

# LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

## OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

### “CALL IN” REQUISITION

WE THE UNDERSIGNED WISH TO “**CALL IN**” FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE OF THE LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS THE PROVISIONAL DECISION (S) OF THE **CABINET** TAKEN ON THE

...**26<sup>th</sup> DAY OF...September...2018**

IN RELATION TO THE REPORT SHOWN BELOW:

REPORT TITLE/NO. ...**11.1 Future Management of the Integrated Community Equipment Service**

- Councillor Cllr Marc Francis (Sign) (by email) (Print)
- Councillor Cllr Mohammed Pappu (Sign) (by email) (Print)
- Councillor Cllr Tarik Khan (Sign) (by email) (Print)
- Councillor Cllr Gabriela Salva Macallan (Sign) (by email) (Print)
- Councillor Cllr Puru Miah (Sign) (by email) (Print)

Decisions relating to education matters can also be “Called In” by 2 Church, Faith or Parent Governor Representatives who have been co-opted the Committee.

- Co-opted Member \_\_\_\_\_ (Sign) \_\_\_\_\_ (Print)
- Co-opted Member \_\_\_\_\_ (Sign) \_\_\_\_\_ (Print)

Dated 5 October 2018

*Once completed please return to Matthew Mannion, Committee Services Manager  
Telephone: 020 7364 4651*

## LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

### OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 2018/2019

#### “CALL IN” REQUISITION

<b><u>AGENDA ITEM NO.</u></b>	Item 11.1
<b><u>REPORT TITLE/ DATE OF CABINET MEETING</u></b>	Future Management of the Integrated Community Equipment Service (26 September 2018)
<b><u>REASONS FOR “CALL IN”</u></b>	<p>Like most of local authorities, LBTH has a long history of outsourced services failing to maintain or improve the quality service our residents receive. For example, in Adults Health &amp; Well-being there have been persistent problems with the performance of some of those private agencies who took over Homecare following the decision to close the award-winning in-house Homecare Service in 2011. Sometimes outsourcing even fails to achieve the anticipated savings as well.</p> <p>The Labour Local Government Trade Union Principles agreement signed in December 2017 states that, <i>“Labour-controlled authorities should “give in-house services proven not to be delivering value for money every opportunity to make the required improvements to avoid costly tendering and outsourcing procedures”.</i></p> <p>The Community Equipment Service has never been given this kind of chance. Instead, it has been subject to at least three years’ worth of uncertainty as senior officers began to work up proposals for its future and then following the Full Council Budget meeting on 22 February 2017, began to engage with those to whom it might be outsourced. Several posts have been left vacant or filled with agency staff during this period. While this decision appears to be partly based on the savings target, it also appears to be driven by the potential £900,000 capital receipt from relinquishing the lease of the Yeo Street depot 12 years ahead of the specified period. Potential capital receipts should not be a factor in the decisions whether LBTH privatises public services.</p>

	<p>Despite the long period of uncertainty they have endured, staff at the Community Equipment Service are committed and dedicated to their service users. As the report acknowledges, they deliver a good service. With more consistent staffing and investment in improved technology, the team has the capacity to deliver an even better service and achieve better value for money. These need to be tried before it is privatised.</p>
<p><b><u>ALTERNATIVE COURSE OF ACTION PROPOSED</u></b></p>	<p>The Mayor should withdraw his initial decision to outsource the Community Equipment Service to <i>Medequip Assistive Technology Ltd</i> via the London Community Equipment Consortium framework and instead instruct officers to draw up a business plan to improve the service further and secure better Value for Money over the next two years, when it will then be reviewed.</p> <p>The Mayor should also initiate discussions with the local NHS to determine the future level of funding it will provide for community equipment, and also publish full details of the budget for Community Equipment Service, Telecare Alarms and Assistive Technology, and the external consultant’s report underpinning the “due diligence” work in relation to this proposal.</p>
<p><b><u>WITHIN THE COUNCIL’S POLICY OR BUDGET FRAMEWORK - Please indicate</u></b></p>	<p>Yes</p>