

## **London Borough of Tower Hamlets – Summary of Decision Making Process**

The Council is made up of an elected Mayor and 45 Councillors. The Councillors are elected to represent the 20 wards across the Borough with between one to three Councillors in each ward.

Decision making is split between the Executive (Mayor and Cabinet) and the Council and its Committees (Non Executive).

### **Full Council (Non Executive)**

Full Council consists of the Mayor and all Councillors. It meets to make major decisions including setting Council policy, the budget and Council Tax and considering any recommendations outside the budget and policy framework. The Council appoints a number of Committees to carry out specific functions. These include: the regulatory committees (Planning and Licensing), the Pensions Committee and a Standards (Advisory) Committee.

The Council also provides a forum for debate and public questioning with the Mayor and Councillors.

### **The Mayor and Cabinet (Executive)**

The Mayor is elected by the voters of the whole Borough, normally for a four year term. The Mayor appoints and is supported by a Cabinet.

The Mayor and Cabinet are responsible for most regular decisions of the Council. This includes preparing the budget and plans for the Council to consider, implementing and monitoring them and other major decisions. The Mayor and Cabinet have to take decisions in line with the Budget and Policy framework set by Full Council. Any proposals outside this must be referred to Full Council to decide.

The Mayor may also take decisions as Mayor's Executive Decision's and these are published on the website under the committee list.

[www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/committee](http://www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/committee)

### **The Forthcoming Decisions Plan**

Any 'key decision' to be taken by the Mayor and Cabinet (i.e. that involves two or more wards or significant funding/savings) must be included in the Forthcoming Decisions Plan. The plan is published 28 days before the decision is planned to be taken.

### **Overview and Scrutiny**

The Council has an Overview and Scrutiny Committee (OSC) made up of non Executive Members. A key role of the committee is to scrutinise decisions of the Executive, monitor performance and develop policy. (Both in respect of the Council

and external bodies that effect the Borough). The OSC may appoint Scrutiny Panels to carry out a particular piece of work and establish a Health Scrutiny Panel to specifically consider health matters.

Further information on any of the above can be found on our webpages under the relevant section. [www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/committee](http://www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/committee)

### **Councillors' Role**

Councillors are elected to represent the borough as whole with a special duty to their own ward.

A summary of your Councillors main duties are set out below:

- Ward Role. To represent their ward and respond to individual constituents enquiries and representations.
- Community Role. To represent the borough as a whole and bring their views to the decision making process.
- Executive Role – To serve as Members of the Cabinet.
- Decision Making. To take decisions in relation to Council services at Full Council and on Council Committees.
- Scrutiny and Review. To scrutinize decisions and development new polices as part of the Council's Scrutiny function.
- To represent the Council on other bodies such as outside bodies