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| Non-Executive Report of the: COUNCIL 19 July 2017 |  |
| Report of: Asmat Hussain, Corporate Director, Governance | Classification: Unrestricted |
| Motions submitted by Members of the Council | |

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| Originating Officer(s) | Matthew Mannion, Committee Services Manager, Democratic Services. |
| Wards affected | All wards |

SUMMARY

1. Sixteen motions have been submitted by Members of the Council under Council Procedure Rule 13 for debate at the Council meeting on Wednesday 19 July 2017.
2. The motions submitted are listed overleaf. In accordance with the protocol agreed by the Council on 21st May 2008, the motions are listed by turns, one from each group, continuing in rotation until all motions submitted are included. The rotation starts with any group(s) whose motion(s) were not reached at the previous meeting.
3. Motions must be about matters for which the Council has a responsibility or which affect the Borough. A motion may not be moved which is substantially the same as a motion which has been put at a meeting of the Council in the previous six months; or which proposes that a decision of the Council taken in the previous six months be rescinded; unless notice of the motion is given signed by at least twenty Members.
4. There is no specific duration set for this agenda item and consideration of the attached motions may continue until the time limit for the meeting is reached. The guillotine procedure at Council Procedure Rule 9.2 does not apply to motions on notice and any of the attached motions which have not been put to the vote when the time limit for the meeting is reached will be deemed to have fallen. A motion which is not put to the vote at the current meeting may be resubmitted for the next meeting but is not automatically carried forward.

MOTIONS

Set out overleaf are the motions that have been submitted.

13.1 Motion regarding Fire Safety in Tower Hamlets for Residents

Proposer: Councillor Ohid Ahmed

Secunder: Councillor Md. Maium Miah

The Council notes:

Prime Minister Theresa May has admitted in the Parliament that there are other buildings with 'combustible' cladding - like Grenfell Tower - across the country. She stated that the Department for Communities and Local Government will inform the relevant local authorities and checks were being carried out.

The fire in Grenfell Tower in London was a national tragedy - with 80 people presumed dead but the accurate figure is likely to be more - to widespread public anger, dismay and a national search for answers. They all should have been safe when they went to sleep at night. In the 21st century Britain, one of the richest countries in the world, in the richest city in the country, nobody should be living in a home that risks their life.

It's heartbreaking when you consider that this devastating fire was eminently avoidable. The allegedly unnecessary cost cutting measures by Kensington and Chelsea (K&C) Council or its agencies to reportedly save £5,000 by installing cheaper but more flammable cladding and non-existence of sprinklers did not help the poor people, which included very young children, who were trapped and died in the fire. This becomes even more devastating when you consider the fact that the K&C Council is sitting on a shocking £209 million reserves in their coffers – surplus to their requirements, and offered a £100 council tax rebate to residents just before the local election in 2014.

The Chief Executive, Leader and Deputy Leader have of K&C council had to resign from their positions after initial reluctance. The Government is being urged to send commissioners to the K&C council.

The Boss - Director of Grenfell Tower insulation provider - 'is government adviser'. Technical director of Saint Gobain UK, which makes Celotex insulation, is reportedly also on the Building Regulations Advisory Committee (BRAC), which advises Sajid Javid, Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government.

In Tower Hamlets, we have many similar towers and residents are genuinely worried and have concerns. We have seen many fires in Tower Hamlets in recent weeks with many families evacuated.

On 3 July, a young teenage girl – 17 years old – tragically died after trying to escape a burning fire in her home in Mile End, with 50 people evacuated and four suffering smoke inhalations. Our thoughts and prayers are with her family and loved ones, as well as all the victims and loved ones of Grenfell Tower and other fires in the capital.

A large blaze tore through the roof of a multi-million-pound development next to Regent's Canal, Bow Wharf in Tower Hamlets where eighty firefighters were dispatched to tackle the fire at the five-storey building in Bow Wharf, Wennington Road – luckily no one was yet living in the building.

Following Grenfell fire tragedy, John Biggs issued a statement citing Tower Hamlets Homes (THH), Council's Arms-length Housing provider, about the Fire Risk Assessments (FRAs) of its THH managed tower blocks in the Borough but has failed to publish the FRAs despite requests by the residents and the Independent Group.

John Biggs has yet to confirm the final details about the safety of the buildings and towers managed by Registered Social Landlords (RSLs) and private landlords.

Labour administration in Tower Hamlets sold off the family silver – our social housing stock – to private companies or RSLs – so John Biggs cannot simply absolve himself of his utmost responsibility of keeping all our residents safe in light of the tragedy that befell on the poor people of Grenfell Tower in west London at night.

Independent Group in London Borough of Tower Hamlets had officially written to John Biggs highlighting the concerns and asking for reassurance and specific answers for residents, still awaiting a reply.

The Council believes:

Everyone deserves to know if their home is safe when they go to sleep at night.

All Landlords - including local authorities, RSLs, Arm's Length Housing Management Organisations (ALMOs) like THH and private landlords - have a legal obligation to provide safe and secure buildings for our residents and where they cannot do so they must provide alternative accommodation.

People need assurance and answers and Biggs must ensure that 'all' our buildings in Tower Hamlets are safe for our residents.

The Council resolves:

1. Install up to date sprinklers and smoke alarms that are regularly checked – **retrofitted if needed without any exception**, and implement all relevant recommendations made by Lakanal House fire inquiry.
2. A clear public assurance that none of our buildings, not just THH tower blocks, is fitted with the cladding that contains '**flammable polyethylene**' used in Grenfell Tower or **have 'any combustible material'** that may spread instead of containing the fire.
3. The most appropriate fire safety doors that can at least withstand the fire for 60 minutes, retrofitted if necessary, in consultation with the residents.
4. Comply with the best practice and official advice from the Fire Brigade and other relevant authorities on fire safety.
5. Comply with the advice from The Department for Communities and Local Government which state: "**Cladding using a composite aluminium panel with a 'polyethylene core' would be non-compliant with current Building Regulations guidance.**"
6. Use the Council's position and power directly, or through appointed board members sitting on RSL boards and other influential places, to ensure that the above is complied with by the RSLs, the Council and THH.
7. Publish all Fire Risk Assessments carried out by the Council, THH and RSLs.
8. Keep all local ward councillors inform of any local issues in this regard.
9. With the Independent Group and others who may wish to join, write to the Government for urgent changes in the fire safety laws. Use the Council's reserves and/or contingency funds to ensure all our buildings - particularly high rise and tower blocks - are safe and are properly maintained.

13.2 Motion regarding construction noise and dust

Proposed by: Councillor Andrew Wood
Seconded by: Councillor Chris Chapman

This Council notes that;

Tower Hamlets is undergoing an unprecedented amount of demolition and construction, which in some areas has been underway for more than a decade now and will continue for another decade.

Furthermore, the construction of some of the tallest residential buildings in western Europe is taking place very close to existing homes.

This construction is generating significant amounts of noise, dust and light pollution – which is impacting on resident's health and quality of life.

That other forms of disruption like road closures whether for construction or sports events are also negatively affecting quality of life.

That too often developers start noisy construction work before 8am and continue after 6pm (or 1pm Saturday) or even try and sneak it in on Sunday mornings

Construction management plans are rarely followed and do not fully capture the different phases of construction

This Council further notes that;

If a developer asks for an extension of allowable hours and provides reasons why; it is too often granted allowing work into the evening.

The Council does not have a physical presence to monitor and control construction and does not even pay overtime to the staff that could provide some extra coverage despite earning hundreds of millions of pounds in S106, New Homes Bonus and CIL.

The council calls on the Mayor to undertake the following;

1. That Construction Management Plans are reviewed and approved on the basis that they minimise disruption to residents.
2. That demolition methods allowed are designed to minimise the impact on local residents
3. That all such plans are discussed with the local community in advance
4. That the only allowable reason for working late are Health and Safety Reasons.
5. To ensure the rules are enforced throughout each and every day

13.3 Motion regarding Children and Young People

Proposer: Councillor Aminur Khan
Secunder: Councillor Shafi Ahmed

The Council Notes;

- That in their April report Ofsted graded the council's services as 'inadequate' after finding leaders, including the chief executive, director of children's services and elected members, were "unaware" that children were being left in harmful situations.
- That the then Lead Member Cllr Rachel Saunders of Children's Services failed to attend her statutory duties by not attending the child safeguarding board.
- Action was only taken after issues were flagged up by inspectors, Ofsted's report said.
- A culture of "drift and delay" left children waiting to receive the help they needed, meaning family relationships declined and in some cases put young people at risk of being drawn into gang activity, a significant issue in the borough, inspectors found.
- The OFSTED report was issued on the 7th April 2017 and had the following results;

| | |
|---|----------------------|
| 1. Children who need help and protection | Inadequate |
| 2. Children looked after and achieving permanence | Requires improvement |
| 2.1 Adoption performance | Requires improvement |
| 2.2 Experiences and progress of care leavers | Requires improvement |
| 3. Leadership, management and governance | Inadequate |

The Council Resolves;

- The GLA 2015 Round Projections for the borough states that there are 40,400 children aged 0-9 years of age and will rise to 45,000 in 2021; it also projects there are 30,300 aged 10-19 year olds and will rise to 35,100 in 2021.
- Tower Hamlets Children's Services received Good with Outstanding features in the last two OFSTED inspections and it is essential to make sure our services for children and young people are protected and investment is increased to ensure that children and young people are able to reach their full potential.
- That an inquiry is led through Overview and Scrutiny to hear from all parties affected by the Ofsted report.

13.4 Motion regarding action to improve Children's Services

Proposer: Councillor Amy Whitelock Gibbs

Seconder: Councillor Danny Hassell

This Council notes:

1. The Ofsted inspection report dated 7th April 2017 which found children's services in Tower Hamlets to be inadequate overall.
2. The Ofsted inspection revealed extensive deep-rooted and longstanding problems across children's services that had built up over many years and multiple political administrations, but had not been sufficiently identified or addressed by senior managers.
3. That the Mayor made it clear to the Chief Executive and the Corporate Director for Children's Services that the Ofsted findings are extremely serious and that immediate action needed to be taken to keep children safe.
4. That the Mayor and council fully accepts the findings of Ofsted and has made it an absolute priority to meet all the recommendations in its report to provide our children, young people and families with a consistent, high quality service.
5. That the council will work with partners, frontline staff and children and young people to ensure there is rapid and sustainable improvement in children's social care services.

This Council further notes:

1. That internal and external assessments of the service show the problems had developed over many years and "against a backdrop of significant instability and change at political, corporate and managerial levels." (Ofsted report, p.26)
2. That a combination of factors led to insufficient focus and action, including a failure of professional leadership at all levels, political and corporate focus on the many areas of concern which had led to the Government intervention in 2014, and a culture of 'false assurance' backed up by inaccurate performance data and an over-optimistic perception of service quality.
3. That councillors of all political parties could and should have done more to interrogate and challenge children's social care services, whether in executive, scrutiny or backbench roles – particularly given our statutory roles as Corporate Parents.
4. That the Ofsted inspection highlights some strong examples of political leadership – including the Corporate Parenting Board and the links to the Health and Wellbeing Board – demonstrating the positive role elected members can play, which should be built on.
5. That Ofsted and the Local Government Association both regard cross-party support and mature, constructive challenge as critical for success in achieving sustainable improvement in children's social care services.

This Council welcomes:

1. The extra investment already proposed by the Mayor – and agreed by Full Council before the Ofsted inspection – of £4.8m into children's social care services, following years of underinvestment.
2. The establishment of a new Children's Services Improvement Board and the appointment of an Independent Chair, Alan Wood, to oversee service improvement, with support from key partners including the Local Safeguarding Children Board, the police, health partners and schools.
3. The development of a robust operational Improvement Plan focussed on four themes: leadership, management and governance, a robust model of social work practice, a sufficient and skilled workforce, quality assurance and audit – progress against which will be regularly reported to Cabinet, the Best Value Programme Board and Overview & Scrutiny Committee.
4. The ambition and commitment from political and corporate leaders through to managers and frontline staff to achieve a "good" rating at our next Ofsted inspection, which is the minimum our children and young people deserve.

This Council believes:

1. Protecting children from harm is one of the most important duties of the Council.
2. The decision by the previous Mayor to merge the Adults and Children's social care teams in one very large Directorate was disastrous, leading to a lack of oversight and leadership in critical safeguarding and risk areas.
3. That instability and churn within the workforce at all levels, combined with a severely underfunded service over the years, has stored up significant problems in the long term.
4. The Ofsted report confirms many of the issues that have been uncovered across the whole council since the previous Mayor was removed from office in 2015, but it also highlights that the pace of improvement since then has not been fast enough and the focus on children's social care was insufficient.

This Council resolves:

1. To agree all councillors should take their responsibility seriously to support and constructively challenge the vital improvement of children's social care services in the coming months.
2. To ensure training is in place to support councillors to perform their corporate parenting, children's safeguarding and other duties.
3. To support our staff to do the best job they can for the most vulnerable people in our borough and protect children from harm.
4. To support ongoing action, including increased investment as required, to meet the recommendations made by Ofsted and to fully address the deep-rooted and longstanding problems across children's services.

13.5 Motion regarding Acid Attacks

Proposer: Councillor Mahbub Alam

Seconded: Councillor Ohid Ahmed

The Council notes:

Senseless, tragic and bigoted acid attacks have become prevalent in London and all over the United Kingdom. This year the number of attacks doubled. Too many families and individuals are suffering and falling victim to this grievous and criminal act.

London is being dubbed as 'Acid attack capital of Britain'. Instances of acid attacks are on the sharp increase in 2016, a big increase on the year before.

On 21 June in east London, Resham Khan, a university student, was driving a car with her cousin Jameel Mukhtar when they were victims of a horrific acid attack by a white male. Without any provocation or logic, out of nowhere, both were attacked with acid thrown at their face and body. Both will have scars that will never leave them. Their lives have been changed forever. The pair strongly believe this was an Islamophobic hate crime.

Worryingly, a high percentage of these attacks have been concentrated in a small pocket of east London with a high Muslim population - 398 attacks in Newham, 134 in Barking and Dagenham and **84 acid attacks in Tower Hamlets in recent years**.

Two of the most recent attacks were on Commercial Road with the junction of Sidney Street, in Tower Hamlets on 29 June – another such attack on Burdett Road, E3 at 02:13hrs on 4 July 2017. A separate attack, possibly unreported, took place in Watney Market in the week before. There are quite a few other attacks which were neither reported to the police, nor appeared in the media.

The Council believes:

The attackers seem to specifically target Muslims and/or Asians but an attack like this could happen to anyone.

The horrific injuries often sustained from such attacks can leave victims with permanent scarring, psychological problems and destroy their lives.

These barbaric and inhumane attacks, the impact on those who suffer as well as the wider community relations and cohesion, should not be dumbed down or diluted by anyone.

It is about time that the law changes for the purchase of corrosive acid and dangerous chemicals - right now anyone can buy it easily from any hardware store. A person can easily walk into a store and purchase this lethal substance or similar chemical off the shelf.

Corrosive acids like sulphuric acid are very lethal and life damaging substances. You should only be allowed to purchase them with a licence to buy or verifiable professional/trade identification. The person purchasing should go through checks before.

Many attacks could have been stopped if there were controls that made it harder to buy, and meant we knew more about people buying it.

Acid attacks have become too common, the Home Office and the local authorities through trading standards and other means available at their disposal needs to do something to bring it under control. It is a disgusting criminal act. We need licensing laws and the use of existing regulatory powers now to deter this from happening.

John Biggs needs to strengthen the scope of community safety and enforcement, with more resources, to protect and support our residents. He can easily do so by reversing his illogical cuts in budgets for the community safety team, enforcement team of police officers and THEOs.

The Council resolves:

The assailants of such inhumane attacks need to be prosecuted and publicised for an effective deterrence and punishment. Critically, the victims and the families of these barbaric attacks be supported in every way possible.

To reverse the Mayor's decision to sack 34 dedicated local partnership police officers - a critically important frontline resource - appointed by the former Mayor and his team who could be used to work with and provide support to the community.

With the Independent Group and others who may wish to join, to write to the Home Secretary, the Prime Minister and the local MPs to do whatever they can to change the laws on the purchase of corrosive acid and dangerous chemicals used in acid attacks.

To explore local authority's powers to stop the sale of these dangerous substances other than to licenced or registered trade buyers with a clear database and checks.

John Biggs to ensure an accurate and up to date monitoring and publication of Islamophobic crimes in Tower Hamlets. *(something which the Independent Group has been urging the Mayor for more than a year but the Mayor has failed to listen or deliver the information despite a promise by his cabinet member)*

John Biggs need to reverse his catastrophic decisions: to cut community safety team; to stop CCTV upgrades, to sack 10 THEOs; to remove the community safety coordinator post; and to bring the teams up to the level under the former Mayor Lutfur Rahman and his cabinet.

There needs to be more THEOs and the Police on the beat. CCTV and surveillance need to be a lot more robust in order to apprehend the assailants which mean the planned CCTV upgrade by the previous administration - stopped by John Biggs - must go ahead immediately.

13.6 Motion regarding management of critical services

Proposed by Councillor Julia Dockerill
Seconded by Councillor Chris Chapman

This Council notes that;

That after this Council's Children's Services failed its OFSTED Inspection that those responsible for the service were moved sideways, stayed in post or have taken a secondment elsewhere but nobody has lost their job.

That the former Cabinet Member responsible has been moved to another vitally important Cabinet role with serious responsibilities in this case for Adult Social Care.

That the elected Council has not been informed as to the current state of Adult Social Care but based on anecdotal evidence we have reasons to be concerned about its services. There is no OFSTED inspection of Adult Social Care.

That the OFSTED failure was a surprise to this Council but in part was due to the culture of the service. That culture may be found elsewhere within the Council.

We call on the Mayor to;

1. Expand the talent base of the Council as we simply do not have enough competent people to cover every role with sufficient depth, responsibility and expertise.
2. Invite the Local Government Association or other bodies to inspect all of Tower Hamlet's critical services to enable reassurance that failings in Children's Services are not repeated elsewhere within the authority.

13.7 Motion regarding Knife Crime, Acid and Hate Attacks

Proposer: Councillor Shafi Ahmed

Seconder: Councillor Rabina Khan

This Council Notes:

- Tower Hamlets has also seen a sharp rise in hate crime in the past year.
- Islamophobic hate crime has risen 59% to 86 reported incidents, while there were 122 reported homophobic incidents, a rise of 39%.
- Other racist and religious hate crimes increased by 43% to a total of 838 reported crimes.
- The borough has seen an increase in knife crime with figures with Tower Hamlets (1,087) been one of the highest in London.
- Tower Hamlets has also seen the rise of acid attacks with incidents in Shadwell and Mile End.

This Council Resolves:

- That a review of the Gangs Strategy is immediately undertaken with a comprehensive plan of detached and outreach youth work to take place.
- That the Mayor honours his commitment to the requests made by Syed Jamanoor Islam's family at the vigil held in Altab Ali Park in April 2017 following his death to tackle knife crime.
- That all Elected Members are given appropriate support to access the support of police and other agencies to tackle knife, acid and hate crime in their respective wards through additional policing and gang prevention work.
- This support must be developed with each elected member in their respective wards with their communities.
- Each ward in Tower Hamlets must now have its own youth centre that delivers a multi-agency services to work with children and young people engage in positive activities but working in partnership with the police, local groups, schools and statutory agencies.
- The legal definition of an offensive weapon includes anything intended to be used to harm another person, like a sharpened comb. Acid must also now be seen as an offensive weapon.
- The Mayor to write a joint letter with all Group Leaders to Secretary of State to review the legislation of acid so that to carry acid or corrosive substance will be an offensive weapon.

13.8 Motion on fire safety since Grenfell

Proposer: Mayor John Biggs

Seconder: Councillor Sirajul Islam

This council notes that:

- The tragic events at Grenfell Tower in Kensington were a devastating reminder of the importance of fire safety in our residential blocks, particularly high rise properties.
- In immediate response to the tragedy the council arranged for donation points to be set up across the borough and sent a number of staff to Kensington to support residents and loved ones affected by the fire.
- The scale of the tragedy and the widespread media coverage has quite naturally created local concern about the resilience of fire safety arrangements across our borough.
- The Mayor, Deputy Mayor and council officers have been working to ensure we are doing everything possible to reassure residents and review the safety of high-rise blocks in the borough and have attended multiple resident meetings since Grenfell to reassure residents that their homes are safe and any issues are being addressed.
- All members of the Council, MP's and GLA member were provided with detailed briefing by the Mayor following the aftermath of the Grenfell Tower fire.

In relation to Tower Hamlets homes, this council notes that:

- All 900 Tower Hamlets Homes (THH) blocks have had updated Fire Risk Assessments (FRAs) in the past year following years of neglect under the previous administration.
- There is no ACM cladding on THH owned buildings.
- Work is ongoing to address significant issues raised as part of these reviews and that has been accelerated since the Grenfell tragedy, particularly for high-rise blocks. Previously scheduled work to upgrade fire doors and other fire safety features will be bought forward wherever possible.
- THH already have a programme of installing hardwired smoke detectors for tenants and that as a result most tenants already have them and THH are reviewing the implementation of the rest. Most tenants also have 'fire resistant front doors' and THH are looking at upgrading the remainder. In both cases, high-rise blocks will be the priority.
- There is no immediate cause for concern but THH have increased caretaker presence at weekends in all their neighbourhoods to check for bulky waste, rubbish and other hazards. On top of this there are additional visits to high-rise blocks as well as increased cover for our concierge blocks as a precaution.
- All THH leaseholders and tenants have been written to setting out the above and providing fire safety advice, including especially for leaseholders, including how to

get a Fire Brigade free home fire safety check which includes a free smoke alarm.

- In the case of 8 blocks which received 'substantial' risk ratings (and it should be noted this is not the highest level of the FRA ratings) work is already being procured by THH to address the concerns which were discovered. On one block, Brodick House this work is nearly complete. Residents in all of the affected blocks have been notified and kept informed.
- The Mayor has allocated a £12m capital fund over coming years to improve fire safety in THH properties.

With relation to Housing Association properties, this council notes that:

- The Mayor, Deputy Mayor and council officers are working closely with all of the housing associations in the borough and have requested they carry out tests on any cladding on their blocks and review the current state of their FRAs, taking action to meet any significant deficiencies.
- Most Registered Providers (RPs) proactively undertook reviews of fire safety and prevention and have advised residents on their estates of any issues.
- The Mayor and senior council officers met representatives of all the local RPs of social housing to review progress following the Grenfell fire and the DCLG requirement to carry out cladding material tests. The partners agreed to share emergency planning and business continuity information, to work together on a consistent approach to fire risk management.

With regards to private high-rise properties, this council notes:

- Many of the newer private tower blocks in the borough feature more modern fire suppression technology, though the council are no less concerned that we learn any lessons we can and encourage our partners to do the same.
- The deregulation of building control means external Approved Inspectors can be responsible for monitoring and signing off works throughout construction to ensure they are fire and safety compliant and they retain a responsibility for the works which they have supervised.
- The council has written to all of the Approved Inspectors who have operated in the borough and asked them to review any high-rise developments they have signed off and provide feedback to us.

This council believes that:

- The safety of our residents is not negotiable.
- The Grenfell disaster shocked and devastated the nation and made many high-rise residents understandably concerned about the safety of their homes.
- Government needs to explain how cladding which was so dangerous was deemed acceptable for so many years.
- The lessons from Grenfell need to be learnt and then heard by Government including by giving councils the financial resources to make any necessary upgrades recommended to existing properties.

- The public enquiry into the Grenfell disaster should be concluded swiftly and maintain the confidence of local people in its conclusions.

This council resolves:

- To express our deepest condolences for the families and friends of everyone affected by the Grenfell tragedy
- To welcome the proactive approach of the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and THH in completing new Fire Risk Assessments on all 900 of the THH blocks in the past year and for addressing the significant issues uncovered, and to acknowledge the work of our other housing partners
- To call on the Mayor and Council to continue to learn the lessons of Grenfell, to engage with the Public Inquiry into the disaster, and to apply the relevant recommendations of the Inquiry locally.

13.9 Motion regarding the Public Sector Pay Cap – including Tower Hamlets staff and emergency workers

Proposer: Councillor Oliur Rahman

Seconder: Councillor Gulam Robbani

The Council notes:

The political choice of austerity has failed miserably.

The Tory Government and their allies need to recognise that the economic approach of the past decade has been an abject failure. The recent economic data shows that growth has slowed, Inflation is rising. Wages - when adjusted for prices - are lower than they were when the last recession began in early 2008.

Britain has a cost-of-living crisis as well as a political crisis but most importantly it is affecting our residents, our staff, wider public sector workers, civil servants and their loved ones which in turn affect the local economy and the wider society.

Local Government is the most efficient part of the public sector according to Government. Tower Hamlets council staff have had their pay frozen or capped for nearly a decade.

Firefighters, Nurses, Police, Paramedics, all put their lives on the line to protect people, but right now they're suffering because of a pay cap which means that wages stay frozen while costs of living continue to go up.

MPs had their pay increased by 10%. John Biggs gave himself a 14.24% pay increase and granted a 40% increase to the pay packet of a local Tory councillor.

Stephen Crabb, the former Conservative Work and Pension Secretary, as well as, Government Cabinet Ministers, Michael Gove and Boris Johnson have called for the pay cap to be lifted. Regrettably and hypocritically, they did not vote for removal of the cap in the Parliament.

The Chancellor had previously claimed that the public is "weary" of austerity and wants to see an end to the "long slog" of cutbacks. The latest comments from within the Government's top brass about austerity and pay cap follow accusations of a Government "shambles" on the issue after a Number 10 source said the PM was ready to listen to the pay review bodies' recommendations, only for her official spokesman and the Treasury to insist "the policy has not changed".

Speaking to Panorama, a former Tory MP and now Theresa May's Chief of Staff at No 10 Downing Street, Mr Barwell said "There's a conversation I particularly remember with a teacher who had voted for me in 2010 and 2015 and said 'you know I understand the need for a pay freeze for a few years to deal with the deficit but you're now asking for that to go on potentially for 10 or 11 years and that's too much'.

The Council believes:

Given the outstanding job that our emergency services perform week in, week out, we feel that they deserve just reward for their efforts.

Given the recent tragedies and the incredible bravery and heroism these people and their colleagues across the country have shown, with little thought for their own lives, it is time

to find the money to make sure these brave and honourable men and women are being paid a decent wage for the incredible job they do.

We all saw the brave police tackling the terrorists at London Bridge, the firefighters rushing in to tackle the Grenfell fire, the paramedics running to help the people caught up in the Manchester terror attack. And every day nurses working round the clock to keep our NHS going. These people shouldn't have to worry about whether they can pay their rent or the electricity bill at the end of the month.

The Council resolves:

With the Independent Group, the Mayor to write to the Chancellor and Prime Minister asking them to remove the pay cap and officially end austerity in order to help the working people, the public-sector workers and local authorities including our hard-working council staff.

With the Independent Group, the Mayor to write to the local MPs and shadow chancellor John McDonnell requesting them to do whatever in their power to influence and force the Government to lift the pay cap - present an Early Day Motion or a joint opposition motion - and vote for it in the Parliament at the next possible opportunity in light of clear divisions in the Government at the highest level.

13.10 Motion regarding population growth in Tower Hamlets and required infrastructure

Proposed by: Councillor Chris Chapman

Seconded by: Councillor Andrew Wood

This Council notes that;

The recent release of updated population statistics by the GLA based on ONS data. Once again Tower Hamlets is the fastest growing place in the UK. Much of that growth is concentrated in the far west and south east of the Borough.

| | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 |
|----------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Total population | 263,676 | 273,563 | 284,688 | 295,909 | 305,527 |
| Increase on 2012 no. | | 9,887 | 21,012 | 32,233 | 41,851 |
| Increase on 2012 % | | 4% | 8% | 12% | 16% |

The Council further notes;

The imminent release of the Isle of Dogs and South Poplar Opportunity Area Planning Framework and the accompanying Development Infrastructure Funding Study (DIFS). The study will show the large amount of development that could come on top of the 19,500 homes already with planning permission in the area plus the almost doubling of employment space in Canary Wharf.

That the 2016 Infrastructure Delivery Plan part of the draft Local Plan forecast a total spend on infrastructure of £1,016 million by 2032 across the Borough and that the DIFS will show that a similar scale of spending is required in the OAPF area.

That population growth has consistently exceeded forecasts. The 2009 Local Development Framework forecast Tower Hamlets hitting the population it achieved in 2016 only by 2025 and even then, only in the high-density growth option.

That the scale of the required spending and complexity of what is required far exceeds that of the move to the Royal London Hospital site.

The Council calls on the Mayor to;

1. Improve clarity over the spending and planning of infrastructure. Currently we only have visibility over infrastructure spending when Cabinet papers are released.
2. To set up dedicated teams to plan and deliver the infrastructure required in each major growth area. We need to replicate the dedicated delivery mechanisms of organisations like the London Docklands Development Corporation or the Old Oak and Park Royal Development Corporation.
3. Since nowhere in western Europe will be as tall and dense as the Isle of Dogs we will need to seek international advice from cities like New York, Singapore, Hong Kong and Shanghai.
4. Recognise that residents will care more about the delivery of new schools, GP

surgeries, playgrounds, bridges, recycling facilities, sports halls, community halls then whether or not LBTH has a nice new office.

13.11 Motion regarding Fire Safety in Council, Social and Private Sector Dwellings

Proposer: Councillor Abdul Asad
Secunder: Councillor Rabina Khan

This Council notes:

- Following the tragic events of the fire that ripped through Grenfell Tower Block in Latimer Road (West London), it has become apparent that the issue of safety was one raised by resident groups to landlords and public authorities- just like in many parts of our country- these concerns fall on deaf ears until tragedy strikes.

This Council resolves:

- Mayor John Biggs & London Borough of Tower Hamlets to carry out a comprehensive inspection, for fire safety on all Tower Hamlets Blocks and Buildings and ensure that all Registered Landlords and Private Sector also carry out effective fire safety inspections of their portfolios.
- The council or the housing association or private landlords are responsible for carrying out their fire risk assessment every year or two years. As long as the fire risk assessment is up to date and remedial works carried out according to it then it is sufficient under the Fire Safety Reform Act 2005 using the PAS79 approach of LFB.
- We call for a review of current inspection criteria including fire testing of building and refurbishment material and the investigation of sprinklers to be installed into high rise buildings.
- That all testing on cladding on Council, Social & Private sector dwellings are made public.
- That the council invests into a Private Sector Team consisting of private rent tenant's advisors and EHO officers to ensure that the private sector is regulated using statutory powers.

13.12 Motion regarding John Biggs failing the Borough and austerity axing the Olympic Legacy

Proposer: Councillor Maium Miah
Seconded: Councillor Oliur Rahman

The Council Notes:

Residents and Tower Hamlets Independent Group of councillors are disappointed to learn that the number of people playing a sport or taking another form of exercise at least once a week has fallen since the Olympic Games were held in east London.

Although participation in sport has risen since 2005, the Olympics were supposed to leave a legacy of greater participation in sport after the event – and it's not happening in East London. A particular worry is that the highest decline has been among ethnic minority communities (a drop of 1.4%) and least well-off sections of the community (a drop of 2.9%).

The Games cost £8.77 billion to stage – but already 8,700 fewer people are participating in sport or exercise at least once a week than were doing so in 2012. The main factors influencing whether people take exercise include whether they have facilities nearby and whether they can afford to use them. Sport England figures show that overall Council spending on local sports has fallen by over a quarter (£389 million) over the last five years – and this is thought to be contributing to the decline in participation rates.

Cllr Ohid Ahmed, Shadow Lead for Community Safety and Partnerships, said: "It is sad to see that the number of people participating in sports at a grassroots level has begun to fall. This is not the Olympic legacy we were hoping for – or that we were promised. With John Biggs creating uncertainty over the future of our youth clubs and other community centres, it's going to be difficult to keep our young people healthy."

In relation to Tower Hamlets Council, the Trustees of the Tower Hamlets Youth Sport Foundation (THYSF) are lobbying the Members for support after the breakdown of their discussions with the Mayor and Council last month - after they first raised the need for Council action with the Mayor in August 2015.

John Biggs inherited over £400m reserves from the former Mayor Lutfur Rahman and his administration which were put aside through robust and painstaking fiscal management to protect the residents and key local services from cuts and closures.

The Council Believes:

The Trustees of the THYSF are lobbying for the support of our residents and elected representatives to help them save what is currently the most successful youth sport partnership in the country.

Our children are in danger of losing, as the article by Seb Coe in the Evening Standard (15 May 2017), circulated by THYSF to Members, shows the alarming deterioration in youth sport in our country as a whole, the final page of this shows how everything Lord Coe would wish to see available nationally is currently still in place in Tower Hamlets - for some of the most economically deprived youngsters in the UK. **Not for much longer however, since the breakdown of our discussions with the Mayor and Council officers last month - after we first raised the need for Council action with the Mayor in August 2015 - now seems certain to result in the staff being made redundant and the organisation and its activities dismantled.**

The email from THYSF, among other facts and information, stated that **“For those of you unfamiliar with the organisation, the second attachment gives just a flavour of the range of activities and opportunities available to youngsters in Tower Hamlets right this minute. None of which is provided by or through the Council. Most of which will go if this organisation is allowed to go under.”**

“For historical reasons (this all started with the national School Sports Partnerships scheme in 2005) the staff of THYSF are all employed by Langdon Park School (where I was the Headteacher for 21 years until 2013), but they did this on behalf of the Borough’s schools and by agreement with the Council. Langdon Park, having done an extraordinary job for Tower Hamlets for 12 years, now quite understandably needs to be relieved of this responsibility. Trustees of THYSF believe the obvious answer is for the staff to be adopted as a business unit in the Council’s sports department, which currently and by design focuses nearly all of its work on adult provision. The Mayor disagrees, and wants Trustees to take responsibility for employing the staff, something we are very clear we do not have the capacity to do.”

The Council Resolves:

John Biggs should listen to THYSF, Tower Hamlets Independent Group, our young people and residents by transparently addressing the points raised herein.

John Biggs needs to act – beyond platitudes – and update the members and residents about the issues raised in this motion.

13.13 Motion regarding cyclists in Greenwich Foot tunnel

Proposer: Councillor Peter Golds
Seconder: Councillor Andrew Wood

This Council notes that;

The Cabinet of the Royal Borough of Greenwich considered changes to the By-Laws governing the use of the tunnel.

That these by-law changes must be then agreed by Tower Hamlets Council before submission to the Secretary of State for final approval.

That the change in By-Laws is introduced by this comment;

“Currently the bye-laws prohibit cycling in the tunnels. This is contrary to the Council’s policy of encouraging safe and considerate cycling at a time when there is demand from users to be allowed to cycle through the tunnels when it is safe to do so. It is proposed to amend the bye-laws to provide the Council with discretion to allow cycling. That discretion would be exercised when cycling is considered safe to all users and advertise by appropriate signage.”

The proposed By-Law says this;

“4. No person shall ride or sit or stand upon any pedal cycle, skateboard, scooter or other wheeled device used for recreational purposes in the Tunnel, unless authorised by the Council. All cyclists must dismount when directed to do so howsoever by the Council.”

This Council notes:

- Many pedestrian users are Tower Hamlets residents visiting Greenwich or tourists.
- The numbers of cyclists who continue to cycle when pedestrians are in the tunnel even when small children are present.
- The narrowness of the tunnel.
- That it was designed as a Foot tunnel not as a cycling tunnel.
- The conflict and anti-cycling prejudice that creates due to a lack of enforcement of the current no cycling rules.
- The fear that some residents have of walking through the tunnel due to cyclists not stopping.
- The lack of enforcement of the rules as they currently stand.

This Council calls on the Mayor;

1. To notify the council of the Royal Borough of Greenwich that he and Tower Hamlets Council will not agree to a change of the By-Laws.
2. That if any changes were to happen that local residents on both sides of the tunnel should be consulted first
3. That the London Borough of Tower Hamlets will continue to work with Greenwich Council to enforce the current rules against cycling in the tunnel.

13.14 Motion regarding a Sustainable Tower Hamlets

Proposer: Councillor Rabina Khan

Seconder: Councillor Shafi Ahmed

This Council notes:

- That investment is needed to build a safer, stronger and sustainable Tower Hamlets than the extensive cuts on nurseries, youth centres and provision and frontline services.
- People and Communities coming together to support each other in such testing times to address fire safety in tower blocks, knife & acid attacks, hate crimes and the heinous terrorist attacks at Westminster, Manchester and London Bridge.
- That all politicians from different persuasions have been called to account for how they will support communities in such difficult and testing time; that action is called sooner than later.
- For the preservation of people's life and to prevent these horrors from happening again- we call upon the authorities to do everything necessary to ensure public safety.
- This includes fire safety, community safety, anti-social behaviour, keeping communities clean from bulk waste, crime prevention, community policing and most of all listening and delivering on resident valid concerns. There is no need to throw money away on consultants- just listen to residents and invest in services effectively.

This Council resolves:

- The Mayor's Budget 2017 fails to capture ambition, vision and growth for the borough.
- The Mayor's Budget fails to consider the implications of Brexit in the borough and its impact on both a growing young population and older generation with varying needs
- That the Labour Mayor stops cuts to all frontline services immediately.
- As we move towards the retention of Business rates the council will move towards a self-financing model of delivering services.
- That Tower Hamlets Council must develop a strong Capital/Growth Strategy in particular income generation so that the borough can be a key player on national and global platform to ensure that it generates income to both protect and deliver the frontline services to all residents in Tower Hamlets.

13.15 Motion regarding the future of the Tower Hamlets Youth Service

Proposer: Councillor Gulam Robbani

Seconded: Councillor Oliur Rahman

This Council notes that:

1. Former Mayor Lutfur Rahman had a positive vision for the Youth Service which was expressed, for example, at the Cabinet in April 2012:

“He considered that what really mattered were the young people of Tower Hamlets who represented the future of the Borough and that youth services were provided that benefited them. It was his intention as Mayor that young people in Tower Hamlets received the best youth services and best education possible.”

2. That the main motivations of bringing the Youth Service back in-house were:
 - to save money on duplicating management functions and re-invest it in the front line of the service;
 - to respond to the Government’s localism agenda;
 - to strengthen the Council’s partnership agenda;
 - to obtain extra value by, for example, the youth service working effectively.
3. That although bringing the Service back in-house was a decision of the Executive Mayor, councillors were able to discuss the transfer openly within Council structures – for example, Councillor Oliur Rahman was able to explain the decision to the April meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, at which Councillor Rachael Saunders declared a personal interest on this item as she had “been in receipt of information from some of the service providers managing the contract in question.”

This Council further notes that:

1. The current Mayor’s intention to make a fundamental change in the way that the Youth Service is run (initially on an interim basis) was not mentioned at the Cabinet on 10th May 2016, although planning must have been well underway by then.
2. The Mayor’s intention to make this fundamental change was set out in a briefing paper from the Mayor’s office dated 12th May 2016 which was circulated to all councillors.
3. This paper stated that the interim delivery plan would begin in July, which clearly precludes any wider member involvement (indeed, the paper refers to the decision having been developed in discussion with John Biggs and Councillor Saunders) and a future delivery model will be in place from April 2017 (and there will be full member involvement in options for this model, but how this will happen is not explained).
4. This paper also stated that a gap analysis is underway with a view to there being a programme of procurement and commissioning in June 2016 targeted at local third sector organisations.

5. This paper also states that it is the intention to offer youth services for the rest of this financial year from only eight venues in the borough – despite the fact that youth are often very reluctant to travel far to a formal provision. The paper states that the Council intends to offer an outreach service to encourage you to travel to the formal provision and also to rely, in the interim, on whatever additional services are provided in an un-co-ordinated manner by local charities or voluntary organisations.

This Council further notes that:

1. The Mayor's decision was revealed at the Council's Annual Meeting on 18th May 2016 by Councillor Rachael Saunders in what appeared to be an unplanned announcement. This included Councillor Saunders reading out an email from her mobile phone but not saying who had sent her the email (in sad contrast to her previous openness about who was briefing her).
2. Councillor Saunders stated that "The service has faced allegations of fraud and corruption" and other serious allegations. She also said that "Investigations into these serious allegations are ongoing," and that the Youth Service does not have the capacity to deliver as much as it has in the past. She stated that "we" were working out a service plan which would be based on reduced capacity and on when that had been developed would consideration be given to identifying and filling gaps. She expected the identification of gaps to be finished by June (a couple of weeks after she was speaking) – but did not mention John Biggs's intention to fill these gaps by contracting out parts of the service to third sector organisations (or who, in the event of this being done, would manage these organisations).
3. The Council Communications Office issued a press release on 26th May referring to the change only having been prompted by "historic shortcoming". This announced that an interim delivery model would be adopted "by the summer". It gave details of the interim delivery model and stated that young people's views had been listened to throughout the review process. (The members have yet to see a concrete tangible and evidence of that)
4. There have been a number of reports in the local press since the Council AGM which have reported the detail of various allegations – presumably either on the basis of their own imaginations or on the basis of briefings from unknown parties in the Council which have not been shared with all councillors.
5. That as a result of the way the Mayor and relevant Cabinet Members have dealt with this issue, it is entirely unclear what is happening to the youth service – which has led to a great deal of serious concern among service users and in the wider community.

This Council believes that:

1. If and when there are allegations of corruption or other serious malpractice, these should be investigated in accordance with Council procedures and individuals should be dealt with appropriately. (Independent Group fully supports this approach and have publicly offered to work together for the benefit of young people of Tower Hamlets).
2. That if a service is to be reviewed in order to spend or save money by cutting certain provisions, and/or deliver the service more efficiently or effectively, this

should be discussed openly, including with councillors and services users and the wider community rather than playing politics or blame-game.

3. (1) and (2) above should not be confused.

This Council further believes that:

1. The current position, in which the Administration appears to have responded to allegations against individuals by pre-emptively altering the service as a whole, and in which the Youth Service is to be run on an interim delivery model based on reduced capacity and enhanced by some sort of ad-hoc procurement, is ill thought out and poorly planned.
2. The interim service delivery model will, for the rest of this financial year, lead to an increase in Anti-Social Behaviour across the Borough – to the irritation of the whole community, for whom this is already a massive problem.
3. The interim service delivery model will, for the rest of this financial year, incur a risk of extra spending on management and quality assurance of the service – risks which have not been addressed in the little documentation available or in such public statements as have emerged.

This Council resolves that:

1. The current Mayor, John Biggs, should honour his commitment to govern in a transparent manner and he should put on the public record a full account of what has been going on, including what allegations have been made, when these were made, by whom and how - and critically how these are being investigated (releasing as much information as is possible without compromising the investigations or the individuals concerned); what prompted the service review and how it took place; and what his intentions are towards the service.
2. The current Mayor, John Biggs, to immediately stop any further work to drastically reduce and cut the Youth Service provision in the name of interim delivery model and engage in a serious, open, transparent consultation with the young people, residents and stakeholders.
3. The current Mayor, John Biggs, to reverse the decision to close unprecedented number of Youth Centres and look for an alternative way to provide effective, efficient and fit-for-purpose Borough-wide localised youth service provision.
4. The current Mayor, John Biggs, must keep the Youth Service in-house rather than privatising or contracting it out.
5. In the event that the current Mayor, John Biggs, should not agree to do think again, he must issue a statement clarifying how he intends to procure a service to fill in the gaps from the third sector, given that the Commissioners have been running grant-making functions; and he must also issue a comprehensive statement covering which of his chosen eight venues will pick up delivering the service previously provided by centres which John Biggs and Councillor Saunders have closed and how service users whose centres have been closed are expected to access the replacement services, including details of travel arrangements, etc.

13.16 Motion regarding additional security against terrorism

Proposer: Councillor Craig Aston

Seconder: Councillor Peter Golds

This Council notes that;

Recent terror attacks in London which have included the use of vehicles to knock down and kill vulnerable pedestrians either in well visited areas or outside a Mosque. The presence within Tower Hamlets of a number of dense streets with large numbers of pedestrians present.

That the City of London is once again investing in physical security measures and intends to build a £5 million 'ring of steel' around the City to protect it from future terrorist attacks. This will include manned checkpoints, rising street bollards, restricted roads and crash-proof barricades. These precautions come after MI5 warned that the "eastern cluster" of towers planned or being built around Bishopsgate is "highly sensitive to the threat of a hostile, vehicle-borne" attack and will replace the previous ring of steel installed to ward off IRA attacks.

That the City of London is seeking S106 funds from developers in order to help fund this work.

That at within Tower Hamlets only the Canary Wharf estate has a similar level of physical protection.

The installation on London's bridges of concrete barriers to protect pedestrians from vehicle attacks.

The Council further notes;

That in February 1996 the IRA bombed Marsh Wall which killed two and injured and maimed many more, some who died of their wounds years later. This location was deliberately chosen as a softer target than Canary Wharf estate to the immediate north but one with the same level of publicity value.

That like the City of London Tower Hamlets has emerging clusters of tall towers in Aldgate, Blackwall, Marsh Wall and the areas to the north of Canary Wharf. None have any form of physical security built in or in the immediate area except for some ANPR cameras on some (but not all) of the approach routes. There is not even a publicly funded CCTV network in place in most of these areas.

The location in Tower Hamlets of several high-profile locations such as Brick Lane, Whitechapel, Marsh Wall, Roman Road and the Blackwall Tunnel Approach.

This Council believes that;

We also need to review our security measures in line with the City of London and have appropriate security measures in place to protect and deter potential attacks. And with so many tall buildings close together we may be perceived as a softer target especially as so many buildings are residential in nature.

The Council calls on the Mayor to;

Initiate a full security and safety review of the Borough which will be submitted to Cabinet, Overview and Scrutiny and the full council for consideration and final recommendations.
And;

1. Consult with MI5 on the potential security threats to Tower Hamlets given its strategic location and national assets
2. Consider adding to future S106 agreements additional funding for additional security measures over and above those funded through CIL
3. Identify in advance likely targets and consider what steps would be required to mitigate the impact of any future attack using vehicles or other methods
4. Publicise such preparation where appropriate, in order to reassure residents and deter potential attackers
5. Work with the City of London Corporation to ensure that any security cordon includes developments physically located in Tower Hamlets but which are an extension of the City Fringe. That the same happens in the areas adjoining Canary Wharf or other possible targets like Whitechapel Mosque.