


Non-Executive Report of the: COUNCIL 21 March 2018	
Report of: Asmat Hussain, Corporate Director, Governance and Monitoring Officer	Classification: Unrestricted
Motions submitted by Members of the Council	

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

SUMMARY

1. Twenty-one motions have been submitted by Members of the Council under Council Procedure Rule 13 for debate at the Council meeting on Wednesday 21st March 2018.
2. The motions submitted are listed overleaf. In accordance with the Council Procedure Rules, the motions alternate between the administration and the other Political Groups, with the Opposition Group motions starting with the largest Political Group not to have that meeting's Opposition Motion Debate slot.
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in the previous six months; or which proposes that a decision of the Council taken in the previous six months be rescinded; unless notice of the motion is given signed by at least twenty Members.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.

12.1 Motion Regarding Government Cuts To School Budgets

Proposer: Councillor Amy Whitelock Gibbs

Seconder: Mayor John Biggs

This Council notes:

1. £2.8bn of funding has been cut from school budgets since 2015, representing a real-terms cut to school funding.
2. These school cuts have directly led to a major reduction in the number of secondary teachers, teaching assistants and support staff.
3. There are 15,000 fewer members of staff in secondary schools in England between 14/15 and 16/17, whilst roll numbers have increased by 31,000.
4. In Tower Hamlets, between 14/15 and 16/17:
 - a. 49% of schools have seen a reduction in staffing levels;
 - b. 56% of schools have seen an increase in the pupil to teacher ratio;
 - c. There are nearly 500 more pupils.
5. That schools in Tower Hamlets will receive £448 less in funding per pupil in 2019/20 than they did in 2015/16.

This Council further notes that:

1. Tower Hamlets has some of the best schools in the country: a result of proper funding from a Labour government and the hard work of teachers, pupils, the Council and parents.
2. There has been a dramatic improvement in the quality of education offered in our schools over the past 20 years, with students achieving consistently above average exam results at GCSE level, all of our special and nursery schools rated 'outstanding', all primaries and the vast majority of secondaries rated 'good' or 'outstanding'.

This Council believes that:

1. The Government is diverting money away from schools in poorer areas, into more affluent areas, doing severe damage to social mobility and the quality of education offered in our schools.
2. Schools in Tower Hamlets showcase what can be achieved when schools are properly funded.
3. As staff costs make up the main expenditure for schools, cuts to school budgets inevitably mean fewer members of staff in schools.
4. Our schools should receive the funding they need – if the Government persists with its current funding changes this will jeopardise decades of progress in Tower Hamlets, damaging the future prospects of our young people.

This Council resolves:

1. To support the campaign led by the School Cuts alliance of education unions, local schools, Mayor John Biggs and local MPs Rushanara Ali and Jim Fitzpatrick against the cuts to education funding.

12.2 Motion about the Changes to Raine's House Community Centre, Wapping

Proposer: Councillor Ohid Ahmed

Seconder: Councillor Mahbub Alam

This Council Notes:

The petition against Labour Mayor John Biggs' proposal to charge an extortionate and unacceptable amount to Raine's House users has gained support from a cross-section of our Tower Hamlets and wider communities as well as political spectrum with about 2,000 signatures in a very short space of time.

The petition by the users and supporters – mainly the elderly and pensioners of our East End who have contributed so much to the society and our community - of Raine's House in Wapping reads as follows:

- For decades, Raine's house in Wapping has been utilised by the local (largely elderly) community for social events. Events organised include coffee mornings, tea dances, bingo afternoons, evening book clubs and weekend entertainment.
- Tower Hamlets council, under the guise of a much-needed renovation of the building, are seizing this opportunity to turn their community club into a "pay as you go" community hub. These pensioners will then be expected to pay up to £40 an hour for a smaller space than they currently use, and the club will be closed for up to a year while they are making their proposed changes. For many of these pensioners, attending this club is the only time they can afford to socialise in a safe and warm environment.
- Needless to say, the current proposals for the building will not meet the club member's needs and would destroy one of their few remaining social spaces in the interests of generating revenue.
- A "consultation" meeting was convened by the council and members were left with the distinct impression that the council had already made up its mind and that opinions will have little or no impact on the outcome of the building's renovation.
- Therefore, we are calling on all friends, relatives and interested parties to sign this petition, apply pressure to the council and try to get our voices heard.

This Council Believes:

That this is one of the few remaining social spaces for the elderly community in Wapping and it should be preserved as it provides a unique and possibly only opportunity for lonely and possibly isolated East Enders to meet and socialise.

Analysis of the 2015 Indices of Deprivation shows that Tower Hamlets has the highest rates of pensioner and child poverty in England.

This Council Resolves:

- To agree that our elderly East Enders must not be penalised by changes including a huge hike in charges that will exclude them from using the centre;

- To agree that the Raine's House users will continue to have the facility available for their use exactly in the same manner as it was the case before Mayor John Biggs decided to use the refurbishing opportunity to penalise and possibly to force them out. Our pensioners and elderly will not be able to afford the new charges of up to £40 per hour under this administration's 'pay as you go' scheme which is being forced on our elderly and pensioners; and
- To support the users of Raine's House in their campaign against this unfair proposal by the Council under the Labour administration of Mayor John Biggs.

12.3 Motion regarding Thrive LDN

Proposer: Councillor Denise Jones

Seconder: Councillor Amina Ali

This Council acknowledges that two million Londoners experience poor mental health, which equates to 62,500 people in each borough, and that London's suicide rate increased by 33 per cent from 552 to 735 incidents between 2014 and 2015 – the highest figure recorded by the Office for National Statistics since records began.

This Council understands that employment for Londoners with a mental health problem is 31 per cent lower than the UK average and that the financial cost of mental ill-health is approximately £700million for each London borough.

This Council reaffirms its commitment to approach mental health and wellbeing as a key priority and to work collaboratively with partners within and outside the borough to address and tackle mental ill-health across our communities.

This council commits to support and work with Thrive LDN to:

1. Create a citywide movement for all Londoners that empowers individuals and communities in our borough to lead change, address inequalities that lead to poor mental health and create their own ways to improve mental health.
2. Following on from the examples set by Harrow Thrive and Black Thrive in Lambeth, look in to localising Thrive LDN to Tower Hamlets by exploring the practicalities of establishing a local Thrive hub that responds to local needs
3. Examine new methods to support more people in Tower Hamlets to access a range of activities that help them to maintain good mental health and wellbeing.
4. Work closely with partners across Tower Hamlets to end mental health stigma and discrimination.
5. Build on the great work happening across London to engage children and young people in mental health by helping Thrive LDN to develop training and resources for youth organisations, schools and student societies.
6. Support employers to make mental health and wellbeing central to the workplace.
7. Work with partners to explore new ways to access services and support, and consider the use of digital technologies to promote mental health and improve information about accessing support.
8. Work with partners and build on the excellent work being done across the borough to reduce suicides in Tower Hamlets. We will build on existing suicide reduction and prevention initiatives by establishing a zero suicide ambition for Tower Hamlets.

12.4 Motion regarding Changing Prospects, Changes Lives – Addressing Knife Crime in 2018

Proposer: Councillor Shah Alam

Seconder: Councillor Rabina Khan

This Council Notes That:

1. There were approximately [80 fatal stabbings](#) in London in 2017, [four of them](#) on New Year's Eve.
2. That in the year ending June 2017, the police recorded a [26% increase](#) in knife/sharp instrument crime compared to 2016.
3. That knife crime has increased in the [Tower Hamlets by 8%](#) in the past year.

This Council Believes That:

1. In 2018, the strategy to address knife crime must be from the bottom up, where we begin to engage with a generation of disenfranchised and disillusioned young people.
2. We need to follow Scotland's example where there was not a single knife crime fatality in 2017, which could be attributed to its [Violence Reduction Unit](#) (VRU), established in 2005.
3. We should work with local schools in the fight against knife crime and support the work of safer schools' officers.
4. Free school meals should become part of the General Fund. With an astonishing [53.4% of children](#) living in poverty in Tower Hamlets and families already struggling to pay bills, giving children a better start in life will ensure that they are emotionally and physically well and therefore more likely to do well at school and less likely to become involved in gangs and knife crime.

This Council Resolves to:

1. Work collectively with communities to educate and help reduce knife crime.
2. Work with the local residents, community groups and police to continue to deliver "[Flash Sweeps](#)" to help remove knives from our streets so that a Community Police Partnership model is developed.
3. Campaign for stricter laws surrounding the carrying of knives and sharp instruments.
4. Campaign for [stop and search](#) powers to be carried out through intelligence-led methods, implemented ethically and with integrity.
5. Campaign for tougher sentences for knife crime perpetrators as a deterrent.
6. Reintroduce positive activities for young people and fund PAYP activities to combat crime in areas where there is always a spike in antisocial behaviour during school holidays, which stem from a severe lack of provisions.

7. Target those who are at risk of being involved in antisocial behaviour and crime to channel them into positive activities and volunteering, boosting their prospects – ultimately into further education and/or employment.
8. Positive activities need to be funded and administered through grassroots' organisations, who have a relationship with those in need of such services.
9. Young people who might not be aware of, or willing to engage with, statutory services, or who do not have a positive relationship with the police, can be signposted via relevant community and youth workers.
10. Promote schemes and charities, such as Steel Warriors, where recycled knives seized on the streets are used to create a free outdoor gym in Langdon Park, Poplar.
11. Through this investment, the borough will save money from reduced police call outs, housing associations will save money from reduced expenditure on repairs, and the wider community will benefit from having more people contributing to the positivity and strength that makes us very proud to be part of Tower Hamlets.
12. EMA is still funded to 2018/19 – £370k was made available in each year from 2016/17 **but should be confirmed its continuous funding into the following years to support young people to remain in education.**
13. In, 2016/17, there was a budget provision of £600k for Support for Higher Education (formerly Higher Education Bursary). **This funding for young people struggling to enter university and higher education and this funding should be reinstated to support young people to remain in education.**

12.5 Motion regarding changes to university pensions

Proposer: Councillor Rachel Blake

Seconder: Councillor Amy Whitelock Gibbs

This Council notes:

1. Education spending in the UK has been the victim of a Government determined to drive through ideological cuts to the vital services that are relied upon by so many, with cuts hitting areas like Tower Hamlets the hardest.
2. The University and College Union (UCU) has taken the difficult decision to hold strike action following proposed changes to the university pensions scheme which pose a serious risk to morale, recruitment and retention in our universities including at Queen Mary University.
3. Academic staff in universities make a vital contribution to ensuring the supply of skilled graduates to UK businesses.
4. Queen Mary University makes a valuable contribution in Tower Hamlets as an important local employer and popular university amongst school leavers.

This Council believes:

1. University staff have a right to feel valued and supported in their employment.
2. All staff working in universities should have access to a secure and decent pension.
3. The Government must take action now to bring about meaningful negotiations between the UCU and Universities UK to resolve the situation.

This Council resolves:

1. To call on Mayor Biggs to write to the Government, asking them to review the situation and urge Universities UK to work with the UCU for the benefit of staff and students in Tower Hamlets.
2. To call on our 2 MPs to make the case to the Government Minister in Parliament to review the situation and urge Universities UK to work with the UCU for the benefit of staff and students in Tower Hamlets.

12.6 Motion regarding CCTV Cameras

Proposer: Councillor Andrew Wood

Seconder: Councillor Peter Golds

This Council notes that the Council has 339 permanent CCTV cameras across the Borough and that the distribution is as in the table below.

The Council further notes:

That the Infrastructure Delivery Plan October 2017 has allocated no money to the expansion of the network in the next fifteen years despite substantial population growth in a number of wards and that the location of many cameras reflect priorities from some years ago and may need to be refreshed.

That there has been a series of street robberies in late 2017 in Limehouse ward along Narrow Street, Ropemakers Fields and Limehouse Basin. That seemingly in response to Police Operation Naga, attacks appear to have moved to the boundaries of Limehouse ward including St James Gardens and an attempted attack on the Canary Riverside.

That on Wednesday 27th December 2017, two separate 'acid' attacks on the Isle of Dogs 1 ½ hours and 5 minutes walk apart.

That even where wards appear to have CCTV cameras their effectiveness is poor due to poor links back to the control room in Mulberry Place.

That the Infrastructure Plan only plans to improve links between Victoria Park and Mulberry Place.

This Council believes that;

Criminals know where the Council CCTV cameras are and are likely to exploit any gaps in that network.

The council calls on the Mayor to ;

Expand the permanent CCTV network to growth areas and to ensure a fairer distribution of cameras as many areas paying large amounts of Council tax receive no benefit from the Council CCTV network.

That the Mayor notes that whilst previous experience of crime is a factor the council needs to better anticipate problems in the future.

Ensure all Council CCTV cameras are of the highest technical quality with high quality fibre links back to the control room.

That the Council work with other stakeholders on a joint CCTV network strategy so that whether Council or private or housing association camera they effectively work together to capture criminal activity.

That the Council provide the Met Police with a way of accessing the network that does not require driving to and from Mulberry Place, thereby saving both time and expense to the police.

The Mayor notes the table below, which is completely unrepresentative of the problems facing the borough.

Ward	Permanent CCTV Cameras	Population 2016	CCTV Per Person
Limehouse	0	8,200	None
Stepney Green	2	13,600	6,800
Canary Wharf	3	14,600	4,867
Bromley North	6	14,000	2,333
Bromley South	7	11,700	1,671
Blackwall and Cubitt Town	7	18,500	2,643
Poplar	9	8,000	889
St Katharine's and Wapping	9	12,400	1,378
Island Gardens	14	16,500	1,179
Lansbury	14	17,300	1,236
Shadwell	15	11,500	767
St Dunstons	15	11,800	787
Weavers	16	14,900	931
Mile End	19	17,400	916
Bethnal Green	21	22,200	1,057
Bow West	30	13,500	450
Whitechapel	31	15,200	490
St Peters	31	19,000	613
Bow East	33	15,900	482
Spitalfields and Banglatown	57	14,100	247
Total	339	290,300	856

12.7 Motion about “Save Tower Hamlets Council Funded Nurseries”

Proposer: Councillor Oliur Rahman

Secunder: Councillor Ohid Ahmed

This Council Notes that:

The Promise Tower Hamlets Labour made before the 2015 election to save and protect council-funded nurseries, saying “the cuts to Children Services cannot be allowed to stand.”

On December 23, 2016, Labour Mayor John Biggs proposed to privatise and cut funding for council-funded nurseries - John Smith, Mary Sambrook and Overland (The only nursery that has special provision for deaf children).

In addition, Labour Mayor John Biggs shut down council-funded Queen Mary nursery.

Labour Administration of Mayor John Biggs also made a cut of £2.4m to nurseries/Children services.

The action by Labour Mayor John Biggs after being elected is in complete contrast to the promises made to nursery mothers by Labour Party before the election – clearly breaking a Labour promise made to residents before 2015 election to protect the nurseries. This is an unacceptable betrayal of residents and nursery mothers by the Labour administration of Mayor John Biggs.

Under Labour Mayor John Biggs, there is a childcare crisis. Quality nursery provision in Tower Hamlets is under threat under the Biggs Administration.

Only last month, the Biggs Administration has tried to mislead the nursery mothers who were forced to write a scathing open letter to him and the Council criticising their conduct and claims in relation to consultation about the council nurseries.

Save Our Nurseries Tower Hamlets – a campaign predominantly led by working class mothers, has hit out at in an open letter to Labour Mayor of Tower Hamlets, John Biggs and his council chiefs, accusing them of, among other things, “privatisation”, questionable “political opinions”, being “vague” about the support for “disabled children” and adopting a “sexist and racist approach to consultation and decision-making” in relation to Mayor John Biggs and his Labour Administration’s conduct about the council-funded nurseries.

Mayor John Biggs has conveniently tried to kick the nursery can in the long grass until after the May 2018 election by putting the blame on to officers claiming I have asked the officers to come up updated proposal – presumably a new scheme of cuts and privatisation but not until the election are over. Mayor John Biggs needs to show leadership instead of hiding behind officers who work for him as the Executive Mayor of the Borough.

Since then, Nursery Mums, Aspire Group and other groups with people from the cross section of the society have been campaigning to keep these council nurseries public as many residents deeply care about nursery provision for all children in Tower Hamlets.

Most parents – particularly mothers - know that returning to work after maternity/paternity leave can feel like an incredible mission. Finding the right childminder or nursery setting to look after your precious little one is a very difficult decision.

Tower Hamlets waiting lists for the best nurseries can be incredibly long. The costs are so high you might even question if it's worth it.

For those families on a low-income or who have children with special needs, these decisions can be even more difficult.

This Council Believes that:

Huge cuts to staff will mean highly qualified specialists with training in things like nasal gastric tube feeding and catheterization could lose their jobs. A privately-run nursery will more than likely not have staff to attend medical appointments with families or work closely with community nurses in family's homes.

The network of social care around public nurseries not only helps children with special needs but also those on social care plans. Some of the children have serious child protection cases.

Council nurseries have a focus on education and help to address socio economic imbalances. So that by the time children are ready for school they are up to speed with other children in the borough who may have had more advantages. This has an impact on the sort of education all children in Tower Hamlets can receive.

With 1 out of 2 children in Tower Hamlets living in poverty these nurseries are extremely important for the future of all our children. Schools will struggle to meet the needs of catering to an already overwhelmed system if children are at disparate levels of ability.

Working parent's fees could go up to three times the rate of the public nurseries and those on low wages will probably not be able to afford a place. This will result in a bigger demand on Social Services across the borough and many mothers will be unable to return to work. Early Learning 2-year-old funding for families on low incomes or benefits would not be available as there would not be enough to cover the private nursery fees. With the population of children under 9 in Tower Hamlets set to increase by 10% in the next 4 years any reduction to affordable nursery provision within our borough will further impoverish already struggling families.

This Council Resolves that:

Mayor John Biggs should honour the promise made to nursery mums by Labour Party before the election.

Labour Administration should listen to the serious concerns of nursery mothers in their various representations, petition and correspondence to the council – including the latest open letter to Mayor John Biggs. The Biggs administration should implement the actions demanded by the nursery mums.

Mayor John Biggs must stop the privatisation in the name of outsourcing and cuts to the council-funded nurseries in the borough.

12.8 Motion regarding Tower Hamlets Brexit Task Force

Proposer: Councillor Shafi Ahmed
Seconder: Councillor Abdul Asad

This Council Notes:

1. That a recent YouGov poll on Brexit shows that a rising number of people regret the decision to leave the EU, with 47% per cent of respondents saying it was wrong for the UK to vote Leave, compared with 42% cent who believe it was the right decision.
2. That two-thirds of the public thinking that Brexit negotiations are going badly, compared with just over a third in March this year.
3. That in In June 2017, one year after Brexit, the pound was 14% lower against the dollar and 13% lower against the euro.
4. That Local third sector organisations supporting migrant, refugee and asylum seeker communities in the borough reported an increase in hate crimes immediately following the vote to leave the EU. Police figures also recorded an increase in hate crime reporting at the same time.
5. That Tower Hamlets has one of the most drastic levels of wealth inequality. 48.7% of households have an annual income of less than £30,000, 17% have an annual income exceeding £60,000 and another 17% have an annual income of less than £15,000.
6. That London has ranked among the European cities with the worst outlook for 2018, according to a survey of more than 800 real estate professionals.

The Council Further Notes:

1. That the impact of a hard Brexit would cost London's economy over [£100 billion over five years](#), according to research.
2. That Tower Hamlets would be one of the hardest hit boroughs, losing some eight per cent of output worth £11 billion, because of its [reliance on industries](#) that are significant exporters, at risk of offshoring to the EU, or are deeply embedded in international supply chains.
3. That a hard Brexit will cause financial firms to move from Canary Wharf to more favourable cities in Europe, resulting in fewer jobs and reduced commercial and housing development.
4. The [Bank of England](#) stated that the decision to leave the European Union is having a noticeable impact on the economic outlook and will probably hamper productivity and slow growth.
5. That research from [Centre for London](#) found that Brexit is already leading to fewer Europeans seeking work in London, a decline in confidence among businesses and a deceleration in house price growth.
6. That MPs on the [Communities and Local Government Committee](#) will look at which powers currently held by the EU could be transferred to town halls after the UK leaves.

7. That the Brexit vote has diminished London's status as an international haven and created uncertainty in the property market. [Lucian Cook, Director of Residential Research at Savills](#) said: "When you've got people borrowing bigger multiples of income, they are much more exposed to a change of sentiment of any degree of uncertainty about the impact of Brexit."
8. [Liam Booth-Smith](#), Director of the thinktank Localis said that the post-Brexit labour supply squeeze will affect parts of the country in very different ways. Many EU nationals, for example, are [leaving the NHS](#) following Brexit and employers' access to the EU labour market may be linked to the issue of [skills shortages](#) in the capital. This is particularly relevant to Tower Hamlets, because of The Royal London Hospital, one of the capital's leading trauma and emergency care centres.

This Council Believes:

1. That EU nationals living in Tower Hamlets should have the right to remain in the UK. With more EU nationals leaving the country and fewer coming in, this will have an adverse impact on industry areas that are more dependent on EU workers e.g. care workers, hospital staff and construction.
2. That the Council should identify the number of EU nationals within its own workforce those of its key suppliers and the contribution they make to the local labour market.
3. That EU funding, or its replacement, is vital support to economic regeneration, helping new and current businesses to create thousands of jobs and supporting broadband, new roads and bridges and other local infrastructure projects.
4. That Tower Hamlets Council must do all it can to protect the local economy, local regeneration projects, its residents, workers, businesses and all those in receipt of EU funding, or benefitting from services funded by EU funds during this time of uncertainty.

This Council Resolves to:

Set up a Tower Hamlets Brexit Task Group to plan for a number of Brexit scenarios, with the following aims and objectives:

1. Proactively campaign to ensure the EU funds expected by Tower Hamlets and local recipients of EU funds will be honoured until the end of 2020, in order to improve our local economy, development, infrastructure, employment and training.
2. Instruct the Senior Management Team to provide a dedicated help and information line to residents and businesses, with comprehensive and up-to-date information on the progress of Brexit and its effects on the Borough and address productivity and competitiveness challenges among local firms, enabling them to compete internationally.
3. Create new policies and programmes for education and skills to equip the local workforce for current and future jobs.
4. Work with local businesses to understand the changing market dynamics and focus on growing local SMEs.

5. Work with residents and EU nationals to promote community cohesion, tackle racism and help decrease their feelings of anxiety, insecurity and uncertainty about their future following Brexit, including their eligibility to apply for local authority housing.
6. Work with housing industry bodies to investigate ways to replace lost EU funds for regeneration schemes.
7. Promote Tower Hamlets as a diverse, inclusive and safe borough in which to live, work and socialise.
8. Call on the Mayor and all Councillors to support this motion, to ensure that the resolutions are carried out and for the Tower Hamlets' Brexit Task Group to report on the progress of implementing the resolutions.

12.9 Motion regarding Canary Wharf to Rotherhithe cycle and pedestrian river crossing

Proposer: Councillor Peter Golds
Seconder: Councillor Andrew Wood

This Council notes the start of the public consultation by Transport for London (TfL) on the Canary Wharf to Rotherhithe cycle and pedestrian river crossing commenced on the 8th November 2017.

That a well attended public meeting on the Barkantine Estate expressed serious concern as to the viability of this proposal.

That the upfront capital costs are between £30 million for the ferry option to £335 million for a tunnel and TfL are clearly indicating their preference for a bridge costing between £120 million and £180 million upfront with annual running and maintenance costs of up to £2.4 million a year.

This Council further notes:

The Councils Infrastructure Delivery Plan October 2017 shows a funding gap of £648 million over the next 15 years across Tower Hamlets with no detail yet on how that gap will be filled. The draft GLA Isle of Dogs and South Poplar Opportunity Area Planning Framework Development Infrastructure Funding Study also indicates a large funding gap exists in the OAPF area.

That in October 2016 the Labour Mayor of London announced the delivery of a Rotherhithe to Canary Wharf bridge by 2020 before work had even started by TfL looking at the different options for a crossing.

This Council believes:

That the current consultation paper contains a number of questionable assumptions and that the need to prove that a bridge is required after it was announced by the Mayor is constraining the detailed analysis of potential options.

This Council:

Supports an improved river crossing but remains to be convinced about the value for money, timing, location and the rush to deliver this bridge. The council believes that a more open process may well result in a better solution and avoids the risk of another Garden Bridge debacle.

That without some certainty over how local infrastructure is funded; the council should not support an expensive and uncertain project.

12.10 Motion about The Whitechapel Estate Development and the Latest Appeal Decision

Proposer: Councillor Harun Miah

Seconder: Councillor Mufti Miah

This Council Notes that:

The Council has received an important appeal decision from the Planning Inspectorate. This has allowed the appeal by the developer and granted planning permission for a major redevelopment of a site between Varden Street and Ashfield Street in Whitechapel (known as the Whitechapel Estate). This followed a 10-day public inquiry held in November 2017.

The proposed development is the demolition of all existing buildings and redevelopment to provide 12 buildings ranging from ground plus 2-23 storeys, comprising 343 residential dwellings, 168 specialist accommodation units, office floorspace, flexible office and non-residential institution floorspace, retail floor space, car parking, cycle parking, hard and soft landscaping and other associated works.

The Council refused planning permission on 17 October 2016 after the Strategic Development Committee agreed the officers' recommendation that planning permission should be refused. The main planning reasons for refusal were:

- the quality of design of the appeal proposal and its effect on the character and appearance of the area and on the wider townscape;
- the effect on heritage assets and their settings;
- the effect on living conditions of neighbouring residents, having regard in particular to daylight and sunlight, outlook and privacy;
- the quality of living conditions for future residents of the development, having regard in particular to daylight and sunlight, overshadowing, outlook and privacy.

In summary, the Planning Inspectorate's decision found that:

- the design of the scheme as a whole would provide a considerable improvement over the site as it currently exists and would achieve the policy objective of transformational change (identified in the Whitechapel Vision SPD) while having sufficient regard to the character and appearance of the wider area.
- the proposal would result in some significant individual reductions in daylight and sunlight levels, but that this is almost unavoidable in achieving the policy requirement for high-density development in a confined urban setting. Retained levels of daylight and sunlight would be adequate and comparable with existing and emerging urban conditions.
- taken as a whole the proposal would not result in unsatisfactory outlook, privacy or access to open space. Despite certain localised weaknesses, it would result in a good overall standard of amenity for future residents.
- any harm to heritage assets would be limited to an adverse effect on the setting of the Philpot Street and Walden Street listed terraces. The public benefits of delivering

transformational change, replacement of existing mediocre buildings and poorly presented public realm, establishment of a significant length of the Green Spine (Whitechapel Vision), provision of affordable housing to the maximum viable level (21%), provision of specialist accommodation for health-related staff and students within an affordable rent regime (which does not apply at present) and new space suitable for office or research use linked to the “Med City” aspirations would outweigh this harm.

- the Council was disappointed with the decision as it felt our case was strong and were hopeful that if the appeal was dismissed then an alternative scheme delivering many of the benefits but with less harmful impacts could have been negotiated. The Council has concerns about the implications of this decision on other major sites in Whitechapel including the forthcoming Sainsbury’s appeal.

This Council Believes that:

The decision by the Planning Inspectorate is not welcome by most residents and fails to consider several critical points raised by our council officers.

If this development goes ahead in current form, this will destroy the existing quality of life for all local current residents, the majority of them happen to be from Bangladeshi and BAME community. This scheme is completely overbearing on the area, with huge tower blocks, significant loss of sunlight to local residents, with only 21% so-called affordable housing minus 30% shared ownership.

More dangerous is the fact the Sainsburys development will get a go-ahead as this decision sets a precedent.

This is gentrification and social cleansing of the local community – mainly but not exclusively the Bangladeshi community - out of Whitechapel and eventually the borough. Crossrail is welcome but will only benefit certain people, not our existing community.

The Council should deploy specialist consultants to carry out a proper visibility toolkit assessment, as well as other relevant studies to demonstrate the figures presented by the developers are flawed - just like in Southwark and Greenwich.

This Council Resolves:

To carefully consider the planning and other relevant points made in the ‘This Council Believes’ section above with a view to carefully review, strengthen and follow the original advice given by our planning officers in relation to this application;

To hire specialists to carry out a proper and professional visibility toolkit assessment to demonstrate the figures presented by the developers are very probably flawed - just it was in Southwark and Greenwich;

To inform the residents affected and the nearby stakeholders about this decision and the Council’s position;

To agree that the Council has a policy of 35% minimum affordable housing. Hence this application fails to meet the target by only offering 21%; and

To note that this Council has a duty to represent the best interests of its residents. In this particular case, officers also recommended planning consent should be refused for very

strong reasons. Therefore, this Council must appeal the decision of the planning inspectorate. This scheme does nothing to help alleviate local residents housing needs in terms of affordability for local residents for the private units that will become available, priced x15 higher than the average salary of the borough. It also fails to reduce the Councils housing waiting list due to not meeting Councils 35% minimum affordable housing target.

12.11 Motion regarding Stop the Cut to the Council Tax Reduction (CTR) Scheme

Proposer: Councillor Abdul Asad

Seconder: Councillor Abjol Miah

The Council Notes That:

1. In January 2018, an analysis published by the [End Child Poverty](#) coalition of charities shows that 53.4% of all children in Tower Hamlets live in poverty (after housing costs). This is the second highest rate nationally and is well above the average rate for England (29%), and well above the London average (37%).
2. In the same report, End Child Poverty reported that wards in Tower Hamlets have child poverty rates well above the national average of 20%. The rate ranges from [52.98% in the ward of Bow East](#), up to [57.38% in the ward of Bethnal Green](#) North. Their methodology is [explained here](#).
3. That the risk of child poverty rises with family size and that larger families in Tower Hamlets have a higher risk of poverty than larger families nationally.
4. That Mayor John Biggs cut the Council Tax Reduction (CTR) for thousands of the borough's poorest and most vulnerable residents but awarded himself an 11% overall pay rise.
5. That Mayor John Biggs' proposal replaced the current scheme with one where all working age claimants will be expected to pay at least 20% of their council tax liability, although one of the proposed options does include an exemption for a few vulnerable groups, but there's no guarantee.
6. That where other London boroughs have introduced such 'Minimum Payment' schemes, the result has pushed low-income residents deeper into poverty, stifling social mobility.
7. That Camden Council has recognised the hardship caused by its minimum payment scheme and is proposing to abolish it and reinstate 100% support from next year. This shows it is possible to avoid passing funding cuts onto the poorest residents.

The Council Believes:

1. That the council tax reduction has impacted on the cost of living for many Tower Hamlets' residents and will result in unfortunate choices between providing for their families, paying utility bills or paying their council tax, which Mayor Biggs increased by 4% in February 2016.
2. That Mayor John Biggs' proposal resulted in the abolition of the 100% support that currently exists for the borough's 23,000 working age households and misled the public by stating that it retains the 100% support.
3. That Mayor John Biggs' cut to the Council Tax Reduction (CTR) has impacted on self-employed working families, in particular mini-cab drivers, and vulnerable and disabled adults.

The Council Resolves to:

1. Call on Mayor John Biggs to reverse the cut to Council Tax Reduction (CTR) for thousands of the borough's poorest and most vulnerable residents.
2. Call on Mayor John Biggs not to award himself an unreasonable pay rise when a large proportion of the Tower Hamlets' community is struggling to cope financially.

12.12 Motion regarding 'Tower Hamlets Acid Register' & the Council's Existing Regulatory Powers* *(in the aftermath of two recent acid attacks on 27 December 2017 in Tower Hamlets)*

Proposer: Councillor Maium Miah

Seconded: Councillor Ohid Ahmed

This Council notes:

Senseless, tragic and bigoted acid attacks have become prevalent in London. 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 2016/17, a big increase on the year before.

Tower Hamlets is now the third worst borough for acid attacks in London according to the official statistics. Worryingly, a high percentage of these attacks have been concentrated in a small pocket of east London with 398 attacks in Newham, 134 in Barking and Dagenham and more than 84 acid attacks in Tower Hamlets in recent years. These figures exclude the recently reported acid attacks in 2017 and the unreported attacks which will further increase the number in relation to Tower Hamlets statistics.

Most recently, there were two separate horrific acid attacks in Tower Hamlets on the same day within the space of just two hours – one in Canary Wharf ward, another in Blackwall and Cubitt Town in the Isle of Dogs - on Wednesday evening 27th December. According to the police and other reports, on 27 December, a 36-year-old white woman suffered serious life-changing burns to her leg and face after she was hurled at with acid very close to South Quay Tesco/DLR station at 18.50 hours. No ID on the attacker or why she was attacked was established. She is in hospital at the time of writing this question. The 2nd attack was on an Asian male by two white men at 20.30 hours. The attack started on Glengall Grove close leading to the George pub but the actual attack was close to or in Crossharbour DLR. The police have decent CCTV images of these attackers, described as 'The suspects are believed to have gotten out of a Volkswagen car and are described as two White males aged 20 – 22 years old approximately. 5"10 tall, one was dressed in a Grey hooded top with a baseball cap, the other was in a blue jacket with a short beard.'

Previously, on 21 June 2017 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 believed and said they felt this was an Islamophobic hate crime.

Two of the other recent attacks in Tower Hamlets were on Commercial Road with the junction of Sidney Street, in Tower Hamlets on 29 June 2017 – 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.

This Council believes:

Acid has become a weapon of choice used by younger criminals because it is far too easy to get hold of, far too cheap to buy, and most importantly far too unregulated –

something Tower Hamlets Council has the regulatory power over and must do more to address this serious criminal and horrendous issue.

The horrific injuries often sustained from such attacks can leave victims with permanent scarring, deep psychological problems and destroy their lives. These barbaric and inhumane attacks seriously impact on those who suffer as well as the wider community.

After media stories and campaigns led by many victims and civil society including the Independent Group, the Government had announced that under 18s will be banned from buying acid but the Government and the local authority (Tower Hamlets Council) can and must do more to tackle this menace and horrific crime as 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 dangerous substances. Independent Group believes that you should only be allowed to purchase them with a licence or with a verifiable professional/trade identification. The person purchasing should go through checks before.

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

This Council Resolves:

Tower Hamlets Council and its current Mayor must implement practical and sensible action urgently upon which the Council and the Mayor already have control and power over. After lobbying and pressure from the Independent Group, residents, victims, media and the civil society, a local acid charter by the council is a small step in the right direction, but it must go beyond public relation management exercise and promotion of John Biggs in order to genuinely reassure the residents and deter horrific acid attack crimes on our residents.

To immediately explore its already available regulatory powers and other existing means to seriously and effectively deter these disgusting criminal acts.

Given that Tower Hamlets is the third worst borough for the acid attacks, the Council will:

- a)** immediately create a 'Tower Hamlets Acid Register' on a voluntary basis for shops and businesses to record who they sell 'acid' or 'dangerous liquids' to;
- b)** ensure compliance that acid/ potentially dangerous liquid is not sold to under 21s in the borough which is being used as the weapon of choice in attacks on our innocent residents; and
- c)** acid and dangerous liquids are sold only with a licence or with a verifiable professional/trade identification. The person purchasing should go through checks before.

12.13 Motion regarding Private Rental Enforcement Team

Proposer: Councillor Abjol Miah
Seconded: Councillor Rabina Khan

The Council Notes That:

1. Many of the poorest families in Tower Hamlets have been forced into sub-standard, privately rented accommodation, which paradoxically can be insecure and which are [one of the causes of homelessness](#) in the first place.
2. Tower Hamlets' statistics regarding child poverty and the housing crisis are somewhat skewed because rising rents and benefit caps are forcing families out of the borough, which simply relocates the problem to another borough.
3. Under the Housing Act 2004, local authorities have the power to request that landlords make necessary improvements to a property or remove potentially hazardous health risks. Using the [Housing Health and Safety Rating System \(HHSRS\)](#), an evaluation tool, local authorities can identify and protect against risks and hazards to health and safety from any deficiencies identified in dwellings.
4. The new buy-to-let taxes on private landlords are excessive and could, in some cases, exceed the amount they receive in rent. Some may be forced to sell their properties or may be unable to afford ongoing maintenance costs, which will impact tenants and may create homelessness.
5. On 14 January 2018, Secretary of State for Housing, Sajid Javid, confirmed [government support for new legislation](#) that will help ensure rented homes are safe and will give tenants the right to take legal action when landlords fail in their duties.
6. The 2011 census revealed there were 67,209 **private sector** homes in **Tower Hamlets**; 41,670 (62%) of these were in the **private rented sector**.
7. The **Private rented sector** is now the largest tenure in the borough with 39% of the housing stock, far higher than the London average of 25%.
8. Lower quartile rents in the borough are £365 per week for a two bedroom and £462 for a three bedroom flat. The weekly Local Housing Allowance rate for a family needing two bedrooms is £302.33, and for three bedrooms it is £354.46.
9. The median rent for a room in a Tower Hamlets shared flat or House in Multiple Occupation is £147 per week. Single people under 35 have a weekly Local Housing Allowance of £102.99.
10. Median rents have increased by around a quarter in the last five years, to £1430 pcm (£330 pw) for one bedroom and £1750 pcm (£403.85 pw) for two bedroom flats. As of 2013, nearly half of all households in Tower Hamlets have an annual income less than £30,000.
11. Shelter said; "For many people the private rented sector is not a tenure of choice, but a tenure of necessity. The high cost of buying a home and the shortage of social

housing means many families have no choice but to rent privately for the medium to long term”.

The Council Believes That:

1. An enforcement body needs to be set up to ensure that private landlords and agents are adhering to ensure that families in the private rented accommodation are fully aware of their rights and their landlords' responsibilities.
2. That all individuals and families in Tower Hamlets have the right to live in property that is of an acceptable standard and is safe.
3. That all individuals and families in Tower Hamlets are aware of their responsibilities regarding their tenancies.

The Council welcomes;

1. The 2013 tribunal judgement in favour of a private tenant in Chapman House who had been subjected to a revenge eviction after reporting unacceptable living conditions to the ward councillor.
2. The council's work on Chapman House since that case, including extensive visits from Environmental Health Officers, including two who worked very hard to compile a comprehensive report on the fire, risks and hazards arising from the substandard quality of housing in the block between 2013 and 2015.
3. The 20 Improvement Notices and 8 Prohibition Notices that the council has issued in respect of this block, having found that the landlord had breached building regulations (whilst noting that the landlord has continued to increase the rent for tenants of this unsafe housing despite not having complied with the notices and addressing the breach of regulations.
4. The landlord has cladded the building but did not submit a statutory notice to the Local Authority Building Control, under The Building Regulations 2010 (Amended) prior to cladding the building.
5. A poll commissioned for the campaigning organisation Generation Rent showing about 60 per cent of respondents back some form of rent control.

The Council Resolves to:

1. Establish a Private Rental Enforcement Team to work with local residents in private rented accommodation to address their concerns and work towards ensuring that their needs are met using Environmental Health Statutory powers.
2. Ensure that if tenants are living in a private rented property that is unsafe, or in need of repair, that the landlord concerned that the problems are remedied.
3. Ensure that tenants in private rented property are not subjected to unfair eviction.
4. Ensure that tenants in private rented property are not subjected to unfair rental charges.
5. Ensure that tenants are aware of their rights and responsibilities and what steps they need to take if they are dissatisfied.

6. Act as a go-between to help resolve disputes between tenants and landlords.
7. To research, develop and introduce a Tower Hamlets policy for more secure tenancy agreements for private tenants, including stabilising rent controls to prevent landlords raising rents each year by more than an inflationary index
8. To research, develop and introduce a Tower Hamlets Policy to make three year tenancies in the private rented sector standard across the sector, with rent caps linked to inflation, the standard of the private dwelling and whether the landlord is compliant with EHO Notices.
9. If the Landlord of Chapman House fails to address the outstanding notices and breach of building regulation notices that have been served on him to seek prosecution.
10. *To uses its powers under the Housing and Planning Act 2016 to tackle problems created by rogue landlords. A Rent Repayment Order, for example, can be issued to a landlord, requiring him or her to repay rent (up to a year in some cases) to a tenant.*
11. To use its power to issue Fixed Penalty Notices of up to £30,000 if a landlord does not comply with the terms of an Improvement Notice.
12. Engage with the best landlords to encourage self-regulation; recognising that the most responsible landlords have an interest in promoting better standards to raise the standing of the whole sector and avoid the need for further regulation, local authorities should better incentivise landlord 'PRS Champions' to work closely in partnership with the council and the wider landlord community.

12.14 Motion regarding Council Tax Reduction Scheme

Proposer: Councillor Mahbub Alam

Seconder: Councillor Ohid Ahmed

The Council Notes:

Because of changes made by the administration to the Council Tax Reduction Scheme for poor and vulnerable residents, many residents are suffering – especially the self-employed residents and tax payers.

One of the changes made by the administration was to use notional earnings equivalent to 35 hours at the National Living Wage in the assessment of Council Tax Reduction for residents who have been self-employed for over one year and whose declared earnings are below this figure.

The Council Resolves:

The Council must reconsider its approach and reinstate its Council Tax Reduction Scheme to pre-April status as the change put in place by the Mayor and the administration are having a significant negative impact on the residents.

12.15 Motion to Reverse Charging for Home Care and Adult Social Care –

Proposer: Councillor Aminur Khan

Seconder: Councillor Shah Alam

This Council Notes That:

1. Approximately 3,500 adults in Tower Hamlets receive support from social care at any one time.
2. Adult social care provides vital support to adults with a wide range of needs arising from physical/mental disability, physical illness/injury, mental illness and other life situations and helps them to live as independently as possible.
3. Despite the Chancellor's Spring Budget delivering an additional £2 billion for adult social care over the period 2017/18 to 2019/20, John Biggs made the decision to charge for adult social care services, which were historically free in Tower Hamlets.
4. Around 81% of people who receive support are living at home and around 51% receive "home care".
5. Approximately 2,200 people have been assessed and approximately 1,400 are being charged, which equates to approximately 63.4% of people who are having to pay for their care.
6. Approximately £240k has been generated since October 2017 to date. The estimated income from the original business case was £540k per year for 2 years – a total of £1080k.
7. In a newspaper article about the Council's budget proposal for 2018/19, John Biggs said, "We are putting the protection of the most vulnerable members of our community at the heart of these budget proposals."

This Council Believes That:

1. Contrary to what John Biggs said, charging for homecare and adult social care ultimately places people in more vulnerable situations, because they are not longer able to afford the support that they desperately need, leaving them feeling isolated.
2. The consequences of charging for adult social care, which is a lifeline for many, are manifold. A disabled person, for example, may be incapable of looking after themselves or leaving the house without a personal assistant and may suffer a subsequent decline in mental and physical health.
3. There may be delayed discharges from hospital, deterioration in overall quality of care and reliance on unpaid carers.
4. Those still living at home may be forced, against their will, into residential care.
5. A high percentage of Tower Hamlets' residents will require adult social care at some point in their lives and Tower Hamlets Council has a statutory duty to support and

meet the needs of its residents.

This Council Resolves:

1. Reversal of charges for adult social care and homecare to ensure that all those in need are supported.
2. We believe that there should be a universal social care service, free at the point of use, and we will campaign for a national solution to this national problem.

12.16 Motion regarding the new direction from the secretary of state for education about failure of tower hamlets children services

Proposer: Councillor Muhammad Ansar Mustaqim

Secunder: Councillor Mahbub Alam

The Council Notes:

1. On 12 September 2017, The Secretary of State for Education, Justine Greening, issued a fresh "Direction" to Tower Hamlets Council because John Biggs led Labour administration was failing the residents in the critical statutory area of 'children social care'.

2. Full details of the decision can be found here on the Government website https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/643844/Tower_Hamlets_Direction_Sept_2017_signed_v2.pdf

3. Tower Hamlets Children's Services Improvement Board was already chaired by a former DCLG appointed Commissioner in a new capacity as the Improvement Board Chair due to failure in April 2017 when OFSTED judged Tower Hamlets Children Services to be "inadequate" – the worst possible rating. The same service was judged "Good" with outstanding features under the previous OFSTED inspection.

4. The Secretary of State has now imposed fresh "Intervention Advisers" from two outside authorities (Islington and Lincolnshire County Council), whose own OFSTED inspection reports revealed their own services to be Good with Outstanding features, and the first line of their Terms of Reference state "London Borough of Tower Hamlets has failed in its delivery of children's social care services."

5. The latest decision by the Secretary of State is a clear proof that Government have no trust in John Biggs led Labour administration and their existing plan of improvement for Tower Hamlets Children Services.

6. After shambolic OFSTED failure, in yet another damning verdict on John Biggs's mayoralty, the new "Direction" letter from the Secretary of State stated, inter alia, the following:

· "...the Council is failing to perform to an adequate standard, some or all of the functions to which section 497A of the Education Act 1996 ("the 1996 Act") is applied by section 50 of the Children Act 2004 ("children's social care functions");

· The Secretary of State, having considered representations made by the Council, considers it expedient, in accordance with her powers under section 497A(4B) of the Education Act 1996, to direct the Council as set out below in order to ensure that all of the Council's children's social care functions are performed to an adequate standard; and

· Pursuant to section 497A(4B) of the Education Act 1996, the Secretary of State directs the Council as follows:

a. To comply with any instructions of the Secretary of State in relation to the improvement of the Council's exercise of its children's social care functions and to provide such assistance as may be required;

b. To co-operate with the Intervention Advisers, including on request allowing the Intervention Advisers at all reasonable times access:

- i. to any premises of the Council;
- ii. to any document of or relating to the Council; and
- iii. to any employee or member of the Council”

The Council believes:

1. The latest ‘Order’ from the Secretary of State shows that his mayoralty is not just in a crisis but in a complete meltdown – and the buck stops with him.
2. in addition to the political leadership, the catastrophic failure of the Council’s top professional leadership in Children Services in performing their duties and responsibilities as evident in 2017 OFSTED inspection result of “inadequate” – the worst possible rating, together with, the damaging data breach and leaking of confidential and sensitive council information about a 5-year-old foster girl.

The Council resolves:

1. John Biggs has not done what is required. He must act now to put Children Services back on track.
2. John Biggs must ensure to provide the political and officer level leadership that has clearly been lacking thus far. The Secretary of State clearly feels that John Biggs and the Council have not done what is required - hence the fresh “Direction”.
3. Banish all talk about delivering a Good OFSTED rated service in the next two years but only talk about our intention to receive an Outstanding OFSTED rating as soon as is practicable.
4. That the Council appoint an independent person to investigate individual cases like that of the 5-year-old foster child to ensure that we have full confidence in the handling of such cases while Children's Services rebuilds its credibility.

12.17 Motion regarding the future of the Tower Hamlets Youth Service

Proposer: Councillor Gulam Robbani

Secunder: 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.

12.18 Motion regarding Housing Achievements in Tower Hamlets – setting the record straight

Proposer: Councillor Mufti Miah

Seconder: Councillor Maium Miah

The Council Notes:

It has become more difficult than any time before for people in inner City boroughs like Tower Hamlets to find a decent home to rent or buy. Today many essential workers; teachers, nurses, fire fighters and other public service workers find it nearly impossible to buy or rent in Tower Hamlets.

The former Mayor Lutfur Rahman's administration embarked on an ambitious journey to tackle the housing issues locally in a two-prong strategy:

1. Building affordable houses in Tower Hamlets; and
2. Improving the standard for private properties.

For example, to deal with the poor standards of maintenance and upkeep within the private sector, then Mayor Lutfur Rahman and his Deputy Mayor Ohid Ahmed introduced 'licensing for private rented sector housing' under the Housing Act 2004.

The achievements of the Rahman Mayoral policies and the leadership between 2010 and 2015 were recognised by people and commentators across the UK. With Cllr. Ohid Ahmed he also led building the highest number of affordable homes in the country. Figures released by the Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG) showed that between 2010/11 and 2015, Tower Hamlets delivered a record 5,590 affordable homes.

In addition, as Cabinet Lead Member for Regeneration, Cllr Ohid Ahmed led two major regeneration programmes, Ocean Estate and Blackwall Reach.

The Independent Group's success under the leadership of former Mayor Lutfur Rahman, his Deputy, Cllr Ohid Ahmed, and his team was further acknowledged by the Government, who released £24.2 million in 2015 alone from the 'New Homes Bonus' scheme, which has enabled the current administration to continue that legacy of our housing delivery. By 2015, the council had secured the total of £53m in New Homes Bonus - the highest in the country.

A recent City Hall report further acknowledged our administration's achievement that Tower Hamlets had built more affordable housing than anywhere else in the capital.

There were other regeneration projects – approved by the previous administration - for example 148 homes in Watts Grove with £26.33m funding approved by Mayor Lutfur Rahman on 5 November 2014. The London Docks regeneration project not only secured invaluable affordable housing but also a space for a 1,500 spaces strong secondary school in Wapping.

The Whitechapel Vision along with its Master Plan was the brainchild of the former Mayor Lutfur Rahman and his then Cabinet Member Alibor Choudhury. Both were approved by the previous administration and adopted by the Council. This historic regeneration of

Whitechapel is the former administration's hard work and a testament to their commitment and ambition to improve the Borough which included local businesses, the agreed 'tech city' and the expansion of medical research facilities.

The Whitechapel Vision, its Master Plan and including associated regeneration will also provide:

- At least 3,500 new homes
- 5,000 new local jobs
- School improvements
- Transformed public spaces
- Enhanced local heritage
- A civic centre in the heart of the community

We have proposed a 'local community-led forum of grass-root stakeholders' to add value to get it right in the implementation phase which has been ignored by John Biggs.

The Council Believes:

John Biggs, his allies, and other opportunists have sought to take credit for what Mayor Lutfur Rahman, his Deputy Ohid Ahmed, former Cabinet member Alibor Choudhury and other cabinet members worked hard to deliver for residents.

John Biggs promised to build a thousand more houses in his manifesto, in reality he has built none save to carry on Lutfur Rahman's commitments as this was tied to the projects previously started and the funding previously secured and approved by us.

In the 2014 mayoral election, the previous administration had a manifesto promise to deliver further 5,000 affordable housing for the next 4 years by 2018. Indeed, on top of the 5,590 homes already delivered by the previous administration, another 3,000 affordable homes were in the pipeline and were well on course to be delivered as the previous administration's manifesto promise of additional 5,000 local homes. It's disingenuous for John Biggs to take credit for affordable housing in Tower Hamlets in which his administration had no contribution.

Our administration had a clear vision and drive to deliver more social affordable housing in the borough to alleviate overcrowding and increase life chances of our young people. A vision and drive we fail to see in John Biggs administration. There are no new council or affordable homes built between June 2015 until now 'which were not started or approved by our previous administration under former Mayor Lutfur Rahman and his Deputy Mayor'.

John Biggs has yet to credibly name one big regeneration project which he has initiated and approved which will deliver substantial affordable housing but as usual, he tries to take credit for the success of our hard work.

The Council Resolves:

John Biggs should stop taking the credit for former Mayor Lutfur Rahman and Deputy Mayor Cllr Ohid Ahmed's achievements and learn to take responsibility for the series of catastrophic failures he has committed and to stop blaming anyone but him for easy political point scoring.

To acknowledge the historic achievements of the former Mayor, Deputy Mayor and their administration in delivering the record level of affordable housing as acknowledged by DCLG, the GLA and others.

12.19 Motion regarding Stop closure of one stop shops in Tower Hamlets

Proposer: Councillor Suluk Ahmed

Secunder: Councillor Oliur Rahman

The Council Notes:

John Biggs led Tower Hamlets administration is planning to shut down four One Stop Shops in their current form which provide invaluable services to many residents, including friends, family members and loved ones. This is being disguised as a “merger”.

The reason or ‘excuse’ given is the integration of the service with the Idea Stores and forcing the residents to use online services instead.

To force the service online will alienate the elderly, those who do not use a computer, find reading a challenge, have special needs or for whom the first language is not English.

This means there will no longer be ‘immediate’ face to face service in its current form about parking, housing benefits, council tax, welfare etc. for the residents in stand-alone One Stop Shops with face to face contact providing expert knowledge and support to help residents – many of whom would be vulnerable in a distressed situation or in need of ‘urgent’ help.

There is a genuine fear that the face to face service will completely disappear even if any ‘temporary stop-gap-measures’ or ‘a provisional promise’ to see complicated cases at a future date was made to some users to get the changes approved now in order to ‘manage’ any protest or to negate the complaints from the residents/users, staff, elected representatives and others. The ‘if needed’ assistance and a possible face to face meetings in complicated cases at a ‘future’ date leave a lot to be desired and are meaningless rhetoric for residents who need immediate face to face help.

Independent Group’s Shadow Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Partnerships, Cllr Ohid Ahmed, has raised this important issue and is campaigning to save the service. If approved this proposal will mean there will no longer be any stand-alone One Stop Shops with immediate face to face service using ‘ticket and wait’ provision currently in place in the borough.

It is also important to ensure that the Council does not allow the new wifi service to provide an opportunity for hackers and others in respect of data breaches and access to confidential information.

Approximately 1,000 residents visit the One Stop Shops services on daily basis – many of whom are from the ethnic minorities or the most vulnerable groups due to a variety of factors.

The Council Resolves:

To ask Mayor John Biggs to stop his proposed cut and closure of four One Stops Shops in Tower Hamlets due to its detrimental impact on residents who already feel besieged by his brutal cuts as well as a record 9% increase in the council tax while the Mayor enjoys an 11.7% pay rise at more than £10,000 extra in his pay packet.

12.20 Motion regarding Fire Safety in Tower Hamlets for Residents

Proposer: Councillor Kibria Choudhury

Seconder: 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 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.

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

12.21 Motion Regarding Save The Jamboree

Proposer: Councillor Andrew Cregan
Seconder: Councillor Denise Jones

This Council notes:

- Cable Street Studios is a remarkable cavalcade of artists, musicians and educators, housed in the labyrinthine hallways of the famous industrial heritage building on the border of Limehouse and Shadwell. It is a unique venue for creative collaboration and cultural exchange forming a unique social and cultural asset to the local community of Tower Hamlets and those beyond.
- At its heart is the much-loved grassroots live music venue, Jamboree, that has provided a stage for musicians from around the world for almost a decade and a hub for the local community.
- An online page regarding redevelopment plans for Cable Street Studios was recently taken down by the landlord, Sudbury Properties Ltd. No official information has been shared with the tenants, local residents or the Council.
- Cable Street Studios was recently denied Asset of Community Value (ACV) status without steps for appeal being provided.
- The landlord, Sudbury Properties Ltd, have now refused to renew its lease of Jamboree and are forcing the closure at the end of March – weeks before the celebrated venue's 10 year anniversary.
- The number of live music venues in London is dwindling with 40% of grassroots venues lost since 2008.
- The Mayor of London's support for Jamboree to remain open.
- That Mayor Biggs has written to Sudbury to express support for the current use and venue.
- That the Council's officers are in dialogue with the current Jamboree organisers to look into alternative space as a last resort
- That our Draft Regulation 19 Local Plan provides protections to artistic venues:
 - Policy S.CF1: Supporting Community Facilities: Development which seeks to protect existing community facilities will be supported
 - Policy D.CF2: Existing community facilities: Existing community facilities must be retained unless it can be demonstrated that there is no longer a need for the facility or an alternative community use within the local community; or a replacement facility of a similar nature that would better meet the needs of existing users is provided.

This Council believes:

- Jamboree is one of the UK's most unique and vibrant live music venues and we are privileged to have it here in the heart of the East End. Its loss would be sorely felt by the community in Tower Hamlets, particularly in a year when the borough is bidding to be the London Borough of Culture.

This Council resolves:

- To call on the Mayor to urge Sudbury Properties to revoke their decision not to renew lease the lease of Jamboree.
- To call on the Mayor to review and recognise the application of Cable Street

Studios to be recognised as an Asset of Community Value (ACV).

- To call on the Mayor to ensure that any future development plans for Cable Street Studios ensures the continuation of the existing art and cultural community.