

**LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS****MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL****HELD AT 7.00 P.M. ON WEDNESDAY, 18 JULY 2018****THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, 1ST FLOOR, TOWN HALL, MULBERRY PLACE, 5  
CLOVE CRESCENT, LONDON, E14 2BG****Members Present:**

Mayor John Biggs	Councillor Denise Jones
Councillor Faroque Ahmed	Councillor Tarik Khan
Councillor Sabina Akhtar	Councillor James King
Councillor Sufia Alam	Councillor Gabriela Salva Macallan
Councillor Amina Ali	Councillor Eve McQuillan
Councillor Shah Ameen	Councillor Ayas Miah
Councillor Ruhul Amin	Councillor Puru Miah
Councillor Asma Begum	Councillor Abdul Mukit MBE
Councillor Rachel Blake	Councillor Victoria Obaze
Councillor Kevin Brady	Councillor Mohammed Pappu
Councillor Mufeedah Bustin	Councillor Kyrsten Perry
Councillor Kahar Chowdhury	Councillor John Pierce
Councillor Shad Chowdhury	Councillor Leema Qureshi
Councillor Dipa Das	Councillor Zenith Rahman
Councillor David Edgar	Councillor Candida Ronald
Councillor Marc Francis	Councillor Dan Tomlinson
Councillor Peter Golds	Councillor Helal Uddin
Councillor Ehtasham Haque	Councillor Abdal Ullah
Councillor Muhammad Harun	Councillor Motin Uz-Zaman
Councillor Danny Hassell	Councillor Val Whitehead
Councillor Mohammed Ahbab Hossain	Councillor Bex White
Councillor Asma Islam	Councillor Andrew Wood
Councillor Sirajul Islam	

**The Speaker of the Council, Councillor Ayas Miah in the Chair**

The Speaker of the Council brought the Council up to date with some of his activities since the previous Council meeting.

He advised that he had the honour of attending a wide range of event and engagements. This included

- A number of community Ramadan events.
- Meetings with the new civic heads of the London Boroughs at an induction day in Westminster.
- The first of many Citizenship Ceremonies.
- The Annual Engagement Reception at HMS President.
- The Tower Hamlets Boishakhi Mela. The Speaker thanked the Council and the Mela engagement group for their hard work on the event.

- A TH Arts and Music Education Service Concert.
- A National Democracy week event at the town hall to help young people learn about the democratic processes at the Council.

Turning to the Dementia Friend's programme, the Speaker encouraged everyone to join him in becoming a Dementia Friend. Anyone interested should contact the Speaker's Office.

## **1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of:

- Councillor Rabina Khan

Apologies for lateness were received on behalf of:

- Councillor Puru Miah

## **2. DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS**

Councillor Kahar Chowdhury declared a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in agenda Item 10.12, a Member Question regarding LBTH Councillor representation on the Poplar HARCA board. This was on the basis that he was the leaseholder owner of a Poplar HARCA property.

Councillor Eve McQuillan declared a non-pecuniary personal interest in agenda item 8, Administration Motion regarding Celebrating 70 Years of The NHS. This was on the grounds that she worked for the Royal College of Psychiatrists.

Councillor Helal Uddin declared a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in agenda Item 10.12, a Member Question regarding LBTH representation on the Poplar HARCA board. This was on the basis that his employer, the Bromley by Bow Centre, had a working relationship with Poplar HARCA and his wife was a leaseholder owner of a Poplar HARCA property.

Councillor Motin Uz-Zaman declared a non-pecuniary personal interest in agenda item 10.1, a Member Question regarding Grafton House. This was on the grounds that he was a Council appointed Member of the East End Homes Board.

Councillor Bex White declared a non-pecuniary personal interest in agenda item 8 – Administration Motion regarding Celebrating 70 Years Of The NHS. This was on the grounds that her spouse was an NHS GP.

Members declaring Disclosable Pecuniary Interests would be required to leave the room for the duration of the relevant agenda items.

### 3. MINUTES

#### RESOLVED:

1. That the unrestricted minutes of the Extraordinary Council Meeting and the Annual General Council Meeting held on 23rd May 2018 be confirmed as a correct record and the Speaker be authorised to sign them accordingly.

### 4. TO RECEIVE ANNOUNCEMENTS (IF ANY) FROM THE SPEAKER OF THE COUNCIL OR THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

The Chief Executive updated the Council on a number of recent developments. He advised that over the last few weeks, the Council had undergone a Corporate Peer Challenge with the LGA and a review of Planning Services with the Planning Advisory Service and the LGA. Both had gone well. All Members should have received a copy of the feedback from the former and it was expected that the findings of the latter would be available shortly. The Council had been shortlisted for a number of PRCA Communications Awards and had taken steps to appoint a new Divisional Director of Human Resources and Organisational Development. An announcement should be made shortly

Councillor Kevin Brady **moved**, and Councillor Rachel Blake **seconded**, a procedural motion that “Under Procedure Rule 12.1(C), the order of business be changed as set out in the Motion below. The reason for this was to enable the meeting to effectively conduct its business given the need to accommodate a State of the Borough debate in addition to the standard agenda items.

#### Procedural Motion.

The Council is required by the Constitution to have a State of the Borough Debate at every Annual Meeting. However, in order to accommodate the Freedom of the Borough award at the AGM in May, Council agreed to defer the State of the Borough debate to the July Council meeting.

Therefore in these exceptional circumstances, in order to ensure that the meeting covers the full agenda within the allotted three hours, it is proposed to alter the normal time limits on items of business.

These changes would apply to this meeting (18th July 2018) only.

It is proposed to:

- Suspend council procedural rule 11.5 (e), to reduce the time limit on both the administration and opposition motion from 30 minutes to 15 minutes.

- Suspend council procedural rule 10.12, to reduce the time limit on members' questions, from 30 minutes to 20 minutes.
- Suspend council procedural rule 1.3 (a), to reduce the time limit on the State of the Borough Debate from 1 hour to 40 minutes.

The procedural motion was **agreed**.

## **5. TO RECEIVE PETITIONS**

### **5.1 Petition regarding STOP Drug Dealing in Batty Street E1**

Samran Saleem addressed the meeting on behalf of the petitioners and responded to questions from Members. Mayor John Biggs then responded to the matters raised in the petition. The Mayor noted the issues with ASB and drug dealing in the area and that tackling such problems remained a top priority of the Administration.

He reported that the Council had put in place a number of measures to address such behaviour. This included upgrading CCTV systems in the area, providing new Police Officers and working closely with the Police as part of their Operation Continuum initiative to target drug dealing that had achieved positive results in the area. Furthermore, the Council were looking at further measures to design out problems in the area

#### **RESOLVED:**

1. That the petition be referred to the Corporate Director Health, Adults and Community for a written response within 28 days.

### **5.2 Petition calling on Tower Hamlets Council to repair Frank Dobson Sq Fountain and replace statue**

Tara Hudson and others addressed the meeting on behalf of the petitioners and responded to questions from Members. Councillor Sirajul Islam, Statutory Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Housing then responded to the matters raised in the petition. He provided an update on the proposals in respect of the site near Frank Dobson square and the plans to refurbish the square and provide a space for public art. Whilst the Council remained committed to refurbishing the square and retaining space for art, there were a number of issues that would need to be given further consideration before the planning proposals could be pursued.

He also stated that he and the Mayor were happy to consider the petitioners specific proposals for the site.

#### **RESOLVED:**

1. That the petition be referred to the Acting Corporate Director, Place for a written response within 28 days.

### **5.3 Petition regarding Divestment from fossil fuels**

Jess D'Arcy and others addressed the meeting on behalf of the petitioners and responded to questions from Members. Councillor Candida Ronald, Cabinet Member for Resources and the Voluntary Sector then responded to the matters raised in the petition. She noted that tackling climate change was one of the most pressing challenges facing the community. To this end, the Council's Pensions Committee had adopted a new Pensions fund Strategy and were considering a range of initiatives to reduce carbon investments, whilst maximising returns.

#### **RESOLVED:**

1. That the petition be referred to the Corporate Director, Resources for a written response within 28 days.

### **5.4 Petition regarding Buxton Street Empty Space**

Caroline Hand addressed the meeting on behalf of the petitioners and responded to questions from Members. Councillor Amina Ali, Cabinet Member for Culture, Arts and Brexit then responded to the matters raised in the petition.

She provided an updated on the plans to refurbish the site and Allen Gardens.

Turning to the petition, she expressed concerns about the requests in respect of their business. She advised that should a business wish to operate on Council land, it would need to apply for permission through the appropriate channels.

#### **RESOLVED:**

1. That the petition be referred to the Acting Corporate Director, Place for a written response within 28 days.

## **6. MAYOR'S REPORT**

The Mayor made his report to the Council, referring to his written report circulated at the meeting, summarising key events, engagements and meetings since the last Council meeting.

When the Mayor had completed his report and at the invitation of the Speaker, Councillor Peter Golds, on behalf of the Conservative Group Leader, responded briefly to the Mayor's report.

## 7. STATE OF THE BOROUGH DEBATE

The Mayor gave his address, focusing on past achievements and future priorities including:

- Progress with addressing the housing shortage and providing affordable housing.
- Governance of the Council and effective scrutiny.
- Employment and skills.
- Anti - poverty measures.
- Improving air quality.
- Community Safety.
- Infrastructure improvements.
- Proving high quality Council services.
- Responding to the impact of Brexit and financial challenges.
- The need for the Council to be outward looking organisations.

He also congratulated the new and returning Councillors on their election and stated that he looked forward to working with them in the future.

Councillor Andrew Wood (Leader of the Conservative Group) responded to the Mayor's report. He broadly welcomed the progress that had been made in moving the Council forward. However, he felt that more still needed to be done and that the Council should act more quickly to meet the challenges.

Councillors Mufeedah Bustin, Abdal Ullah, Bex White, Ehtasham Haque, Rachel Blake, Sirajul Islam and Asma Begum also addressed the Council.

They reflected on the Administration's achievements and the need to address the key issues facing the Borough.

In closing, the Mayor summarised his key priorities and responded to the issues raised in the debate.

## 8. ADMINISTRATION MOTION DEBATE

### 8 – Administration Motion regarding Celebrating 70 Years Of The NHS

Councillor Denise Jones **moved** and Councillor Eve McQuillan **seconded** the motion as printed in the agenda.

Councillor Andrew Wood **moved** and Councillor Peter Golds **seconded** the following amendment to the motion to be debated as **tabled**:

Insert new item 2

On 10th June 1940 a Committee was appointed by the Coalition Government to report on social insurance and allied services. The report, published in December 1942, identified the five giant evils in society as "Squalor, ignorance, want, idleness and disease." It proposed comprehensive and far reaching solutions to these problems and became a "best seller."

The King's Speech to Parliament on 24 November 1943 said;

"My Ministers will present to you their views and proposals regarding an enlarged and unified system of social insurance, a comprehensive health service and a new scheme of workmen's compensation." (Column 9 Hansard, 24 November 1943)

Insert new item 3

The three major political parties contesting the 1945 election all included comprehensive proposals for Health and National Insurance within their manifesto commitments. That for the Conservative Party said:

"The health services of the country will be made available to all citizens. Everyone will contribute to the cost, and no one will be denied the attention, the treatment or the appliances he requires because he cannot afford them."

Following Labour's victory they were able to implement their manifesto commitments.

Renumber items 2 as item 3 and item 3 as item 4.

Amendment to item 3 under this council further notes (replace with):

During the lifetime of the National Health Service there have been Conservative Governments for 42 years who have, after 1952, always increased expenditure on the Health Service on year on basis and were responsible for launching the post war expansion of new hospitals.

All parties in Government have sought to undertake this, during often turbulent economic circumstances. The exceptional year was during the Labour Government of 1974-79 when in 1977-78, at a time when public spending was being cut as part of the IMF austerity measures, expenditure was reduced.

Amend Item 5 to read (replace with)

The concerns of the East London Health and Care partnership need to be examined and addressed, particularly in light of the recent announcement of the 20 billion health bonus announced by the government.

Delete items 6 and 7.

After "This council believes" delete items 2 and 3.

Amend item 4 to read

This council welcomes the increased funding of 3.4% announced by the Government.

Last sentence

To celebrate the invaluable contribution the NHS and its staff have made over the last 70 years, and to work with colleagues and partners to safeguard the future of the NHS.

Replace with

To celebrate the invaluable contribution the NHS and its staff have made over the last 70 years, and to work with colleagues and partners to ensure that the NHS continues to deliver outstanding care.

Following debate, the above amendment was put to the vote and was **defeated**

The original motion was then put to a vote and was **agreed**.

**RESOLVED:**

This Council notes that:

1. The National Health Service celebrated its 70th birthday on 5th July 2018.
2. The NHS was founded by a Labour government, with three core principles:
  - a. That it meet the needs of everyone;
  - b. That it be free at the point of delivery;
  - c. That it be based on clinical need, not ability to pay.
3. We are all proud of our NHS, which has made a huge difference to public health and delivered incredible developments in medical science, all but eradicating debilitating diseases like polio and diphtheria and continuing to develop ground-breaking treatments.

This Council further notes:

1. The NHS could not survive without the extraordinary care, skill, compassion and dedication provided by over 1.5 million staff members.
2. The 70th birthday of the NHS is a time to celebrate the massive contribution made by the organisation and its staff, but it is also an important time to look at the future of the NHS, which is seriously threatened.
3. NHS services under successive Tory governments have been pushed to the brink by the biggest financial squeeze in NHS history as well as cuts to public health and social care.
4. The East London Health & Care Partnership, which covers Tower Hamlets, warns that:



In the east London area alone, **there will be a £580m shortfall in funding within four years, by 2021.**

**Services and facilities may have to close and standards of care will suffer** if not addressed urgently. Change is required, and fast, to help keep us healthy and well in the future and to receive care when we need it.

5. A&Es are overstretched and overcrowded, waiting lists for operations are far too long, and key performance targets are routinely missed.
6. That many staff members feel threatened by Brexit, which is also having a severe impact on the ability of the NHS to recruit much-needed staff from outside the UK.
7. The ongoing campaign to save the NHS, including important contributions from doctors, nurses, patients, other NHS staff members, and campaigners including councillors, trade unions and our local MPs Jim Fitzpatrick and Rushanara Ali.

This Council believes that:

1. The NHS has provided a remarkable public service over the last 70 years, and we must do everything we can to protect it and ensure it can continue to provide world-class care.
2. Our NHS is being failed by the Government, which is not providing adequate funding to match rising demand.
3. Our NHS urgently needs proper investment to address the vast pressure the NHS faces.
4. The Government's recent announcement of an annual 3.4% increase for NHS funding falls short of what is needed – this is an uncosted standstill settlement, with the IFS saying the NHS needs 3.3% just to maintain current levels.

This Council resolves:

1. To celebrate the invaluable contribution the NHS and its staff have made over the last 70 years, and to work with colleagues and partners to safeguard the future of the NHS.

## 9. OPPOSITION MOTION DEBATE

### 9 – Opposition Motion by the Conservative Group regarding the Isle Of Dogs & South Poplar Opportunity Area Planning Framework

Councillor Andrew Wood **moved** and Councillor Peter Golds **seconded** the motion as printed in the agenda.

Councillor Rachel Blake **moved** and Mayor John Biggs **seconded** the following amendment to the motion to be debated as **tabled**:

(Deleted text scored out, added text underlined)

The Council notes:

The release of the Isle of Dogs & South Poplar Opportunity Area Planning Framework in May 2018 together with the accompanying Transport Strategy, Local Connections Strategy and the Development Infrastructure Funding Study (DIFS).

This contains the following total forecasts for the number of new homes in the Isle of Dogs and South Poplar area (Poplar, Blackwall & Cubitt Town, Canary Wharf, Island Gardens wards) by 2041.

Low 312,000 (19,500 permitted and 11,500 future potential, with 23,000 existing)

High 387,000 (19,500 permitted and 18,500 future potential, with 23,000 existing)

Maximum 49,000 (19,500 permitted and 29,500 future potential, with 23,000 existing)

Plus 110,000 new jobs in all three options

The Council further notes that in the same area that:

- The draft LBTH Local Plan sets a minimum housing target of 30,601 new homes
- The draft GLA London Plan sets a minimum housing target of 29,000 new homes

That the GLA is responding to the draft LBTH Local Plan evidence by reducing the overall target for new homes in the GLA emerging London Plan.

That development while slowing has not stopped and that ~~new~~ schemes are at pre-application or formal application stage being considered on Poplar high street, Marsh Wall, Skylines, Westferry Printworks, Quay House and that One Housing Group has initiated discussions on potentially re-developing the future of four identified sites on the island, which could involve some re-development.

The Council notes that the Development Infrastructure Funding Study is recommending the following investment in new infrastructure (gross spend).

**£'000**

<b><u>By</u></b>	<b>2017/18</b>	<b>2018/19</b>	<b>2019/20</b>	<b>2020/2021</b>	<b>2021/2022</b>	<b>First five years</b>
<b><u>Category of Spending</u></b>						
Utilities	£2,728	£11,088	£8,838	£11,838	£11,838	<b>£46,330</b>
Transport & Local Connections	£139	£9,806	£18,756	£23,830	£17,164	<b>£69,695</b>
Education	£28,946	£28,946	£28,946	£28,946	£28,946	<b>£144,730</b>
Fire, Ambulance, Police, CCTV	£2,930	£0	£0	£0	£0	<b>£2,930</b>
Health	£1,526	£1,526	£1,526	£1,526	£1,526	<b>£7,630</b>
Leisure	£4,764	£4,764	£4,764	£4,764	£4,764	<b>£23,820</b>
Community facilities	£738	£738	£5,411	£5,411	£5,411	<b>£17,709</b>
<b>Total Low</b>	<b>£41,771</b>	<b>£56,868</b>	<b>£68,241</b>	<b>£76,315</b>	<b>£69,649</b>	<b>£312,844</b>
<b><u>By Priority of Spending</u></b>	<b>2017/18</b>	<b>2018/19</b>	<b>2019/20</b>	<b>2020/2021</b>	<b>2021/2022</b>	<b>First five years</b>
Critical	£2,450	£17,310	£20,310	£18,185	£20,185	<b>£78,440</b>
Essential	£35,974	£39,141	£47,314	£55,313	£48,147	<b>£225,889</b>
High	£3,347	£417	£417	£917	£417	<b>£5,515</b>
Desirable	£0	£0	£200	£1,900	£900	<b>£3,000</b>
	<b>£41,771</b>	<b>£56,868</b>	<b>£68,241</b>	<b>£76,315</b>	<b>£69,649</b>	<b>£312,844</b>

~~Of note is that most of the 2017/18 spending did not happen and that with the exception of the South Dock bridge none of the 2018/19 spending is underway.~~

That the Council has already identified infrastructure investment in the Isle of Dogs and South Poplar area:

- South Dock Bridge preparation and feasibility
- Crossharbour DLR improvements

The OAPF confirms the following investment is already committed by Transport for London and LB Tower Hamlets:

- New higher capacity DLR trains, running every 2 minutes at peak times
- Bus service and reliability enhancements
- 2018 opening of Elizabeth Line
- Major Capital Investment in Delivering Healthy Streets
- Investing in the Cycle Network and CS3

That the DIFS describes the priorities as follows:

1. Critical enabling. This category includes all infrastructure that is critical to facilitate a development. Without these works development cannot proceed.
2. Essential mitigation. This category includes all infrastructure that we believe is necessary to mitigate the impacts arising from the development.
3. High priority. This category includes all infrastructure that support wider strategic or site-specific objectives which are set out in planning policy but would not necessarily prevent development from occurring, although that would need to be considered on a case by case basis
4. Desirable. This defines all projects that are deemed to be of benefit but would not prevent, on balance, the development from occurring or from being acceptable if they were not taken forward.

That these growth numbers and the infrastructure required are unprecedented within London and therefore require ~~an unprecedented response reminiscent of the London Docklands Development Corporation~~ robust intervention from Local, Regional and National Government to step up to the challenge.

That the Mayor has already established:

- Construction Engagement Forum on the Isle of Dogs
- Framework for allocating infrastructure funding

That the Neighbourhood Plan for the Isle of Dogs was recommended for refusal by an Independent Examiner because of a 'fundamental flaw in the plan' where 'the infrastructure evidence is simply not robust or proportionate to support a key policy'.

The Council therefore calls on the Mayor to:

- Respond to the GLA's Opportunity Area Planning Framework consultation setting out preferred terms of an LBTH Delivery Board.
- Work with the GLA to identify maximum feasible delivery resources for infrastructure in the Isle of Dogs and South Poplar Area for the benefit of current and future residents.
- Work with the GLA family, Developers and Utilities providers to ensure that disruption caused by construction is minimised for current and future residents

- Continue to monitor the evidence base for the infrastructure need for the Isle of Dogs and South Poplar Area.
- ~~Set up the recommended LBTH Delivery Board which will include the GLA, TfL, developers and representatives from the community~~
- ~~Set up the Community Development Panel who will nominate representatives to sit on the main LBTH Delivery Board~~
- ~~Set up the recommended dedicated Delivery Team whose sole responsibility will be to deliver infrastructure / projects as outlined in the documents~~
- ~~Set up the Utility Providers Forum~~
- ~~Set up the Developer Forum~~
- ~~Establish a Construction Charter~~
- ~~Initiate the recommended Future Studies (p119 of the OAPF) which the GLA describe as urgent~~

In addition, if the Critical Enabling works described as “Without these works development cannot proceed,” are not undertaken then new planning applications be refused on the grounds of cumulative over-development.

The amendment was put to the vote and **agreed**.

The motion as amended was put to the vote and was **agreed**.

## **RESOLVED**

The Council notes:

The release of the Isle of Dogs & South Poplar Opportunity Area Planning Framework in May 2018 together with the accompanying Transport Strategy, Local Connections Strategy and the Development Infrastructure Funding Study (DIFS).

This contains the following total forecasts for the number of new homes in the Isle of Dogs and South Poplar area (Poplar, Blackwall & Cubitt Town, Canary Wharf, Island Gardens wards) by 2041.

Low 31,000 (19,500 permitted and 11,500 future potential, with 23,000 existing)

High 38,000 (19,500 permitted and 18,500 future potential, with 23,000 existing)

Maximum 49,000 (19,500 permitted and 29,500 future potential, with 23,000 existing)

Plus 110,000 new jobs in all three options

The Council further notes that in the same area that:

- The draft LBTH Local Plan sets a minimum housing target of 30,601 new homes
- The draft GLA London Plan sets a minimum housing target of 29,000 new homes

That the GLA is responding to the draft LBTH Local Plan evidence by reducing the overall target for new homes in the GLA emerging London Plan.

That development while slowing has not stopped and that schemes are at pre-application or formal application stage on Marsh Wall, Skylines, Westferry Printworks, Quay House and that One Housing Group has initiated discussions on the future of four identified sites on the island, which could involve some re-development.

The Council notes that the Development Infrastructure Funding Study is recommending the following investment in new infrastructure (gross spend).

**£'000**

<b><u>By</u></b>	<b>2017/18</b>	<b>2018/19</b>	<b>2019/20</b>	<b>2020/2021</b>	<b>2021/2022</b>	<b>First five years</b>
<b><u>Category of</u></b>						
<b><u>Spending</u></b>						
Utilities	£2,728	£11,088	£8,838	£11,838	£11,838	<b>£46,330</b>
Transport & Local Connections	£139	£9,806	£18,756	£23,830	£17,164	<b>£69,695</b>
Education	£28,946	£28,946	£28,946	£28,946	£28,946	<b>£144,730</b>
Fire, Ambulance, Police, CCTV	£2,930	£0	£0	£0	£0	<b>£2,930</b>
Health	£1,526	£1,526	£1,526	£1,526	£1,526	<b>£7,630</b>
Leisure	£4,764	£4,764	£4,764	£4,764	£4,764	<b>£23,820</b>
Community facilities	£738	£738	£5,411	£5,411	£5,411	<b>£17,709</b>
<b>Total Low</b>	<b>£41,771</b>	<b>£56,868</b>	<b>£68,241</b>	<b>£76,315</b>	<b>£69,649</b>	<b>£312,844</b>
<b><u>By Priority of</u></b>						
<b><u>Spending</u></b>						
Critical	£2,450	£17,310	£20,310	£18,185	£20,185	<b>£78,440</b>
Essential	£35,974	£39,141	£47,314	£55,313	£48,147	<b>£225,889</b>
High	£3,347	£417	£417	£917	£417	<b>£5,515</b>

Desirable	£0	£0	£200	£1,900	£900	<b>£3,000</b>
	<b>£41,771</b>	<b>£56,868</b>	<b>£68,241</b>	<b>£76,315</b>	<b>£69,649</b>	<b>£312,844</b>

That the Council has already identified infrastructure investment in the Isle of Dogs and South Poplar area:

- South Dock Bridge preparation and feasibility
- Crossharbour DLR improvements

The OAPF confirms the following investment is already committed by Transport for London and LB Tower Hamlets:

- New higher capacity DLR trains, running every 2 minutes at peak times
- Bus service and reliability enhancements
- 2018 opening of Elizabeth Line
- Major Capital Investment in Delivering Healthy Streets
- Investing in the Cycle Network and CS3

That the DIFS describes the priorities as follows:

1. Critical enabling. This category includes all infrastructure that is critical to facilitate a development. Without these works development cannot proceed.
2. Essential mitigation. This category includes all infrastructure that we believe is necessary to mitigate the impacts arising from the development.
3. High priority. This category includes all infrastructure that support wider strategic or site-specific objectives which are set out in planning policy but would not necessarily prevent development from occurring, although that would need to be considered on a case by case basis
4. Desirable. This defines all projects that are deemed to be of benefit but would not prevent, on balance, the development from occurring or from being acceptable if they were not taken forward.

That these growth numbers and the infrastructure required are unprecedented within London and therefore require robust intervention from Local, Regional and National Government to step up to the challenge.

That the Mayor has already established:

- Construction Engagement Forum on the Isle of Dogs
- Framework for allocating infrastructure funding

That the Neighbourhood Plan for the Isle of Dogs was recommended for refusal by an Independent Examiner because of a 'fundamental flaw in the plan' where 'the infrastructure evidence is simply not robust or proportionate to support a key policy'.

The Council therefore calls on the Mayor to:

- Respond to the GLA's Opportunity Area Planning Framework consultation setting out preferred terms of an LBTH Delivery Board.
- Work with the GLA to identify maximum feasible delivery resources for infrastructure in the Isle of Dogs and South Poplar Area for the benefit of current and future residents.
- Work with the GLA family, Developers and Utilities providers to ensure that disruption caused by construction is minimised for current and future residents
- Continue to monitor the evidence base for the infrastructure need for the Isle of Dogs and South Poplar Area.

In addition, if the Critical Enabling works described as "Without these works development cannot proceed," are not undertaken then new planning applications be refused on the grounds of cumulative over-development.

## **10. TO RECEIVE WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL**

The following questions and in each case supplementary questions were put (except where indicated) and were responded to by the Mayor or relevant Executive Member-

### **10.1 Question from Councillor Dan Tomlinson**

Can the Mayor or Cabinet Member please update Council on the Grafton House fire?

### **Response of Councillor Sirajul Islam, Statutory Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Housing.**

A fire broke out on the 12th floor of Grafton House, in Mile End on the 29 June. The fire was effectively contained and extinguished by the London Fire Brigade. No residents were injured during the incident.

Grafton House was fully refurbished by Eastend Homes approximately ten years ago. This included a rendered cladding refit.

The Fire Brigade reported that the fire started in the kitchen, there is extensive damage in the flat where the fire occurred. The fire brigade is satisfied the fire doors did their job effectively in containing the fire and were happy with the established fire procedures. The fire did not move beyond the flat where it started.

We would like to thank the Fire Brigade for their speed in resolving this issue and will continue to work in partnership with them over their full fire assessment of Grafton House.



Eastend Homes have been advised by the fire brigade in the briefing immediately after the fire that the cause originated in the kitchen and was accidental.

**Supplementary question from Councillor Tomlinson:**

What has happened to the residents that have had to be moved out of their properties. Have they been rehoused yet?

**Councillor Islam's response to the supplementary question:**

Yes, I am pleased to say the family where the fire occurred were offered permanent accommodation and they have accepted that offer.

**10.2 Question from Councillor Peter Golds:**

Will the Mayor confirm what discussions the administration and council have had with the Royal Borough of Greenwich with regard to proposed changes in the bye laws of the Greenwich Foot Tunnel and the clean air concerns arising from cruise ships moored close to residential areas of the Isle of Dogs.

**Response of Mayor John Biggs:**

I met with Denise Hyland who was then Leader of Greenwich in the autumn of 2017 to discuss with officers Enderby Wharf and one or two other issues. We then wrote to her. Present at that meeting was Councillor Danny Thorpe, who is now the Leader of Greenwich Council. It is fair to say that Councillor Denise Hyland was relatively more positive about the cruise island terminal than Councillor Thorpe and I welcome his change on that. We have written to him again as the new Leader encouraging progress on that.

You asked a second question about the foot tunnel. My personal view is that I am not supportive of changing the bye laws of the foot tunnel. I know that Greenwich Council are. But because it's a bye law change it does not come to me, but to Full Council who will debate this issue and will decide when it does come, whether they want to support a change in the bye laws.

**Supplementary question from Councillor Golds:**

I am delighted to know that at last we are actually speaking to Greenwich, because under the previous administration, I went several times to licensing and planning committee meetings and was very well received by Greenwich Council but the situation was that our Officers and the previous administration took no interest what's so ever.

I understand that the decision on the cycling and the foot tunnel, will be a decision for this Council, but could you perhaps give an indication as to what your views would be and whether you have made your views clear to Greenwich and have had any input into the submission that would come to us? They have certainly had my views on it as I attended the Cabinet meeting.

**Mayor Biggs' response to the supplementary question:**

On the foot tunnel, I think I have made my views clear but it is for the Council to decide. I think it is a tripartite decision, because it is a bye law affecting both the Woolwich Foot Tunnel and the Greenwich Foot Tunnel, so we will see what happens when it arrives. With regards to the discussions with Greenwich, it is interesting to note that since I was first elected and since the beginning of time, Docklands and the Borough were referred to as having three neighbours in Tower Hamlets. These were: Hackney, City of London and Newham. I have introduced the novel concept that we are also neighbours with Southwark, Lewisham and Greenwich. I think as the world has changed, it was perhaps a forbidding barrier, but they are now very much our neighbours and we work closely with them on issues where we need to.

**10.3 Question from Councillor Asma Islam:**

How many members of staff at Greenwich Leisure Limited will benefit from the Mayor's negotiations with GLL to bring forward the London Living Wage for 18-21 year olds?

**Response of Councillor Amina Ali, Cabinet Member for Culture, Arts and Brexit:**

I am very pleased that Greenwich Leisure Limited staff aged 18-21 would now be paid the London Living Wage (LLW), effective immediately. We are very proud that Tower Hamlets Council is a Living Wage employer.

As part of the process of securing LLW accreditation, it was agreed with the Living Wage Foundation, that the Council could not retrospectively impose LLW on existing contracts. The GLL contract was one of these contracts, which was up for renewal in 2019.

While we could not legally force GLL to increase their pay levels, after negotiations we have secured an agreement with them to pay their 18-21 year old staff London Living Wage from this September. As a result, 34 GLL employees will benefit.

**Supplementary question from Councillor Islam:**

As part of the negotiations, is any part of that payment going to be backdated?

**Councillor Ali's response to the supplementary question:**

Although the Council cannot subsidise private employers to pay fair wages, because GLL is providing a frontline council service and in the interests of fairness, the Mayor instructed in this exceptional case, that the council provides the funding to allow GLL to backdate this pay increase to April this year so it matches the date that LLW was introduced for GLL's 21 plus staff.

**10.4 Question from Councillor Andrew Wood**

When the Sea Scouts arrived on the Isle of Dogs they had 13.4 hectares of water to sail in, currently they have 4.7 ha. In the event of the proposed South Dock Bridge being built this will be reduced to 3.15 ha. The existing space is already negatively affected by wind-flow off the new Wood Wharf buildings. What steps will the Council undertake to ensure that the community does not lose this valuable organisation?

**Response of Councillor Rachel Blake, Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Air Quality:**

Council Officers are already meeting with the Sea Scouts to discuss this matter.

**Supplementary question from Councillor Wood:**

The reason why I asked this question is that I have discovered that the Council had not bothered to consult the Sea Scouts before the public consultation for the new South Dock Bridge and I know that they feel very unloved now by the Council. They don't get any s106 and they don't get any grants. They have been negatively impacted by wind flow and the loss of water space. So I think if we can show them some love this would be very much appreciated. Would you be doing that?

**Councillor Blake's response to the supplementary question:**

We will continue to meet and liaise with them. I have already started looking into the issue to understand exactly which parts of their activities they are most concerned about. There was a public consultation and they were part of that consultation. We are more than happy to continue that engagement.

**10.5 Question from Councillor Mufeedah Bustin**

Following recent incidents, what is the council doing to tackle ASB and crime in Island Gardens?

**Response of Councillor Asma Begum, Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Equalities:**

The Council ASB Team received two reports of anti-social behaviour in Island Garden Ward, around Blasker Walk and Thames Pathway. The ASB is primarily caused by young people congregating around the benches, drinking, using nitrous oxide and being noisy. To address the issues, my team have taken a number of steps:

- An ASB Caseworker has been allocated to investigate this issue and identify possible resolutions.
- The Metropolitan Police Safer Neighbourhood Team have been made aware of this issue and have been asked to patrol the area.

- The ASB Team have also established a Joint Action Group (JAG) for the Isle of Dogs which enables the Council to develop actions in partnership with local RSL's

**Supplementary question from Councillor Bustin:**

Do you know anything about the opening of the St Andrew's Youth Service?

**Councillor Begum's response to the supplementary question:**

Yes I have been meeting up with the youth providers last week and I am aware of it.

**10.6 Question from Councillor Marc Francis:**

Will the Lead Member for Finance update me on the progress of the review of the changes to the local Council Tax Reduction Scheme?

**Response of Councillor Candida Ronald, Cabinet Member for Resources and the Voluntary Sector:**

The Mayor and Cabinet have been looking in detail at the current local Council Tax reduction scheme and possible changes and hopefully improvements. We have developed potential options to refine elements of the scheme, particularly in relation to the disabled, non - dependents and the self-employed. Any potential changes would be subject to a full public consultation and a report has just been published and would be considered by Cabinet next week and would go out to consultation. The feedback from the consultation would be incorporated into another report, to be considered by Cabinet probably in October. Any proposed changes would come to this Council for agreement.

**Supplementary question from Councillor Marc Francis:**

Can I thank the Lead Member for that very positive response and can I thank the former Lead Member, Councillor Edgar for his work on this issue and taking on board the concerns that I have raised, particularly in relation to disabled non -dependants, whose head of the household are being hit as a result of the inclusion of disability living allowance or personal independence payments in the income assessment. Looking at the report that's going to Cabinet next week, I am not entirely clear what proposal is going to be agreed, but I look forward to that.

I also think that it is very important to bear in mind that there are continuing concerns about the self -employed claimants and the impact that they are experiencing due to the use of the minimum income floor. I also have to raise concerns about the continuing use of Section 13A for relief from Council tax bills as opposed to the establishment of a proper hardship fund.

Can the Lead Member take all of these concerns on board and continue with all the good work she is doing to minimise some of the unfortunate impacts that arise as a result of previous changes?

**Councillor Ronald's response to the supplementary question:**

Thank you for your comments.

**10.7 Question from Councillor Sabina Akhtar:**

Can the Mayor or Lead Member please provide an update on the recent drug raids and how successful these raids have been?

**Response of Councillor Asma Begum, Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Equalities:**

Under Operation Continuum, four areas of the borough have been targeted so far – Shadwell, Stepney, Bow and Whitechapel. Their work has resulted in dawn raids leading to:

- 150 arrests.
- 34 properties being raided.
- £58,000 seized in cash under the Proceeds of Crime Act.
- Recovered 2 handguns.
- 4 weapons sweeps.
- 93 ASB warnings.
- 41 Section 59 warnings
- Seized drugs including crack cocaine and 200 ecstasy pills
- Seized over £10,000 in cash in one raid alone

The council and THH then provide a wrap-around support. THEOs patrol the area. Graffiti is removed and overgrown areas where weapons or drugs might be hidden are cut back.

Meetings with residents are arranged to provide updates of the outcomes from the joint operation.

**Supplementary question from Councillor Akhtar:**

Since they have been successful, are we planning to continue?

**Councillor Begum's response to the supplementary question:**

Absolutely.

**10.8 Question from Councillor Ehtasham Haque:**

Can the Cabinet Member provide an update on the latest Ofsted monitoring visit?

**Response of Councillor Danny Hassell, Cabinet Member for Children, Schools and Young People:**

Ofsted visited the Council at the beginning of May and the focus of the inspection was around vulnerable adolescents, so they were looking at children at risk of criminal exploitation, sexual exploitation and going missing. They looked at a range of areas - that they also looked at in December 2017.

I am pleased to say that Ofsted reported that there had been a substantial improvement in the quality of practice with this group of exploited children and their families.

They looked at the co – location of a multi - agency team. Our new exploitation hub, which included Police and staff tackling some of these issues. They reported a renewed focus on children as victims of exploitation, rather than criminalising their behaviour and they stated that this is leading to an enhanced understanding of the circumstances and the analysis of risk. They said that social workers, and this is very important, have a proper understanding of children's lived experience.

We are not complacent and we know that there are challenges that remain. We will continue to work with various agencies to continue to improve our services for our most vulnerable young people.

No supplementary question was asked.

**10.9 Question from Councillor Kevin Brady:**

How many children and families are using our children's services following the recent changes?

**Response of Councillor Danny Hassell, Cabinet Member for Children, Schools and Young People:**

I'm pleased to say that our children's centres are now reaching far more adults and children than previously. Our centres saw a total of over 53,000 contacts in quarter 1 of this year alone. In that first quarter, we reached over 5,000 children under five living in the Borough which is a fantastic achievement. In 2017, we had 10,000 children who were reached and 76% of those were from the 25 most deprived areas in the Borough.

**Supplementary question from Councillor Brady:**

Can the Lead Member update us on the number of sessions that children are attending or are available?

**Councillor Danny Hassell's response to the supplementary question:**

I know there were some concerns about the number of sessions being delivered in our children centres. If we look at comparing our sessions to 2015/16, before the changes we made recently, there were around 2800 sessions in our children's centres. I am pleased to report that in this first quarter of this financial year, there have been 3741 sessions delivered in our children's centres. That is an important improvement that will help us to reach our families including our most deprived families.

**10.10 Question from Councillor John Pierce:**

Will the Mayor consult residents on the parking times for the Council's A5 parking zone in Weavers Wards, to mirror those in Shoreditch, to stop our residential streets being used as a car park for Hackney's visitors?

**Response of Mayor John Biggs:**

This is a major priority area for the administration to look at reviewing our range of parking policies and parking hours and the way in which it works. I know that this is going to be a bit like negotiating a crocodile filled swamp.

In answer to your question, the controlled parking zone times in this area has hours of 08:30 – 19:00 Mon – Fri, which is 30 minutes longer than Hackney and 08:30 – 14:00 on Sunday, where there are no restrictions in Hackney. The only possible impact could be on a Saturday where they have enforcement and we don't. But I think that does not really answer your question. The problem we have is that there a massive demand for parking, particularly at weekends in this area and a shortage of parking spaces.

The review I would like us to carry out in consultation with residents is about how we should amend our parking policies to make them work better for the people in Tower Hamlets without having untoward knock on effects. In this case, we would need to work with Hackney.

**Supplementary question from Councillor Pierce:**

I think the figures the Mayor has is in regard to the wider Hackney parking order rather the specific area of Shoreditch. I am sure it goes up until midnight and this is what the residents have asked for. There will be a petition coming to this Council and I hope the Mayor can support that.

**Mayor Biggs' response to the supplementary question:**

I am very happy to look at that. We have commenced a number of further consultations. It has taken a while to get them started in the Fish Island Area. If there are local reasons for changing the hours I would very happy to do that. For every change although, you will find there are objections and we need to get that balance right and manage the convenience of life including economic life in the area.

**10.11 Question from Councillor Puru Miah:**

Would the lead member support calls for the bus stop in front of Altab Ali Park, called Adler Street, to be renamed as Altab Ali Park?

**Response of Councillor David Edgar, Cabinet Member for Environment:**

The legacy of Altab Ali is a really important one. It really matters that we never forget the tragic loss of his life and that we maintain the fight against racism. It is fitting to have the park named after Altab Ali and that we pay tribute each year. Renaming that bus stop will be another way we could remember him and pay tribute to him. As we all know, the naming of bus stops is a responsibility of the Transport for London (TFL), but I would be happy to write to TFL and to the Assembly Member for the area, to add my support and the Councils support to this campaign. It would be really good if we could make that change and I am very happy to support it and do what I can to make it happen.

No supplementary question was asked.

**10.12 Question from Councillor Muhammad Harun:**

I understand that due to non-attendance of members during the previous Mayors administration, Poplar HARCA discontinued our membership from their boardroom. Will the Mayor explain whether it is still possible to include our members on the Poplar HARCA board to represent LBTH – if so could the Mayor take appropriate steps?

**Response of Councillor Sirajul Islam, Statutory Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Housing:**

It is shameful that members of the previous administration failed to turn up to meetings. Poplar HARCA confirmed that one of a number of the considerations in making changes in 2014 was the attendance record of Council nominees.

In 2014 Poplar HARCA amended its Articles of Association to change the make-up of its Board. This resulted in the London Borough of Tower Hamlets no longer having a nominee place on the Board.

The anticipated de-regulatory changes recently implemented through the Housing and Planning Act 2016, are designed to prevent local authorities having significant influence over RP Board decision-making process. Poplar HARCA is required to comply with the Regulator of Social Housing's Governance Standard. The Regulator recently re-confirmed Poplar HARCA had the highest governance grade.

Poplar HARCA openly advertises Board vacancies. It welcomes applications from Councillors, and anyone else, interested in, and qualified. I am very happy to take up this matter with Poplar HARCA



No supplementary question was asked.

Question 10.13 was not put due to lack of time. A Written response would be provided to the questions. (Note the written response is included in Appendix A to these minutes.)

## **11. REPORTS FROM THE EXECUTIVE AND THE COUNCIL'S COMMITTEES**

### **11.1 Report of Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Annual Report of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

Councillor Abdal Ullah (Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee), presented the Committee's Annual Report for 2017-18.

Following debate, the recommendations were put to the vote and were **agreed**.

#### **RESOLVED**

1. That the contents of the Annual Report of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for 2017-18 be noted.
2. That the specific equalities considerations as set out in Paragraph 4 be noted.

## **12. TO RECEIVE REPORTS AND QUESTIONS ON JOINT ARRANGEMENTS/EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS (IF ANY)**

There was no business to transact under this agenda item.

## **13. OTHER BUSINESS**

### **13.1 Overview and Scrutiny Committee - Appointment of Co-Opted Members**

The Council considered a report proposing the appointment of a number of Co-Optees to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

The recommendations were put to the vote and were **agreed**.

#### **RESOLVED**

1. That the following co-optees of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee be approved:
  - 1.1 Dr Philip Rice as the Church of England diocese representative;
  - 1.2 Joanna Hannan as the Roman Catholic diocese representative;
  - 1.3 Muhammad Khoyrul Shaheed as the Muslim faith representative; and

- 1.4. Neil Cunningham; Ahmed Hussain and Fatiha Kassouri as parent governor representatives.
2. That the appointments above will take effect immediately and will be reviewed following the Council elections in May 2022 (or such earlier date as required).

#### **14. TO CONSIDER MOTIONS SUBMITTED BY MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL**

##### **14.1 Motion regarding the Grenfell Tower response**

Councillor Sirajul Islam **moved** and Mayor John Biggs **seconded** the motion as printed in the agenda.

Following debate, the motion was put to a vote and was **agreed**.

##### **RESOLVED:**

This Council notes:

1. The catastrophic Grenfell Tower fire disaster which broke out on 14th June last year in Kensington and Chelsea which killed 72 people.
2. The causes of the fire are still being investigated but it is strongly believed that the fire spread so rapidly because of Aluminium Composite Material (ACM) cladding that was found on the outside of the building.
3. In the immediate aftermath of the fire, Tower Hamlets Council gave significant support to Kensington and Chelsea including seconding staff to the borough to provide assistance.
4. Despite Government promises to the contrary, according to media reports many of those made homeless by the tragedy have yet to be permanently rehoused over a year on from the disaster.

This Council also notes:

1. At the time of the Grenfell fire, THH and the council had already completed new Fire Risk Assessments on all of its 900 Tower Hamlets Homes (THH) blocks.
2. The council provided support to RPs and private landlords to test and replace cladding on tower blocks in the borough, including Randall House (a PFI scheme), which had a small amount of category 3 ACM which was quickly replaced.
3. In the Budget this year the Mayor, Council and THH agreed a significant programme of investment, committing £26.8m in new fire protection works with the aim of reducing the fire risks in THH properties even further over the next four years.

4. The Mayor and council have consistently lobbied Government to secure funding for cladding replacement costs and that it took almost a year for the Government to agree to do so but that this funding does not cover private blocks, of which there are many in Tower Hamlets, and does not cover councils to install sprinkler systems in high rise blocks to further reduce fire risks.

This Council resolves:

1. To support the Grenfell Public Enquiry and to call on Government to fully fund councils and the Fire Brigade to implement its recommendations.
2. To continue to lobby Government for funding to install sprinkler systems in high rise residential blocks and to provide support to leaseholders and tenants in private blocks where cladding needs to be removed.

(Motion 14.2 was not debated due to lack of time)

The meeting ended at 10.05 p.m.

Speaker of the Council