

LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

MINUTES OF THE CABINET

HELD AT 5.10 P.M. ON TUESDAY, 20 MARCH 2018

**C1, 1ST FLOOR, TOWN HALL, MULBERRY PLACE, 5 CLOVE CRESCENT,
LONDON, E14 2BG**

Members Present:

Mayor John Biggs	
Councillor Sirajul Islam	(Statutory Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Housing)
Councillor Rachel Blake	(Cabinet Member for Strategic Development & Waste)
Councillor Asma Begum	(Cabinet Member for Community Safety)
Councillor David Edgar	(Cabinet Member for Resources)
Councillor Denise Jones	(Cabinet Member for Health & Adult Services)
Councillor Abdul Mukit MBE	(Cabinet Member for Culture and Youth)
Councillor Joshua Peck	(Cabinet Member for Work & Economic Growth)
Councillor Amy Whitelock Gibbs	(Cabinet Member for Education and Children's Services)

Other Councillors Present:

Councillor Dave Chesterton	(Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee)
Councillor Peter Golds	(Leader of the Conservative Group)
Councillor Andrew Wood	

Apologies:

Councillor Amina Ali	(Cabinet Member for Environment)
----------------------	----------------------------------

Officers Present:

Desmond Adumekwe	(Planning Compliance Manager)
Mark Baigent	(Interim Divisional Director, Housing and Regeneration)
Paul Buckenham	(Development Manager, Planning Services, Place)
Zena Cooke	(Corporate Director, Resources)
David Courcoux	(Head of the Mayor's Office)
Emily Fieran-Reed	(Service Manager, Community Cohesion, Engagement and Commissioning, Strategy, Policy and Equality)
David Freeman	(Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) Strategy Manager)
Sharon Godman	(Divisional Director, Strategy, Policy and Partnerships)
Asmat Hussain	(Corporate Director, Governance and Monitoring Officer)

Debbie Jones	(Corporate Director, Children's)
Jack Kerr	Strategy Policy & Performance Officer
Elvis Langley	Senior Strategy - Policy and Performance Officer (Charities and Community Groups)
Martin Ling	(Housing Strategy Manager, Place)
Tom McCourt	(Strategic Director)
Neville Murton	(Divisional Director, Finance, Procurement & Audit)
Matthew Phelan	Public Health Programme Lead (Healthy Environments)
Matthew Pullen	(Infrastructure Planning Manager)
Denise Radley	(Corporate Director, Health, Adults & Community)
Karen Sugars	(Acting Divisional Director, Integrated Commissioning)
Ann Sutcliffe	(Acting Corporate Director, Place)
Will Tuckley	(Chief Executive)
Matthew Vaughan	(Political Advisor to the Conservative Group, Democratic Services, LPG)
Christine McInnes	(Divisional Director, Education and Partnership, Children's)
Matthew Mannion	(Committee Services Manager, Democratic Services, Governance)
David Knight	(Senior Democratic Services Officer)

ORDER OF BUSINESS

At the meeting the Mayor agreed to change the order of business to take items with public interest at the top of the agenda. For clarity the Minutes are set out in the order the items appear on the agenda. At the meeting:

- Agenda Item 5.9 (Disposal of 2 Trinity Green) was taken directly after Item 5.4 (Premises Leased to Voluntary and Community Sector Organisations).
- Agenda Item 5.15 (Tower Hamlets Planning Compliance Policy) was taken directly after Item 5.10 (Pan-London Modular Temporary Accommodation).

All other items were taken in order.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of:

- Councillor Amina Ali (Cabinet Member for Environment)

Apologies for lateness were received on behalf of:

- Councillor Amy Whitelock Gibbs (Cabinet Member for Education and Children's Services)

2. DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS

Councillor Joshua Peck, Cabinet Member for Work and Economic Development, made a Declaration of Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in Agenda Item (5.10) as his company had a contract with a company which made off-site modular accommodation and whilst it wasn't related to this project he considered it was appropriate to make a declaration. He left the room for the duration of the discussion on that Item.

3. UNRESTRICTED MINUTES

RESOLVED

1. That the unrestricted minutes (including the noted amendment to the recommended decision for Agenda Item 5.1) of the Cabinet meeting held on Tuesday 27 February 2018 be approved and signed by the Chair as a correct record of proceedings.

4. OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

4.1 Chair's Advice of Key Issues or Questions

Pre-Decision Scrutiny Questions were submitted on the following agenda items:

- 5.1 (Community Commissioning Programme Framework)
- 5.4 (Premises Leased to Voluntary and Community Sector Organisations)
- 5.5 (Private Sector Housing Renewal Policy 2018-2022)
- 5.6 (The Impact of Short-Term Holiday Platform Lets)
- 5.7 (All-Zone Multi-Purpose Permits for Car Clubs)
- 5.9 (Disposal of 2 Trinity Green, Mile End Road)
- 5.12 (Strategy for Children and Young People with SEND)
- 5.15 (Tower Hamlets Planning Compliance Policy)
- 5.18 (Quarter 3 Strategic Performance Monitoring Report)

It was agreed that full answers would be provided at the Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting on Thursday 22 March 2018 but where appropriate the issues raised were considered during discussion of the relevant items.

In addition Councillor Dave Chesterton, Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (OSC), addressed the meeting. He provided an update on the Committee's meeting the previous week. He reported on a number of issues and reports that had been discussed including:

- A Spotlight session with Mayor John Biggs.
- A Spotlight session with Councillor Denise Jones, Cabinet Member for Health and Adult Services.
- A report back from the Scrutiny Challenge on the impact of Brexit on the Council.
- That the Committee had reviewed the Quarter 3 Strategic Monitoring Report (that was also on the Cabinet's agenda).

Finally he noted that the last OSC meeting of the Municipal Year was to take place on Thursday 22 March 2018.

The **Mayor** thanked him for his work as Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee over the past year and thanked the Committee for its work in scrutinising the actions of the executive.

4.2 Any Unrestricted Decisions "Called in" by the Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Nil items.

5. UNRESTRICTED REPORTS FOR CONSIDERATION

5.1 Community Commissioning Programme Framework

Note – Agenda Items 5.1 and 5.2 were taken together and the combined minute is set out below. Please see item 5.2 for the decision for that specific report.

The **Mayor** introduced the report. He highlighted that discussions with the Voluntary and Community sectors had been ongoing for quite a long time and that the Council was looking to ensure support for their proposed new direction.

During discussion officers emphasised that a lot of work had gone in to the report to date but that further development was still to take place and would be reported back to Cabinet at the appropriate time. This would include further engagement work within the voluntary and community sectors.

Farida Yesmin, representing the Tower Hamlets Community Advice Network, addressed Cabinet. She emphasised that they were keen to work with the Commissioning model but had concerns to make sure that the process was not rushed and that any commissioning undertaken did not simply result in large national organisations taking over work from local providers.

The **Mayor** thanked everyone for their contributions to the discussion. He emphasised that he was very keen to preserve a strong local voluntary sector. He considered that the reports set out a good framework for Commissioning and Grants policy but agreed that more details were needed on how this would work. He also emphasised that officers would continue to work with the sector on how this developed. He **agreed** the recommendations as set out but emphasised that he would be looking for more details to be set out in further reports to Cabinet to follow within a few months.

RESOLVED

1. To agree the programme rationale and approach for a Community Commissioning programme, and
2. To instruct officers to develop detailed proposals for a Community Commissioning programme, to be launched in time for a proposed programme delivery start date of April 2019.

5.2 Corporate Voluntary and Community Sector Grants Policy Framework

Note – Agenda Items 5.1 and 5.2 were taken together and the combined minute is set out under Item 5.1. The decision for Item 5.2 is set out below.

RESOLVED

1. To agree the attached policy framework for a corporate grants policy, and
2. To instruct officers to develop proposals for a detailed grants programme to be launched in the summer of 2018.

5.3 Compact with the Voluntary and Community Sector

The **Mayor** introduced the report. He highlighted that there had been considerable consultation whilst developing the new Compact and noted that the previous Compact was seven years old and so needed a refresh. He considered the proposals recognised the important role the voluntary and community sectors played and he **agreed** the recommendations as set out.

RESOLVED

1. To agree the Compact between the Council and the Voluntary and Community Sector set out in Appendix A to the report.

5.4 Premises Leased to Voluntary and Community Sector Organisations - Revised Policy

The **Mayor** introduced the report. He highlighted that the report set out the proposals showing eligibility for discounts and the means of assessing applications. He emphasised it was important not to create any processes that were too complicated.

During discussion it was noted that officers were in discussion with 'early years' providers to see what funding options were available to them.

The **Mayor agreed** the recommendations as set out in the report.

RESOLVED

1. To agree that the rent reduction scheme for voluntary and community sector organisations occupying Council premises agreed by the Mayor in Cabinet on 1 November 2016 be;
 - a) Extended to include all VCS organisations leasing premises from the Council;
 - b) Revised as set out in appendix A to the report to allow for a proportionate rent reduction of either 20% or 40% for organisations engaged in economic activity where there is a significant level of activity which meets the scheme's criteria for community benefit;
 - c) Revised as set out in appendix A to the report to include nationally recognised VCS quality assurance standards in the eligibility criteria; and
 - d) Revised as set out in appendix A to the report to allow a grace period of up to 12 months for organisations seeking a rent reduction to achieve the above QA standard.
2. To agree that where a VCS organisation is not eligible for the rent reduction, the impact of the increase in rent may be mitigated through a stepped rent arrangement over the period of the lease, as set out in appendix A to the report.
3. To delegate to the Acting Corporate Director of Place the authority to agree the terms of, and enter into, any leases (or variations thereof) or any other agreements in order to give effect to the above recommendations.

5.5 Private Sector Housing Renewal Policy 2018 - 2022

Councillor Sirajul Islam, Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Housing, introduced the report. He explained that the report set out options for updating the Council's Policy document on Private Sector Housing Renewals. He noted that a public consultation exercise had taken place to review the previously published draft proposals.

The **Mayor** welcomed the report and **agreed** the recommendation as set out.

RESOLVED

1. To adopt the Private Sector Housing Renewal Policy 2018 - 2022 attached at Appendix 2 to the report.

5.6 The impact of short-term holiday platform lets

Councillor Sirajul Islam, Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Housing, introduced the report. He noted the high level of short term lets, second only to Westminster, in the Borough and the need to manage these lets and any potential wider impact on an area. In particular he noted the recommendation requesting the Council apply to the Secretary of State for exemption from the 90-day provision for those parts of the Borough most impacted and also the recommendation to set up a helpline for residents to report short term lets that were causing concern.

The **Mayor** welcomed the report. He noted the exempt/restricted appendix and **agreed** the recommendations as set out.

RESOLVED

1. To apply to the Secretary of State for Housing to exempt from the 90-day permission those parts of the borough that are most severely affected by the growth of short-term letting
2. To work at a leadership level with MPs, the GLA, Local Authorities negatively affected by the growth of short-term letting, and other stakeholders to lobby Government for legislative change
3. To develop a substantial communications plan around short-term holiday lets using social, on-line and traditional media in order to deter unlawful holiday letting and to support to the council's lobbying objectives
4. To ensure that work is carried forward by Tower Hamlets Homes and by THHF to ensure that Registered Providers enforce lease restrictions against all leaseholders who operate 'Airbnb businesses'
5. To establish a working group to establish lead responsibility and a multi-agency response to problematic short-term letting including through enforcing health and safety, tax, and insurance compliance
6. To set up an on-line system by which residents affected by short-term letting can log with the Council addresses and dates where those lettings take place
7. To develop policy on Community Protection Notices that includes their use for problematic short-term letting, and delegates power to Registered Providers in order that they can serve them on short-term letting providers rather than their licensees

5.7 All-Zone Multi-Purpose Permits for Car Clubs – Amendment to Permitted Bays

The **Mayor** introduced the report proposing All-zone multi-purpose permits for car clubs. He considered it a sensible suggestion for car clubs to be given access to regular parking bays rather than have to create special spaces for them. He **agreed** the recommendations as set out.

RESOLVED

1. To approve the amendment to the Scheme for inclusion of all bays in which parking can be purchased either by a ticket from a machine or by the Council's cashless parking provider to include all-zone multi-purpose permits for car club companies.
2. To delegate authority to the Head of Parking & Mobility Services to amend the types of bay in which car club vehicles may park or the areas of the borough in which the scheme can operate.

5.8 IDF: Report to Cabinet recommending the approval of the allocation of CIL and S106 funding and approval for the adoption of a capital budget in respect of the 2 following projects: Goodmans Fields Health Centre and Whitechapel Public Realm

Councillor Denise Jones, Cabinet Member for Health and Adult Services introduced the report on the proposal for the Goodman's Fields Health Centre. She welcomed the potential for a new, modern health facility.

Councillor Joshua Peck, Cabinet Member for Work and Economic Development introduced the report proposing support for open spaces in the Whitechapel area. He highlighted how important these were in a part of the Borough that did not contain much open space and that this proposal would also deliver complimentary improvements such as traffic calming.

The **Mayor** welcomed the proposals and **agreed** the recommendations as set out.

RESOLVED

1. To agree the allocation of £1,329,483 in Section 106 (S106) funding and £3,494,991 in Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) to the proposals set out in the "*Goodman's Fields Health Centre*" Project Initiation Document (PID), which is attached to the Cabinet report at Appendix A.
2. To agree the allocation of £727,450 in Section 106 (S106) funding to the proposals set out in the "*Whitechapel Public Realm Improvements*" Project Initiation Document (PID), which is attached to the Cabinet report at Appendix B.

3. To adopt a Capital Budget for the “*Goodman’s Fields Health Centre*” and “*Whitechapel Public Realm Improvements*” Project Initiation Documents (PID) as set out in Table 1 of the report.

5.9 Disposal of 2 Trinity Green, Mile End Road, E.1. 4TS

Councillor David Edgar, Cabinet Member for Resources, introduced the report into the proposed disposal of 2 Trinity Green. He explained that the property was expensive and complicated to renovate and that the proposal was it would be a better use of Council resources to sell the property and use the proceeds to purchase provision elsewhere in the Borough. He also explained that a Heritage Asset Management Plan (HAMP) would be produced to help support future site-wide management and maintenance.

Rupert Munday, Friends of Trinity Green, addressed Cabinet. He highlighted that the Spitalfields Trust had expressed an interest in purchasing the property and so he requested a delay whilst this was discussed. He also expressed concern that a sale on the open market would make agreeing an HAMP more difficult. Finally he asked that if the property was sold that some of the receipts be reserved to support environmental improvements at the site.

The **Mayor** noted the points raised in the discussion. He also noted the suggestion that the disposal ‘should be’ made subject to a local conservation plan. He stated that he considered the approach set out in the recommendations to be appropriate but that if the Spitalfields Trust came back with a formal proposal within the next week he would look at that. Finally he noted the exempt/restricted appendix to the report.

The **Mayor** agreed the recommendations set out in the report.

RESOLVED

1. To note the contents of the report;
2. To agree that 2 Trinity Green, Mile End Road, E1 4TS is surplus to the Council’s operational requirements;
3. To agree to the disposal of the site and to note that the Corporate Director, Place will decide on the most appropriate disposal method under delegated authority;
4. To agree to the disposal of the site on a freehold basis;
5. To agree that the capital receipt is used for the provision of affordable housing,
6. To authorise the Corporate Director, Place, to progress the sale of the site;

7. To authorise the Corporate Director, Place, following consultation with the Corporate Director, Governance, to agree the terms and conditions of any agreements required to implement the recommendations above.
8. To authorise the Corporate Director, Governance to execute all agreements required to implement the recommendations above; and
9. To agree to produce a Heritage Asset Management Plan in consultation with the Friends of Trinity Green and other Stakeholders, to guide a future approach to site-wide management and maintenance.

5.10 Pan-London Modular Temporary Accommodation

Councillor Sirajul Islam, Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Housing, introduced the report on a cross-London project to provide modular accommodation for homeless families. He welcomed the proposals as a positive scheme that would provide significant benefits.

The **Mayor** welcomed the report and welcomed that Tower Hamlets was playing a leading role in the project. He noted the exempt/restricted appendix and **agreed** the recommendations as set out subject to a minor amendment to take out the name of an officer and to just list the post instead.

RESOLVED

1. To note the award of £11 million from the GLA Innovation Fund to deliver modular temporary accommodation through a pan-London collaboration between London boroughs.
2. To note the award of £20,000 from the Capital Ambition programme (hosted by London Councils) as “seed-funding” for the further development of the pan-London temporary accommodation proposals.
3. To approve the establishment of a Company Limited by Guarantee to procure and own modular temporary accommodation for the benefit of London boroughs who become members of the company, with LB Tower Hamlets as a founding member.
4. Appoint the Interim Divisional Director of Housing & Regeneration as the Council’s initial Company Director.
5. Delegate to the Corporate Director (Place) in consultation with the Corporate Director (Governance) and the Corporate Director (Resources) to approve the specific legal documentation for establishing the company.
6. Note that further decisions will be required at a later date to pass on GLA grant funding from the Council to the new Company and, if relevant, for the Council to provide debt finance to the Company.

5.11 Children's Services Improvement Programme, Quarterly Progress Report (Quarter 3)

Councillor Amy Whitelock Gibbs, Cabinet Member for Education and Children's Services, introduced the third quarterly report on the Children's Services Improvement Programme. She noted that it had been discussed at the recent Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting as well as the Best Value Improvement Board. She set out that the headlines showed steady progress was being made as verified by OFSTED and the Department for Education but that there will still significant work to do.

She thanked officers for their hard work to tackle the issues that had been identified.

During discussion a number of points were noted including:

- That the next OFSTED inspection would have a focus on risks from gang involvement and risks around sexual exploitation.
- The importance of good caseload auditing and management.
- The potential to develop a social work academy.

The **Mayor** welcomed the report, thanked officers for their work and **agreed** the recommendations as set out.

RESOLVED

1. To endorse the progress made in delivering the children's services improvement programme.
2. To agree the next steps in the improvement journey which would be updated on in the next report.

5.12 Strategy for Children and Young People with SEND: Findings from Strategy Consultation and Proposed New Strategy

Councillor Amy Whitelock Gibbs, Cabinet Member for Education and Children's Services, introduced the report. She explained that it provided the findings from the consultation exercises that had taken place. She alerted Members to the sections of the report which specifically set out the changes made following the consultation process.

The **Mayor** welcomed the extensive consultation that had taken place and how it had achieved a broad consensus on the proposed policies. He considered the proposals were now pretty comprehensive. He **agreed** the recommendations as set out.

RESOLVED

1. To note the draft SEND Strategy.
2. To note the proposed key performance indicators for the SEND Strategy.
3. To note the outcome of the consultation on the SEND strategy.
4. To approve the preparation of a document for stakeholders to communicate “what we heard; our response”.
5. To agree a date and how planning will begin for the launch of the new SEND Strategy in 2018.

5.13 Sheltered Housing

Councillor Denise Jones, Cabinet Member for Health and Adult Services, introduced the report seeking approval for a new funding model for sheltered housing tenants. She highlighted in particular the target of reducing loneliness and isolation.

She explained that the report provided information on the consultation exercise that had been undertaken following a previous Cabinet report.

The **Mayor** welcomed the report and the proposals set out. He highlighted that he was mindful of the need to improve the care for those in the community as well as those in sheltered housing. He **agreed** the recommendations as set out.

RESOLVED

1. To agree the recommendations within the report, and authorise the Corporate Director Health, Adults and Community to:
 - a. Adopt an Intensive Housing Management Service (IHMS) model for sheltered housing provision in the borough
 - b. Issue new contracts to the existing sheltered housing providers for up to six months to allow for the transition to an IHMS model
 - c. Fund a range of activities in sheltered schemes at a maximum value of £500 per resident per annum in line with the Ageing Well Strategy and the Mayor’s commitment to tackle loneliness and isolation and improve the wellbeing of elderly tenants living in sheltered housing
 - d. Enter into all agreements and make such other decisions as may be required to achieve the recommendations of this report

5.14 Tower Hamlets Adult Social Care Local Account

Councillor Denise Jones, Cabinet Member for Health and Adult Services, introduced the report. She explained that the purpose of the Adult Social Care Local Account was as a way of reporting back to residents on the quality and performance of adult social care.

The **Mayor agreed** the recommendations as set out and thanked officers for their work in preparing a very accessible document.

RESOLVED

1. To approve the Local Account as attached at Appendix A to the report for publication.
2. To endorse the communication plan for the Local Account as attached at Appendix B to the report.

5.15 Tower Hamlets Planning Compliance Policy

Councillor Rachel Blake, Cabinet Member for Strategic Development and Waste, introduced the report. She explained that the report was looking to respond to growing concern from residents on compliance with planning permissions. The report set out to establish service standards so that residents would know what service they could expect.

The **Mayor** welcomed the report and **agreed** the recommendations as set out.

RESOLVED

1. To note the report and the draft Planning Compliance Policy attached at Appendix 1 to the report.
2. To approve the draft Planning Compliance Policy for adoption.

5.16 Renewal of Leaseholders Building Insurance, Motor Fleet, Commercial Property, Crime and Fidelity Guarantee, Engineering Inspection, Business Travel and Personal Accident and School Journeys

Councillor David Edgar, Cabinet Member for Resources introduced the report on the renewal of a number of insurance policies including for leaseholders building insurance. The report set out the process by which the final quotes had been selected. He explained why the premiums were higher than they had been previously.

The **Mayor agreed** the recommendation. He noted that there was a low excess payable on claims. He also noted the exempt/restricted appendix.

RESOLVED

1. To authorise the Corporate Director of Resources to award the leaseholders building insurance, insurance for motor fleet, commercial property, crime & fidelity guarantee, engineering inspection, business travel & personal accident and school journeys contracts in line with this report.

5.17 Best Value Improvement Plan (BVIP) Q4 update report

The **Mayor** introduced the report. He noted that the report had been considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Best Value Improvement Board and that it would be used as the basis for a response to the Secretary of State. He **agreed** the recommendations as set out.

RESOLVED

1. To note the draft update report attached as Appendix 1 to the cover report.
2. To agree any revised milestone timescales in the Improvement Plan attached as Appendix 2 to the cover report.

5.18 2017-18 Quarter 3 (October-December) Strategic Performance Monitoring report

The **Mayor** introduced the report. He noted that it had been discussed at the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. He considered that overall it showed the Council was making steady progress but that there were areas that required improvement such as around the measures added in relation to Children's Services. He **agreed** the recommendation as set out.

RESOLVED

1. To note the performance of the strategic measures at the quarter 3 point, including those measures where the minimum expectation has been missed (appendix 1 to the report).

6. ANY OTHER UNRESTRICTED BUSINESS CONSIDERED TO BE URGENT

Nil items.

7. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

Nil items.

8. EXEMPT / CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES

Nil items.

9. OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

9.1 Chair's Advice of Key Issues or Questions in Relation to Exempt / Confidential Business

Nil items.

9.2 Any Exempt / Confidential Decisions "Called in" by the Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Nil items.

10. ANY OTHER EXEMPT/ CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS CONSIDERED TO BE URGENT

Nil items.

The meeting ended at 7.49 p.m.

MAYOR JOHN BIGGS