

LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

MINUTES OF THE CABINET

HELD AT 5.36 P.M. ON WEDNESDAY, 1 OCTOBER 2014

**C1, 1ST FLOOR, TOWN HALL, MULBERRY PLACE, 5 CLOVE CRESCENT,
LONDON, E14 2BG**

Members Present:

Mayor Lutfur Rahman	
Councillor Oliur Rahman	(Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Economic Development (Jobs, Skills and Enterprise)
Councillor Ohid Ahmed	(Cabinet Member for Community Safety)
Councillor Shahed Ali	(Cabinet Member for Clean and Green)
Councillor Abdul Asad	(Cabinet Member for Health and Adult Services)
Councillor Alibor Choudhury	(Cabinet Member for Resources)
Councillor Shafiqul Haque	(Cabinet Member for Culture)
Councillor Rabina Khan	(Cabinet Member for Housing and Development)
Councillor Aminur Khan	(Cabinet Member for Policy, Strategy and Performance)
Councillor Gulam Robbani	(Cabinet Member for Education and Children's Services)

Other Councillors Present:

Councillor Peter Golds	(Leader of the Conservative Group)
Councillor Md. Maium Miah	
Councillor Joshua Peck	
Councillor Suluk Ahmed	

Officers Present:

Aman Dalvi	(Corporate Director, Development & Renewal)
David Galpin	(Service Head, Legal Services, Law Probity & Governance)
Stephen Halsey	(Head of Paid Service and Corporate Director Communities, Localities & Culture)
Chris Holme	(Acting Corporate Director - Resources)
Kevin Kewin	(Service Manager, Strategy & Performance, Chief Executive's)
Abdul J. Khan	(Sustainable Development Manager, Strategy Innovation & Sustainability, Development and Renewal)
Ellie Kuper-Thomas	(Strategy, Policy and Performance Officer - Executive Mayor's Office, One Tower Hamlets, DLPG)
Robert McCulloch-Graham	(Corporate Director, Education Social Care and Wellbeing)
Kevin Miles	(Chief Accountant, Resources)
Poppy Noor	Project Manager - Mayor's Office

Jackie Odunoye	(Service Head, Strategy, Regeneration & Sustainability, Development and Renewal)
Takki Sulaiman	(Service Head Communications, Law, Probity and Governance)
Matthew Mannion	(Committee Services Manager, Democratic Services, LPG)

AGENDA ORDER

During the meeting the Mayor agreed to vary the order of business. To aid clarity, the minutes are presented in the order the items originally appeared on the agenda. At the meeting the Mayor considered Agenda Item 10.2 (Welfare Reform Research Findings and Next Steps) straight after Agenda Item 5 (Overview and Scrutiny). All other reports were then considered in the order they appear on the agenda.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Robin Beattie, Service Head Strategy and Resources, Communities, Localities and Culture).

2. DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS

None were declared.

3. UNRESTRICTED MINUTES

The unrestricted minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 3 September 2014 were noted.

4. PETITIONS

Petition on the Public Consultation on Savings Proposals

The petitioners addressed the Cabinet meeting, the Cabinet discussed the issues raised and Councillor Alibor Choudhury the Cabinet Member for Resources responded to the points raised in the petition. He explained that ideally the administration would not be making these savings and that they wanted to protect services for vulnerable residents as much as possible. They considered that the consultation was extremely important and that no decisions on the savings proposals had yet been made.

Following discussion and in light of the concerns raised on the reach of the consultation process the **Mayor agreed** that the consultation exercise should be extended for a further two weeks and that officers should ensure that they liaise with Ward Councillors on any meetings that were arranged.

RESOLVED

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

5. OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

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

Pre-Scrutiny Questions in relation to Agenda Item 8.1 'Safeguarding Children's Board Annual Report'

Councillor Joshua Peck, Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (OSC), **tabled** a number of pre-scrutiny questions in relation to the Safeguarding Children's Board Annual Report. The Corporate Director, Education, Social Care and Wellbeing responded to the questions during consideration of the main report later on the agenda.

Councillor Joshua Peck also provided an update on the OSC's meeting of the previous evening. In addition to the pre-scrutiny questions above there had been a number of issues considered at the meeting. In particular he highlighted an item on the Council's Strategic Performance and Budget Monitoring. He reported that a focus had been on cost pressures in adult social care and concerns as to whether there was any 'cost-shunting' happening from the NHS. The OSC had asked to be kept informed of future developments on this issue.

The **Mayor** thanked Councillor Joshua Peck for his update.

During discussion of this item, concerns were raised over issues that had arisen in the preparation of the minutes of the OSC meeting held on 22 July 2014. The **Mayor** noted the concerns over the accuracy of the minutes and requested the Head of Paid Service to investigate and report back to them.

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

Nil items.

6. A GREAT PLACE TO LIVE

6.1 Local Biodiversity Action Plan

Councillor Shahed Ali, Cabinet Member for Clean and Green, introduced the report. He highlighted the importance of biodiversity in creating a pleasant Borough for residents and welcomed the continuing support for the issue.

During discussion, it was requested that a Lead Member Foreword be added to the report to follow on from the Mayor's Foreword.

The **Mayor** agreed the above request and **agreed** the recommendation as set out in the report.

RESOLVED

1. To approve the Local Biodiversity Action Plan 2014-19 as attached in Appendix 1.

7. A PROSPEROUS COMMUNITY

Nil items.

8. A SAFE AND COHESIVE COMMUNITY**8.1 Safeguarding Children's Board Annual Report**

Councillor Gulam Robbani, Cabinet Member for Education and Children's Services introduced the report. He explained that the annual report of the independent board provided an update on the work of the board and especially looked to identify strengths and weaknesses, for example from serious case reviews. He also highlighted safeguarding training available to Members the following evening and hoped that as many as possible would attend.

Robert McCulloch-Graham, Corporate Director, Education, Social Care and Wellbeing, responded to the questions tabled by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. In particular he highlighted that:

- The serious case review mentioned had been published appropriately, was well-known to relevant officers in other councils and had been shared with organisations involved so lessons could be learnt.
- There were multiple issues in the child's life but the foster care was good.
- The Mayor, Lead Member and Councillors were informed in respect of their statutory duties.
- The Corporate Parenting Steering Group was not an appropriate forum to discuss these matters but officers were working to set up a Member panel for this purpose.
- As Corporate Director he would write to Members setting out the lessons learnt and actions taken.

The report was discussed and the implications considered. During discussion it was also requested that the Independent Chair of the Board attend a future meeting with Members to discuss the work of the Board. Members and officers also highlighted the importance of learning the lessons from the recent Rotherham abuse cases and that this was a priority for the Council.

The **Mayor** highlighted that these issues were taken extremely seriously by the Council and that protecting the most vulnerable was a priority for all. He emphasised that he would continue to take a proactive interest and he **agreed** the recommendation as set out in the report.

RESOLVED

1. To note the content of the Safeguarding Children Board's Annual Report and the appointment (3-year contract) of an Independent LSCB Chair by the Head of Paid Service.

9. A HEALTHY AND SUPPORTIVE COMMUNITY

Nil items.

10. ONE TOWER HAMLETS**10.1 Strategic Performance, 14/15 General Fund Revenue Budget and Capital Programme Monitoring Q1**

Chris Holme, Acting Corporate Director, Resources, introduced the report. He highlighted that the report had been extensively reviewed by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee the night before and that a particular issue that had been examined related to cost pressures in adult social care and that a financial recovery group was investigating. He noted that, overall, spend across the Council was in line with budgets.

The report was discussed and areas of high performance and also areas of risk were noted.

Following the discussion the **Mayor** agreed the recommendations as set out in the report.

RESOLVED

1. To note the Council's financial performance compared to budget for 2014/15 as detailed in Sections 3 to 7 and Appendices 1-4 of this report.
2. To review and note the 2014/15 quarter 1 performance for strategic measures in Appendix 5.

10.2 Welfare Reform: Research Findings and Next Steps

Councillor Rabina Khan, Cabinet Member for Housing and Development, introduced the report. She highlighted the work that had been undertaken over the last 3-4 years and noted the actions proposed. In particular she highlighted concerns around homelessness and housing options.

During discussion, Members noted the very serious situation that was developing and the real suffering residents were experiencing. Concern was also expressed to ensure that partner agencies were providing residents with the best advice.

The **Mayor** agreed with the concerns expressed and emphasised the importance of trying to ensure as far as possible that residents were not

forced to move long distances to find housing. He also asked officers and the Lead Member to liaise with partner agencies to ensure the best advice was available. He then **agreed** the recommendations as set out in the report.

RESOLVED

1. To note the update on the impact of welfare reform in the borough in section 4.
 2. To note the action taken to support residents through welfare reform, including the provision of financial support (section 5).
 3. To note the CESI report and recommendations (section 7)
 4. To agree the development of the approaches outlined (section 8)
11. **ANY OTHER UNRESTRICTED BUSINESS CONSIDERED TO BE URGENT**

Nil items.

12. UNRESTRICTED REPORTS FOR INFORMATION

12.1 Exercise of Corporate Directors' Discretions

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

RESOLVED

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

13. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

No motion to exclude the press or public was passed.

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**
- Nil items.
- 17. A PROSPEROUS COMMUNITY**
- Nil items.
- 18. A SAFE AND COHESIVE COMMUNITY**
- Nil items.
- 19. A HEALTHY AND SUPPORTIVE COMMUNITY**
- Nil items.
- 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 6.31 p.m.

John S. Williams
SERVICE HEAD, DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

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