

Mayor's Report to Council

17th July 2019

John Biggs, Mayor of Tower Hamlets

Key Events/Announcements

Aberfeldy Arrest:

Like many people I was deeply concerned to see videos of the arrest on Aberfeldy last week and met residents with ward councillors the next day to hear their views and reassure them.

Although social media doesn't always show everything the videos were clearly disturbing. I discussed the incident with senior police commanders sharing our view that it should immediately be referred to the Independent Office for Police Conduct (IOPC) for investigation which it has now been. While we should avoid jumping to conclusions, everyone must be able to feel safe on our streets and have confidence in our police. An independent investigation will help to ensure this.

Last Friday and this Tuesday I attended community events in response to the arrests and will continue work with the police to ensure this matter is fully investigated and resolved.

Summer Activities and tackling holiday hunger:

With the summer weather finally beginning and school holidays on the horizon we are once again running our programme of summer activities with more than 335 free activities including swimming, sports camps, days out, courses as well as schemes to tackle holiday hunger.

Our programme of holiday hunger clubs at 11 schools will provide free lunches for those in need with almost 22,000 meals expected to be offered through the summer.

New online options to access services:

As part of our efforts to embrace technology and improve the way residents can interact with the council, we are introducing Digital Hubs in our Ideas Stores as well as making many of our services available online.

Our aim is to make life easier and more convenient for those who want to access our services online instead of having to take time out of their day to visit a council building.

Residents who want can still contact the council by telephone, and we will still provide face to face personal support to those who need it at all of our award-winning Idea Stores as well as Rushmead One Stop Shop.

Liveable Streets:

Earlier this year we launched our £15m Liveable Streets programme, which aims to improve the look and feel of public spaces in neighbourhoods across the borough. This will make it easier, safer and more convenient to get around by foot, bike and public transport. Work has begun in a number of areas to seek resident views on how we can make their streets look and work better.

Ofsted:

The re-inspection of Children's Services has now taken place and the final report will be published on 22nd July. Over the past two years we have had a relentless focus on improving our children's services and ensuring our young people have the best start in life. We know we have made major progress and hope that next week's Ofsted report will reflect this.

Local Community Fund:

Our new Local Community Fund will award £2.6m a year in funding to local community organisations to run projects across the borough. The recommendations of the independently evaluated bids will be considered at Overview and Scrutiny and Cabinet in the coming weeks. We have a fantastic Voluntary and Community sector in the borough, and we are proud to be continuing to support them.

The Mela:

The Mela was a great success with over 40,000 people estimated to have attended. It was a vibrant and colourful celebration of Bangladeshi culture for all the family and a great example of the kind of cultural exchanges which make our diverse borough such an exciting and interesting place to live.

Pride month:

Alongside the Mayor of Hackney I unveiled a new rainbow crossing on Hackney Road to help celebrate Pride month. We are also flying the Pride flag at the Town Hall Our No Place for Hate Champions Project has once again been recognised with an #EndHateTogether award from the London-wide HEAR Network, an equality and human rights organisation.

Bow Community Hub:

We've opened our latest Community Hub in Bow. The Bow Community Hub in Twelvetreves Crescent is the latest in a series of 'community hubs' to be built by the Council to provide modern spaces for our community to get together.

Progress to 2,000 council homes:

Proposals to build 17 new council homes on the site of a former children's home have been given the go ahead. Permission for the four townhouses and 13 flats in Norman Grove, Bow, was granted at a meeting of the council's development committee on Thursday.

The properties will have a mixture of one to four bedrooms. They will all be rented at genuinely affordable rates to residents of Tower Hamlets who are on the council's housing register.

Young Mayors:

On June 26th at Cabinet Young Mayor Jaami Barry and his deputies addressed a busy Cabinet meeting to lay out their vision for their term working closely with the Cabinet and the wider council. As we will discuss later on tonight, this is one of a number of things the council is doing to ensure the voice of young people is heard throughout the decision making process.

Individual Mayoral Decisions taken since last meeting:

Engagements and Meetings: 25th April to 17 July 2019

25 April 2019

- Visit to London Dock
- Town Hall Project Board
- Housing Portfolio Meeting
- Capital Strategy Board Meeting
- Cllr Asma Begum
- Owen Whalley's retirement event
- Mayors Surgery

27 April 2019

- Meeting with GMB Trade Union
- Meeting with Trade Union and Labour Party Liaison Organisation

27 April 2019

- Christian Street Community Hub Mosaic Unveiling

29 April 2019

- Peabody Meeting
- Chief Executive Will Tuckley and Borough Commander Sue Williams
- Cllr Victoria Obaze
- Corporate Director Asmat Hussain
- Stepney Green School petition receipt
- Brick Lane Business association Meeting

30 April 2019

- BBC Radio Interview on Anti-Social Behaviour
- Violent Crime Reduction meeting
- Capital Launch of improved facilities at Mile End stadium
- Pre-Meeting for Tower Hamlets & Waltham Forest, Newham and Tower Hamlets Clinical Commissioning Groups
- Economic Programme Manager Aelswith Frayne Apprenticeships discussion
- Kevin Bartle, Director of Finance, Introduction Meeting

01 May 2019

- Regeneration Board Meeting
- London Legacy Development Corporation Transition meeting

- Policy and performance review
- Political Cabinet
- Advisory board
- Grants determination sub-committee
- Poplar HARCA awards ceremony

02 May 2019

- New Providence Wharf Meeting
- Policy and performance review
- Chief Executive Will Tuckley
- Policy and performance review meeting
- Mayor's surgery

03 May 2019

- Civic Awards Ceremony

04 May 2019

- Community Against Drugs Event
- Altab Ali Event

07 May 2019

- Partnership Executive Group briefing
- Corporate Director Denise Radley
- Your Voice Counts – Healthwatch Public Engagement
- Policy and performance review meeting
- Interfaith welcome event
- Community Issues in the Whitechapel Ward

08 May 2019

- Whitechapel Market Storage
- Work and Economic Growth Portfolio Meeting
- Tower Hamlets Partnership Executive Group Meeting
- Policy and performance review meeting
- Cllr Rajib Ahmed
- Resources Portfolio Meeting
- Mayor's Advisory Board
- Shortlisting for Divisional Director For Housing and Planning

09 May 2019

- Annual General Meeting preparation
- Police and performance review Meetings
- Cllr Rachel Blake
- Chief Executive Will Tuckley
- Mayor's Community Safety and Equalities Portfolio Meeting
- Mayor's Surgery

13 May 2019

- Mayor and John Nicholson Meeting
- Independent Chair of Improvement Board Sir Alan Woods
- Chief Executive of Tower Hamlets Homes Susmita Sen

- Divisional Director of Communications Andreas Christophorou
- Property Portfolio Meeting
- Pre-Agenda Meeting for Transformation Improvement Board Work Program
- Executive Committee
- Labour Group Annual General Meeting

14 May 2019

- London Community Credit Union phone call
- Business Summit Briefing
- Corporate Director Asmat Hussain
- Housing Meeting
- Leaside Regeneration Board Meeting
- East Bank Board Borough briefing
- Olympic Park Partnership

15 May 2019

- Impact of Main Stream Grants filming
- Planning Meeting
- Political Cabinet
- Chief Executive Will Tuckley
- Council Annual General Meeting and Civic reception

16 May 2019

- Operation continuum radio interview
- Divisional Director of Adults Social Care Claudia Brown
- Final Interviews for Divisional Director Housing
- Mayor's Surgery

17 May 2019

- Tower Hamlets Citizenship Ceremony
- Open Weekend Chisenhale Gallery

20 May 2019

- Resident Visit regarding Casework
- Highway Portfolio Meeting
- Tower Hamlets Community Church Meeting
- Strategic Forward Planning Meeting
- Briefing for Overview and Scrutiny
- Caxton Hall visit

21 May 2019

- Mehboob Khan (London Councils) - Regionalisation of Adoption Meeting
- Practice Week Activity at Hailey Berry Youth Club
- Tower Rewards Technical Session with councillors
- Amy Whitelock Gibbs – Chair of Tower Hamlets Together

22 May 2019

- Children, Schools and Young People Portfolio Meeting
- Regeneration and Air Quality Portfolio Meeting

- Housing Portfolio Meeting
- Quintet Meeting
- Swan Housing Association Meeting
- Mayor's Advisory Board
- Cabinet
- Environment Portfolio Meeting
- Chief Executive Will Tuckley

24 May 2019

- Cllr Amina Ali

25 May 2019

- Resident Visit
- Sam Heath's Life Celebration

28 May 2019

- Hackney/Tower Hamlets Cultural Enterprise Zones Strategy Meeting
- Photo Opportunity All Point East in the Neighbourhood
- Chief Executive Will Tuckley
- Youth Service Transformation Discussion
- Cllr Asma Begum
- Caxton Hall Meeting

29 May 2019

- Tower Hamlets Council for Voluntary Service Chair
- Traffic Meeting
- Brick Lane Realm Design Meeting
- Public Realm Strategic Board Meeting
- Mayor's Political Cabinet
- Mayor's Advisory Board
- Parking Policy Review Group

30 May 2019

- Cllr Candida Ronald
- Civil Contingencies and Emergency Planning Portfolio
- Pre Meet for Town Hall Members
- Topping Out – Salamanca Group
- ASB Phoenix Court/Ferguson Close
- Mayor's Surgery Town Hall
- Burdett Estate Meeting

03 June 2019

- Executive Committee

04 June 2019

- London Legacy Development Corporation Transition Meeting
- London Councils Labour Committee Meeting
- Leaders Committee Annual General Meeting
- Central London Forward Employment and Skills Board Meeting
- Children Services Improvement Board

05 June 2019

- Mela Meeting
- East London Business Alliance 30 Years in Tower Hamlets Parks on World Environment Day
- Cross Rail Deputy Chairman Rt. Hon. Nick Raynsford
- Sweetwater Olympic Park

06 June 2019

- Mayor's Regeneration Board
- Chief Executive Will Tuckley
- Service Head of Corporate Strategy and Performance Sharon Godman
- King Edward Memorial Park Meeting
- Carers Association Meeting
- Ballymore and ACM Cladding Meeting – New Providence Wharf Resident's Association

07 June 2019

- Liveable Streets Launch

10 June 2019

- Sir William Atkinson Meeting – Canal and River Trust
- Challenge Poverty Week
- Wapping Bus Gate
- Transformation and Improvement Board

11 June 2019

- Cllr James King Meeting
- Director of Central Patricia Brown
- CCTV Cameras in Tower Hamlets Meeting
- Lincoln Hall Visit

12 June 2019

- Cllr John Pierce
- Work and Economic Growth Portfolio Meeting
- Planning Meeting
- HMS Crane Memorabilia
- Cllr Mufeedah Bustin
- Mayor's Advisory Board
- King George's Field Charity Board Meeting

13 June 2019

- Resources Portfolio Meeting
- Cllr Amina Ali
- Cllr Sirajul Islam Meeting
- Grants Determination Sub Committee Pre Agenda Meet
- Mayor Casework Queries Meeting
- Corporate Director of Children Services Debbie Jones
- Regional School Commissioner Teleconference Meeting
- Chief Executive Will Tuckley

- Cllr Rachel Blake
- Director Of Communications Meeting
- Mayor's Surgery

14 June 2019

- Telephone Meeting with Chief Executive of London City Airport Robert Sinclair

15 June 2019

- Environment Festival with Cllr David Edgar

17 June 2019

- Meeting with Cllr James King and constituent
- Bangladeshi High Commissioner Meeting
- Pre meet regarding Business Summit
- Culture, Arts and Brexit Portfolio Meeting
- Chief Executive Poplar Harca Steve Stride Meeting
- Future of Aberfeldy Mosque Meeting
- Cllr Faroque Ahmed

18 June 2019

- Children, Schools and Young People Portfolio Meeting
- Corporate Leadership Team
- National Association of Regional Employers Meeting
- Afternoon Tea with Cllr Danny Hassell – Parent Representatives
- Community Safety and Equalities Portfolio Meeting
- QUAD Meeting (Richard Baldwin, Debbie Jones, Danny Hassell and Mayor John Biggs)
- Welcoming the Bangladesh Delegation
- All Members Seminar on Liveable Streets

19 June 2019

- Traffic Meeting
- Capital Strategy Board
- Cllr Asma Begum
- Environment Portfolio Meeting
- Photo Op– Breath clean
- Mayor's Advisory Board
- Public Realm Strategic Board
- Council Mosque Annual Eid Dinner

20 June 2019

- Central London Forward Board Meeting
- Breath Clean Blues
- Mayor and Chief Executive Will Tuckley Meeting
- Amanda Harcus, Divisional Director for HR
- Mayor's Surgery

21 June 2019

- Ofsted Feedback Meeting
- Bishops Way Mosque Visit
- Locksley Estate Mosque and Cultural Centre
- BBC Radio London interview
- Care Solution Award Ceremony

22 June 2019

- The Big Lunch (Love my Street)
- 10th Birthday party Cranbrook Gardens

23 June 2019

- Reception for the High Commissioner of The People's Republic of Bangladesh

24 June 2019

- Rainbow Crossing opening
- Strategic Forward Planning Meeting
- Tower Hamlets Partnership – Business Summit
- Young Mayor Meeting
- Overview and Scrutiny Committee

25 June 2019

- Housing Portfolio Meeting
- Chief Executive Ipsos MORI- Ben Page
- Cllr Sabina Akhtar
- Adults, health and Wellbeing Portfolio Meeting

26 June 2019

- Cllr Motin Uz-Zaman
- Poplar Dock and Limehouse Basin Marinas
- Regeneration and Air Quality Portfolio Meeting
- Chief Executive Will Tuckley
- Partnership Board Briefing
- Political Cabinet
- Tower Hamlets Partnership Board Meeting
- Cabinet

27 June 2019

- Greater London Employment Forum
- Aldgate Developer Meeting
- Shortlisting for Divisional Director Finance, Procurement and Audit
- Mayor's Surgery

28 June 2019

- Mela Press Conference

29 June 2019

- Mo and the Red Ribbon Event
- New Boundary Estate Residents Group

30 June 2019

- MELA 2019

2nd July 2019

- Photo End Hate together
- Community Language Service Workshop

3rd July 2019

- Launch of Summer Fun Programme
- Mayors traffic meeting
- Cllr David Edgar
- Divisional Director, Property & Major Programmes Ann Sutcliffe
- Mayors Advisory Board Meeting
- Grants Determination Sub – Committee
- Project Launch Kobi Nazrul Primary School

5th July 2019

- The Tulip Exhibition

7th July 2019

Sunamganj Jela Welfare Association UK

8th July 2019

- Resident meeting regarding Limehouse
- Fireside Chats – Finance and Procurement
- Meeting with Constituent
- Chief Executive of Tower Hamlets Homes Susmita Sen
- Londonist Filming
- Property portfolio meeting
- Divisional Director Strategy, Policy and Performance Sharon Godman
- Meeting to discuss Digital Transformation and Customer Access
- Stand Up To Racism Event at Altab Ali Park

9th July 2019

- London Council's Labour Group meeting
- Congress of leaders
- Leaders Committee
- Cllr Peter John
- Culture, Arts and Brexit portfolio Meeting
- Bow Trial Drop in session
- Kate Smith, Head of Healthy Lives

10th July 2019

- Work and Economic Growth Portfolio Meeting
- Healthy School Celebration events
- Working start Childcare programme celebration
- Channel S interview
- Mayors Political Cabinet
- Mayors Advisory Board
- Ask the Mayor event

11th July 2019

- Photo Call – No place for hate –Srebrenica Memorial Week
- Corporate Induction 2019
- Local Community Fund Meeting
- Chief Executive Will Tuckley
- Fireside Chat – Finance and Procurement
- Chief Executive Poplar Harca Steve Stride
- Mayors Surgery
- Liveable Streets Wapping Community Engagement Workshop

12th July 2019 Ocean Estate - Site H Potential Launch Event

- Aberfeldy Vigil
- Procession Bethnal Green to Hackney

13th July 2019

- Mayor Canvassing
- Wapping Summer Fete
- Tower Hamlets Council Community Football Awards

14th July 2019

- Coldfire Festival

15th July 2019

- Stebon Primary Schools – Family Learning Hub Launch
- Corporate Director Asmat Hussain
- Local Community Fund meeting
- London Legacy Development Corporation Transition Meeting

16th July 2019

- Speaking at Guildhall breakfast event
- Cllr Rachel Blake
- Chair, Nick Abbey, and Chief Executive Philip Sullivan, of Tower Hamlets Community Housing
- Maltings and Brewster meeting
- Children Services Improvement Board
- Cllr Danny Hassell and Canary Wharf College chair of governors
- Aberfeldy Public Meeting

17th July 2019

- Environment Portfolio Meeting
- Pre Meet – Regeneration Board
- Planning Meeting
- Dudgeons Wharf Firefighters Memorial
- Canary Wharf College meeting
- Mayors Advisory Board
- Pre Council Labour Group
- Full Council