

**LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS**

**COUNCIL MEETING**

**WEDNESDAY 21<sup>st</sup> SEPTEMBER 2011**

**MOTIONS SUBMITTED BY  
MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL**

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

**SUMMARY**

1. Nineteen motions have been submitted by Members of the Council under Council Procedure Rule 13 for debate at the Council meeting on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> September 2011.
2. In accordance with the protocol agreed by the Council on 21<sup>st</sup> 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in the previous six months; or which proposes that a decision of the Council taken in the previous six months be rescinded; unless notice of the motion is given signed by at least twenty Members.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 August Disturbances

**Proposer: Councillor Zara Davis**

**Seconded: Councillor Tim Archer**

This Council:

- condemns the violence and looting that took place in Tower Hamlets on 8<sup>th</sup> August, including on the Isle of Dogs, in Bethnal Green and in Bow;
- recognises that the disturbances were the result of pure criminality;
- applauds the policemen and women, including volunteer special constables, who worked long shifts to protect our residents and our streets.

This Council welcomes:

- The Conservative-led Government's £20 million High Street Support Scheme which is aimed at streets where businesses suffered most during the disturbances;
- The business rate relief being provided by the Government to those businesses affected by the violence and looting;
- The Mayor of London's £50 million recovery package to make long term improvements to town centres and high streets damaged in the disturbances;
- The High Street Fund of £4 million, which was kick-started by the Mayor of London with funding of £500k to provide grants to small businesses directly affected by the riots through looting or damage.

This Council resolves:

- to enter discussions with the Government and the Mayor of London's office to secure recovery and regeneration funds for the businesses and areas in Tower Hamlets affected by the disturbances;
- to sign up to the 'Borough Beat' scheme whereby Local Authorities allow their employees to become Special Constables and have time off work to undertake their training and duties as volunteer police officers.

## **12.2 Zero tolerance for Sex Entertainment Venues**

**Proposer: Councillor Fozol Miah**

**Seconder: Councillor Harun Miah**

This Council notes that:

- a) there are 11 so-called Sex Entertainment lap dancing clubs currently licensed within the borough of Tower Hamlets
- b) there are more Sex Entertainment Venues on the borders of Tower Hamlets, especially in the area known as the Shoreditch triangle
- c) the previous Labour government passed legislation giving councils greater powers to control the spread of Sex Entertainment Venues and to revoke the licences of such venues after a campaign by many people including the former Respect MP George Galloway and Respect councillors in Tower Hamlets and residents in this borough

This Council believes:

- a) so-called Sex Entertainment Venues degrade and denigrate women, turning them into sex objects for exploitation
- b) Sex Entertainment Venues encourage anti-social behaviour
- c) Sex Entertainment Venues in Tower Hamlets are largely used by those coming into the borough and in particular people coming from the City of London which has refused to licence such venues within the City of London
- d) the current consultation process will confirm that the overwhelming majority of residents in this borough do not want these Sex Entertainment Venues in or near Tower Hamlets
- e) therefore the Council should act swiftly upon the conclusion of the consultation process to revoke the licenses of all Sex Entertainment Venues where it is legal to do so and to refuse further licences
- f) the Council should contact neighbouring councils to encourage them to act similarly to remove the scourge of these Sex Entertainment Venues from East London.

## 12.3 English Defence League

**Proposer:** Councillor Joshua Peck

**Seconder:** Councillor Rachael Saunders

Tower Hamlets Council notes:

- That the English Defence League (EDL) is a racist organisation whose main activity is street demonstrations against the Muslim community. Although it claims only to oppose Islamic extremism it targets the entire Muslim community and its actions deliberately seek to whip up tensions and violence between Muslim and non-Muslim communities.
- That following a motion brought to Full Council by the Labour Group, all politicians in Tower Hamlets united to campaign for a ban on the proposed EDL march on the 3rd September
- That the EDL were still able to hold a static demonstration, although the area designated for their demonstration was in the City of London, not Tower Hamlets
- That the most significant disturbance on the day happened when an EDL coach drove through Stepney and Mile End.

Tower Hamlets Council believes:

- That the EDL do not represent the views of the people of Tower Hamlets
- That the EDL are not welcome in Tower Hamlets
- That the decision of the Metropolitan police to apply for a ban and the Home Secretary to grant it is welcome
- That it is only because the march was banned and the demonstration heavily policed that serious disturbance was avoided.
- That the EDL have no point of legitimate political protest-their objectives are to spread their hatred and cause disruption and violence
- That a march can be banned on the basis of potential serious public disorder.
- That even if a static demonstration is considered likely to cause such disorder it cannot be banned.
- That this is the first time the Metropolitan police has applied to ban a march since the legislation granting these powers was passed in 1983, and that the power to ban a march or demonstration should only be used in extreme circumstances.

Tower Hamlets Council resolves:

- To review the policing and management of the demonstration and counter demonstration
- To campaign for a change in the law to allow static demonstrations to be banned through the same procedure as bans on marches

## **12.4 Park Events**

**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.

## 12.5 The Government's disastrous cuts

**Proposer: Councillor Harun Miah**

**Seconder: Councillor Fozol Miah**

This Council notes that:

- a) many advanced industrialised economies are slipping back towards very low economic growth and maybe even into a so-called "double-dip" recession
- b) the fall in growth in many economies, including Britain's, currently stems from private individuals and private sector businesses cutting spending in order to reduce their indebtedness
- c) the fall in growth is occurring despite very low interest rates, very low government borrowing costs as a result and despite repeated attempts to reflate the economy through printing money (quantitative easing)
- d) the growth in government debt in many economies, including Britain's, is not the product of profligate spending by previous governments, including the Labour government, but because of falling tax revenues and rising spending that is a consequence of lower growth and recession
- e) despite low borrowing costs and lower growth, the Condem government is imposing yet further swingeing cuts on the London borough of Tower Hamlets to the tune now of £100 million

This Council believes that:

- a) the cuts being imposed by this government on Tower Hamlets and elsewhere are not only immoral, denying jobs and services to the hose least able to secure jobs and necessary services, but completely counter-productive, cutting growth and thereby further exacerbating the government's budget deficit
- b) the best way to stimulate the economy and raise growth is not by cutting taxes for the rich as the Tories would like, but through government spending and investment
- c) increased government spending will lead to a rise in employment and therefore tax revenues thereby cutting the government's budget deficit
- d) there is no evidence the government will suffer an interest rate penalty from the bond markets by increasing spending at this time
- e) the Mayor should lead a campaign attacking the government for its completely unjust and counter-productive spending cuts, particularly on this most impoverished of boroughs and demand either a reversal of those policies and that councils like Tower Hamlets should have the right to raise money themselves in the bond markets in order to generate jobs and provide essential services

## **12.6 Sex Establishments**

**Proposer: Councillor Rachael Saunders**

**Seconder: Councillor Helal Abbas**

This Council notes:

- That the Labour government passed legislation to give local people greater control over the number of sex establishments permitted in their area, through granting greater powers to local authorities
- That in the Independent Mayor's introduction to the consultation on Sex Establishments, he says that "legislation does not allow a ban on sex establishments for moral or equalities reasons".
- That the legislation does allow for impact on localities to be considered in making decisions about sex establishments.

This Council believes:

- That the campaign for this legislation was clearly driven by a gender equality campaign, as well as through anti social behaviour and other considerations;
- That the Council is bound by public sector equalities duties, which place a responsibility on us to promote equality between women and men. The operation of sex establishments is clearly gendered, and the promotion of our duty to gender equality should be at the heart of the implementation of this policy;
- That sex establishments are only a symptom of a structural gender inequality in our society;
- That in a densely populated residential area any sex establishment in any locality will have an impact on women.

**This Council resolves:**

- To continue to support a zero tolerance approach to sex establishments in Tower Hamlets on the grounds that such establishments are inconsistent with our commitment to gender equality and cause anti social behaviour.
- To recognise that an opposition to sex establishments must operate alongside a commitment to projects that support women in exiting the sex industry, and tackling other causes and symptoms of gender inequality such as domestic violence, sexual abuse and body image.

## **12.7 London Permit Scheme**

**Proposer: Councillor Tim Archer**

**Seconder: Councillor Zara Davis**

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 have participated in the scheme from the outset

A further nine boroughs have since joined the London Permit Scheme, Greenwich has joined 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



## 12.8 Neighbourhood Policing

**Proposer:** Councillor Kosru Uddin

**Seconder:** Councillor Joshua Peck

This Council notes:

- That Safer Neighbourhood Teams (SNT's) 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 SNT's 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 will retain SNT's, aligned to political ward boundaries with the same number of PC's and PCSO's based in each ward.
- That the review also proposed keeping the SNT's under the control of the Borough Commander and retaining their focus on addressing local crime and safety concerns.
- That the Metropolitan Police intend to reduce the number of Safer Neighbourhood Sergeants by 150 in 2011/12, a reduction of between 4-6 Sergeants per Borough.
- 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 also notes:

- The recent riots in London which required a significant increase in police numbers as well as the need for additional officers at events such as the Notting Hill Carnival and to police English Defence League demonstrations.

This Council believes:

- That the decision to retain the SNT's is a welcome one which will have a positive effect on the safety of local residents in the Borough.

- That the temporary re-deployment of PC's and PCSO's 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 SNT's they currently do.
- That allowing Sergeants to be responsible for more than one SNT raise similar concerns.
- That proposals the priorities of the community as represented by local ward panels should be the driving force behind SNT activity.
- That now is not the time to cut police numbers, especially considering recent events which have required additional officers.

This Council Resolves:

- To ensure the Council works with the Borough Commander and Metropolitan Police to ensure the SNT's continue to be an effective force to tackle local crime and safety issues.
- To ask the Mayor to write to Mayor of London, Boris Johnson to ask him to urgently rethink the scale of cuts to police officers and police budgets in London.

## **12.9 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 of councillors to reflect the change of duties of councillors following the introduction of the Mayoral system of management.

## **12.10 Tower Hamlets Homes – Options Appraisal**

**Proposer: Councillor Marc Francis**

**Seconder: Councillor Sirajul Islam**

This Council notes that:

- The Mayor has commissioned an “Options Appraisal” to decide on the future of Tower Hamlets Homes (THH) - the Arms Length Management Organisation managing the Council’s remaining housing;
- Tower Hamlets Homes achieved a Two Star (“Good”) rating from the independent Audit Commission following its recent inspection and has begun the initial £94 million investment to bring the council’s stock up to Labour’s Decent Homes Standard;
- Tower Hamlets Homes has delivered this improvement at the same time as significant efficiency savings;
- The London Borough of Newham has decided to bring its ALMO back in house, while Hackney and Waltham Forest are retaining their ALMOs;
- The Council will be required to make further savings from the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) over the course of the current Comprehensive Spending Review period.

This Council believes that:

- The present Senior Management Team and the governance arrangements at Tower Hamlets Homes have been responsible for the significant improvement in performance since its establishment in July 2008;
- There are real strengths to the current arrangements by which the council holds Tower Hamlets Homes accountable for the quality of service and budgets through a management contract;
- Given the Tory-led Government’s policies for social housing, Tower Hamlets Council should not transfer its remaining stock to a housing association;
- Given past experience and the need to maintain the drive to improve performance, it is premature to bring the management of these homes back “in-house” within Tower Hamlets Council;

This Council, therefore, resolves:

- To retain Tower Hamlets Homes as the manager of the Council’s housing for the remainder of its Five-Year contract.

## **12.11 English Defence League**

**Proposer: Councillor Kabir Ahmed**

**Seconder: Councillor Alibor Choudhury**

This Council notes:

- That the English Defence League (EDL) held a static protest in the square mile on Saturday 3 September
- That the EDL's proposal for a march through the borough was banned by the Home Secretary on application from the Metropolitan Police
- That this decision to ban the march followed a long and hard-fought campaign led by the Mayor, councillors, community activists and local organisations, including a unanimous vote of this Council
- That hundreds of local young people took an active part in stewarding the day's events and played a key role in keeping the peace. Whilst there were no arrests of local residents during the demonstrations, a large number of EDL activists were arrested
- The comments from Adrian Tudway, Scotland Yard's National Coordinator for Domestic Extremism, that EDL were not an extremist organisation

This Council believes:

- That the EDL is a racist and extremist organisation
- That the Mayor and Council were right to pursue a ban on a march by the EDL, and that the Home Secretary's ban on the march was the right decision
- That local people conducted themselves admirably when under this terrible threat
- That the police performed extremely well in difficult circumstances, and were instrumental in ensuring that the borough was free from outbreaks of serious violence, fighting and related disorder
- That the Government's Prevent strategy needs to be reviewed to address the threat of far-right extremism

This Council resolves:

- To thank the Home Secretary for listening to the community and introducing the ban on the EDL.
- To thank the Police for their valiant efforts in defending this borough and its community.

- To thank all the community leaders, trade unionists, faith groups, anti-racist campaigners, politicians and business leaders who all came together to support our endeavour to stop the EDL.
- To thank our young people for the positive role and discipline they displayed throughout the day.
- To call on the Metropolitan Police to reclassify the EDL as an extremist organisation.
- To call on the Home Secretary to ban any further proposed 'static demonstrations' which incite racial hatred
- To call on the Home Secretary to review the Government's Prevent strategy so that it recognises and addresses the threat of far-right extremism

## 12.12 Olympic Route Network

**Proposer:** Councillor Denise Jones

**Seconder:** Councillor Lesley Pavitt

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 mid - 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 further notes:

- That some concessions have been made by TFL during the consultation process.
- 3 of the 6 bus stops in the area are to be reinstated and bus services will continue to be able to run;
- The island in the middle of the crossing outside St George's pool is to be widened permanently to give better protection to pedestrians stranded in the middle;
- the ORN will now only come into operation in mid July (possibly from the 15th July or later ) rather than a whole month earlier as originally planned which is the biggest change and reduces impact during school term time;

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 some 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 the changes proposed by the ORN could lead to increased risk of accidents with children and the elderly crossing the road.
- 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 mid-July 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.



## 12.13 Housing

**Proposer: Councillor Rabina Khan**

**Seconded: Councillor Shahed Ali**

This Council notes:

- The housing charity Crisis report a 10% increase in homelessness in the last year, and predict a further increase in the coming year due to government failure to invest in social housing, cuts to housing benefits and the economic downturn.
- There are an estimated 630,000 "hidden homeless" in London – families forced to squeeze into one room rather than a flat.
- Average rents in the private sector are now over £1,000; those on low wages are spending over 70% of their salaries on rent.
- LBTH builds more council housing than any other authority in the country.

This Council believes:

- Government failure on housing is further compounded by the ineffectiveness of London Mayor Boris Johnson. His latest proposals fail to deliver on providing social housing for the hundreds of thousands of low income households trapped on the waiting lists.
- The Government needs to reverse housing benefit cuts, introduce greater control on exploitative landlords, and make greater investment in council house building programmes.

This Council resolves:

- To support the Mayor's pledge to build 4000 new houses, especially family-sized affordable houses
- To support campaigning work with housing charities and other local authorities to this end.

## 12.14 Fairtrade

**Proposer:** Councillor Carlo Gibbs

**Seconded:** 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.

## **12.15 The riots and youth provision**

**Proposer: Councillor Oliur Rahman**

**Seconder: Councillor Ohid Ahmed**

This meeting notes:

- That the cost to London alone for the recent riots will be over £75 million.
- That police have so far arrested 2,333 people, 513 of whom are under 18.
- That Tower Hamlets saw some disturbances but these were not on the scale of the incidents that took place in other boroughs
- That two-thirds of all those arrested live in neighbourhoods with below-average income, and only 3 per cent hail from the wealthiest 20 per cent of areas.
- That Government plans to cut 16,000 police officers.
- That there have been no cuts to youth provision in Tower Hamlets.

This meeting believes:

- That there should be a full independent commission of inquiry into the events of 6-10 August, and their causes.
- That while the causes of the riots are multi-faceted; cuts to policing and youth provision are counter-productive in minimising the likelihood of any repeat of rioting.
- That London Mayor Boris Johnson's criticisms of the government about police cuts are disingenuous in view of the fact Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary state there will be 1,907 fewer officers over the next three to four years as a result of the Mayor's proposed budget and plans.

This meeting resolves:

- To write to Mayor Johnson urging him to rescind cuts to the Metropolitan Police.
- To write to Government demanding a full independent commission of inquiry into the events of 6-10 August and their causes
- To support current Council policy to continue protecting front-line youth provision from cuts.

## **12.16 Enterprise**

**Proposer: Councillor David Edgar**

**Seconder: Councillor Rachael Saunders**

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.

## **12.17 Education results**

**Proposer: Councillor Abdul Asad**

**Seconder: Councillor Kabir Ahmed**

This Council notes:

- That local pupils achieved the best GCSE results the borough has ever seen
- That 61.6 per cent of youngsters achieved at least five A\* to C passes including English and Maths
- That this tops the national average of 54 per cent last year and is almost double the figure of 34% in 2005/6
- That figures for A\* to C grades in any subject have also hit an all-time high in Tower Hamlets, at 82 per cent.
- That this is nearly double the percentage of pupils who achieved the equivalent in 2002.

This Council believes:

- That these results reflect the outstanding efforts and abilities of our pupils as well as the unrelenting hard work of our talented teachers and school staff, and they all deserve profound congratulations on their achievements
- That to reach such astounding heights in attainment would not have been possible were it not for the strong partnership between our close family of schools and the local authority

This Council resolves:

- To continue to put our young people first, and build on these achievements by aiming even higher next year and thereafter
- To cherish our fruitful partnership with our family of schools, despite the central government narrative which seeks to devalue this with the advent of academies and free schools
- To work closely with all of our schools, whatever their constitution, and refuse to put politics above the ultimate imperative of our children's' education

## **12.18 National Anti-Slavery Day**

**Proposer: Councillor Lutfu Begum**

**Seconded: Councillor Rania Khan**

This meeting notes:

- That October 18<sup>th</sup> 2011 is National Anti-Slavery Day.
- That despite the abolition of slavery over 200 years ago, modern forms of trading in human beings continue, whether for sexual exploitation, forced labour, domestic slavery or organised crime.
- That in the UK many thousands of individuals are bought and sold as commodities and forced into modern-day slavery.

This Council believes:

- That National Anti-Slavery Day can play an important role in raising awareness and opposition to human trafficking and modern-day slavery.
- That schools should be encouraged to incorporate the topic into their curricula to raise awareness among students.
- That the efforts made by individuals, business, organisations, the police, government and educational institutions to promote the observance of an Anti-Slavery Day each year represent the ongoing commitment in the UK to raise awareness of human trafficking and to oppose such trafficking actively.

This Council resolves:

- To express its support for the work that ECPAT UK (End Child Prostitution, Child Pornography and the Trafficking of Children for Sexual Purposes) is doing around the UK to promote the rights of children and for the measures the organisation is taking to protect them from commercial and sexual exploitation and abuse.
- To acknowledge the potential impact of the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games on trafficking, in the context of a possible increase of people entering the UK due to human trafficking.

## **12.19 Tower Hamlets' Bid for City Status**

**Proposer: Councillor Rania Khan**

**Secunder: Councillor Md. Maium Miah**

This Council notes:

- That the Government has announced a competition for local authorities to bid for city-status
- The ultimate award of city-status to the successful local authority will mark HM The Queen's Diamond Jubilee, in 2012
- The London Borough of Tower Hamlets is one of a number of local authorities to have submitted a bid for city-status
- That the borough's bid for city-status is being supported by the major financial institutions in Canary Wharf, the Tower of London, the City of London corporation and celebrities including England international football star Ledley King, among other notable dignitaries/institutions

This Council believes:

- That the borough's rich cultural history and diverse and cohesive community make it uniquely placed as a contender for city-status
- That the borough's status as the second largest financial centre in Europe further adds to its potential as a future city
- That city-status would boost the borough's prestige, attract more tourism and have a positive impact on the future of this deprived East London borough

This Council resolves:

- To give its wholehearted support to the London Borough of Tower Hamlets' bid for city-status in HM The Queen's Diamond Jubilee