

LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL

HELD AT 8.00 P.M. ON TUESDAY, 29 NOVEMBER 2011

**THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, 1ST FLOOR, TOWN HALL, MULBERRY PLACE, 5
CLOVE CRESCENT, LONDON, E14 2BG**

Members Present:

Mayor Lutfur Rahman	Councillor Denise Jones
Councillor Helal Abbas	Councillor Dr. Emma Jones
Councillor Khales Uddin Ahmed	Councillor Aminur Khan
Councillor Kabir Ahmed	Councillor Anwar Khan
Councillor Ohid Ahmed	Councillor Rabina Khan
Councillor Rajib Ahmed	Councillor Rania Khan
Councillor Shelina Aktar	Councillor Shiria Khatun
Councillor Shahed Ali	Councillor Anna Lynch
Councillor Tim Archer	Councillor Harun Miah
Councillor Abdul Asad	Councillor Md. Maium Miah
Councillor Craig Aston	Councillor Fozol Miah
Councillor Lutfu Begum	Councillor Mohammed Abdul Mukit MBE
Councillor Mizan Chaudhury	Councillor Ahmed Adam Omer
Councillor Alibor Choudhury	Councillor Lesley Pavitt
Councillor Zara Davis	Councillor Joshua Peck
Councillor Stephanie Eaton	Councillor Zenith Rahman
Councillor David Edgar	Councillor Rachael Saunders
Councillor Marc Francis	Councillor David Snowdon
Councillor Judith Gardiner	Councillor Gloria Thienel
Councillor Carlo Gibbs	Councillor Bill Turner
Councillor Peter Golds	Councillor Kosru Uddin
Councillor Shafiqul Haque	Councillor Helal Uddin
Councillor Carli Harper-Penman	Councillor Abdal Ullah
Councillor Sirajul Islam	Councillor Motin Uz-Zaman
Councillor Ann Jackson	Councillor Amy Whitelock

The meeting commenced at 8.05 p.m.

The Chair of Council, Councillor Mizanur Chaudhury, in the Chair

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors Rofique U. Ahmed and Oliur Rahman. Apologies for lateness were received on behalf of Councillor Zara Davis.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors made declarations of interest on items included on the agenda as follows:-

Councillor	Item	Type of interest	Reason
Cllr Helal Abbas	5.2	Personal	The hospital concerned is in my ward
Cllr Helal Abbas	8.1	Personal	Brick Lane area is in my ward
Cllr Helal Abbas	12.7	Personal	I am a member of the GMB union and of the Local Government Pension Scheme
Cllr Helal Abbas	12.9	Personal	The hospital concerned is in my ward
Cllr Helal Abbas	12.12	Personal	I am a member of the GMB union and of the Local Government Pension Scheme
Cllr Helal Abbas	12.21	Personal	Council nominee to Tower Hamlets Community Homes which submits applications to the HCA
Cllr Kabir Ahmed	12.11	Personal	Supported the KEMP campaign
Cllr Khales Uddin Ahmed	5.3	Personal	Member of Poplar HARCA Board
Cllr Khales Uddin Ahmed	12.21	Personal	Member of Poplar HARCA Board
Cllr Ohid Ahmed	12.7	Personal	Member of a Trades Union and in the Local Government Pension Scheme
Cllr Ohid Ahmed	12.12	Personal	Member of a Trades Union and in the Local Government Pension Scheme
Cllr Rajib Ahmed	5.3	Personal	Poplar Harca Board Member
Cllr Rajib Ahmed	12.2	Personal	Deputy Chair of Council
Cllr Rajib Ahmed	12.7	Personal	Member of a Trades Union and in the Local Government Pension Scheme
Cllr Rajib Ahmed	12.12	Personal	Member of a Trades Union and in the Local Government Pension Scheme

Cllr Abdul Asad	11.1	Personal	Member of the Local Government Pension Scheme
Cllr Abdul Asad	12.7	Personal	Member of a Trades Union and in the Local Government Pension Scheme
Cllr Abdul Asad	12.12	Personal	Member of a Trades Union and in the Local Government Pension Scheme
Cllr Craig Aston	12.6	Personal	By virtue of my employment as declared in the Register of Members Interests.
Cllr Mizanur Chaudhury	12.2	Personal	Chair of Council
Cllr Zara Davis	12.7	Personal	Member of the Local Government Pension Scheme
Cllr Zara Davis	12.11	Personal	Actively supported the Save KEMP campaign
Cllr Zara Davis	12.12	Personal	Member of the Local Government Pension Scheme and previously worked in the public sector.
Cllr Zara Davis	12.17	Personal	I am a Trustee of the Docklands Settlement which provides the site for the Canary Wharf College.
Cllr Stephanie Eaton	12.6	Personal	I am a landlord in the private rented sector.
Cllr David Edgar	12.4	Personal	A project run by the organisation I work for has been awarded a grant of £9,000 by LOCOG
Cllr David Edgar	12.7	Personal	I am a member of Unite
Cllr David Edgar	12.12	Personal	I am a member of Unite
Cllr Marc Francis	12.7	Personal	Member of a Trades Union and in the Local Government Pension Scheme
Cllr Marc Francis	12.12	Personal	Member of a Trades Union and in the Local Government Pension Scheme
Cllr Marc Francis	12.21	Personal	Independent Board Member, Old Ford Housing Association

Cllr Gardiner	Judith	12.4	Personal	ODA Planning Committee member
Cllr Gardiner	Judith	12.5	Personal	ODA Planning Committee member
Cllr Gardiner	Judith	12.7	Personal	Member of NAPO
Cllr Gardiner	Judith	12.12	Personal	Member of NAPO
Cllr Carlo Gibbs		12.7	Personal	I am a member of the Unite union
Cllr Carlo Gibbs		12.12	Personal	I am a member of the Unite union
Cllr Carlo Gibbs		12.21	Personal	Council representative on Board of Tower Hamlets Community Housing
Cllr Haque	Shafiqul	12.7	Personal	Member of GMB/Unison and of LG Pension Scheme
Cllr Haque	Shafiqul	12.12	Personal	Member of GMB/Unison and of LG Pension Scheme
Cllr Carli Harper-Penman		12.7	Personal	Member of Unite
Cllr Carli Harper-Penman		12.12	Personal	Member of Unite
Cllr Carli Harper-Penman		12.21	Personal and Prejudicial	I work for a housing association with a very clear line on the issue.
Cllr Sirajul Islam		12.2	Personal	Former member of the Constitution Working Party
Cllr Sirajul Islam		12.4	Personal	Board member, Olympic Lottery Distributor (OLD)
Cllr Sirajul Islam		12.7	Personal	Member of Unison union
Cllr Sirajul Islam		12.12	Personal	Member of Unison union
Cllr Sirajul Islam		12.21	Personal	Board member, Tower Hamlets Community Housing
Cllr Ann Jackson		12.7	Personal	Member of trade union and of LG Pension Scheme
Cllr Ann Jackson		12.12	Personal	Member of trade union and of LG Pension Scheme
Cllr Ann Jackson		12.13	Personal	Family member works for provider.
Cllr Denise Jones		8.1	Personal	I run a business in Brick Lane
Cllr Denise Jones		12.7	Personal	Member of Unite union
Cllr Denise Jones		12.12	Personal	Member of Unite union
Cllr Aminur Khan		12.11	Personal	Supported KEMP campaign
Cllr Rabina Khan		5.1	Personal	White Swan is in my ward

Cllr Rabina Khan	5.2	Personal	I have signed the petition
Cllr Rabina Khan	12.11	Personal	I have signed the KEMP campaign petition
Cllr Rania Khan	5.1	Personal	Supporter of Object! And CAPE
Cllr Rania Khan	12.17	Personal	Member of NUT
Cllr Shiria Khatun	12.7	Personal	Member of GMB union
Cllr Shiria Khatun	12.12	Personal	Member of GMB union
Cllr Anna Lynch	5.3	Personal	Board member, Poplar Harca
Cllr Anna Lynch	6.2	Personal	Board member, Poplar Harca
Cllr Anna Lynch	12.7	Personal	Member of Unison and in the Local Government Pension Scheme
Cllr Anna Lynch	12.12	Personal	Member of Unison and in the Local Government Pension Scheme
Cllr Abdul Mukit	12.7	Personal	Member of a Trades Union and in the Local Government Pension Scheme
Cllr Abdul Mukit	12.12	Personal	Member of a Trades Union and in the Local Government Pension Scheme
Cllr Ahmed Omer	12.7	Personal	Member of a Trades Union and in the Local Government Pension Scheme
Cllr Ahmed Omer	12.12	Personal	Member of a Trades Union and in the Local Government Pension Scheme
Cllr Joshua Peck	12.4	Personal	Employer has a contract with LOCOG
Cllr Joshua Peck	12.5	Personal	Employer has a contract with LOCOG
Cllr Joshua Peck	12.7	Personal	Member of the GMB union
Cllr Joshua Peck	12.12	Personal	Member of the GMB union
Cllr Rachael Saunders	12.7	Personal	Member of Unite union
Cllr Rachael Saunders	12.12	Personal	Member of Unite union
Cllr Gloria Thienel	12.10	Personal	East End Homes leaseholder
Cllr Bill Turner	12.7	Personal	Current member of Unison and have been office holder/delegate. Member of the Local Government

			Pension Scheme
Cllr Bill Turner	12.12	Personal	Current member of Unison and have been office holder/delegate. Member of the Local Government Pension Scheme
Cllr Bill Turner	12.17	Personal	Governor of Morpeth School
Cllr Helal Uddin	5.3	Personal	Employer works closely with Poplar Harca
Cllr Helal Uddin	12.7	Personal	Member of the GMB union
Cllr Helal Uddin	12.10	Personal	Board member of East End Homes
Cllr Helal Uddin	12.12	Personal	Member of the GMB union
Cllr Abdal Ullah	12.7	Personal	Member of GMB union
Cllr Abdal Ullah	12.12	Personal	Member of GMB union
Cllr Kosru Uddin	12.19	Personal	Employed by DWP
Cllr Amy Whitelock	12.7	Personal	I am a member of the Unite union
Cllr Amy Whitelock	12.12	Personal	I am a member of the Unite union
Cllr Amy Whitelock	12.15	Personal	Tower Hamlets Homes board member
Cllr Motin Uz-Zaman	12.7	Personal	Union member
Cllr Motin Uz-Zaman	12.10	Personal	Council representative on East End Homes Board
Cllr Motin Uz-Zaman	12.12	Personal	Union member

3. MINUTES

Councillor Joshua Peck referred to the question set out as item 6.2 (page 8 of the minutes) and pointed out that Rushanara Ali MP and John Biggs (Labour Member of the London Assembly), together with Labour Councillors had attended the event opposing the EDL march.

Councillor Peter Golds drew attention to the response given by Councillor Alibor Choudhury to Councillor Zara Davis' question 8.6 (page 15 of the minutes). Councillor Choudhury had stated that he did not have evidence of Councillor Davis' assertion that the THEOs were on a rest day at the time of the disturbances and would not have been deployed anyway as the situation was too dangerous. However, Councillor Golds wished it recorded that Councillor Davis had received a response to a Member's Enquiry that confirmed this was the case and that she had provided this information to Councillor Choudhury.

Councillor Stephanie Eaton requested that the minutes be amended to reflect the fact that her question 8.22 (page 25 of the minutes) should have referred to “Step Free Access”, rather than “Step 3 Access”.

RESOLVED

That subject to the above amendments, the minutes of the ordinary meeting of the Council meeting held on 21st September 2011 be confirmed as a correct record of the proceedings and the Chair of Council be authorised to sign them accordingly.

4. TO RECEIVE ANNOUNCEMENTS (IF ANY) FROM THE CHAIR OF COUNCIL OR THE INTERIM CHIEF EXECUTIVE

No announcements were made at the meeting.

5. TO RECEIVE PETITIONS

5.1 Petition on behalf of the White Swan, Commercial Road, E1 regarding the Sex Establishments Policy

Mr Daryl Stafford and Mr Barry Kirk addressed the meeting on behalf of the petitioners and responded to questions from Members.

Councillor Rania Khan, Cabinet Member for Culture, then responded to the issues raised.

The Council was part way through the analysis and evaluation of the consultation on the draft Sex Establishments Policy. There had been a record number of responses and it was clear that residents felt strongly about the matter. A consultation meeting had been held with Rainbow Hamlets and many of the issues raised in the petition had been brought to the Council's attention. These would be given due consideration and the Council would ensure that the policy was not discriminatory.

RESOLVED

That the petition be referred to the Corporate Director, Communities, Localities and Culture for a written response on any outstanding matters within 28 days.

5.2 Petition from Ms Brenda Daily, Mr Tom Ridge and others regarding the “Save Mother Levy’s” campaign

Ms Brenda Daily and Mr Tom Ridge addressed the meeting on behalf of the petitioners and responded to questions from Members.

Councillor Rabina Khan, Cabinet Member for Housing, then responded to the issues raised.

She shared the concerns of those who wanted to save the most important elements of the former Jewish Maternity Hospital. The decision to sell the site was taken by the previous administration. Unfortunately, as the building was not listed or in a Conservation Area, the Council could not prevent its demolition. However Councillor Khan was fully supportive of the campaign to save the buildings and had written to Peabody in this regard. In the event that this was not possible, Councillor Khan was also working on a number of initiatives to preserve its legacy.

RESOLVED

That the petition be referred to the Corporate Director, Development and Renewal for a written response on any outstanding matters within 28 days.

Change to Order of Business

Councillor Motin Uz-Zaman **MOVED**, and Councillor Joshua Peck **SECONDED**, a procedural motion – “That under procedural Rule 14.1.3 the order of business be varied to allow motion 12.9 to be considered as next business.”

The procedural motion was put to the vote and was **agreed**.

12.9 Former Jewish Maternity Hospital

Councillor Judith Gardiner moved, and Councillor Helal Uddin seconded, the motion as printed in the agenda.

Following debate, the motion was put to the vote and was **agreed**. Accordingly it was:-

RESOLVED

This Council notes:

- That the former Jewish Maternity Hospital, known affectionately as ‘Mother Levy’s’, was the only Jewish Maternity hospital in England and located in four separate buildings in Underwood Road.
- That the buildings form part of the few remaining examples of the built evidence of the Jewish East End and as such are of important historical significance.

- That Peabody Housing Trust are legally entitled to apply to demolish the site and have applied for a 'prior notice of demolition' on the site, with the view to applying for permission to build a five storey block of 33 flats rent, shared ownership and sale on the open market.
- That Peabody has a duty to optimise the amount of housing they provide but also to protect the Borough's heritage.

This Council further notes:

- An online petition which has been signed by over 400 people including local councillors opposing the demolition.
- That several notable individuals such as the Director of Jewish Heritage UK, Chairs of the East London History Society and Jewish East End Celebration Society and local Councillors have written to the Chief Executive of Peabody asking him to at least spare the cottages and convert them to family homes.

This Council resolves:

- To call on the Mayor to urgently negotiate with Peabody Homes to prevent the demolition.
- To call on Peabody to reconsider their designs to spare the cottages or part of the façade to preserve the heritage of the buildings.

5.3 Petition from residents of Lanrick Road regarding transport and satellite

Mr Ashraful Alam addressed the meeting on behalf of the petitioners and responded to questions from Members.

Councillor Rabina Khan, Cabinet Member for Housing, then responded to the issues raised.

With regard to the one-way system currently in use, Councillor Rabina Khan pointed out that this had been introduced originally to prevent HGV access and to block a rat run from the A12 to the A13. It would not be legally possible for the Council to gate the road but further proposals were under consideration.

In connection with poor television reception, Lanrick Road benefits from a communal satellite dish, although the Freeview channels were not part of the satellite system. Signals from the Crystal Palace transmitter were not strong in the Lanrick Road area, but this may

improve when the BBC switches off the analogue service during 2012, following which the digital signal would be stronger.

RESOLVED

That the petition be referred to the Corporate Director, Development and Renewal for a written response on any outstanding matters within 28 days.

6. TO RECEIVE WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

6.1 Question from Mr Ares Zaimis:-

Residents are deeply concerned that the estate has no elected representative on the Main Board of East End Homes.

East End Homes has terminated the rights of residents to be represented on its Main Board by an elected local board member, who has proper delegated authority from fellow residents, and who can relay to the Main Board the concerns of the community living on St George's Estate. This is at a time when we are grappling with a mass of problems in relation to a major construction programme that could meaningfully be resolved only at Main Board level.

East End Homes has effectively eradicated accountable resident involvement in the organization's strategic thinking and operational decisions on St George's and other of its estates.

Do you agree that it is now time for a full review of East End Homes' governance arrangements and the reinstatement of resident rights to Main Board representation that is accountable to residents?

Response by Councillor Rabina Khan, Cabinet Member for Housing:-

Thank you for your question. This is not the first time that this matter has been raised with me and I receive many letters and e-mails about East End Homes (EEH). After previous enquiries I managed to arrange a meeting with St George's estate residents and EEH. At the meeting it was very clear that residents were extremely upset and concerned that they were not being properly represented or listened to. I asked that they be made fully aware of the terms of the EEH formal Proposal document and that copies be made available to them.

Tenant involvement on the boards of housing associations is extremely important. I am committed to ensuring that this is the case for all our RSLs and that tenants are treated well.

It may be that the current involvement arrangements conform to the constitution for EEH but that is not good enough.

I have worked with the Tenants Federation to improve resident involvement on boards and the St George's estate board decided to convert to a TRA

A Panel is to be introduced that will be able to refer such complaints to the Housing Ombudsman. Have St George's residents been approached on this matter?

[Mr Zaimes replied that they had not.]

No supplementary question was asked.

Change to Order of Business

Councillor Tim Archer **MOVED**, and Councillor Dr Emma Jones **SECONDED**, a procedural motion – “That under procedural Rule 14.1.3 the order of business be varied to allow motion 12.10 to be considered as next business.”

The procedural motion was put to the vote and was **agreed**.

12.10 East End Homes

Councillor Dr Emma Jones and Councillor Tim Archer altered the wording of their motion in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 15.8.1.

Councillor Emma Jones **MOVED**, and Councillor Tim Archer **SECONDED** the amended motion.

Following debate, the motion as amended was put to the vote and was **agreed**. Accordingly it was:-

RESOLVED

This Council notes that:-

1 A Council-organised meeting was held between East End Homes residents, councillors and representatives of East End Homes on 11th April 2011. A representative of EEH was also in attendance.

2. The minutes of this meeting clearly show that each estate felt that improvements in resident involvement and representation on EEH's board were needed urgently.

3. The St George's estate has currently undergoing extensive construction work and it is important during this time that the estate is democratically represented.

4. Currently the EEH management board does not have a representative elected by St George's estate residents.

This Council believes that:-

1. RSLs have a responsibility to ensure democratically elected representation for tenants, leaseholders and freeholders on estate management boards.
2. The election of resident representatives to the Main Board of EeH is documented in the Memorandum & Articles of Association of the Company and is integral to the Council's original intention in establishing EeH as a stock transfer organisation.

This Council resolves to:

1. Urge EeH in the strongest possible terms to hold elections in each local estate area for resident representatives to the Main Board within six months.

6.2 Question from Miss Claire Drake:-

Tenants and residents are delighted that the refurbishment works to bring Balforn Tower up to Decent Homes standards will start next year.

Poplar HARCA, our landlord, is verbally now refusing and not at all forthcoming with information on whether any tenants will be able to return to their homes when the works are completed. Balforn Tower was built in the late 1960s and originally all 146 homes were for rent to Council tenants. We are concerned that Poplar HARCA is planning to sell all the homes in this block on the open market rather than let them to social housing tenants.

Will the Council help secure the right of return for tenants to their homes in Balforn Tower on completion of the Decent Homes works?

Response by Councillor Rabina Khan, Cabinet Member for Housing:-

Thank you Miss Drake for submitting this question.

I understand your concerns and those of other residents in Balforn Tower about the lack of information and reassurances from Poplar HARCA about tenants' right to return.

I can assure you that the Council are doing everything within our power to ensure that residents do have the right to return if they wish to exercise it.

During the Housing Choice consultation, many residents asked whether they would retain the same rights as Council tenants if they voted for the transfer and became tenants of an RSL.

The answer given by Poplar HARCA in their offer document was that with a couple of exceptions, "your rights with an RSL would be the same as with the Council."

Crucially the offer document clearly mentions "*The Right to be given information about the management of your home*", so this should encourage Poplar HARCA to answer queries about whether tenants can return to Balfron Tower after refurbishment.

The document from Poplar HARCA titled "Information for Residents living in Balfron and Carradale Towers" specifically states: "If you have lived in your home for at least the last 12 months as your only or principal home then you will be entitled to a home loss payment when you move. This is currently £4,700. Only one payment is made per household. If you want to return to your home when the works are done then you will **not** be entitled to this payment."

This document seems to indicate that residents are indeed entitled to return; under the circumstances indicated above.

However we need greater clarity on this and I am organising a meeting between tenants and Poplar HARCA to try get that clarity.

Summary of supplementary question from Miss Claire Drake:-

Does Poplar HARCA have planning permission or listed building consent to carry out the proposed works to Balfron Tower?

Summary of Councillor Rabina Khan's response:-

I have submitted a Member's Enquiry on this matter and I will have the information available for the meeting.

6.3 Question from Ms Lorraine Cavanagh OBE:

Can the Council tell me why they are supporting the culling of the monk parakeets on the Isle of Dogs when their existence is part of the Millwall Park Management Plan 2008 – 2018?

Response by Councillor Rania Khan, Cabinet Member for Culture:-

Thank you Ms Cavanagh for your question.

The birds are not being culled but are being captured and taken to a safe place where they are looked after and are regularly inspected by a veterinary surgeon but are no longer in the wild and are therefore no further threat to the environment.

This is the cheaper and easier way to control a potentially invasive non-native species before it establishes a large and widespread population.

The UK has an obligation under the International Convention on Biodiversity to control or eradicate invasive non-native species which threaten biodiversity

This is the UK Government's preferred approach set out in the Invasive Non-native Species Strategy for Great Britain. It is in line with national and international policy on invasive species, and has the support of the leading bird conservation charity the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds.

The Millwall Park Management Plan will be revised in the light of this information.

I have a personal academic interest in this matter and will be meeting the Borough Ecologist to discuss it. Ms Cavanagh is very welcome to join us.

Summary of supplementary question from Ms Lorraine Cavanagh:-

The RSPB receive multi-million pound funding from DEFRA and other information exists that the aim is to eradicate these birds by a number of methods. Is the Cabinet Member aware that there is a budget of £90,000 allocated for removal of the 77 birds nationwide?

Summary of Councillor Rania Khan's response:-

I am not aware of the budget details, but if Ms Cavanagh would care to join me at the meeting with the Borough Ecologist, we can discuss the matter fully.

7. MAYOR'S REPORT

The Mayor made his report to the Council meeting, extending a welcome to all present and particularly to Mr Aman Dalvi, who was attending his first Council meeting as Interim Chief Executive.

The Mayor commented that the meeting was being held on the eve of strike action by some 2 million public sector workers against Government proposals for changes to pension arrangements. He added his own support and expressed concern at the possible implications of 710,000 more public jobs being lost by 2017. The Mayor felt it was disgraceful that people would be expected to work for longer for less money, whilst bankers would be largely unaffected, with only a small increase in the banking levy proposed by the Government. He feared that a broken society would result. In his capacity as Mayor he was looking to protect all residents in the community.

The Mayor referred to the recent decision to assist students in the Borough who would be affected by the Government's EMA cuts. The Mayor was pleased to announce that Council Tax was to be frozen for the third year in a row. His first year in office had been dominated by the economic crisis that was expected to worsen given Government policy failures. However, despite cuts that had to be made, Tower Hamlets continued to provide free home care, was committed to supporting the London Living Wage and was providing more new homes than any other local authority. The Mayor further stated that he supported the campaign by Ken Livingston to reduce travel fares.

The Mayor then commented on recent road accidents at Bow roundabout, which had resulted sadly in the deaths of cyclists Brian Dorling and Svitlana Tereschenko, expressing the opinion that these could have been avoided if the recommendations of Council Officers had been heeded by TfL.

The Leader of the Majority Group and Leaders of the Minority Groups each responded briefly to the Mayor's report.

8. TO RECEIVE WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

8.1 Question from Councillor Md. Abdul Mukit MBE:-

Can the Mayor tell me what actions he is taking to limit antisocial behaviour in the Brick Lane and old Shoreditch Station area of Weavers Ward, specifically street urination and late night noise?

Response by Councillor Ohid Ahmed, Deputy Mayor:-

We are extremely glad that Brick Lane has become such a popular visitor destination however we are working hard to ensure that residents are not negatively impacted by the large visitor numbers.

We are taking these issues extremely seriously and we have developed three main responses.

Firstly, our most important resources are the THEOs. To date the THEOS have reported 129 incidents of public urination in Brick Lane and these will be pursued through the courts for prosecution. We will be stepping up these patrols over the Christmas period to ensure an appropriate response.

Incidentally I am sure members will be interested that our use of THEOs has been so successful that Newham has now introduced Newham Enforcement Officers.

Secondly, we have also now introduced a borough wide drinking control order, in line with other London Boroughs (including Newham and Hackney) which will give the police and council more powers to deal with issues arising from street drinking.

Finally we have our 20 partnership police, part funded by a commitment from this administration. They are focussed on tackling crime issues which most affect the local community.

Summary of supplementary question from Councillor Md. Abdul Mukit MBE:

Everybody knows there is a problem, how many offenders have been fined and what action is being taken to address the serious position in this area?

Summary of Councillor Ohid Ahmed's response:

I understand that a number of people have been fined. As I have said, we take this very seriously. I have visited the area three times with THEOs, who are doing all in their power to address the issues.

8.2 Question from Councillor Peter Golds:-

Will the Mayor provide details of meetings held between himself, his administration and officers and the company Moving Events which led to the now cancelled plan to hire out Trinity Square Gardens for Christmas and New Year celebrations?

Response by Councillor Rania Khan, Cabinet Member for Culture:-

Thank you Councillor Golds for your question. The Mayor did not have any meetings with the company Moving Venue.

Officers from the Arts and Events Team met four times with Moving Venue on the Trinity Square Gardens (TSG) project as follows:

On 25th February 2011 they had a site meeting;
On 23rd May 2011 the project was discussed;
On 19th July 2011 there was a further site meeting; and
On 16th September 2011 there was a meeting to discuss any licensing application.

Summary of supplementary question from Councillor Peter Golds:

There seems to have been a cult of secrecy, with the proposals covered up until the scandal broke. Why were senior officers able to give consideration to hiring out such a sensitive site where people would leave memorial flowers and wreaths, and who in the administration was overseeing what was going on?

Summary of Councillor Rania Khan's response:

Administration members do not micro manage the services. TSG management approached Council Officers to consult on the matter. We took action when we became aware of the detailed proposals.

8.3 Question from Councillor Amy Whitelock:-

Can the Mayor tell me what steps did the council take to support parents and staff affected by the sudden temporary closure of Glamis Community Nursery in early November and what plans are in place to ensure the sustainability of this service for local parents and children?

Response by Councillor Rania Khan, Cabinet Member for Culture:-

Glamis Community Nursery is a voluntary sector day nursery run by a Management Committee.

As soon as the Early Years Service was informed that the nursery would not be opening on Monday morning of 31st October we attempted to contact the nursery and offer support.

The Family Information Service provided the manager of the nursery with information on other nurseries in the area. The Council offered brokerage support when requested to find alternative childcare for the children attending Glamis.

It is extremely important that there is childcare provision for families in the Shadwell area.

Summary of supplementary question from Councillor Amy Whitelock:

Is the Cabinet Member aware of local parents' concerns and support for this popular nursery? Nationally the Conservative/Lib Dem cuts are closing many Surestart services. Does she agree that we have a responsibility to support our community based services and ensure that families are not left without nursery provision in future?

Summary of Councillor Rania Khan's response:

We will do all in our power to ensure that all children in the area have access to excellent nursery facilities."

8.4 Question from Councillor Fozol Miah:-

Is the lead member aware of the appalling unemployment figures recently released which show that unemployment amongst young people is now above a million across the UK and that many of these young people are facing years on the dole as a result of the abject failure of the Condem government's policies and would the lead member say what measures the council is taking to try and mitigate the worst effects of the government's failed policies?

Response by Councillor Shafiqul Haque, Cabinet Member for Jobs and Skills:-

Myself, the Mayor and all the administration are concerned about the Youth Unemployment Figures. I completely agree that the figure of 1 million young unemployed is a stark reminder of how the Conservative-led coalition Government has failed this country.

What is most concerning about this figure is that it represents the future of this country. How can we ensure we are able to grow out of this global recession if we are not investing in our young people?

One of the main ways we can help to improve the youth unemployment figures is to ensure they are able to gain the skills that will be useful to employers. To this end we are bringing back EMA to Tower Hamlets. The Mayor's Education Award will ensure that all young people can stay on at school and gain the skills they need to gain employment.

We are also ensuring that the Council employs as many local young people as possible - We have the Council graduate programme which will employ (this is funded by the allocation in the amendment Cllr Eaton made to the last budget); we have the Mayor's Apprenticeship programme; and Tower Hamlets Homes is also offering an apprenticeship programme.

We are also developing programmes to help all residents, including young people into work, including £1.2m of ESF funding to support grants to third sector organisations helping residents into work; and a pilot project to help women from ethnic minority backgrounds overcome barriers to employment.

Summary of supplementary question from Councillor Fozol Miah:

Are you aware of the dire economic forecasts showing an increase in unemployment of up to 400,000 in a year and what discussions are you having with the Olympic authorities to ensure there is training and employment for our young people?

Summary of Councillor Shafiqul Haque's response:

Yes, the administration takes this very seriously. The Mayor and I have had a series of meetings with LOCOG to secure more employment for local people and a minimum of 1,000 jobs for Tower Hamlets residents has already been agreed.

8.5 Question from Councillor Carlo Gibbs:-

Can the Mayor tell us how many thousands more local families attended the Tower Hamlets Fireworks displays this year?

Response by Councillor Rania Khan, Cabinet Member for Culture:-

Overall the three fireworks displays across the borough were a great success, with Weavers Fields attracting an audience of 15,000, Millwall Park 5000 and Bartlett Park 3,000.

I was pleased with the outcome because a majority of families attending the displays were from our borough, which was my aim. This was evident as the majority of audiences that attended arrived on foot which was confirmed by the DLR duty manager at Millwall and Island Gardens who advised that use of the DLR was consistent with a typical Saturday evening.

Summary of supplementary question from Councillor Carlo Gibbs:

The displays in total attracted only a quarter of the attendance at last year's event in Victoria Park and the estimated cost this year was approximately £5 per person compared with £1.50 per person last year. Could it damage our bid for City Status if as a borough we are seen not to welcome outsiders to our events? Do you accept that the decision not to hold the Victoria Park display was wrong and will you re-instate the event next year so that more people are able to enjoy the event?

Summary of Councillor Rania Khan's response:

The displays this year were more accessible to local people who pay local taxes and who are our priority. Your position on this matter is in contrast to your opposition to the Live Site in Victoria Park which will enable many local people to enjoy the Olympics next summer.

8.6 Question from Councillor Tim Archer:-

As at mid-November why is the CCTV camera on Manchester Road (in front of the Nisa store) still not operational, despite the commitment for this being given in March 2010?

Response by Councillor Ohid Ahmed, Deputy Mayor:-

You are not alone in being concerned about this as I have also made enquiries.

Some time was taken to bring together the key stakeholders involved in this initiative. However, once we had completed the surveys, potential contractors were required to submit method statements, risk assessments and health and safety information for the type of work required. A delay was experienced in September and October as essential maintenance work needed to be carried out on the system.

This meant that no resources could be spared to carry out the work at Kelson House.

The current situation is that the new transmitters have been put up on Kelson House and the link back to Mulberry Place proven. All the wiring at Kelson House has been completed for this camera and all we have to do is install a CISCO switch to allow the connection of the camera. At the moment we estimate this work will be completed by the end of November 2011.

However, I am not happy about the time this has taken to be resolved.

Summary of supplementary question from Councillor Tim Archer:

I have submitted many enquiries on this matter and there have been a series of excuses for the delay. Exactly when will the camera be working?

Summary of Councillor Ohid Ahmed's response:

It will be working by the end of next week.

8.7 Question from Councillor Khales Uddin Ahmed:-

Can the Mayor provide us with an update on the Working Neighbourhood Fund Evaluation, and provide us with an indication of when it will be completed?

Response by Councillor Shafiqul Haque, Cabinet Member for Jobs and Skills:-

The Working Neighbourhood Fund was an important government scheme implemented by the last Labour Government. As we have heard earlier it is clear that this current Government has nowhere near this level of commitment to helping the unemployed find jobs.

As you know the delivery of the Working Neighbourhoods Fund (WNF) programme finished on 31st March 2011. Since then the WNF Programme Management Team and the External Evaluators have carried out a range of activities including verification of Key Outcomes and Outputs (including Job Outcomes and Training Outputs); preparation of project reports for all organisations (now complete and received by Lead Organisations delivering WNF projects) and the Evaluation Report for the overall programme.

We expect to receive the Final Evaluation Report by the end of November 2011. This will then be published on the Council website.

Summary of supplementary question from Councillor Khales Uddin Ahmed:

When will the Enterprise Strategy be brought to the Cabinet?

Summary of Councillor Shafiqul Haque's response:

This will be reported in the near future.

8.8 Question from Councillor Harun Miah:-

Is the lead member aware that the Condem government is seeking to scapegoat migrants for the abject failure of their economic policies and that they have commissioned a report which has recommended imposing a high financial threshold before families can be united in this country, and would the lead member agree that any policy which stops British citizens marrying the spouse they wish to marry and to be united with their spouse and children is reprehensible and that the council should make representations on behalf of the thousands of people in Tower Hamlets who will be adversely affected were such a policy to be implemented by the Condem government?

Response by Councillor Alibor Choudhury, Cabinet Member for Resources:-

I thank Councillor Miah for his question. Yes, I do share your concerns about Government proposals to raise the income threshold for those wishing to bring a spouse or child to live in Britain.

The Government's proposed new threshold of £18,600 - £25,700 will effectively bar half the population from bringing in a spouse or partner from abroad. I think this is grossly unfair.

Essentially the Government's approach favours the better off. If you are in the top half of the income distribution, you're ok. But if you are in the bottom half you are not welcome.

These measures will have a direct impact on families in Tower Hamlets. The largest group of people banned from coming to Britain under the proposals would be women from India, Pakistan, Nepal and Bangladesh.

We will be making representations to the Government expressing our view that the Government's proposed new threshold is too high. We will also be expressing our concern about the stress that could be placed on children and families affected as a result of these recommendations.

No supplementary question was put.

8.9 Question from Councillor Shiria Khatun:-

Can the Mayor tell me what reductions have been made to street cleaning in the Borough and how he decided which routes to cut?

Response by Councillor Shahed Ali, Cabinet Member for Environment:-

Thank you Councillor Shiria Khatun for your question. No routes have been cut from street cleaning.

The budget for Street Cleaning was set and agreed by Full Council in line with the Council's medium term financial plan. Prior to this decision the Council swept the majority of residential roads in the borough at least three times a week; they are now swept twice a week.

Summary of supplementary report from Councillor Shiria Khatun:

Is the Mayor aware of the increasing public dissatisfaction with the service provided by Veolia in many parts of the borough?

Summary of Councillor Shahed Ali's response:

This administration is very serious about street cleaning and decluttering. A pilot scheme was introduced in Bethnal Green Road, where paladins were replaced with refuse sacks for businesses to dispose of rubbish easily. Councillor Shiria Khatun is welcome to attend a visit of the area with me.

8.10 Question from Councillor Dr Emma Jones:-

What role does the Council have in ensuring the safety of cyclists in the borough?

Response by Councillor Shahed Ali, Cabinet Member for Environment:-

Thank you for your question. I am sure I speak for everyone in expressing our condolences to the friends and family of Brian Dorling, 58, of Hounslow, west London, who was killed on the Bow Roundabout on 24th October; and to the friends and family of Svitlana Tereschenko, 34, of Bow, who died on 11th November after a collision with a tipper truck. Their deaths are shocking and highlight the growing dangers for cyclists in London.

Transport for London (TfL) are responsible for the safety of cyclists on their roads in the borough. When TfL introduced the two Cycle Superhighways, Council officers discussed all their safety concerns with them. Unfortunately the Council's suggestions were rejected because priority was given to traffic capacity. Sadly since then we have had two cyclist fatalities on the Bow Roundabout Cycle Superhighway.

The Mayor has called on the Mayor of London Boris Johnson to instruct Transport for London to put cyclists' safety first and look again at the safety of these Cycle Superhighways. The Mayor has also written to Peter Hendy, Commissioner of Transport for London, to discuss safety measures.

I am very concerned that Boris Johnson was unaware of a vital report produced by Jacobs Consultancy which recommended signalised crossings for cyclists and pedestrians on two arms of the junction, together with off-carriageway cycle lanes. I agree with the comments of the Chief Executive of the London Cycling Campaign that "it's a tragedy it has taken two cyclist deaths in three weeks to bring this vital report on the dangers at Bow to the Mayor's attention."

We call on Boris Johnson to implement the report's recommendations to make the junctions safe.

The Council has provided cycle training which over the past two years over 4000 cyclists have benefitted from. The Council has also worked with the Metropolitan Police and TfL to deliver a number of bike awareness events and campaigns such as "Exchanging Places" sessions to raise awareness of the danger of HGV and cyclist conflicts.

Last year the Council initiated a volunteer Cycle Rangers project to develop a pool of rangers who closely monitor local cycle routes and act as champions in promoting our walking and cycle network to local people.

The Council is also working with Sustrans and the ODA to deliver routes off road and through quieter areas. Designing out hazards is an important part of this process.

The Metropolitan Police have also targeted their Cycle Taskforce at key sites along Cable Street in response to complaints about the conflict between cyclists and pedestrians.

The Council is committed to ensuring as best it can the safety of cyclists in the borough.

Summary of supplementary question from Councillor Dr Emma Jones:

There has also been a recent serious accident in Wapping. Could the THEOs provide a presence during rush hour periods to prevent vehicular traffic encroaching into areas allocated for cycles?

Summary of Councillor Shahed Ali's response:

It would be premature to make a hasty decision about THEO involvement but various options are under consideration and areas of particular conflict between cyclists, pedestrians and motorists are being examined.

8.11 Question from Councillor Helal Uddin:-

Can the Mayor confirm whether or not fixed term tenancies will be introduced in Tower Hamlets?

Response by Councillor Rabina Khan, Cabinet Member for Housing:-

The Mayor and I have consistently opposed any move to fixed term tenancies. On 1st March this year we responded to the Government's consultation on this issue and I made it clear that the Council's position was as follows:

'We remain firm in the belief that security of tenancies should be the preferred option for a high percentage of tenants in social housing... We are concerned that offering young families shorter fixed term tenancies will impact on their long-term development and sustainability. Children attain higher academic standards when they live in suitable secure housing and families benefit from the social networks developed locally.'

We are in the process of developing our updated tenancy policy and our commitment to lifelong tenancies and sustainable rooted communities will be at the heart of this policy. We will ensure that Tower Hamlets Homes continues to offer lifelong tenancies.

The Localism Bill 2011 has just been passed and requires local authorities to set out a strategic lettings policy to give guidance on whether fixed-term tenancies should be introduced. However this is guidance only and we cannot force registered providers to follow this.

I am doing all I can within the powers given to me by the ConDem Government to make our position clear and ensure we reduce the number of fixed term tenancies in the borough.

Summary of supplementary question from Councillor Helal Uddin:

Can I also have your assurance that you will oppose the potential damaging effects of proposals to cap Housing Benefits?

Summary of Councillor Rabina Khan's response:

You will see that I have submitted a motion for debate later in the agenda drawing attention to the fact that the Government is failing those in need of social housing and calling for a 'living rent' and robust action to protect private sector tenants from rogue landlords.

Time limit for item

At this point the Chair informed the meeting that the time allocated for Members' Questions had expired.

Questions 8.12 to 8.18 were therefore not put at the meeting due to lack of time. Written responses would be provided to these questions as set out below:-

8.12 Question from Councillor Stephanie Eaton:-

Could the Lead Member comment on the November 2011 Ofsted Local Area Children's Services profile which reports that none of the 3 children's homes that were inspected were 'outstanding' and most were merely 'satisfactory'? What specific weaknesses were identified by Ofsted in relation to the Borough's children's homes? Can I be advised whether there are any safeguarding concerns arising from the weaknesses and what plans are in place to bring all the Children's homes to at least a 'good' standard?

Response by Councillor Oliur Rahman, Cabinet Member for Children's Services:-

The Children's Service Assessment took into consideration all inspections up to the end of August 2011. Since the cut-off point a number of inspections of children's homes have taken place. These recent inspections are a more up to date and therefore accurate reflection of services in the borough:-

- An unannounced inspection of Discovery Home was conducted on 16th September 2011 and was rated as “good”.
- Bishops Way was inspected on 26th September 2011 and rated as “good”.
- Discovery House, which had not ever been inspected prior to the August cut-off, was inspected on 23rd September 2011 and was rated as “outstanding”.

There were no safeguarding concerns raised in previous Ofsted reports. The areas of concern were administration processes and procedures which have now been rectified.

Taking these recent inspections into account, all children’s homes within the borough are rated as either good or outstanding.

8.13 Question from Councillor Anna Lynch:-

With residents struggling with rising living costs and government funding available to compensate for rises, will the Mayor commit to not using hard pressed residents for additional income and freezing Council Tax for 2012/13?

Response by Councillor Alibor Choudhury, Cabinet Member for Resources:-

Earlier this summer the Mayor made a clear commitment to freezing council tax for another year. Officers were instructed to draw up a budget which included a freeze in Council Tax. This will be the third year in a row Council Tax has been frozen.

As you will have read in East End Life the Mayor has now announced this freeze to help families plan their finances next year.

It is important to clarify that Eric Pickles’ announcement of a grant for freezing Council Tax is a measly offering the Coalition is giving Councils. This is not an ongoing revenue stream. This is simply a one off lump sum which will not cover the income we would have received from raising Council Tax.

To be clear this was a proactive choice by the Mayor in prioritising ways we can help residents facing some of the worst attacks on their household income and worst increases in living expenditure.

8.14 Question from Councillor Gloria Thienel:-

Will the Mayor explain why unique amongst London local authorities he has not signed up to the London Permit Scheme to co ordinate street and road works?

Response by Councillor Shahed Ali, Cabinet Member for Environment:-

There are currently six boroughs that have not joined the scheme and the majority of these are now progressing to adopting permits as the 4th tranche of applications. This includes Tower Hamlets Council.

8.15 Question from Councillor Zenith Rahman:-

Can the Mayor make publicly available a full list of portfolio responsibilities for the members of his Cabinet and Executive Advisers?

Response by Councillor Ohid Ahmed, Deputy Mayor:-

The Cabinet positions are as follows:

Cllr Ohid Ahmed, Deputy Mayor
 Cllr Rofique Uddin Ahmed, Cabinet Member for Regeneration
 Cllr Shahed Ali, Cabinet Member for Environment
 Cllr Abdul Asad, Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing
 Cllr Alibor Choudhury, Cabinet Member for Resources
 Cllr Shafiqul Haque, Cabinet Member for Jobs and Skills
 Cllr Rabina Khan, Cabinet Member for Housing
 Cllr Rania Khan, Cabinet Member for Culture
 Cllr Oliur Rahman, Cabinet Member for Children's Services
 Cllr Maium Miah, Cabinet Advisor for the 3rd Sector
 Cllr Kabir Ahmed, Cabinet Advisor

The Mayor's Executive Advisers are:

Tony Winterbottom, Regeneration and Development
 Gulam Robbani, Adults and Children Health and Wellbeing
 Mark Seddon, Communications
 Shahid Malik, Equalities
 Michael Ambrose, Youth Participation
 Amirul Choudry, Business
 Suroth Miah, Sports and Olympics
 Mohammed Jubair, Communities Communications

8.16 Question from Councillor David Snowdon:-

Will the Mayor please comment on the availability of food waste recycling bags? Neither the Isle of Dogs library or the Canary Wharf Ideas Store have had any for public distribution for many weeks. When will this situation be rectified?

Response by Councillor Shahed Ali, Cabinet Member for Environment:-

All Idea Stores, One Stops Shops, libraries and the Town Hall receive a weekly delivery of food waste bags and pink recycling sacks.

If a location does not receive the delivery, they are asked to report this to the Clean and Green Service.

Canary Wharf Idea Store confirmed on Friday 18th November that they have received a delivery of food waste bags. The Isle of Dogs Library confirmed that there has been a slight delay in receiving food waste bags and this has now been raised with Veolia who will be increasing the amount of bags delivered to the Library.

8.17 Question from Councillor Craig Aston:-

Following on from the successful Fireworks displays in Bartlett Park, Weavers Fields and the Isle of Dogs, would the Mayor please comment on why he did not seek corporate sponsorship/branding sponsorship for the event, and why charities were not encouraged to make collections at the entrances?

Response by Councillor Rania Khan, Cabinet Member for Culture:-

Thank you Councillor Aston for your question.

Sponsorship companies look for established events with a known potential footfall and benefits. Sponsorship was not therefore sought in 2011 as this was the establishing year. We are now in a position to actively seek sponsorship for 2012 based on evidenced footfall, target audience and branding potential.

Charities are welcomed to apply to collect at Council events and are subject to the usual health and safety checks.

8.18 Question from Councillor Zara Davis:-

At the September 2011 Full Council meeting, the Council resolved '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.' Will the Mayor confirm that this motion will be implemented and that commercial events will not be permitted to take place on these parks?

Response by Councillor Rania Khan, Cabinet Member for Culture:-

Thank you Councillor Davis for your question.

Any Council motion that has financial implications has to be brought to Cabinet for consideration. I can confirm that a report on this matter will be brought to Cabinet in January.

Change to Order of Business

Councillor Dr Emma Jones **MOVED**, and Councillor Tim Archer **SECONDED**, a procedural motion – “That under procedural Rule 14.1.3 the order of business be varied to allow motion 12.8 to be considered as next business.”

The procedural motion was put to the vote and was **agreed**.

12.8 Questions to the Mayor at Council meetings

Councillor Peter Golds and Councillor Tim Archer altered the wording of their motion in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 15.8.1.

Councillor Peter Golds **MOVED**, and Councillor Tim Archer **SECONDED** the motion as amended.

Following debate, the motion as amended was put to the vote and was **agreed**. Accordingly it was:-

RESOLVED

This Council notes that the Mayor has reserved all decision making to himself and that no Council member has any delegated authority.

This includes Councillors who are designated Cabinet Members but, as has been confirmed by officers, have no authority to make any decision.

Therefore it follows that questions by Councillors regarding Council policy and decisions taken by Mayor should be answered by the Mayor himself, whilst ensuring that the Mayor is not restrained in his right to address the meeting.

The Council therefore resolves to amend Standing Order 12.2 to achieve this end and to read:

12.2 Questions on Notice at Full Council. Subject to rule 12.3, at an Ordinary or Extraordinary meeting of the Council a Member may ask the Chair, the Mayor or the Chair of any Committee or Sub Committee a question about any matter in relation to which the Council has powers or duties or which affects the borough. Questions at an Extraordinary Council meeting must relate to a matter on that agenda.

Questions relating to Executive functions and decisions taken by the Mayor will be put to and should be answered by the person responsible for those decisions, namely the Mayor, unless he delegates such a decision to another member who will therefore be responsible for answering the question.

In the absence of the Mayor the Deputy Mayor will answer questions directed to the Mayor.

9. REPORTS FROM THE EXECUTIVE AND THE COUNCIL'S COMMITTEES

9.1 New Byelaws for Parks and Open Spaces

The Council considered the report of the Corporate Director, Communities, Localities and Culture, proposing new byelaws for the borough's parks and open spaces.

Councillor Shahed Ali **MOVED** and Councillor Ohid Ahmed **SECONDED** the recommendations in the report. Following debate, the recommendations were put to the vote and were **agreed**. Accordingly, it was -

RESOLVED

1. That the making of the New Byelaws for the borough's Parks and Open Spaces be approved as shown in Appendix 1 ('New Byelaws') to the report of the Corporate Director, Communities, Localities and Culture; and the revocation of the Existing Byelaws once the New Byelaws are confirmed, be approved.
2. That the Corporate Director, Communities, Localities and Culture be authorised be authorised (following consultation with the Assistant Chief Executive [Legal Services]) to effect further amendments to the proposed New Byelaws in the event that subsequent to the meeting of Full Council and prior to submission to the Secretary of State, DCLG require such amendments to be made.
3. That it be noted that the New Byelaws will apply to the parks and open space areas listed within Schedule 1 & 2 contained within Appendix 1 of the report.
4. That it be noted that there are a range of issues and offences already covered by primary legislation which are therefore excluded from the New Byelaws (as outlined in Appendix 3 of the report).
5. That it be noted that the New Byelaws will need to be approved by the Secretary of State prior to formal adoption. Some amendments have been made to the DCLG's Model Byelaws, as set out in paragraphs 4.2.6 to 4.2.9 of the report. Officers have engaged in discussions with DCLG to ensure these amendments have their approval.

Change to Order of Business

Councillor Alibor Choudhury **MOVED**, and Councillor Kabir Ahmed **SECONDED**, a procedural motion – "That under procedural Rule 14.1.3 the order of business be varied to allow motion 12.12 to be considered as next business."

The procedural motion was put to the vote and was **defeated**.

Councillor Motin Uz-Zaman then **MOVED**, and Councillor Joshua Peck **SECONDED**, a further procedural motion – “That under procedural Rule 14.1.3 the order of business be varied to allow motion 12.7 to be considered as next business.”

The procedural motion was put to the vote and was **agreed**.

12.7 Supporting the Trade Unions in their campaign to defend the Local Government Pension Scheme

Councillor Anna Lynch **MOVED**, and Councillor Bill Turner **SECONDED**, the motion as printed in the agenda.

Councillor David Snowdon **MOVED**, and Councillor Tim Archer **SECONDED**, a **tabled** amendment as follows:-

“Delete all after ‘The Council notes’ and insert:-

‘The government has huge respect for the hard-working people who keep our vital services running and believe that it is wrong to call a strike whilst talks are under way.

The government has ensured that anyone who is within ten years of retirement will be able to retire on their current terms.

The lowest paid will be exempt from changes.

Even then the gap between those in receipt of private and public pensions will remain high.

At a time when we are trying to get the economy back on its feet, a strike is the last thing anyone needs’.”

After debate the amendment was put to the vote and was **defeated**.

Councillor Motin Uz-Zaman **MOVED**, and Councillor Joshua Peck **SECONDED**, a procedural motion – “That under procedural Rule 14.1.10 the question be now put.” The procedural motion was put to the vote and was **agreed**.

The motion as printed in the agenda was then put to the vote and was **agreed**. Accordingly it was -

RESOLVED

The Council notes:

- That all unions involved in the LGPS have agreed to ballot for industrial action as part of an unprecedented alliance of Public Sector Unions that could see 3 million workers striking together in November to defend the LGPS.

The Council further notes:

- That local branches of the Trade Unions are actively campaigning together for the purpose of:
 - returning a 'yes vote' in their respective ballots;
 - publicising the negative and unfair impact of what this government is proposing in relation to public sector pensions;
 - challenging misinformation disseminated by this government about the unaffordability of the LGPS.

This Council resolves to:

- Pledge our support to the Trade Unions in their campaign to defend the LGPS and we agree to join demonstrations and picket lines in Tower Hamlets in support of industrial action.
- Make a public statement of support in relation to this.

10. TO RECEIVE REPORTS AND QUESTIONS ON JOINT ARRANGEMENTS AND EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS (IF ANY)

There was no business under this heading.

11. OTHER BUSINESS**11.1 Treasury Management Strategy Statement, Minimum Revenue Provision Policy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy 2011/12**

This item was not considered due to the time limit for the meeting having been reached.

12. TO CONSIDER MOTIONS SUBMITTED BY MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL**Change to Order of Business**

Councillor Motin Uz-Zaman **moved**, and Councillor Joshua Peck **seconded**, a procedural motion – “That under procedural Rule 14.1.3 the order of business be varied to allow motions 12.2, 12.13 and 12.21 to be considered as next business.”

The procedural motion was put to the vote and was **agreed**.

12.2 The Council's Constitution

Councillor Joshua Peck **MOVED**, and Councillor Motin Uz-Zaman **SECONDED**, the motion as printed in the agenda.

At this point more than 10 Members rose from their seats to request a recorded vote on the motion in accordance with Procedural Rule 17.4. The motion was therefore put to a recorded vote and Members indicated their votes as follows:-

For the motion (35 Councillors)

Councillor Joshua Peck
Councillor Peter Golds
Councillor Helal Abbas
Councillor Khaled Uddin Ahmed
Councillor Rajib Ahmed
Councillor Timothy Archer
Councillor Craig Aston
Councillor Zara Davis
Councillor Stephanie Eaton
Councillor David Edgar
Councillor Marc Francis
Councillor Judith Gardiner
Councillor Carlo Gibbs
Councillor Carli Harper-Penman
Councillor Sirajul Islam
Councillor Ann Jackson
Councillor Denise Jones
Councillor Dr Emma Jones
Councillor Anwar Khan
Councillor Shiria Khatun
Councillor Anna Lynch
Councillor Mohammed Abdul Mukit MBE
Councillor Ahmed Omer
Councillor Lesley Pavitt
Councillor Zenith Rahman
Councillor Rachael Saunders
Councillor David Snowdon
Councillor Gloria Thienel
Councillor Bill Turner
Councillor Helal Uddin
Councillor Kosru Uddin
Councillor Abdal Ullah
Councillor Motin Uz-Zaman
Councillor Amy Whitelock
Councillor Mizanur Chaudhury (The Chair of Council)

Against the motion (nil Councillors)

Abstained (14 Councillors)

Councillor Kabir Ahmed
Councillor Ohid Ahmed
Councillor Shelina Aktar

Councillor Shahed Ali
Councillor Abdul Asad
Councillor Lutfu Begum
Councillor Alibor Choudhury
Councillor Shafiqul Haque
Councillor Aminur Khan
Councillor Rabina Khan
Councillor Rania Khan
Councillor Fozol Miah
Councillor Harun Miah
Councillor Maium Miah

The motion was accordingly **agreed** and it was:-

RESOLVED

This Council notes:

- That the power to amend the Council's Constitution is reserved to Full Council.
- That a number of constitutional issues have arisen since the introduction of the Mayoral Model in Tower Hamlets.

This Council resolves:

- To add the Employment Strategy, Enterprise Strategy, Waste Strategy and Parks Strategy to the list of strategies reserved to Full Council.
- To require the appointment of local authority school governors to be approved by the General Purposes Committee
- To make the consideration of amendments to the Council's constitution a responsibility of the General Purposes Committee
- That engagement of Chief Officers, to permanent positions or interim positions of over three months, will be through the normal recruitment process overseen by the HR Committee
- To rename the Chair of Council, the Speaker of Council and designate the Speaker the Borough's First Citizen.
- To affirm the order of precedence for civic events in the Council's Constitution, with the Borough's First Citizen representing the Council at Civic Ceremonial functions in the Borough including:

Visits of the Royal Family and dignitaries
Civic receptions, luncheons and dinners
Funeral or memorial services
Religious services

Prize givings

And events outside the Borough including:

Lord Mayor of London's events
Invitations from other First Citizens to their Borough.
London Mayor's Association Events

This would not preclude the attendance and involvement of the Mayor and/or other Councillors.

Change to Order of Business

Councillor Tim Archer **MOVED**, and Councillor Craig Aston **SECONDED**, a procedural motion – “That under procedural Rule 14.1.3 the order of business be varied to allow motion 12.3 to be considered as next business.”

More than 10 Members rose from their seats to request a recorded vote on the procedural motion in accordance with Procedural Rule 17.4. A recorded vote was therefore taken and Members indicated their votes as follows:-

For the motion (34 Councillors)

Councillor Joshua Peck
Councillor Peter Golds
Councillor Helal Abbas
Councillor Khaled Uddin Ahmed
Councillor Rajib Ahmed
Councillor Timothy Archer
Councillor Craig Aston
Councillor Zara Davis
Councillor David Edgar
Councillor Marc Francis
Councillor Judith Gardiner
Councillor Carlo Gibbs
Councillor Carli Harper-Penman
Councillor Sirajul Islam
Councillor Ann Jackson
Councillor Denise Jones
Councillor Dr Emma Jones
Councillor Anwar Khan
Councillor Shiria Khatun
Councillor Anna Lynch
Councillor Mohammed Abdul Mukit, MBE
Councillor Ahmed Omer
Councillor Lesley Pavitt
Councillor Zenith Rahman
Councillor Rachael Saunders
Councillor David Snowdon
Councillor Gloria Thienel

Councillor Bill Turner
Councillor Helal Uddin
Councillor Kosru Uddin
Councillor Abdal Ullah
Councillor Motin Uz-Zaman
Councillor Amy Whitelock
Councillor Mizanur Chaudhury (The Chair of Council)

Against the motion (3 Councillors)

Councillor Stephanie Eaton
Councillor Fozol Miah
Councillor Harun Miah

Abstained (12 Councillors)

Councillor Kabir Ahmed
Councillor Ohid Ahmed
Councillor Shelina Aktar
Councillor Shahed Ali
Councillor Abdul Asad
Councillor Lutfu Begum
Councillor Alibor Choudhury
Councillor Shafiqul Haque
Councillor Aminur Khan
Councillor Rabina Khan
Councillor Rania Khan
Councillor Maium Miah

The procedural motion was accordingly **agreed**.

12.3 Recording of Council Meetings

Councillor Tim Archer **MOVED**, and Councillor David Snowdon **SECONDED**, the motion as printed in the agenda.

Following debate, more than 10 Members rose from their seats to request a recorded vote on the motion in accordance with Procedural Rule 17.4. The motion was therefore put to a recorded vote and Members indicated their votes as follows:-

For the motion (27 Councillors)

Councillor Joshua Peck
Councillor Helal Abbas
Councillor Khaled Uddin Ahmed
Councillor Rajib Ahmed
Councillor David Edgar
Councillor Marc Francis
Councillor Judith Gardiner

Councillor Carlo Gibbs
Councillor Carli Harper-Penman
Councillor Sirajul Islam
Councillor Ann Jackson
Councillor Denise Jones
Councillor Anwar Khan
Councillor Shiria Khatun
Councillor Anna Lynch
Councillor Mohammed Abdul Mukit, MBE
Councillor Ahmed Omer
Councillor Lesley Pavitt
Councillor Zenith Rahman
Councillor Rachael Saunders
Councillor Bill Turner
Councillor Helal Uddin
Councillor Kosru Uddin
Councillor Abdal Ullah
Councillor Motin Uz-Zaman
Councillor Amy Whitelock
Councillor Mizanur Chaudhury (The Chair of Council)

Against the motion (nil Councillors)

Abstained (21 Councillors)

Councillor Peter Golds
Councillor Kabir Ahmed
Councillor Ohid Ahmed
Councillor Shahed Ali
Councillor Timothy Archer
Councillor Abdul Asad
Councillor Craig Aston
Councillor Lutfu Begum
Councillor Alibor Choudhury
Councillor Zara Davis
Councillor Stephanie Eaton
Councillor Shafiqul Haque
Councillor Dr Emma Jones
Councillor Aminur Khan
Councillor Rabina Khan
Councillor Rania Khan
Councillor Fozol Miah
Councillor Harun Miah
Councillor Maium Miah
Councillor David Snowdon
Councillor Gloria Thienel

The motion was therefore **agreed**. Accordingly it was:-

RESOLVED**This Council notes:**

- it already has the ability to record meetings of the full Council without incurring additional cost
- that it is the decision of full Council as to whether meetings can be recorded; but
- that officers have advised that the quality of video and audio recordings using the existing equipment may be poor.

This Council believes:

- that the recording of full meetings of the Council would act as a strong incentive to ensure proper conduct of members as well as members of the public present
- recordings of full meetings of the Council could be a useful resource to settling disagreements arising from these meetings.

This Council agrees:

- that for a trial period of 3 months all meetings of the full council be audio recorded and stored.
- that at the end of the trial period the quality of the recordings be reviewed and in the light of this a decision be made on whether to record future meetings, and if so whether to publish the recordings on the website.

Extension of time limit for the meeting

Councillor Rachael Saunders **MOVED**, and Councillor Lesley Pavitt **SECONDED**, a procedural motion – “That under Procedure Rule 15.11.7 the meeting continue for a further 10 minutes, or until motion 12.13 has been considered, whichever is the sooner.” The procedural motion was put to the vote and was **agreed**.

12.13 Social Care

Councillor Rachael Saunders **MOVED**, and Councillor Lesley Pavitt **SECONDED**, the motion as printed in the agenda.

Councillor Alibor Choudhury **MOVED**, and Councillor Kabir Ahmed **SECONDED**, an amendment – “That the first line of paragraph 2 following ‘This Council notes’ be amended to read: ‘That the Council agreed to take ...’ (remainder as printed) and the first line of paragraph 4 following ‘This Council

believes' be amended to read: 'That the Council having agreed the savings proposals ...' (remainder as printed)."

Following debate, more than 10 Members rose from their seats to request a recorded vote on the amendment in accordance with Procedural Rule 17.4. A recorded vote was therefore taken and Members indicated their votes as follows:-

For the amendment (14 Councillors)

Councillor Kabir Ahmed
Councillor Ohid Ahmed
Councillor Shelina Aktar
Councillor Shahed Ali
Councillor Abdul Asad
Councillor Lutfa Begum
Councillor Alibor Choudhury
Councillor Shafiqul Haque
Councillor Aminur Khan
Councillor Rabina Khan
Councillor Rania Khan
Councillor Fozol Miah
Councillor Harun Miah
Councillor Maium Miah

Against the amendment (26 Councillors)

Councillor Joshua Peck
Councillor Helal Abbas
Councillor Khaled Uddin Ahmed
Councillor Rajib Ahmed
Councillor David Edgar
Councillor Marc Francis
Councillor Judith Gardiner
Councillor Carlo Gibbs
Councillor Carli Harper-Penman
Councillor Sirajul Islam
Councillor Anne Jackson
Councillor Denise Jones
Councillor Anwar Khan
Councillor Shiria Khatun
Councillor Mohammed Abdul Mukit, MBE
Councillor Ahmed Ohmer
Councillor Lesley Pavitt
Councillor Zenith Rahman
Councillor Rachael Saunders
Councillor Bill Turner
Councillor Helal Uddin
Councillor Kosru Uddin
Councillor Abdal Ullah
Councillor Motin Uz-Zaman

Councillor Amy Whitelock
Councillor Mizanur Chaudhury (The Chair of Council)

Abstained (8 Councillors)

Councillor Peter Golds
Councillor Timothy Archer
Councillor Craig Aston
Councillor Zara Davis
Councillor Stephanie Eaton
Councillor Dr Emma Jones
Councillor David Snowdon
Councillor Gloria Thienel

The amendment was accordingly **defeated**.

On the substantive motion being put to the vote, more than 10 Members rose from their seats to request a recorded vote in accordance with Procedural Rule 17.4. The substantive motion was therefore put to a recorded vote and Members indicated their votes as follows:-

For the motion (27 Councillors)

Councillor Joshua Peck
Councillor Helal Abbas
Councillor Khaled Uddin Ahmed
Councillor Rajib Ahmed
Councillor Stephanie Eaton
Councillor David Edgar
Councillor Marc Francis
Councillor Judith Gardiner
Councillor Carlo Gibbs
Councillor Carli Harper-Penman
Councillor Sirajul Islam
Councillor Ann Jackson
Councillor Denise Jones
Councillor Anwar Khan
Councillor Shiria Khatun
Councillor Mohammed Abdul Mukit, MBE
Councillor Ahmed Omer
Councillor Lesley Pavitt
Councillor Zenith Rahman
Councillor Rachael Saunders
Councillor Bill Turner
Councillor Helal Uddin
Councillor Kosru Uddin
Councillor Abdal Ullah
Councillor Motin Uz-Zaman
Councillor Amy Whitelock
Councillor Mizanur Chaudhury (The Chair of Council)

Against the motion (nil Councillors)

Abstained (21 Councillors)

Councillor Peter Golds
Councillor Kabir Ahmed
Councillor Ohid Ahmed
Councillor Shelina Aktar
Councillor Shahed Ali
Councillor Timothy Archer
Councillor Abdul Asad
Councillor Craig Aston
Councillor Lutfu Begum
Councillor Alibor Choudhury
Councillor Zara Davis
Councillor Shafiqul Haque
Councillor Dr Emma Jones
Councillor Aminur Khan
Councillor Rabina Khan
Councillor Rania Khan
Councillor Fozol Miah
Councillor Harun Miah
Councillor Maium Miah
Councillor David Snowdon
Councillor Gloria Thienel

The motion was therefore **agreed**. Accordingly it was:-

RESOLVED

This Council notes:

1. That we are in a time of significant change in how social care is provided in Tower Hamlets, with reablement and personalisation changing how people relate to services.
2. That the Independent Mayor chose to take a significant proportion of the Tory led government's cuts from domiciliary care - £2,731,000 through reducing demand for domiciliary care through reablement and cutting the in house domiciliary care service and £1,390,000 through re-commissioning.

This Council believes:

1. That whilst there are steps that can be taken to make legitimate savings – block contracts rather than expensive spot purchasing, and increasing the independence of some service users through intensive early support, there are significant concerns.
2. The move to reablement must be driven by what is best for vulnerable people, not cost cutting.

3. That the in house service was widely recognised as an excellent service and that any contracted care that replaces it must be commissioned on the basis of the same high standards.
4. That the Independent Mayor, having put forward his savings proposals, had a responsibility to keep them on track – delays in making savings mean further unplanned cuts to vital services.
5. That the people of Tower Hamlets deserve an explanation for why the domiciliary care contracts were delayed. This cost circa £800,000 – money that will now have to be cut from elsewhere.
6. That since October 2009 all new long term packages of home care support have been commissioned from external suppliers.
7. That, as a part of the budget process, the Independent Mayor rowed back on his original proposal to end all in house provision of domiciliary care other than reablement.
8. That some long term service users of in house domiciliary care packages are now being moved on to contracted out care providers at their annual reviews, and some are not, and are being permitted to stay in house.

This Council resolves:

1. To call on the Independent Mayor for transparency on how decisions are made on which long term service users retain in house provision, and which move to contracted provision.
2. To call on the Independent Mayor for a halt on moving people away from in house provision until councillors and the public have had full public transparency and debate.
3. To continue to speak up for those local people who receiving less than the best quality of care.
4. To call on the Independent Mayor for answers on the £800,000 of unnecessary cuts.

Extension to time limit for the meeting

Councillor Motin Uz-Zaman **MOVED**, and Councillor Joshua Peck **SECONDED**, a procedural motion – “That under Procedure Rule 15.11.7 the meeting continue for a further 10 minutes, to enable consideration of motion 12.21.” The procedural motion was put to the vote and was **agreed**.

NOTE: Councillor Carli Harper-Penman, having declared a prejudicial interest in the next item, left the Council Chamber before consideration thereof.

12.21 Affordable Rent

Councillor Helal Uddin **MOVED**, and Councillor Judith Gardiner **SECONDED**, the motion as printed in the agenda.

Following debate, Councillor Judith Gardiner **MOVED**, and Councillor Bill Turner **SECONDED**, a procedural motion – “That under Procedural Rule 14.1.10 the question be now put.” The procedural motion was then put to the vote and was **agreed**.

The substantive motion was then put to the vote and was **agreed**. Accordingly it was:-

RESOLVED

This Council notes:

1. According to its own Housing Strategy, Tower Hamlets faces an “immense” set of housing challenges including almost 10,000 overcrowded households living in its social rented housing. The chronic shortage of affordable housing in Tower Hamlets is a crisis for the health, economic prospects and wellbeing of its citizens.
2. Under Labour control, the Council responded to this crisis by consistently building more affordable homes than any other London borough.
3. The Tory-led coalition government has made huge cuts to the affordable housing budget. To make up the shortfall, most new state subsidised homes will be significantly more expensive and less secure than traditional social rented homes - up to 80% of market rents and with tenancies as short as two years. This new tenure is called “Affordable Rent”.
4. As well as most new homes being “Affordable Rent”, the government has also given its approval for housing associations to “convert” existing social-rented homes to the new Affordable Rent level when they become vacant, further reducing the number of genuinely affordable homes for those who need them.

This Council believes:

1. “Affordable Rent” is yet another example of the Tory party’s obsession with decimating our stock of social housing - this time by racking up rents to make sure that the people who need social housing most are the ones who miss out.
2. Tower Hamlets Council’s number one housing priority must be to build more homes that its residents can afford and want to live in. It must do

this in the context of an economic recession that has stifled the housebuilding industry, and a government and a Mayor that are strongly opposed to the ideals of the welfare state.

3. There are opportunities to tweak “Affordable Rent” to make it more workable for a particular area. For example, family-sized properties could be charged at 50% of market rents if a housing association can charge higher rents on smaller properties. Alternatively, the Council could contribute some land in return for lower rents once the homes are build.
4. There are other ways to build social housing, e.g. through section 106 agreements. However, these are unlikely to deliver the volume of new homes that we need.

This Council Resolves:

1. To call on the Mayor to publish a clear and transparent policy covering the following:
 - a. maximum permitted rent levels for each size of property in each ward of Tower Hamlets
 - b. how the Council will evaluate each proposal for “Affordable Rent” homes in Tower Hamlets
 - c. to oppose housing associations “converting” existing social rented homes to Affordable Rent, and in what circumstances
2. To call on the Mayor to make a commitment only to support bids for HCA funding that deliver homes those on our Housing Waiting List can afford to rent and which keep the number of re-lets at these higher rent levels to an absolute minimum;
3. To call on the Mayor to remove from Tower Hamlets Council’s list of Preferred Partners for future development, any housing association submitting a bid for HCA funding which would result in either new homes or re-lets costing 70 per cent or more of a market rents;
4. To call on the Mayor to instruct officers not to agree to any amendment to the legal Transfer Agreement between the London Borough of Tower Hamlets and a stock transfer RSL enabling the later to let former council homes at non-social rent levels;
5. To call on the Mayor to report back to Full Council on the outcome of this year’s bidding round for HCA funding, within three months of any decisions being announced.

Motions 12.1; 12.4; 12.5; 12.6; 12.11; 12.12; 12.14; 12.15; 12.16; 12.17; 12.18; 12.19; 12.20; 12.22 and 12.23 were not considered due to the time

limit being reached. Tabled amendments to motions 12.1 and 12.4 were not moved, accordingly.

The meeting ended at 11.23 p.m.

Speaker,
Council