

LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

**RECORD OF THE DECISIONS OF THE COMMISSIONERS' DECISION MAKING
MEETING**

HELD AT 6.30 P.M. ON WEDNESDAY, 2 DECEMBER 2015

TOWN HALL, MULBERRY PLACE, 5 CLOVE CRESCENT, LONDON, E14 2BG

Members Present:

Sir Ken Knight	(Commissioner)
Max Caller	(Commissioner)
Alan Wood	(Commissioner)

Councillors Present:

None

Officers Present:

Zena Cooke	(Corporate Director, Resources)
Steve Hill	(Head of Benefits Service)
Rafiqul Hoque	(Lettings Services Manager, Housing Options Service, Development & Renewal)
Jackie Odunoye	(Service Head, Strategy, Regeneration & Sustainability, Development and Renewal)
Will Tuckley	(Chief Executive)
Antonella Burgio	(Democratic Services)

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Commissioner Chris Allison.

Apologies from Councillors Rachael Saunders and Peter Golds were also noted.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests were made.

3. DECISIONS OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The published decisions of the meeting held on 21 October 2015 were noted and signed as a corrected record of proceedings.

4. CONSIDERATION OF PUBLIC SUBMISSIONS

The Commissioners were informed that there had been no requests to make a public submission relating to any agenda item.

5. EXERCISE OF COMMISSIONERS' DISCRETIONS

The Chair introduced the report, which listed an urgent expedited decision that had been taken by Commissioners since the Commissioners' Decision Making meeting on 21 October 2015.

RESOLVED

That the decision taken under urgency be noted.

6. REPORTS FOR CONSIDERATION

6.1 Provision of a Home Repairs Grant in the sum of £5,049.33 to Client A E14, under the Tower Hamlets Private Sector Housing Renewal Policy 2013-15

Ms Odunoye, Head of Strategy Regeneration & Sustainability introduced the report which concerned an application for a home repairs grant under the Council's Private Sector Housing Renewal Policy 2013-15 to assist a vulnerable lease holder in E14. On 30th September 2015, Commissioners had awarded a grant for urgent kitchen and boiler works at this property. However a subsequent inspection revealed that some additional works were required to replace faulty taps and install some draft proofing. The grant sought would supersede that made by Commissioners previously.

Commissioners did not make any observations on this report and agreed the recommendations as set out in the report.

RESOLVED

1. That Home Repairs Grants to Client A E14, in the sum of £5,049.33 be approved to fund urgent repairs to her kitchen and replacement of the central heating combination boiler.
2. That these grants supersede the grant previously awarded to this recipient on 30th September 2015.

6.2 A Grant Scheme for Affordable Rented Housing in LBTH

Ms Odunoye, Head of Strategy Regeneration & Sustainability introduced the report which concerned an application to establish a Local Affordable Housing Programme funded by Right to Buy receipts using a model operated by the Greater London Authority.

While Commissioners were broadly in favour of the proposal. Commissioner Max Caller noted:

- That the scheme was new and untested and
- That the proposal concerned grant making, a function which, under the Secretary of State's direction, resided with Commissioners. Therefore decisions to award grants under this scheme could not be delegated to any other party.

Commissioners were united in this view and accordingly

RESOLVED

1. That £7.06m of retained RTB receipts be approved to be used for a Local Housing Affordable Grant Programme for Housing Resources and Capital Delivery for the years 2016-20 as per the budget allocation decision of Cabinet dated 12th October 2015
2. That the criteria for the grant as set out in paragraph 3.9. of this report and Schedules One and Two of the Appendices be approved.
3. That an Affordable Housing Grant Panel be established under the Corporate Director, Development & Renewal for the purpose of assessing development proposals, reviewing bids for grant funding and making recommendations for the award of grant
4. That the decision to award scheme grants NOT be delegated to the Corporate Director, Development & Renewal but should be reported for decision to the Commissioners Decision Making Meetings as required.

6.3 Incentives to Tackling Overcrowding

Ms Odunoye, Head of Strategy Regeneration & Sustainability introduced the report which concerned an application to delegate authority to the Corporate Director of Development & Renewal or his nominee, one-off relocation payments to residents upon release of under occupied properties.

Clarifying that the matter concerned procurement, Commissioners supported the proposal and asked that expenditure for this purpose be reported to each Councillor in Wards affected and a six-monthly report be made to a Commissioners Decision Making Meeting detailing the monies spent.

RESOLVED

1. That the decision making to define and agree rates for incentives to be made available to tenants wanting to downsize in order to tackle the severe overcrowding that exists in the borough be delegated to the Corporate Director of Development & Renewal.
2. That the Corporate Director of Development & Renewal or his nominee be delegated the power to award the agreed incentive.

3. That expenditure for this purpose be reported to each Councillor in Wards affected
4. That a six-monthly report be made to a Commissioners Decision Making Meeting detailing the monies spent.

6.4 Grant Payment - Ocean Regeneration Trust

Ms Odunoye, Head of Strategy Regeneration & Sustainability introduced the report which concerned an application for interim support to the Ocean Regeneration Trust in accordance with the New Deal for Communities succession and legacy scheme under which the Ocean Estate received regeneration funding.

Responding to Commissioners' questions Ms Odunoye advised that there was confidence that all retail units would be let and provide a future revenue stream for the Trust because of the demand that will be created by the new properties and regeneration of the estate.

RESOLVED

That the Corporate Director Development & Renewal be authorised to pay the Ocean Regeneration Trust a total of £210,000 being payments for 2014/2015 of £50,000, the current financial year 2015/2016 of £80,000 and the next year 2016/2017 also of £80,000.

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS THE CHAIR CONSIDERS TO BE URGENT

Nil items.

The meeting ended at 6.45 p.m.

Chair: Sir Ken Knight
COMMISSIONER