

LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS
SECOND BUDGET COUNCIL MEETING
THURSDAY 6th MARCH 2014
AGENDA ITEM 5
BUDGET AND COUNCIL TAX 2014/15:
COUNCIL'S REVISED BUDGET AMENDMENT

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 At the first Budget Council Meeting on 26th February 2014, the Council considered the Mayor and Executive's budget proposals approved on 5th February and three amendments to those proposals.
- 1.2. The amendment moved by Labour Group Councillors was agreed by the Council. The substantive budget proposals as amended were then also agreed and are set out at Section 3 of this report below. The statutory budget resolution, amended in accordance with the Council's decision, is attached at Appendix 1. This results in a Council Tax Requirement for Tower Hamlets in 2014/15 of £66,396,000 and a Council Tax at Band D (including the GLA precept) of £1,184.52.
- 1.3 Officer advice on the Mayor's budget proposals and on each element of the agreed budget amendment has been received by Members in the agenda for the first Budget Council Meeting and papers tabled at that meeting. Members are requested to bring those documents with them to the meeting and to take account of the information therein in making their decision.

2. MAYOR'S RESPONSE TO THE COUNCIL'S RESOLUTION

- 2.1 In accordance with the requirements of the Constitution and statutory provisions, the Mayor has been formally advised of the changes agreed by the Council and within a period of five working days must reconsider his budget proposals in accordance with those and submit his final budget proposals to the second Budget Council Meeting. Those revised proposals may at the Mayor's discretion include some or all of the changes agreed by the Council at the first budget meeting.
- 2.2 The Mayor's revised budget proposals will be circulated to Councillors as soon as they are available.
- 2.3 The Mayor's revised proposals will form the Motion for debate at the second Budget Council meeting and the substantive motion agreed on 26th February,

and set out below, represents the amendment for that debate. For the amendment to succeed at the second Budget Meeting it will require two-thirds of those Members present and voting to vote in favour of the amendment.

3. COUNCIL'S AGREED AMENDMENT

3.1 The substantive motion agreed by the Council on 26th February is summarised below and full details are attached at Appendices 1 and 2. The Council **Resolved:-**

3.2 To adopt the budget motion as set out in the agenda for the Council meeting on 26th February 2014 subject to the following amendments:-

| Project | Change |
|--|---------------------------|
| Saving Proposals | |
| Cancel the decision to remove £1.3m of funding for free school meals for 2014/15 | £1,300,000 |
| Departmental top slice for advertising CLC, D&R, ESWB | £200,000 |
| Cut the Mayoral car | £30,000 |
| Cut the Chief Executives cost for mayoral advisors/consultants | £296,000 |
| Remove community ward forum funding following completion of 2013/14 programme pending review | £170,000 |
| Savings from the reduction to 45 councillors | £28,000 |
| Delay decision on Town Hall pending options review | £2,000,000 |
| Total: | + £4,024,000 |
| Spending Proposals | |
| Provide universal free school meals for all primary pupils | - £1,300,000 |
| Provide funding to develop a council run lettings agency to support people into the private rented sector | - £250,000 |
| Restoration of Victoria Park firework display | - £45,000 |
| Build capacity for council house building programme | £0 – From existing budget |
| Restoration of 24 hours noise service at weekends | -£110,000 |
| Neighbourhood community safety plan (from existing resources) | £0 – From existing budget |
| Expansion of sniffer dog patrols to tackle drug dealing | -£144,000 |
| Deliver the final recommendations from RSL co-regulation scrutiny review specifically in relation to the tenants' panel. | -£50,000 |
| Public realm and park improvements | - £125,000 |
| Move funding allocated for Town Hall to separate earmarked reserve | -£2,000,000 |
| Total: | -£4,024,000 |

APPENDICES ATTACHED

Appendix 1 – Statutory budget motion incorporating the budget amendments agreed by the Council on 26th February 2014.

Appendix 2 – Full budget amendment proposed by Labour Group Councillors, agreed by majority vote at Council on 26th February and forming the proposed amendment to the budget for debate on 6th March 2014.