-end would be in the region of 70 ASBOs issued, which demonstrated that the target had been a challenging one which had stretched the service but not been completely unrealistic.

(iii) Question from Councillor Julian Sharpe to Councillor Judith Gardiner, Lead Member for Environment, re spend on improving roads and pavements on the Isle of Dogs in 2005/06

Councillor Judith Gardiner referred to her written reply and undertook to pass on to the relevant officers Councillor Sharpe's proposal for a 20 mph zone at Steward Street and Manchester Road.

(iv) Question from Councillor Ray Gipson to Councillor Shafiqul Haque, Lead Member for Regeneration and Community Partnerships, re shopping facilities in Roman Road

Councillor Shafiqul Haque referred to his written reply. In response to Councillor Gipson's request that in the light of various studies which had been undertaken, some action would eventually be taken to regenerate the area, Councillor Haque confirmed that a number of initiatives were under way to do so.

(v) Question from Councillor Julia Mainwaring to Councillor David Edgar, Lead Member for Housing, re affordable housing on the Isle of Dogs

Councillor David Edgar referred to his written reply. In response to a supplementary question expressing concern about the overall percentage of new homes on the Isle of Dogs which were affordable, Councillor Edgar confirmed that a number of new developments were in the pipeline which would see the percentage rise, and also added that the target for family-sized homes was being met.

(vi) Question from Councillor John Griffiths to Councillor Michael Keith, Leader of the Council, re investigation in to financial malpractice

Councillor Michael Keith referred to his written reply. In response to a supplementary question, the Leader of the Council confirmed that he had been the Lead Member for Regeneration for approximately nine years, during which time he felt the Council had made great strides in terms of regeneration, while also rooting out fraudulent behaviour.

(vii) Question from Councillor Alan Amos to Councillor Judith Gardiner, Lead Member for Environment, re road improvement schemes in Millwall Ward

Councillor Judith Gardiner referred to her written reply.

(viii) Question from Councillor James Sanderson to Councillor Abdul Asad, Lead Member for Social Services and Health, re prospects for the proposed redevelopment of the Barts and the Royal London Hospitals

No written response had been tabled as efforts were being made to establish the latest official position. In view of the fact that the Leader of the Council had recently been involved in extensive efforts to ensure that this project went ahead, Councillor Asad invited the Leader to respond to the question.

The Leader said confirmation was awaited of newspaper reports to the effect that the redevelopment of the hospitals would now go ahead, and that the benefits of first class medical facilities would be coming to the borough. In response to Councillor Sanderson's supplementary question about how the alleged costs of delay of £600,000 per day could be mitigated (while recognising that the delay was in no way the Council's fault), the Leader said that the costs of poor medical facilities outweighed even the costs of delay.

(ix) Question from Councillor Martin Rew to Councillor Shafiqul Haque, Lead Member for Regeneration and Community Partnerships, re development of Fish Island

Councillor Shafiqul Haque referred to his written reply.

In accordance with Rule 12.9 questions 2.10 to 2.19 were not considered due to lack of time. A copy of the tabled responses would be forwarded to the questioners.

8. REPORTS OF THE CABINET AND THE COUNCIL'S COMMITTEES

8.1 General Fund Budget 2006/07 Budget Requirement and Council Tax

Moved by Councillor Richard Brooks, **Seconded** by Councillor Michael Keith and after discussion it was

RESOLVED:

- “1. That a total budget requirement for the authority in 2006/2007 of £267,894,000 (not including Dedicated Schools Grant) be agreed; and
2. That there be no increase in Tower Hamlets' Council Tax for 2006/2007.
 - a) Resulting in a Council Tax at Band D for Tower Hamlets for 2006/2007 of £797.28, as detailed in the table below: -

	2005/06	2006/07
	£	£
Education	225,688,000	32,265,000
Social Services	107,110,000	113,316,000
Environment and Culture	70,219,000	62,760,000
Development and Renewal	6,199,000	6,514,000
Housing General Fund	7,027,000	7,794,000

Chief Executive	20,825,000	21,964,000
Corporate/Capital	(3,899,000)	18,335,000
	433,169,000	262,948,000
Corporate Contingency	-	2,089,989
Formula Grant 2004/05 & 2005/6	-	(128,989)
Local Public Service Agreement	-	(400,000)
Parking Control Reserve	(2,510,000)	(2,510,000)
Housing Choice Earmarked Reserve	5,000,000	3,206,000
E-Government Loan Repayment	689,000	689,000
Insurance Fund	500,000	500,000
General Balances	2,000,000	1,500,000
	438,848,000	267,894,000
Formula Grant	(379,122,871)	(205,777,237)
	59,725,129	62,116,763
Collection Fund Surplus/Deficit	(1,905,000)	(1,904,763)
	57,820,129	60,212,000
	72,522	75,522
	£797.28	£797.28

Band D Council Tax Increase

Amount - £
Percentage

NIL
NIL

b) Resulting in a Council Tax for all other band taxpayers with no discounts and excluding the GLA precept shall be as set out in the Table below:-

BAND	PROPERTY VALUE		RATIO TO BAND D	COUNCIL TAX FOR EACH BAND £
	FROM	TO		
A	0	40,000	⁶ / ₉	531.52
B	40,001	52,000	⁷ / ₉	620.11
C	52,001	68,000	⁸ / ₉	708.69
D	68,001	88,000	⁹ / ₉	797.28
E	88,001	120,000	¹¹ / ₉	974.45
F	120,001	160,000	¹³ / ₉	1,151.63

G	160,001	320,000	¹⁵ / ₉	1,328.80
H	320,001	upwards	¹⁸ / ₉	1,594.56

3. That for the London Borough of Tower Hamlets in 2006/2007:-

(a) *The Council Tax for Band D taxpayers with no discounts and including the GLA precept shall be £1,085.89, as shown below:-*

	£ (Band D, No Discounts)
LBTH	797.28
GLA	288.61
Total	1,085.89

(b) *The Council Tax for taxpayers in all other bands with no discounts and including the GLA precept shall be as detailed in the table below: -.*

BAND	LBTH	GLA	TOTAL
	£	£	£
A	531.52	192.41	723.93
B	620.11	224.47	844.58
C	708.69	256.54	965.23
D	797.28	288.61	1,085.89
E	974.45	352.75	1,327.20
F	1,151.63	416.88	1,568.51
G	1,328.80	481.02	1,809.82
H	1,594.56	577.22	2,171.78

4. That the statutory calculations of this authority's budget requirement in 2006/2007, detailed in **Appendix D** to report to Council, undertaken by the Chief Financial Officer in accordance with the requirements of Sections 32 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 be approved.

5. That the Budget Pages shall constitute the London Borough of Tower Hamlets' 2005/2006 revised estimates and original budget for 2006/2007 be agreed".

8.2 2006/2007 Prudential Indicators

Moved by Councillor Richard Brooks, **Seconded** by Councillor Michael Keith and

RESOLVED:

1. That the following Authorised Limits for External Debt be adopted:-

2006/2007	£597.000M
2007/2008	£591.000M
2008/2009	£597.000M

2. That the following Operational Boundaries for External Debt be adopted: -

2006/2007	£577.000M
2007/2008	£571.000M
2008/2009	£577.000M

3. That the financial indicators set out below be noted: -

	Actual 2004/2005	Estimate 2005/2006	Estimate 2006/2007	Estimate 2007/2008	Estimate 2008/2009
Ratio of Financing Costs to Net Revenue Stream.	2.94%	3.24%	3.24%	2.67%	2.36%
Impact of Capital Investment Decisions on Annual Band D Council Tax		£2.32	£2.57	£2.18	£3.02
Capital Expenditure (£Million)	£95.602	£104.720	£81.794	£83.526	£50.701
Capital Financing Requirement (£Million)	£567.702	£553.092	£568.185	£584.900	£603.245

8.3 Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy 2006/07

Moved by Councillor Richard Brooks, **Seconded** by Councillor Michael Keith and

RESOLVED:

That the Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy as set out in Sections 4-9 and Section 10 respectively be adopted.

8.4 Children and Young People's Plan

Councillor Abdul Asad, having declared a prejudicial interest as a result of his employment by a youth service provider, withdrew from the room during consideration of the item.

Moved by Councillor Ohid Ahmed, **Seconded** by Councillor Michael Keith and

RESOLVED:

That the Revised Children and Young People's Plan be approved.

8.5 Schedule of Dates for Principal Meetings in the Municipal Year 2006/2007

Moved by Councillor Michael Keith, **Seconded** by Councillor Abdus Shukur and after discussion it was

RESOLVED:

That the proposed dates for principal meetings of the Council for the municipal year 2006/2007 as set out in the appendix to the report be approved.

At this point Councillor Abdul Asad returned to the room.

8.6 Review of Polling Places

Moved by Councillor Ashton McGregor, **Seconded** by Councillor Rofique Ahmed and

RESOLVED:

That two compartment portacabins be provided in Polling District BE1, Bow East Ward, that a portacabin be provided in the grounds of the Royal Foundation of St Katherines in Polling District SH4, Shadwell Ward in place of the Olgilvie Community Club Site , and Stepney Library, Polling District WH3, Whitechapel Ward continue to be used if appropriate, but if necessary a portacabin be located in the library car park.

9. TO RECEIVE REPORTS AND QUESTIONS ON JOINT ARRANGEMENTS AND EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS

There was no business under this heading to be considered.

10. TO CONSIDER MOTIONS SUBMITTED BY MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

10.1 Motion submitted by Councillor Richard Brooks regarding the promotion and purchase of Foods with the FAIRTRADE MARK

Moved by Councillor Richard Brooks, **Seconded** by Councillor Abdus Shukur and after discussion it was

RESOLVED:

That this Council believes:

1. That, the London Borough of Tower Hamlets, as an important consumer and opinion leader, should research, develop, and support a strategy to facilitate the promotion and purchase of foods with the FAIRTRADE Mark as part of its commitment to the pursuit of sustainable development and to give marginalised producers a fair deal.

This Council resolves

1. To be recognised by the residents and business community of Tower Hamlets, suppliers, employees and other local authorities, as a borough that actively supports and promotes Fairtrade and to increase the sale of products with the FAIRTRADE Mark.
2. To establish a Fairtrade Borough Steering Group to:
 - To promote the concept of Fairtrade and increase the availability of Fairtrade products within Tower Hamlets.
 - To raise awareness of the FAIRTRADE Mark.
 - To ensure continued commitment and drive towards gaining Fairtrade Borough Status for Tower Hamlets, by achieving the five criteria of a Fairtrade Borough:
 1. The local council must pass a resolution supporting Fairtrade, and serve Fairtrade coffee and tea at its meetings and in offices and canteens.
 2. A range of Fairtrade products must be readily available in the area's shops and served in local cafés and catering establishments (targets are set in relation to population)
 3. Fairtrade products must be used by a number of local work places (estate agents, hairdressers etc) and community organisations (churches, schools etc)
 4. The council must attract popular support for the campaign.
 5. A local Fairtrade steering group must be convened to ensure continued commitment to Fairtrade Borough status.
 - To encourage workplaces, schools, universities and churches to work to promote and use Fairtrade products.
 - and to maintain the accreditation once it has been achieved.
3. To contribute to the campaign to increase sales of products with the FAIRTRADE Mark by striving to achieve Fairtrade status for Tower Hamlets as detailed in the Fairtrade Foundation's Fairtrade Towns Initiative.

The initiative involves a commitment to:

- Widely offer FAIRTRADE Marked food and drink options internally and make them available for internal meetings
- Promote the FAIRTRADE Mark using Fairtrade Foundation materials in refreshment areas and promoting the Fairtrade Borough initiative in internal and communications and external newsletters
- Use influence to urge local retailers to provide Fairtrade options for residents

- Use influence to urge local business to offer Fairtrade options to their staff and promote the FAIRTRADE Mark internally
- Engage in a media campaign to publicise the Fairtrade Borough initiative
- Allocate responsibility for progression of the Fairtrade Borough initiative to a member or group of staff
- Organise events and publicity during national Fairtrade Fortnight - the annual national campaign to promote sales of products with the FAIRTRADE Mark.

10.2 Motion from Councillor Louise Alexander regarding Crossrail

Moved by Councillor Louise Alexander and **Seconded** by Councillor Akikur Rahman.

“This Council confirms that:

It is this Council’s duty to protect the community’s rights not to suffer damage to the environment, health and business.

This Council categorically rejects:

- Any Crossrail intervention shaft in the Brick Lane London E1 area, as contained in the present Crossrail Bill in the House of Commons;
- Crossrail plans for an additional tunnel surfacing in Allen Gardens;
- The use of a conveyor belt to take spoil to dump in Mile End Park; and
- The unsubstantiated, uneconomic and wasteful provision of a Crossrail station at Whitechapel which will necessitate digging an evacuation shaft in the Brick Lane London E1 area

This Council resolves to:

- Use the strongest possible terms when this Council presents the arguments and the evidence in support of any previously-submitted formally-timed petition to the Crossrail Select Committee in the House of Commons.

Lobby within political parties and for the active attention of the Government to represent the interests of the residents of this Borough. This Council undertakes to take action in court and constitutionally to maintain, establish, reinstate and protect the community’s right not to suffer the damage to environment, health and business which will be brought about by having an intervention shaft in this area”.

Moved by Councillor Michael Keith and **Seconded** by Councillor Abdus Shukur that the motion be amended as follows

“The Council confirms

The Council will exercise its powers of general wellbeing to the benefit of all communities in the borough.

The Council categorically rejects

- (delete the four paragraphs that follow and insert)
- The tunneling strategy proposed by Crossrail that produces the need for the major intervention in the Hanbury Street area, a conveyor belt to take spoil to Mile End Park and the use of Mile End Park for spoil handling.

Add

The Council notes:

- The work that the Labour run Council has commissioned on tunneling strategy, safety, construction practice, and railway engineering to protect the interests of the people of the borough.
- The work the Labour run Council has done to lobby ministers, petition the House of Commons and campaign to protect the interests of the people of the borough.
- The meetings that have been held with local community groups to work together on petitioning against Crossrail's current proposals.

The Council resolves to:

- Use the strongest possible terms: STET this paragraph
- Delete second paragraph
- Work in partnership with local community groups to maximize the impact of our petitioning strategy by combining – where possible – the position of the Council with the work done by local campaigning community organizations”.

After discussion **Moved** by Councillor Michael Keith, **Seconded** by Councillor Abdus Shukur and

RESOLVED:

That in accordance with Rule 14.1. 10 the question be now put.

The amendment was then put to the meeting and **AGREED**.

The amended motion was then put to the meeting and it was:

RESOLVED:

That this Council confirms that the Council will exercise its powers of general wellbeing to the benefit of all communities in the borough.

The Council categorically rejects the tunnelling strategy proposed by Crossrail that produces the need for the major intervention in the Hanbury Street area, a conveyor belt to take spoil to Mile End Park and the use of Mile End Park for spoil handling.

The Council notes:

- the work that the Labour run Council has commissioned on tunnelling strategy, safety, construction practice, and railway engineering to protect the interests of the people of the borough;
- the work the Labour run Council has done to lobby ministers, petition the House of Commons and campaign to protect the interests of the people of the borough; and
- the meetings that have been held with local community groups to work together on petitioning against Crossrail's proposals.

The Council resolves to

1. Use the strongest possible terms when this Council presents the arguments and the evidence in support of any previously-submitted formally-timed petition to the Crossrail Select Committee in the House of Commons; and
2. Work in partnership with local community groups to maximise the impact of our petitioning strategy by combining where possible the position of the Council with the work done by local campaigning community organisations.

Motion to Extend the Meeting

During the debate on the Crossrail motion, at 10.26pm, **Moved** by Councillor Michael Keith, **Seconded** by Councillor Abdus Shukur and

RESOLVED That in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 14.1.13 (motion to extend the meeting under Rule 9) the meeting be extended by 30 minutes.

10.3 Motion from Councillor Janet Ludlow regarding the Freedom of Information Act

Moved by Councillor Ludlow and **Seconded** by Councillor Griffiths

"It is one of the Council's roles both to consult and inform residents on issues that will impact on their social and economic well-being.

That the Council has legal obligations under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to ensure people's right to any official information unless it can show that disclosure would cause real harm to the Authority's essential interests.

That new regulations to amend the Local Government Act of 1972 that come into force on 1st March reduce from 15 to 7 the number of categories under which information can be withheld from the public.

That the role of Members, particularly in their capacity as scrutineers of the Council's Executive, is crucial to the process of informing residents.

Moved by Councillor Michael Keith and **Seconded** by Councillor Richard Brooks that the motion be amended as follows

“To add under “This Council resolves to”:

1. Maintain it's commitment to open government and to continue to meet fully its responsibilities under Freedom of Information.
2. Continue to encourage citizens to make requests for information, through the designated email address, the website and by providing guidance in all public facing areas.
3. To provide new training for Members in May on Freedom of Information and Data Protection”.

Moved by Councillor Gardiner, **Seconded** by Councillor Shukur and

RESOLVED:

That in accordance with Rule 14.1. 10 the question be now put.

The amendment was then put to the vote and **AGREED.**

The amended motion was then put to the meeting and it was

RESOLVED:

That this Council notes:

That it is one of the Council's roles both to consult and inform residents on the issues that will impact on their social and economic well-being.

That the Council has legal obligations under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to ensure people's right to any official information unless it can show that disclosure would cause real harm to the Authority 's essential interests.

The new regulations to amend the Local Government Act of 1972 that come into force on 1st March reduce from 15 to 7 the number of categories under which information can be withheld from the public.

That the role of Members, particularly in their capacity as scrutineers of the Council's Executive, is crucial to the process of informing residents.

That this Council Resolves:

1. Inform members of the full implications of the Freedom of Information Act and the recent amendments to the Local Government legislation in order to encourage greater rigour, openness and accountability to emerge from the scrutiny process.
2. Instruct officers to review the Council's information policy and communication processes to ensure that they are compliant with the relevant legislation.
3. Ensure that the Council uses all the communication tools at its disposal to inform the public in an open and objective manner. This includes the Council's weekly newssheet, *Eastend Life*, the Local Area Partnerships and the Council's website
4. To maintain its commitment to open government and to continue to meet fully its responsibilities under Freedom of Information.
5. To continue to encourage citizens to make requests for information, through the designated email address, the website and by providing guidance in all public-facing areas.
6. To provide new training for members on Freedom of information and Data Protection.

10.4 Motion from Councillor Simon Rouse regarding policing in the Isle of Dogs Area

Moved by Councillor Simon Rouse and **Seconded** by Councillor Ataur Rahman.

This Council resolves to:

1. Confirm that members support the aims of this campaign by Isle of Dogs residents.
2. Send a letter of support for the petition to the Metropolitan Police Authority.
3. Investigate other avenues through which additional resources can be found to increase the police presence at the Isle of Dogs police station on Manchester Road."

Moved by Councillor Michael Keith and seconded by Councillor Judith Gardiner that the motion be amended as follows:

"To add:

This Council notes that:

1. The 2006/07 GLA budget concentrates on safer stations and safer neighbourhoods, with resources to ensure every neighbourhood in London gets a dedicated beat police team, and extra British Transport Police to patrol our over-ground stations.

2. That the Conservative members of the Greater London Assembly have a record of seeking to block police funding and of calling for cuts.
3. That Yet again the Liberal Democrats and Conservatives have voted against the Mayor's Budget that has delivered extra police for London. The Liberal Democrats and Conservatives have voted against every Budget that has paid for better policing since 2001.
4. That in Metropolitan police force area the number of police officers has increased by 3,433 since 1997. The total number of police officers in Metropolitan police force area now stands at 30,111.
5. That as a direct result of the actions of Tower Hamlets Council, there are now an additional six police and community support officers in every ward.

To delete all below "This Council resolves to" and replace with:

1. To support the work of the Safer Neighbourhoods Teams on the Isle of Dogs; and
2. To support the development of the localisation agenda on the Isle of Dogs and the development of Super Safer Neighbourhoods Teams".

The amendment was put to the meeting and **AGREED**

Moved by Councillor Judith Gardiner and seconded by Councillor Michael Keith that the motion be further amended as follows.

- "1. This Council welcome national initiatives which have allowed councils and police to more effectively tackle crime and anti-social behaviour including:
 - Tough new powers to close down crack houses in 48 hours
 - Banning sale of spray paints to under-18's and airguns to under-17's
 - Anti-Social Behaviour Orders
 - More money for the police
 - Giving police the power to disperse gangs of youths
 - Curfews for people who cause trouble late at night
2. That such measures have proven to be both well guided and necessary and have directly led to better policing and more effective Council initiatives.
3. That in combination with the new Safer Neighbourhoods Teams and the Council's programme of refurbishing and opening new youth centres and other community facilities, these powers will aid the Council and police in reducing anti-social behaviour and crime".

The second amendment was put to the meeting and **AGREED**.

The amended motion was then put to the meeting and it was

RESOLVED:

"This Council notes the petition that is currently being collected by local residents on the Isle of Dogs to the following effect -

We the undersigned petition the Metropolitan Police Authority to:

1. Recognise the growth in population and policing need on the Isle of Dogs.
2. Seek additional resources to allow the Manchester Road Police Station to open for longer hours, particularly in the evenings.
3. Find ways in which a more tangible police presence can be demonstrated to residents of the Isle of Dogs.

This Council notes:

1. The 2006/2007 GLA budget on safer stations and safer neighbourhoods, with resources to ensure every neighbourhood in London gets a dedicated beat police team, and extra British Transport Police to patrol our over-ground stations.
2. That the Conservative members of the Greater London Assembly have a record of seeking to block police funding and of calling for cuts.
3. That yet again the Liberal Democrats and Conservatives have voted against the Mayor's Budget that has delivered extra police for London, and the Liberal Democrats and the Conservatives have voted against every Budget that has paid for better policing since 2001.
4. That in the Metropolitan police area the number of police officers has increased by 3,433 since 1997. The total number of police in the Metropolitan police force area now stands at 30,111.
5. That as a direct result of the actions of Tower Hamlets Council, there are now an additional six police and community support officers in every ward.
6. This Council welcomes national initiatives which have allowed Councils and police to more effectively tackle crime and anti-social behaviour including;
 - Tough new powers to close down crack houses in 48 hours
 - Banning the sale of spray paints to under-18s and airguns to under-17s
 - Anti-Social Behaviour Orders
 - More money for the police
 - Giving police the power to disperse gangs of youths
 - Curfews for people who cause trouble late at night

7. That such measures have proven to be both well guided and necessary and have directly led to better policing and more effective Council initiatives.
8. That in combination with the New Safer Neighbourhood Teams and the Council's programme of refurbishing and opening new youth centres and other community facilities, these powers will aid the Council and police in reducing anti-social behaviour and crime.

This Council resolves:-

1. To support the work of the Safer Neighbourhood Teams on the Isle of Dogs; and
2. To support the development of the localisation agenda on the Isle of Dogs and the development of Super Safer Neighbourhood Teams”.

11. OTHER BUSINESS

11.1 Review of the Constitution

Moved by Councillor Michael Keith and **Seconded** by Councillor Abdus Shukur that the revisions to the Constitution be adopted.

Moved by Councillor Keith, **Seconded** by Councillor Shukur and

RESOLVED That in accordance with Rule 14.1.10 the question be now put.

The motion was then put to the meeting and it was

RESOLVED:

That the revisions to the Constitution set out in Appendix 1 to the report be approved.

11.2 Review of Proportionality

Moved by Councillor Michael Keith, **Seconded** by Councillor Abdus Shukur and

RESOLVED:

1. That the resignation of Councillors Khaled Reza Khan, Helal Rahman and Fanu Miah from membership of the Labour Group be noted;
2. That the recalculation of proportionality be noted;
3. That Councillor Julia Mainwaring be appointed to membership of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (to replace Councillor Khaled Khan);

4. That Councillors Julia Mainwaring and Ashton McGregor be appointed to membership of the Health Scrutiny Panel (to replace Councillors Khaled Khan and Helal Rahman);
5. That Councillor Julia Mainwaring be appointed to membership of the Licensing and Development Committees (to replace Councillors Helal Rahman and Khaled Khan respectively noting that this left a further vacancy on the Licensing Committee);
6. That Councillor Julia Mainwaring's resignation from membership of the Strategic Development Committee, be noted;
7. That Councillor Ghulam Muhammad Mortuza be appointed to membership of the Human Resources Committee (to replace Councillor Helal Rahman);
8. That Councillor Kevin Morton be appointed to membership of the Pensions and Accounts Committee (to replace Councillor Fanu Miah).

CLOSE OF MEETING

The Mayor thanked everyone for their attendance and contributions, and closed the meeting at 11.04 p.m.

**COUNCILLOR DOROS ULLAH
MAYOR**