

LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL

HELD AT 7.30 P.M. ON WEDNESDAY, 25 JUNE 2008

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

Members Present:

Councillor Helal Abbas	Councillor Ann Jackson
Councillor Ohid Ahmed	Councillor Denise Jones
Councillor Rajib Ahmed	Councillor Dr. Emma Jones
Councillor Rofique U Ahmed	Councillor Azizur Rahman Khan
Councillor Anwara Ali	Councillor Rania Khan
Councillor Shahed Ali	Councillor Shiria Khatun
Councillor M. Shahid Ali	Councillor Abjol Miah
Councillor Tim Archer	Councillor Fozol Miah
Councillor Rupert Bawden	Councillor Harun Miah
Councillor Lutfa Begum	Councillor Abdul Munim
Councillor Philip Briscoe	Councillor Tim O'Flaherty
Councillor Alibor Choudhury	Councillor Ahmed Adam Omer
Councillor Stephanie Eaton	Councillor Joshua Peck
Councillor Rupert Eckhardt	Councillor Lutfur Rahman
Councillor Marc Francis	Councillor Oliur Rahman
Councillor Peter Golds	Councillor M. Mamun Rashid
Councillor Fazlul Haque	Councillor Mohammed Abdus Salique
Councillor Shafiqul Haque	Councillor A A Sardar
Councillor Clair Hawkins	Councillor David Snowdon
Councillor Alexander Heslop	Councillor Bill Turner
Councillor Shirley Houghton	Councillor Dulal Uddin
Councillor Ahmed Hussain	Councillor Abdal Ullah
Councillor Sirajul Islam	Councillor Salim Ullah
Councillor Waiseul Islam	Councillor Motin Uz-Zaman

The Mayor, Councillor Mohammed Abdus Salique in the Chair

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors Abdul Asad, Carli Harper-Penman and Abdul Matin and for lateness from Councillors Rupert Bawden and Fozol Miah.

RESOLVED

That the apologies for absence and lateness be noted.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors made declarations of interest in items included on the agenda as follows:

Councillor	Item	Type of interest	Reason
Helal Abbas	11.1	Personal	Board member – Tower Hamlets Community Housing
Helal Abbas	11.3	Personal	Leaseholder
Helal Abbas	11.4	Personal	Member & shareholder of Co-operative
Ohid Ahmed	5.2.2	Personal	Attends mosque mentioned in petition
Ohid Ahmed	8.3	Personal	Employed by Leaside Regeneration
Ohid Ahmed	11.3	Personal	Leaseholder, Poplar Harca
Ohid Ahmed	11.9 & 11.10	Personal	Spouse employed at surgery
Rajib Ahmed	11.3	Personal	Leaseholder
Rofique Ahmed	5.2.2	Personal	Attends Mosque
Rofique Ahmed	11.3	Personal	Leaseholder
Anwara Ali	11.9	Personal	Employed as GP
Anwara Ali	11.10	Personal	Employed as GP
Shahid Ali	11.3	Personal	Leaseholder
Lutfu Begum	11.9 & 11.10	Personal	Employed by PCT
Alibor Choudhury	5.2.2	Personal	Local Ward Councillor
Stephanie Eaton	5.1.3	Personal	Leaseholder, Island Homes
Rupert Eckhardt	10.1	Personal	Director of Company that provides advice on property development
Marc Francis	11.11	Personal	Employee of Shelter
Peter Golds	10.1	Personal	Professional interest in the subject
Fazlul Haque	5.1.1	Personal	Local Ward Councillor
Fazlul Haque	11.3	Personal	Leaseholder

Shafiqul Haque	5.2.2	Personal	Member of mosque
Shafiqul Haque	11.1	Personal	Board member, Tower Hamlets Community Housing
Clair Hawkins	5.1.1	Personal	Governor of Tower Hamlets College
Alex Heslop	11.3	Personal	Leaseholder
Alex Heslop	11.4	Personal	Member of Co-operative Party and shareholder in co-operative
Shirley Houghton	5.1.3	Personal	Local Ward Councillor
Ahmed Hussain	11.9 & 11.10	Personal	Employed by PCT
Sirajul Islam	11.1	Personal	Board member – Tower Hamlets Community Housing
Waiseul Islam	11.1	Personal	Board member, Tower Hamlets Community Housing
Denise Jones	11.9	Personal	Non-executive Board Member, Tower Hamlets PCT
Azizur R. Khan	11.3	Personal	Leaseholder
Rania Khan	5.2.3	Personal	Local Ward Councillor
Harun Miah	11.3	Personal	Leaseholder
Harun Miah	11.9	Personal	Local Ward Councillor
Md. Abdul Munim	11.1	Personal	Local Ward Councillor
Joshua Peck	8.3	Personal	Employee of Heritage Lottery Fund
Oliur Rahman	5.2.2	Personal	Local Ward Councillor
A. A. Sardar	5.2.2	Personal	Chair, Council of Mosques
A. A. Sardar	11.1	Personal	Board Member, Poplar Harca
Bill Turner	11.4	Personal	Member, Co-operative Party and shareholder in co-operative
Bill Turner	11.9 & 11.10	Personal	Council's nominee on the Foundation of adjacent NHS trust
Abdal Ullah	5.1.1	Personal	Vice-Chair of Tower Hamlets College

Abdal Ullah	11.3	Personal	Leaseholder
Salim Ullah	11.3	Personal	Leaseholder
Motin Uz-Zaman	11.1	Personal	Board member, Poplar Harca
Motin Uz-Zaman	11.3	Personal	Leaseholder

3. MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the Annual Council meeting held on Wednesday 21st May 2008 be confirmed as a correct record of the proceedings and the Mayor be authorised to sign them accordingly.

4. TO RECEIVE ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE MAYOR, LEADER OF THE COUNCIL, MEMBERS OF THE CABINET OR THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Prayer Break

The Mayor informed Members that he intended to adjourn the meeting at 9.25pm for approximately 15 minutes to provide Members with an opportunity to observe prayers.

5. TO RECEIVE ANY DEPUTATIONS OR PETITIONS

DEPUTATIONS

5.1.1 Future of the Bethnal Green Centre

At the invitation of the Mayor, Mr. Roberto Foth addressed the meeting about the future of the Bethnal Green Centre as set out in the circulated deputation. A member of staff also addressed the meeting about the facilities available at the Centre.

Mr. Foth responded to questions by Members of the Council.

Councillor Clair Hawkins, Lead Member, Children's Services then responded to the matters raised by the deputation.

RESOLVED

That the deputation be referred to the Corporate Director, Children's Services for a written response on any outstanding matters within 28 days.

5.1.2 Recognising and establishing a policy on Faith and Religion

At the invitation of the Mayor, Mr. Hussain addressed the meeting in support of the deputation requesting a clear Council policy on religious activities and facilities.

Mr. Hussain responded to questions by Members of the Council.

Councillor Sirjaul Islam, Deputy Leader of the Council, then responded to the matters raised by the deputation.

RESOLVED

That the deputation be referred to the Assistant Chief Executive for a written response on any outstanding matters within 28 days.

5.1.3 Island Homes Housing Association

At the invitation of the Mayor, Ms Jenny Fisher addressed the meeting concerning the Island Homes Housing Association. Ms Fisher re-iterated the points made in the printed deputation and asked the Council to investigate and instigate a process of mediation.

Ms. Fisher responded to questions by Members of the Council.

Councillor Marc Francis, Lead Member for Housing and Development, then responded to the matters raised by the deputation.

RESOLVED

That the deputation be referred to the Corporate Director, Development and Renewal for a written response on any outstanding matters within 28 days.

PETITIONS

5.2.1 Traffic calming on Abbott Road, E14

At the invitation of the Mayor, Mr. Iqbal Hossain addressed the meeting in support of the petition requesting traffic calming and safety measures on Abbott Road, E14. He re-iterated the points raised in the written petition and asked when the Council would introduce a scheme to calm the traffic and help the residents to have a better quality of life.

Mr. Hossain responded to questions by Members of the Council.

Councillor Abdal Ullah, Lead Member for Cleaner, Safer, Greener, responded to the matters raised in Mr. Hossain's petition.

RESOLVED

That the petition be referred to the Corporate Director, Communities, Localities and Culture for a written response on any outstanding matters within 28 days.

5.2.2 Management and regulation of community projects and premises in Stepney

At the invitation of the Mayor, Mr. Ali and Mr Noor Uddin Ullah addressed the meeting in support of the petition.

During the presentation Councillor Helal Abbas raised a point of order in relation to the naming of individuals. The Service Head Democratic Services advised that an individual who was not a council officer or member could be named in the course of discussion but that incorrect or unsubstantiated comments must not be made about any person.

The petitioners raised a number of issues in relation to the management and regulation of the Shahjalal Mosque and Community Centre and asked the Council to carry out an audit and oversee the organisation's AGM.

Mr. Ali and Mr Ullah responded to questions from Members of the Council.

Councillor Joshua Peck, Lead Member for Performance and Resources, responded to the matters raised in the petition and presentation.

RESOLVED

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

5.2.3 Parking on the Crossways Estate

At the invitation of the Mayor, Mr. George Bailey addressed the meeting regarding the parking situation on the Crossways Estate. Mr Bailey stated that the Swan Housing Association had sold spaces to non-residents and requested that a sub-committee be set up to look into the issue.

Mr. Bailey responded to questions from Members of the Council.

Councillor Marc Francis, Lead Member for Housing and Development, responded to the matters raised in the written petition.

RESOLVED

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

6. TO RECEIVE WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Three questions were submitted by members of the public for response by members of the Cabinet as listed in agenda item 6. The questions, together in each case with the response of the relevant Lead Member and a summary of any supplementary question and response, are set out below.

6.1 Question from Mr. Terry McGrenera to the Lead Member for Cleaner, Safer, Greener, Councillor Abdal Ullah:

How many fixed penalty notices have the Environmental Services department issued over the past two years?

Response of the Lead Member:

There were 2114 fixed penalty notices issued by the Environmental Services department over the past two years.

No supplementary question was asked within the two minute time limit available.

6.2 Question from Ms. Johanna Kaschke to the Lead Member for Housing and Development, Councillor Marc Francis:

I would like to know whether it would influence the authority in considering improvements to council blocks if a lot of "poor" leaseholders are unable to pay towards those improvements and whether the council would be likely not to carry out the improvements if this is the case. I call them poor leaseholders because some could just about afford to purchase a cut price home and now have no money to pay towards block/estate improvements and they would not always want to sell their homes. Would the council want to keep leaseholders happy by carrying out fewer improvements to the blocks?

Ms Kaschke was unable to attend the meeting and would therefore receive a written answer to her question.

6.3 Question from Mr. Alan Tucker to the Lead Member for Housing & Development, Councillor Marc Francis:

The consultation on the development of the Safeway site in Roman Road has raised an unprecedented level of objections to the plans. The building proposed dwarfs the surrounding properties. The density of the build is nearly twice that set out in planning guidelines. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee voiced concerns about this build from the outset and asked that the terms of the lease should have appropriate controls.

At the Cabinet meeting in January assurances were given that the

concerns raised would be addressed in planning. Cabinet was also told that the developer was weeks away from completing negotiations with a major food retailer to provide the supermarket that is badly needed to stop the decline of the area.

Has any retailer actually signed a contract with the developers to provide a substantial sized supermarket and if so what size is it?

Response of the Lead Member:

The Council's previous Cabinet resolved to grant a development lease for the Safeways site last December. This decision was reaffirmed by that Cabinet despite the representations made by myself and my Overview & Scrutiny Committee colleagues in January.

This lease makes provision for a food retail supermarket in any development.

A planning application was submitted by the developers in December. However, Mr Tucker will know that as a result of the petition of 2,000 residents that I supported, and subsequent discussions between myself and the developer's architect, a revised planning application has now been submitted.

The residential buildings proposed for the south of the site in this application are basically one floor lower than in the original application.

This application is now under active consideration by planning officers. The consultation on it resulted in several hundred objections, which will be taken account of in the course of officers' deliberations.

It would be inappropriate for me to comment on the application itself as this is a matter for the Strategic Development Committee. However, I can report that the Board of Tesco's has decided to occupy a 25,000 sq ft supermarket in the development, subject to planning permission being granted.

Summary of supplementary question from Mr Tucker:

Will the Council take into account the 3000 objections, mostly about the proposed building on the car park?

Summary of Lead Member's response:

I cannot comment on the Planning Application itself as that is a matter for the Strategic Development Committee.

I can assure Mr Tucker and other residents in Bow, that all Councillors on this side of the Chamber are acutely conscious of both the desperate need for a supermarket on Roman Road and the concerns of local residents about the proposed redevelopment.

I can also assure him that when this application comes before it, the Strategic Development Committee will take all the relevant material considerations into account before making its decision.

At this point (9.25pm), the meeting adjourned to allow Members to observe prayers.

The meeting resumed at 9.45pm and Mr. Williams announced that the revised projected end time for the meeting would be 10.50pm.

7. TO RECEIVE QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

Twenty six questions were submitted by Councillors for response by members of the Cabinet as listed in agenda item 7. The questions, together in each case with the response of the relevant Lead Member and a summary of any supplementary question and response, are set out below.

7.1 Question from Councillor Ann Jackson to the Lead Member for Housing and Development, Councillor Marc Francis:

How many social rented homes were built in Tower Hamlets in 2007/8?

Response of the Lead Member:

704 social rented homes were built in 2007/08, broken down as follows:

1 Bed	2 Bed	3 Bed	4 Bed	5 Bed	6Bed	Total
179	310	163	36	10	6	704

Therefore 21% of these homes are family sized.

That is in addition to the 662 social rented homes built in 2006/07 and 667 built in 2005/06 – a total of over 2,000 social rented homes built here in just three years.

I can also say that last year, there were around 1,600 lettings to families and single people on the housing waiting list.

Summary of supplementary question from Cllr Jackson:

What plans does the Council have in place to ensure that our residents' interest is considered and firmly promoted by Councillors and officers as their top priority for all housing, planning and development decisions, both in terms of social and key worker/affordable housing provision?

Summary of Lead Member's response:

I agree that it is crucial that we build on this success and we intend to further increase the number of family-sized and other social rented homes built in future years up to 1,400. The new Community Plan, Local Development Framework and Housing Strategy provide the framework and focus to achieve this.

7.2 Question from Councillor Peter Golds to the Lead Member for Culture and Leisure, Councillor Rofique Ahmed:

Despite promises to the contrary over a long period, it would appear that the council is planning to split up and disperse the Borough's archive which is acknowledged as being one of the finest collections in the country. This proposal has been opposed by academics, residents, all political parties and east enders in general. Why is the Labour Council doing this in the face of such opposition?

Response of the Lead Member:

A Council decision has not yet been made in relation to the future of Bancroft library which houses the Local History Study Service and Archive. Members are scheduled to consider this matter in the near future alongside options for the future location of Local History Study service and archives. Public consultation relating to the Local History study and archive service took place in June 2007 and the views of more than 50 consultees will be considered by Members in determining the future location of these services.

Summary of supplementary question from Cllr Golds:

Can I have an assurance that the archives will be preserved on one site for future generations to use?

Summary of Lead Member's response:

I can give an assurance that this will be the case.

7.3 Question from Councillor Abjol Miah to the Lead Member for Regeneration, Localisation and Community Partnerships, Councillor Ohid Ahmed:

The Olympic Delivery Authority have protected, under The London Olympic Games and Paralympic Games Act 2006, the following as trademarks:

- The Olympic symbol
- The Paralympic symbol
- The London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic emblems

- The words 'London 2012' and '2012'
- The words 'Olympic', 'Olympiad', 'Olympian'
- The words 'Paralympic', 'Paralympiad', 'Paralympian' and their plurals and things very similar to them – e.g. 'Paralympix'
- The Olympic motto: 'Citius Altius Fortius'
- The Paralympic motto: 'Spirit in Motion'
- The Team GB logo
- The Paralympics GB logo
- The British Olympic Association logo
- The British Paralympic Association logo
- London2012.com (and various derivatives)

This will preclude almost any commercial, social, charitable venture in Tower Hamlets utilising the Olympics to promote activities despite it taking place in our borough.

Can the Leader of the Council explain what provisions is the council seeking to negotiate with the ODA for exemptions to this punitive exercise in order to ensure our local community is able to secure the maximum benefit of hosting the games?

Response of the Lead Member:

The London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games (LOCOG) is a private company responsible for staging the 2012 Games and is funded privately through the exploitation of Marks relating to the 2012 Games including by the licensing of the Games Marks to sponsor organisations. This is why the Marks referred to in the question are protected.

However a non commercial brand has been proposed for use by all London Boroughs by LOCOG for certain specific non – commercial purposes which are given as

- Use on a single flag to be displayed outside the Licensee's Town Hall (and or other locations with written consent)
- Use on the Licensee's website home page and other pages dedicated to the 2012 Games
- Use on signs to be displayed at main entry points to the Borough
- Use on Licensee publications and newsletters relevant to the 2012 Games

The LOCOG licence proposal is that all London Boroughs are able to use the designation Host Borough. The 5 Host Boroughs have responded to the LOCOG proposal objecting to the lack of differentiation between the 5 East London Boroughs which accommodate most of the Olympic Venues and the Olympic Park and have made reference to the fundamental principle in the bid to host the Games that a London games would regenerate some of the most deprived areas of London i.e. East London and that part of the

regeneration process is around raising the profile and perception of east London as a place in which to live and work. The use of the Olympic Games branding to support this aspirations is a key issue for the Boroughs.

In response the 5 Boroughs have suggested a hierarchy giving appropriate designation, greater 2012 image association and more extensive application rights for the 5 Boroughs i.e. placing the 5 Boroughs at the top of the hierarchy with most rights and benefits. The 5 Borough response was made in May and discussions are ongoing.

A non commercial 2012 Mark known as the Inspire Mark has been developed for community and not for profit organisations delivering projects and events genuinely inspired by the London 2012 Games. Non commercial organisations can apply to have their project or event (as opposed to the organisation) recognised through the Inspire programme. The Inspire mark will be awarded to specific projects and events which are:

- Genuinely inspired by the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games.
- Well planned and managed.
- Fully funded from non-commercial sources and with no commercial association.
- Innovative and inspiring.
- Likely to achieve at least one of LOCOG's key outcomes.

It is also worth noting that Tower Hamlets has also developed its own Games brand for which a Trade Mark application has been made which will help to engage and support the community in benefiting from the Olympic Games.

Summary of supplementary question from Cllr A. Miah:

The team of officers in Tower Hamlets is smaller than in other boroughs. Tower Hamlets does not currently give the appearance of a Host Borough. Is there evidence-based research showing evidence of a legacy?

Summary of Lead Member's response:

Your points are noted. In fact Tower Hamlets is ahead of a number of other boroughs. Additional staff are being recruited and the benefits for Tower Hamlets will be visible very shortly.

7.4 Question from Councillor Stephanie Eaton to the Lead Member for Housing and Development, Councillor Marc Francis:

What does he plan to do to reduce the level of overcrowding in the Borough's residential accommodation?

Response of the Lead Member:

This Council is acutely conscious of the impact of overcrowding on the health, well-being and educational attainment of young children. We are determined to take the decisive action necessary to deal more with this problem.

Already more than 700 family sized social rented homes have been built in the past three years. But we must do more.

We are developing a new overcrowding strategy building on previous good practice and recent Government guidance on overcrowding reduction. This will be published in the autumn and will include both short-term proposals to free up more existing family-sized homes, more knockthroughs.

It will also details ambitious plans for a big increase in the construction of new social housing with three or more bedrooms.

Summary of supplementary question from Cllr Eaton:

You mentioned additional resources. As the budget is set and a three-year budget strategy in place, could we have details as to where this money will come from and whether this will result in cuts elsewhere?

Summary of Lead Members' response:

There will be no cuts to front line services. Additional funding will be made available in this area and next week we will be bringing forward a short-term action plan which will include an incentive scheme, a knock-through programme and other elements. However, this is only the start of a substantial programme and the provision of more family sized and other social rented homes is a top priority for the Leader of the Council and myself.

7.5 Question from Councillor Lutfa Begum to the Lead Member for Housing and Development, Councillor Marc Francis:

Can the Leader please tell me the basis on which service charges for leaseholders are calculated? Is this based on geographical area, social housing, leaseholder etc? Some of the residents in social housing in Tower Hamlets are paying service charges of £600-700 per year. Why are Malting, Brewster, Barleycorn, Oast Court and Kiln Court paying services charges of £2000 per year? Most of these

residents are leaseholders and pensioners who bought flats by the right to buy scheme. Presently they are having serious financial burdens placed on them. Can you explain why there is this huge difference in service charges in the same borough? Can you find out if they are being mistakenly over charged? If not, the service charges need to reduce to the level that other Tower Hamlets residents are paying.

Response of the Lead Member:

Service charges are required to be recovered from leaseholders in accordance with the terms of individual leases and in compliance with statutory obligations placed on social landlords. Service Charge Estimates are issued at the start of each financial year which sets out the costs we estimate will be incurred over the year ahead.

Actual costs are based on invoices received for externally supplied services (such as responsive maintenance to communal areas) and an apportionment of costs incurred for services supplied by Council staff (such as block cleaning). Actual costs may vary considerably between properties located in different blocks and estates depending on the services received. For example, blocks receiving a communal heating service have boiler fuel and maintenance costs while others have lift and door entry costs.

I hope Councillor Begum would agree with me that neither tenants nor Council Tax payers should be forced to pay more to cover costs of leaseholders?

Summary of supplementary question from Cllr Begum:

Many people including older residents are suffering hardship and I would ask you to carry out a proper investigation into the service charges and how they are calculated?

Summary of Lead Member's reply:

The average charges in each of these blocks based on the 2006/07 actual charges are:

Malting	£1,868
Brewster	£1,156
Oast	£1,383
Kiln	£1,520
Barleycorn	£ 938

Only Malting is close to the figure of £2,000 quoted in the question and a concierge charge of an average of £850 makes up a considerable proportion of this charge.

Brewster House also has a concierge charge - but as this is provided remotely from Malting the charge is lower at an average of £191.

Oast and Kiln have communal heating and therefore a significant element of their charge is made up of this (Oast has an average of £498 and Kiln has an average of £579).

In Barleycorn way, where there are no lifts, no concierge or communal heating, the charge is substantially lower.

If Cllr Begum wishes to discuss individual bills I am happy to do so.

7.6 Question from Councillor Fazlul Haque to the Lead Member for Children's Services, Councillor Clair Hawkins:

How will the £3.8 million London Youth Offer granted to Tower Hamlets by the Labour Government and Ken Livingston be invested in improving youth services for the Borough's young people?

Response of the Lead Member:

The £3.8 million is the total funding for two years (2008/09 and 2009/10) and includes existing funding within the Area Based Grant and other ring-fenced grants from the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) and the London Development Agency (LDA).

The funding is specifically for the continuation on two existing successful initiatives:

- The Positive Activities for Young People (PAYP) programme, aimed at 8-19-year-olds who are at risk of social exclusion and community crime; and
- The Youth Opportunity and Capital Funds (YOF/YCF), which puts buying power directly in the hands of young people by providing funding for them to run their own projects to improve things to do and places to go in their area.

A breakdown of the total figure across the two years, full objectives of these initiatives and the details of schemes to be funded will be included in a more detailed written response.

Under the PAYP programme, the funding will be for used for holiday activities, crime reduction and NEET reduction activities to address the key priorities agreed in our Strategic Children and Young People's Plan to: "improve early intervention and preventative work pre-16, particularly for those identified as being at risk", "extend engagement in constructive and law abiding activities" and "increase numbers in education, employment and training, including from specific targeted groups".

In relation to the Youth Opportunity Fund, young people from our existing Youth Opportunity Fund grants panel have been involved in developing the ideas for this funding. The funding will be for used for young people-led grants (last year over 127 groups benefited from grants typically between £1500 and £5000, with over 5000 young people benefiting); Tower Hamlets Youth Partnership (the funding will enable the four Local Youth Partnerships to deliver three projects per year in each of our four localities); and the Young Mayor's Project. These activities address the key priorities agreed in our Strategic Children and Young People's Plan to "increase the participation of children and young people in decision making and community life" and "provide high quality places to go and things to do that meet the needs of young people".

We expect that over two-thirds of all funding will go into activities delivered by or in partnership with the Third Sector.

Summary of supplementary question from Cllr F. Haque:

Weavers Ward has issues relating to young people. What additional money will be invested locally?

Summary of Lead Member's response:

I am aware of the issues in Weavers Ward and can assure you that funding will be distributed so that every area of the borough has adequate provision. I would also hope that through the Youth Opportunity Fund, local young people will put forward their ideas for positive activities.

7.7 Question from Councillor Tim Archer to the Lead Member for Housing and Development, Councillor Marc Francis:

Can the lead member for housing outline what the delays have been in setting up Tower Hamlets Homes, why these have occurred and what he will do differently to ensure that the ALMO is actually successful?

Response of the Lead Member:

We anticipate that ministerial consent to the establishment of Tower Hamlets Homes will be received in the near future.

We have carried out the necessary preparation work so that we are ready to 'go live' as soon as possible after that consent is received.

In some important aspects there will be no difference for residents. The council will still own the stock, tenants will still be council tenants and leaseholders will still be council leaseholders. Residents' rights and responsibilities will not change. The council will still be responsible for housing policy and for setting rents.

The work to establish the ALMO has already focused minds in Housing Services and among Board members much more closely on how to drive up performance management of this service and we will work closely in partnership with the Board to ensure that the Management Agreement is fulfilled and those improvements are delivered.

Five of the 15 seats on the Board are taken by residents - tenants and leaseholders. Having worked with them, I can assure all members that none of them are shy of challenging officers around the weaknesses that they perceive in the service.

However, Tower Hamlets Homes will bring some important benefits for residents:

- the opportunity to bring in millions of pounds of additional funding – money that would not otherwise be available
- an absolute focus on housing management and on improving the service to reach the two-star or ‘good’ standard from the Audit Commission in order to be eligible for that funding.
- new opportunities for residents to have a say on their housing service

Summary of supplementary question from Cllr Archer:

The ALMO should have been up and running by April 2008 and it is now nearly July. We have an example of a failing ALMO in a neighbouring borough. What will you do differently in this borough to make sure that the ALMO is successful?

Summary of Lead Member’s response:

The Council was originally working to a date that would have enabled ‘go live’ in April 2008, but that was always a little ambitious, particularly in terms of finalizing the detailed management agreement, the protocols, recruitment of a Senior Management Team and allowing the Board to bed in.

The Shadow Board, the Council and the Government agreed a more realistic date. This extra month or so has allowed all that work to be completed and will enable the Board and its Senior Management Team to focus on improving frontline services right from the outset. The leader of the Council and Majority Group Members are fully committed to the success of the ALMO.

In accordance with Rule 12.10 (expiry of time limit) questions 7.8 to 7.26 were not put. Written responses would be forwarded to the questioners.

8. REPORTS FROM THE EXECUTIVE AND THE COUNCIL'S COMMITTEES

8.1 Annual Report of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee 2007/08

Councillor Marc Francis introduced the annual report of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and commented on the work undertaken by the committee during 2007/08. Cllr Francis thanked all those Members and officers who had contributed to the work described in the report and recorded in particular his thanks to Afazul Hoque, the Acting Scrutiny Policy Manager.

Members from each political group echoed Councillor Francis' comments and commended the work of the Councillors and Co-opted Members on the committee.

At this point Councillor Joshua Peck moved that the question be put. On being put to the vote, this was unanimously agreed.

It was then **MOVED** by Councillor Marc Francis, **SECONDED** by Councillor Alex Heslop and

RESOLVED

That the Council note the annual report of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee 2007/08.

8.2 Report of the Cabinet Meeting of 7th May 2008

(i) Mail Forwarding Business Registration

The meeting considered the report of Cabinet held on 7th May 2008 regarding mail forwarding business registration.

In relation to the list of acceptable identification in appendix 1 to the report, Councillor Tim Archer asked whether there should be a requirement for the documents specified to be less than a stipulated period (e.g. three months) old. The Leader of the Council undertook to respond to Councillor Archer on this point.

It was **MOVED** by Councillor Lutfur Rahman, **SECONDED** by Councillor Sirajul Islam and

RESOLVED

That the Mail Forwarding Registration functions under section 75 of the London Local Authorities Act 2007 will come into force in the London Borough of Tower Hamlets on the appointed day of 25th August 2008.

8.3 Report of the Cabinet Meeting of 11th June 2008

(i) Tower Hamlets Community Plan 2020 and Local Area Agreement

(ii) Strategic Plan, Annual Report and Best Value Performance Plan

The meeting considered the report of the Cabinet Meeting on 11th June 2008 in relation to the above items.

An addendum sheet was tabled setting out proposed amendments to the circulated Tower Hamlets Community Plan and Local Area Agreement documents.

Councillor Lutfur Rahman introduced the report of the Cabinet and proposed that the two items be taken together. He commended the plans to the Council and considered that they set out a clear vision for the Borough, shared by the Council and its partners, and a performance management framework to make this vision a reality and maintain excellent services for local people.

Councillor Ohid Ahmed seconded the proposal and thanked officers, partners and Members, including the former Leader of the Council, Councillor Denise Jones, for their work in bringing the documents forward. Other Members addressed the meeting and welcomed the proposed plans.

Councillor Stephanie Eaton asked that Members be informed of any amendments agreed by officers in accordance with the recommendations in the reports.

At this point, Councillor Tim Archer **MOVED** that in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 14.1.13 (motion to extend the meeting under Rule 9) the meeting be extended by 30 minutes. Councillor Peter Golds seconded the motion.

The procedural motion to extend the meeting was put to the vote and was **defeated**.

It was then **MOVED** by Councillor Lutfur Rahman, **SECONDED** by Councillor Ohid Ahmed and

RESOLVED

1. That the Tower Hamlets Community Plan 2020 and Local Area Agreement 2008-11 attached as appendices 1 and 3 to the report be approved subject to the amendments set out in the tabled addendum and to any further appropriate amendments to ensure that they are accurate and reflect the views of members.
2. That the Chief Executive, after consultation with the Leader of the Council (and Chair of the Partnership), the Lead Member, Regeneration, Localisation and Community Partnerships and the Vice-

Chair of the Partnership, be authorised to make appropriate amendments to the Tower Hamlets Community Plan 2020 and Local Area Agreement 2008-11 in advance of final publication.

3. That the Council's Strategic Plan 2008/09 and Best Value Performance Plan as set out in appendices 1 and 3 to the report be approved subject to any appropriate amendments to ensure that the plans are accurate, coherent and reflect the views of members.
4. That the Chief Executive, after consultation with the Leader of the Council and the appropriate Lead Member, be authorised to make appropriate and necessary amendments to the Strategic Plan 2008/09 and BVVP (2007/2008) in advance of final publication.

9. TO RECEIVE REPORTS AND QUESTIONS ON JOINT ARRANGEMENTS AND EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS

9.1 Joint Arrangements

There was no business under this heading to be considered.

9.2 External Organisations

There was no business under this heading to be considered.

At this point (10.50 p.m.) the Service Head, Democratic Services advised that the time limit for the meeting had been reached. The guillotine procedure as set out in Council Procedure Rule 9.2 would therefore come into effect.

Councillor Tim Archer then **MOVED** a procedural motion to bring forward item 11.3 (motion on leaseholder services) to be the next item on the agenda. However the Service Head, Democratic Services, informed the meeting that Council Procedure Rule 9.2 allowed only for a vote on items of business for decision and specifically excluded motions submitted under Rule 13. The procedural motion was therefore not in order.

10. OTHER BUSINESS

10.1 Proposed amendments to the Council's Constitution: Development Procedure Rules/Planning Code of Conduct

Under Council Procedure Rule 9, the recommendations in the report of the Assistant Chief Executive and the amendment tabled by Councillor Shafiqul Haque were each deemed formally moved and seconded.

The amendment moved by Councillor Haque and seconded by Councillor Rofique U. Ahmed was put to the vote and **agreed**.

The substantive motion as amended was then put to the vote and it was

RESOLVED

That the revised Planning Code of Conduct (Part 5.2); Development Procedure Rules (Part 4.8) and Development Committee Functions and Delegations (Part 3.3.4) be agreed for inclusion in the Council's Constitution as set out in appendices A to C attached to these minutes.

11. TO CONSIDER MOTIONS SUBMITTED BY MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

Motions 11.1 to 11.12 as listed below were not considered due to lack of time, the meeting having been closed following item 10.1 above in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 9 (Duration of meeting).

- 11.1 Motion submitted by Councillor Mamun Rashid regarding Community Centre for Tarling Estate**
- 11.2 Motion submitted by Councillor Stephanie Eaton regarding ID Cards**
- 11.3 Motion submitted by Councillor Timothy Archer regarding Leaseholder Services**
- 11.4 Motion submitted by Councillor Alex Heslop regarding support for the Co-operative and Social Enterprise Sector**
- 11.5 Motion submitted by Councillor Oliur Rahman regarding security for visitors to Bangladesh**
- 11.6 Motion submitted by Councillor Shahed Ali regarding webcasting/pro-active access to Council Committee meetings**
- 11.7 Motion submitted by Councillor Philip Briscoe regarding Special Constables**
- 11.8 Motion submitted by Councillor Harun Miah regarding the Arms Trade**
- 11.9 Motion submitted by Councillor Ahmed Hussain regarding the future of the GP surgeries in Tower Hamlets**
- 11.10 Motion submitted by Councillor Abjol Miah regarding PCT and GP practice contracting**
- 11.11 Motion submitted by Councillor Md. Abdul Munim regarding Financial Rescue Schemes**

11.12 Motion submitted by Councillor Dulal Uddin regarding the East London Line

The meeting ended at 10.52 p.m.

Chair,
Council