

**LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS**  
**Pre-Decision Questions - Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 7 April, 2015**

**APPENDIX 1**

Cabinet Report	Question / Comments
<p><b>Agenda Item 6.1</b></p> <p>New Civic Centre Whitechapel</p>	<p>The Overview &amp; Scrutiny Committee:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Reviewed and questioned officers on proposal and programme for procurement of new Civic Centre at Whitechapel, including on implications for One Stop Shop and Idea Stores provision. In particular, committee questioned assumptions on which officers had decided not to recommend rebuilding on the LEB Building site; and</li> </ol> <p style="color: red;">Response - The existing empty sites were considered, such as Southern Grove, Cheviot and LEB, collectively and separately these sites are not large enough to provide for a new civic centre, more importantly it would also mean the retention of the existing buildings, such as JOH, AJH and JDH, which would mean we have a reduced staff number spread over 6 sites, which does not lead to a maximum or cost effective use of the council assets. Currently there are no proposals to close any Idea Stores or One Stop Shops without reprovision.</p> <p>The future operational structure of the Council including the use of One Stop Shops and Idea Stores is under review by CMT/CLC respectively and the outputs of this work will inform any future asset strategy for the Council.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. Expressed concerns about cost, timescales, deliverability, effect on borough, and the notice provided to members, as well as sequence of events which had seen council firstly acquire a building and then seek to build a service delivery model around this.</li> </ol> <p style="color: red;">Response – Cabinet have received at least 2 reports on the proposed Civic Centre, February 2013 and February 2014. It should also be noted that the option to relocate to Whitechapel has been part of the Whitechapel Vision which has been to Cabinet on a number of occasions. Therefore the information has been in the public domain for at least 2 years.</p> <p>The hospital site has not been purchased too soon – following on from a Cabinet paper in February 2014, in addition as set out in paragraphs 3.10 to 3.24, the council has</p>

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	<p>considered some 7 potential civic centre options as an exit route from Mulberry, these have been reviewed in the context of costs for delivering as well as likely financial impact over the long term view (some 40 years). This work was completed prior to expressing an interest in the site and informed the purchase of it, as we have modelled space utilisation. Public document consulted on with residents and members in December 2013.</p> <p>3. Wanted assurances that Cllrs participating in the proposed scrutiny and governance arrangements for the Civic Centre have full and unrestricted access to all of the paper work and documentation throughout the process?</p> <p>Response - the necessary documents/paperwork will be made available for the scrutiny processes.</p>