

LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

MINUTES OF THE CABINET

HELD AT 5.35 P.M. ON WEDNESDAY, 5 FEBRUARY 2014

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

Mayor Lutfur Rahman	(Mayor)
Councillor Ohid Ahmed	(Deputy Mayor)
Councillor Rofique U Ahmed	(Cabinet Member for Regeneration)
Councillor Shahed Ali	(Cabinet Member for Environment)
Councillor Abdul Asad	(Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing)
Councillor Alibor Choudhury	(Cabinet Member for Resources)
Councillor Shafiqul Haque	(Cabinet Member for Jobs and Skills)
Councillor Rabina Khan	(Cabinet Member for Housing)
Councillor Oliur Rahman	(Cabinet Member for Children's Services)

Other Councillors Present:

Councillor Kabir Ahmed	(Executive Advisor to the Mayor and Cabinet)
Councillor Marc Francis	
Councillor Peter Golds	(Leader of the Conservative Group)
Councillor Md. Maium Miah	(Advisor to the Mayor and Cabinet on Third Sector and Community Engagement)
Councillor Gulam Robbani	(Executive Advisor to the Cabinet and Mayor on Adult Social Care)
Councillor Motin Uz-Zaman	(Chair, Overview & Scrutiny Committee)

Officers Present:

Katherine Ball	(Senior Accountant, Development & Renewal)
Robin Beattie	(Service Head, Strategy & Resources, Communities Localities & Culture)
Michael Bell	(Strategic Planning Manager, Development & Renewal)
Kate Bingham	(Service Head, Resources, Education Social Care and Wellbeing)
Anne Canning	(Service Head Learning and Achievement, Education Social Care and Wellbeing)
Aman Dalvi	(Corporate Director, Development & Renewal)
Peter Farnham	(Strategic Planning Officer)
Daniel Fordham	(Business Partnerships Manager)
Ben Gadsby	(Political Adviser to the Conservative Group)
Stephen Halsey	(Head of Paid Service and Corporate Director Communities, Localities & Culture)
Ellie Kuper-Thomas	(Strategy, Policy and Performance Officer - Executive Mayor's Office, One Tower Hamlets,

Paul Leeson	Chief Executive's (Finance Manager, Development & Renewal)
Robert McCulloch-Graham	(Corporate Director, Education Social Care and Wellbeing)
Andy Scott	(Interim Service Head Economic Development, Development and Renewal)
Takki Sulaiman	(Service Head Communications, Chief Executive's)
Meic Sullivan-Gould	(Monitoring Officer)
Ann Sutcliffe	(Service Head Corporate Property and Capital Delivery, Development and Renewal)
Matthew Mannion	(Committee Services Manager, Democratic Services, Chief Executive's)

NOTE - AGENDA ORDER

During the meeting the Mayor agreed to vary the order of business to take Item 10.1 (Housing Revenue Account Budget Report) straight after Item 6.3 (Neighbourhood Planning). To aid clarity, the Minutes are presented in the order that the items originally appeared on the agenda.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillor Rania Khan (Cabinet Member for Culture).

2. DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS

None were declared.

3. UNRESTRICTED MINUTES

The unrestricted minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 8 January 2014 were noted.

4. PETITIONS

Nil items.

5. OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

5.1 Chair's Advice of Key Issues or Questions in Relation to Unrestricted Business to be Considered

Councillor Motin Uz-Zaman, Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (OSC) provided an update on the discussions that had taken place at their last meetings.

In particular he noted:

- The Committee's concern that the Mayor had not been able to attend the OSC meeting.
- The Committee had had a fruitful discussion on grants allocations where they examined the applications that had so far been received and approved. They had noted a disparity in where money had been allocated and the need to ensure all residents were served equally.
- The need to ensure Members behaved appropriately in the run up to the elections in particular in the types of events they attended.
- The Committee had expressed concern about the limited information provided in respect of the proposed new Town Hall in Whitechapel. Members were concerned to see more detail of the costings and alternative options.
- The lack of information available to properly scrutinise use of the Executive Mayor's car.

The **Mayor** thanked Councillor Motin Uz-Zaman for his update.

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

The clerk advised that no requests had been received to 'call-in' for further consideration, by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, any provisional decisions taken by the Mayor in Cabinet at the meeting held on 8 January 2014.

6. A GREAT PLACE TO LIVE

6.1 Whitechapel Vision Economic and Employment Impacts Study

Councillor Shafiqul Haque, Cabinet Member for Jobs and Skills, introduced the report, highlighting the vision's potential to deliver economic benefits to residents and local businesses as well as providing the Borough with a new Civic Hub.

During discussion Members highlighted a number of potential benefits including new jobs for local people, improving local facilities for shops and market stall holders. However, Members also noted the need to ensure there was a clear strategy for communicating with residents and businesses and the need to protect the character of Whitechapel.

The **Mayor** thanked Members for their contributions and **agreed** the recommendations as set out in the report.

RESOLVED

1. To note the contents of the report in terms of the anticipated economic and employment impacts of the delivery of the Whitechapel Vision masterplan; and

2. To note in particular the report's analysis with regard to the likely impacts of the delivery of the new civic hub which the masterplan proposes.

6.2 Mulberry Place and proposed Civic Centre

Councillor Alibor Choudhury, Cabinet Member for Resources, introduced the report highlighting that the proposed civic centre was an integral part of the Whitechapel vision. He also reported on issues relating to staying at Mulberry Place such as the lease expiring and accessibility concerns. Finally, he noted the alternative options set out and asked that the Mayor confirm his preferred option.

Following debate, the **Mayor** thanked the Lead Member for the report, noted that there was a Part II/Exempt report later on the agenda and confirmed his preference to develop the former hospital site in Whitechapel for the new civic centre. On that basis he **agreed** the relevant recommendations as set out in the report.

RESOLVED

1. To confirm the former hospital site in Whitechapel as the preferred option for the new civic centre;
2. In light of the above preference:
 - a. To authorise the Corporate Director Development and Renewal to complete negotiations with Bart's Health NHS Trust for the purchase of Grade 2 listed former hospital building/site in Whitechapel on Whitechapel Road for the purpose of a new civic centre. The purchase cost and offer, of up to the sum specified in the exempt section of this report, is on an unconditional basis.
 - b. To agree commencement of the design and procurement work streams.
 - c. To agree preparation of a final financial business case to provide detailed analysis to satisfy the procurement appraisal as detailed in the outline business case and confirm the proposed exit strategy should the council not proceed with the scheme.
 - d. To agree disposal of the surplus sites identified within the outline business case in accordance with the proposed programme.
 - e. To agree expenditure of up to £200k to implement recommendations b, c and d above.

3. To authorise the Corporate Director Development and Renewal, after consultation with the Head of Legal Services, to agree the final terms and conditions of any agreement required to implement the decisions in 2 above.
4. To authorise the Head of Legal Services to execute all necessary contract documents to implement this decision.

6.3 Neighbourhood Planning - Application to establish Neighbourhood Planning Forums and Areas in Shoreditch & Wapping

Councillor Rabina Khan, Cabinet Member for Housing, introduced the report. She set out the reasons for approving the East Shoreditch Neighbourhood Planning Forum Application and the reasons why the Network Wapping application should be refused whilst new proposals were drawn up.

The **Mayor** welcomed the report and **agreed** the recommendations as set out.

RESOLVED

East Shoreditch Neighbourhood Planning Forum application:

1. To designate the submitted Neighbourhood Planning Area for East Shoreditch in its entirety for the area within the London Borough of Tower Hamlets (shown on the plan attached at Appendix 1) pursuant to Section 61G of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990.
2. To designate the East Shoreditch Neighbourhood Planning Forum as the Neighbourhood Planning Forum for the designated East Shoreditch Neighbourhood Planning Area within the London Borough of Tower Hamlets pursuant to Section 61F of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990.

Network Wapping application:

3. To refuse to designate the Neighbourhood Planning Area submitted by Network Wapping but designate part of the submitted area as the Wapping Neighbourhood Planning Area (shown on the plan attached at appendix 1) pursuant to Section 61G of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 for the reasons stated in section 1 of this report.
4. To refuse to designate Network Wapping as the Neighbourhood Planning Forum for the designated Wapping Neighbourhood Planning Area pursuant to Section 61F of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990. This is because there remains significant objection to the designation of Network Wapping as a Neighbourhood Planning Forum demonstrating a lack of community

cohesion in terms of leadership for neighbourhood planning such that the Council is not satisfied that the proposed forum are representative of the local community to an extent that will lead to successful neighbourhood planning within the Wapping area.

7. A PROSPEROUS COMMUNITY

7.1 Proposed Expansion of Olga School

Councillor Oliur Rahman, Cabinet Member for Children's Services, introduced the report. He highlighted the extremely strong performance of the schools in Tower Hamlets and the need to ensure that no child had to settle for second best.

The **Mayor** welcomed the report and **agreed** the recommendation as set out.

RESOLVED

1. To agree that statutory proposals should be published for the enlargement of Olga Primary School to admit 90 pupils in each year from September 2016.

7.2 Determination of School Admission Arrangements for 2015/16

Councillor Oliur Rahman, Cabinet Member for Children's Services, introduced the report. He highlighted that nursery admission arrangements were being included to make it clearer to parents on how they were allocated.

The **Mayor** welcomed the report and **agreed** the recommendations as set out.

RESOLVED

1. To agree the arrangements and oversubscription criteria for admission to Community Nursery Schools/Classes in 2015/16, as set out in Appendix 1.
2. To agree the arrangements, oversubscription criteria and catchment areas for admission to Community Primary Schools in 2015/16, as set out in Appendices 2 and 3.
3. To agree the arrangements and oversubscription criteria for admission to Community Secondary Schools in 2015/16, as set out in Appendix 4.
4. To agree the scheme for co-ordinating admissions to Reception Year of primary school and Year 7 of secondary school for 2015/16, as set out in Appendix 5.

5. To agree the scheme for co-ordinating 'In-Year' Admissions for 2015/16, as set out in Appendix 6.
6. To agree the planned admission number for each School in Tower Hamlets in 2015/16, as set out in Appendix 7.

8. A SAFE AND COHESIVE COMMUNITY

Nil items.

9. A HEALTHY AND SUPPORTIVE COMMUNITY

9.1 Award of contract for Young People's Substance Misuse Services

The **Mayor** welcomed the report, confirmed that he was happy with the proposals, noted the Part II/Exempt report later on the agenda and **agreed** the recommendations as set out.

RESOLVED

1. To approve the award of contract to the recommended bidder, Lifeline, for the Young People's Substance Misuse Service;
2. To authorise the Corporate Director of Education, Social Care and Wellbeing, in consultation with the Head of Legal Services, to agree the final terms and conditions of the contract;
3. To authorise the Head of Legal Services to execute all necessary contract documents to implement this decision.

9.2 Award of contract for various Social Care services

The **Mayor** welcomed the report, and noted the Part II/Exempt report later on the agenda.

Following discussion, the **Mayor** highlighted a number of issues including:

- The need to ensure that any contract extensions were agreed with the Mayor.
- To ensure that the Council was involved in any subcontracting processes in relation to the Advocacy and Mental Health contract.
- That he was requesting additional information on the criteria for choosing the preferred bidder on the Personal Care in four Extra Care Sheltered Housing Schemes and that he would not be approving that contract until he had received this extra information.

Subject to removing the Personal Care in four Extra Care Sheltered Housing Schemes, the **Mayor agreed** the recommendations as set out.

RESOLVED

1. To approve the award of contract to the recommended bidder for each service as listed below:

Service:	Recommended bidder:
Mental Health Carers Support Service	Rethink Mental Illness
Mental Health Family Support Service	Family Action
Advocacy and Independent Mental Health Advocacy Service	PohWER
Link Age Plus	Toynbee Hall (Consortium lead)
Autism Diagnostic and Intervention Service	East London Foundation Trust

2. To authorise the Corporate Director of Education, Social Care and Wellbeing, in consultation with the Head of Legal Services, to agree the final terms and conditions of the contract for each service;
3. To authorise the Head of Legal Services to execute all necessary contract documents to implement this decision.

10. ONE TOWER HAMLETS**10.1 Housing Revenue Account Budget Report – 2014/15**

Councillor Rabina Khan, Cabinet Member for Housing, introduced the report. She highlighted that the cost of providing the service had been reduced by 4.5% and that the Council would continue to examine ways to reduce costs.

The **Mayor agreed** the recommendations as set out in the report.

RESOLVEDRevenue

1. To approve the draft 2014/15 Housing Revenue Account budget as set out in Appendix 1.
2. To approve the draft 2014/15 Management Fee payable to Tower Hamlets Homes (THH) of £33.633 million as set out in Table 2 in section 7.16.
3. Subject to 2 above, to note that under the Management Agreement between the Council and THH, THH will manage delegated income budgets of £88.034 million and delegated expenditure budgets of £24.381 million on behalf of the Council in 2014/15.

4. To note that, as referred to in paragraph 7.9, a sum of £0.205 million is being held within the HRA to provide for an assumed 1% pay award for 2014/15, and agree that the Management Fee will be adjusted – if necessary - to reflect the pay award when it is finalised.
5. To note that, as detailed in paragraph 7.10, a sum of £1.3 million is being held within the HRA to provide for a possible increase in Employer Pension contributions in 2014/15, and agree that the Management Fee will be adjusted – if necessary - to reflect this increase as and when it is finalised.
6. To note the HRA Medium Term Financial Plan (2014-17) outlined in Appendix 2.

Capital

7. To adopt a capital estimate of £6.7 million in relation to Mechanical and Electrical schemes, as outlined in paragraph 9.7 and Table 4.
8. To adopt a capital estimate of £3.5 million in relation to external works on non- Decent Homes blocks, as outlined in paragraphs 9.8 and 9.9.
9. To adopt a capital estimate of £1 million to fund Overcrowding Reduction Initiatives as outlined in paragraph 9.10.
10. To adopt capital estimates for the Aids and Adaptations programme (£750,000), the Capitalisation of Voids (£1.5 million) and the Capitalisation of Fees and Salaries (£650,000) as outlined in paragraph 9.11.
11. To adopt a capital estimate of £250,000 in order to maintain a contingency for urgent works of £1 million, as outlined in paragraph 9.12.
12. To adopt a capital estimate of £3.610 million in respect of the Extensions element of the GLA Pipeline scheme, and note that the Council will receive £1.020 million of GLA funding for this scheme (paragraphs 9.15 to 9.18).
13. To adopt a capital estimate of £995,000 for the award of Disabled Facilities Grants, as outlined in paragraph 10.1, subject to funding being confirmed from within the Department of Health Personal Social Services capital grant.
14. To adopt a capital estimate of £550,000 in respect of Private Sector Improvement Grants, including Empty Property Grants, for 2014/15, to be financed from ring-fenced resources received from the East London Renewal Partnership (paragraph 10.2).

10.2 General Fund Capital and Revenue Budgets and Medium Term Financial Plan 2014-2017

Councillor Alibor Choudhury, Cabinet Member for Resources, introduced the report. He highlighted a number of issues including:

- The extremely challenging cuts in government funding.
- The need to make proper use of the Council's reserves.
- The use of funds originally allocated to pay for free school meals that would now be targeted at other areas such as jobs.
- The proposed programme to support women into health related jobs and training.
- The need to deliver on the Mayor's priorities and to protect front line services.
- The tabled paper on the response to the two budget roadshows the Council had undertaken.

Opening up the item to debate, the **Mayor** welcomed the report and thanked the Head of Paid Service, the Interim Corporate Director, Resources and all officers and Lead Members for their work in preparing the proposals.

During debate, Councillor Ohid Ahmed, Deputy Mayor, proposed an amendment to provide for additional police officers for the Borough's streets and the **Mayor** proposed an amendment to improve the Council Tax benefit scheme with an additional £25 of support to eligible households.

Following further debate, the **Mayor** noted the tabled paper on the budget roadshows and the response of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. He also accepted the two proposed amendments, and, subject to the amendments, agreed the recommendations as set out in the report.

RESOLVED

1. To agree a General Fund Revenue Budget of £292.358m and a Council tax (Band D) at £885.52 for 2014-2015 be referred to Full council for consideration.
2. To note the following matters -
 - a. Budget Consultation

The results of the feedback for the budget consultation are being collated but could not be completed prior to publication of this report as the second budget roadshow took place on the 27th January 2014. The results were presented as an addendum to this report.

- b. Funding

The funding available for 2014-2015 and the indications and forecasts for future years set out in Section 8.

c. Base Budget 2014-2015

The Base Budget for 2014-2015 as £295.732m as detailed in Appendix 1.

d. Growth and Inflation

The risks identified from potential inflation and committed growth arising in 2014-2015 and future years and as set out in Section 9 and in Appendix 3.

e. General Fund Revenue Budget and Medium Term Financial Plan 2014-2015 to 2016-2017

The initial budget proposal and Council Tax for 2014-2015 together with the Medium Term Financial Plan set out in Appendix 1 and the budget reductions arising.

f. Savings

Previously agreed savings items to be included in the budget for 2014-2015 and the strategic approach for future savings to be delivered are set out in Section 10, Appendix 4 and paragraph 7.13 of the report.

g. Capital Programme

The capital programme to 2016-2017; including the proposed revisions to the current programme as set out in section 14 and detailed in Appendices 8.1, 8.2 & 8.3.

h. Dedicated Schools Grant

The position with regard to Dedicated Schools Grant as set out in Section 12 and Appendices 6.1 & 6.2.

i. Housing Revenue Account

The position with regard to the Housing Revenue Account as set out in Section 13 and Appendix 7.

j. Financial Risks: Reserves and Contingencies

Advise on strategic budget risks and opportunities as set out in Section 11 and Appendices 5.1, 5.2 and 5.3.

k. Reserves and Balances

The position in relation to reserves as set out in the report and further detailed in Appendices 5.1 and 5.3

I. Mayor's Priorities

An initiative (Working Start for Women in Health and Childcare) to be included in the budget for 2014-15 is set out in paragraphs 8.29 to 8.36 of this report and a detailed proforma in Appendix 3.

3. To authorise officers to present two additional proposals to be submitted as part of the report to be considered at Council:
 - a. An initiative to fund an additional 20 police officers for the Borough.
 - b. To provide support to low income households who are already entitled to partial council tax support, by way of a £25 reduction against their remaining council tax liability in 2014/15"

11. ANY OTHER UNRESTRICTED BUSINESS CONSIDERED TO BE URGENT

Nil items.

12. UNRESTRICTED REPORTS FOR INFORMATION

Nil items.

12.1 Exercise of Corporate Directors' Discretions

The **Mayor agreed** the recommendation as set out.

RESOLVED

1. To note the exercise of Corporate Directors' discretions as set out in Appendix 1.

13. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED

That pursuant to regulation 21(1)(b) of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2000, the press and public be excluded from the remainder of the meeting:

- (a) As it was likely, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted in Section Two of the agenda, that if members of the public were present during consideration of this business there would be disclosure of exempt information.

- Exempt information is defined in section 100I and, by reference, Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (“the 1972 Act”). To be exempt, information must fall within one of the categories listed in paragraphs 1 to 7 of Schedule 12A, must not fall within one of the excluded categories in paragraphs 8 and 9 and the public interest in maintaining the exemption must outweigh the public interest in disclosing the information.
 - Agenda item 16.1 “Mulberry Place and Proposed Civic Centre” contained information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information). In particular information relating to the financial affairs of the Council.
 - Agenda item 19.1 “Young Person Substance Misuse Tender Award” contained information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information). In particular information relating to the financial affairs of the Council.
 - Agenda item 19.2 “Award of Contracts for Various Social Care Services” contained information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information). In particular information relating to the financial affairs of the Council.

(b) As although there is a public interest favouring public access to local authority meetings, in this case the Cabinet concluded that given the information contained in the above listed reports that the public interest in maintaining the exemption on the information outweighed the public interest in disclosing it.

14. EXEMPT / CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES

Nil items.

15. OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

15.1 Chair's Advice of Key Issues or Questions in Relation to Exempt / Confidential Business to be Considered.

Nil items.

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

Nil items.

16. A GREAT PLACE TO LIVE

16.1 Mulberry Place and Proposed Civic Centre

The **Mayor** agreed the recommendations as set out in the report.

17. A PROSPEROUS COMMUNITY

Nil items.

18. A SAFE AND COHESIVE COMMUNITY

Nil items.

19. A HEALTHY AND SUPPORTIVE COMMUNITY

19.1 Young Persons Substance Misuse Tender Award - Exempt Report

RESOLVED

1. To note the content of the report.

19.2 Award of Contracts for Various Social Care Services

RESOLVED

1. To note the content of the report.

20. ONE TOWER HAMLETS

Nil items.

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

Nil items.

22. EXEMPT / CONFIDENTIAL REPORTS FOR INFORMATION

Nil items.

The meeting ended at 7.13 p.m.

John S. Williams
SERVICE HEAD, DEMOCRATIC SERVICES