

**LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS**

**MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL**

**HELD AT 7.05 P.M. ON WEDNESDAY, 17 JULY 2019**

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

**Members Present:**

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

During the meeting the Speaker agreed to change the order of business and took agenda item 10.2 Report of the Standards Advisory Committee: Annual Report Prior to Agenda Item 10.1 Report of the General Purposes Committee: Revised Constitution.

All other business was taken in order. To aid clarity, the minutes are presented in the order the items appeared on the agenda.

**The Speaker of the Council, Councillor Victoria Obaze in the Chair**

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

She advised that she was very pleased to have hosted and attended a variety of events. This included:

- The Eid Reunion and Award Ceremony at the London Muslim Centre;
- Clifford Chance in Canary Wharf to attended the Jewish festival of Shavuot;
- St Mary and St Michael Primary School Annual Dance Festival;
- The London Enterprise Academy annual award celebration which was followed by a Guinness world record attempt to drum continuously for longer than 14 hours;
- Bethnal Green community fitness event; and
- The Canary Wharf Group and residents summer barbecue.

### **1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of:

- Councillor Tarik Khan;
- Councillor Harun Miah;
- Councillor Mohammed Pappu;
- Councillor John Pierce; and
- Councillor Leema Qureshi.

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

The following Councillors declared an interest that must be registered (Other Interests) in Agenda Item 7 Administration Motion Regarding Air Quality and Climate Change.

- Councillor Faroque Ahmed;
- Councillor Rajib Ahmed;
- Councillor Dipa Das; and
- Councillor Asma Islam.

The following Councillors declared an interest that must be registered (Other Interests) in 11.1 Spitalfields and Banglatown Community Governance Review - Final Recommendations.

- Councillor Denise Jones;
- Councillor Tarik Khan; and
- Councillor Shad Chowdhury.

### **3. MINUTES**

#### **RESOLVED:**

1. That the unrestricted minutes of the ordinary Council Meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> May, 2019 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 was pleased to report the following success stories:

- London Energy Efficiency Award – Which was a council scheme to offer boiler replacements to low income households in Tower Hamlets has been named as the best in the capital at the 2019 Greater London Energy Efficiency Awards;
- Sir John McDougall gardens has been acknowledged by the Green Flag Award Scheme as one of the country's leading parks.

Turning to staffing issues, he reported that Carol Swift would shortly be taking up her appointment to the post of Divisional Director Housing and he thanked Mark Baigent for his service to the Council and his dedication.

He also reported on the latest Ofsted Visit which represents remarkable progress according to Ofsted after the Council set an ambitious target of achieving the good rating following the previous inspection in 2017.

#### 5. TO RECEIVE PETITIONS

##### 5.1 Petition regarding CCTV in Tower Hamlets

It was noted that the petitioner regarding CCTV in Tower Hamlets was not present. The petition was therefore referred to the Corporate Director, Health, Adults and Community for a written response within 28 days.

##### 5.2 Stop the closure of Raines Foundation Secondary School.

Laura Gibson and others addressed the meeting on behalf of the petitioners, and responded to questions from Members. Councillor Danny Hassell, Cabinet Member for Children, Schools and Young People then responded to the matters raised in the petition.

##### **RESOLVED:**

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

##### 5.3 Petition Debate - Stop Stepney Green Boy's School becoming a mixed school

Shahaur A Khan and others addressed the meeting on behalf of the petitioners and the Council then debated the matters raised by the petition.

During the debate Councillor Puru Miah **moved** and Councillor Danny Hassell **seconded** the following motion (As set out in the resolution below).

Following debate on the motion it was then put to a vote and was **agreed**.

**That:**

1. This Council notes that, despite over eight years of cuts from Conservative-led Governments, Labour in Tower Hamlets has delivered an integrated and inclusive education system in which the vast majority of schools in Tower Hamlets are 'Good' or 'Outstanding'.
2. This Council is proud of all our schools and the staff who work hard to support Tower Hamlets young people to meet their aspirations and ambitions, and ensure they have the same opportunities as young people in wealthier boroughs.
3. This has been achieved thanks to working in close partnership with our schools, teachers and parents.
4. However, this Council is concerned that the advances made for children in Tower Hamlets could be threatened by the Conservative Government's policy of forced Academisation of schools, with no powers to return to local authority governance despite the concerns of parents and teachers.
5. This Council notes that, the Conservative Government was forced to drop its plans to compel every school to become an academy by 2022 because of the loss of their majority in the 2017 General Election.
6. This Council also notes that, in recent months there has been significant media coverage of how Academies are not working in the interests of students. There is evidence to show that once a public school is converted into a Multi-Academy trust the standard of education often drops and financial oversight becomes much more difficult. Academisation does not improve pupil attainment and a report from the Education Policy Institute published in 2018, which compared school performance and pupil improvement at every trust and local authority in England at both key stage two and four, found that there is no difference in the performance of multi-academy trusts and groups of local authority schools. It also revealed that academy chains are "disproportionately represented" amongst the worst performing groups of primary schools, with 12 making it into the bottom 20. The LGA itself has said that 'it is wrong to suggest that academies have more transparency and accountability than council maintained schools.'
7. This Council notes that some academies are not accountable to their local communities and represent a dangerous step towards privatising education. Stepney Green School converting from a single gender to a mixed school, against the wishes of a substantial number of parents, pupils and local stakeholders is a prime example.
8. This Council further notes that Mayor Biggs has written to the Secretary of State about Stepney Green School, highlighting the

petition and emphasising that 'there is considerable disquiet at the openness and thoroughness of the consultation carried out by the school' and stating 'the conversion of Stepney Green into a mixed-sex school will significantly reduce parent choice in the borough.'

9. This Council is concerned that the School Commissioner structure is undemocratic and unaccountable that risks the great work done in partnership between Tower Hamlets Council and schools to raise student results and attainment. Whereas schools in Tower Hamlets currently have their finances funnelled through national and local government, thus ensuring that there is a level of accountability, Academies receive finances straight from the Government, meaning that there is reduced scrutiny and monitoring which could pose risks to the sustainability of schools.
10. This Council is also concerned that, despite there being no clear evidence that Academisation improve schools; the number of schools becoming Academies in Tower Hamlets is growing.
11. This Council is further concerned that the legal requirements regarding consultation for schools becoming academies are not rigorous enough and often mean only minimal consultation with parents and local communities.
12. This Council believes that due to the wider impact on the education system in the borough significant changes to school governance should not be done without a significant mandate from parents and teachers.
13. This Council further believes that it is vital that local authorities like Tower Hamlets continue to act as a 'critical friend' to schools by offering support and challenge in raising standards, as has been the case hitherto.
14. This Council resolves to lobby the government to halt forced Academisation by the Secretary of State.
15. This Council resolves to lobby the government to give greater powers to local authorities to work with failing schools to find solutions, rather than the only option being forced Academisation by the Secretary of State.
16. To also lobby the government to allow schools to return to a local authority governed school.
17. This Council also resolves to investigate other models of governance that allow local authorities greater partnership and influence within schools.
18. This Council resolves to support and focus on continuing the outstanding achievements that a collaborative education system delivers for current and future generations of young people in Tower Hamlets.

19. This council resolves to work with all schools in the borough to improve the educational standards and life chances for our children and young people.
20. This Council resolves to work with Stepney Green Academy School to take a more inclusive approach in engaging with local stakeholders, including parents and children.

**RESOLVED:**

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

<b>5.3 Petition Debate - Stop Stepney Green Boy's School becoming a mixed school (Motion)</b>	
Councillor Faroque Ahmed	For
Councillor Rajib Ahmed	For
Councillor Sabina Akhtar	For
Councillor Sufia Alam	For
Councillor Amina Ali	For
Councillor Shah Ameen	For
Councillor Asma Begum	For
Mayor John Biggs	For
Councillor Rachel Blake	For
Councillor Kevin Brady	For
Councillor Mufeedah Bustin	For
Councillor Kahar Chowdhury	For
Councillor Shad Chowdhury	For
Councillor Dipa Das	For
Councillor David Edgar	For
Councillor Marc Francis	For
Councillor Peter Golds	Against
Councillor Ehtasham Haque	For
Councillor Danny Hassell	For
Councillor Mohammed Ahbab Hossain	For
Councillor Asma Islam	For
Councillor Sirajul Islam	For
Councillor Denise Jones	For
Councillor Rabina Khan	For
Councillor James King	For
Councillor Eve McQuillan	For
Councillor Ayas Miah	For
Councillor Puru Miah	For
Councillor Abdul Mukit MBE	For
Councillor Victoria Obaze	For
Councillor Kyrsten Perry	For
Councillor Zenith Rahman	For
Councillor Candida Ronald	For
Councillor Gabriela Salva Macallan	For

Councillor Dan Tomlinson	For
Councillor Helal Uddin	For
Councillor Abdal Ullah	For
Councillor Motin Uz-Zaman	For
Councillor Val Whitehead	For
Councillor Bex White	For
Councillor Andrew Wood	Against
<b>Carried</b>	

## 6. MAYOR'S REPORT

The Mayor presented his tabled report to the Council. The Leader of the Opposition then responded briefly to the Mayors report.

## 7. ADMINISTRATION MOTION DEBATE

Councillor Rachel Blake **moved** and Councillor Amina Ali **seconded** the motion as set out in the agenda and proposed a friendly amendment (Additions in **Bold** and Underlined).

### **This Council resolves:**

1. 40% of residents in Tower Hamlets live in areas that breach EU and government guidance on safe levels of air pollution and it's the fifth worst borough in London for air pollution;
2. A recent scientific study showed that children in Tower Hamlets have up to 10% less lung capacity than normal;
3. As highlighted in the 2010 Marmot Review, individuals in deprived areas experience more adverse health effects at the same level of exposure compared to those from less deprived areas. This is, in part, because of a higher prevalence of underlying cardio-respiratory and other diseases, as well as greater exposure to air pollution as a result of homes being situated nearer to busy congested roads and with fewer green spaces;
4. That Mayor John Biggs declared a climate emergency in March 2019 on behalf of the council, and announced the aim of becoming a zero-carbon council by 2025;
5. That the Mayor has written to the Prime Minister calling on the Government to bring forward the ban on diesel cars and invest in a national scrappage scheme;
6. **That Mayor Biggs wrote to the Leader of Greenwich Council in June 2018 to express our opposition to cruise ship moorings without the use of on-shore power supply next to the Isle of Dogs;**
7. That nationally the Labour Party has announced that climate change would be a core part of the school curriculum under a Labour government;

8. A recent poll showed that around 75% of UK adults believe climate change to be the biggest crisis facing humanity today.

**This Council further notes the council's ongoing work to tackle poor air quality, including:**

1. The Breathe Clean campaign, launched in 2018, to tackle air pollution across Tower Hamlets and raise awareness about what can be done locally to improve air quality and reduce risk to residents' health;
2. The anti-idling campaign, with a particular focus on drivers who idle outside schools;
3. 50 planned 'school streets' and 'play streets', with some roads closed off to improve air quality around schools;
4. **2,800 trees have been planted across Tower Hamlets over the course of the last year;**
5. Significant investment in a Liveable Streets fund to make it easier to get about by foot, on a bike and on public transport;
6. **Continuing to consult local people on the installation of secure residents' Cycle Parking Hangars, as well as on street visitor cycle parking and developing a proposal for a new Secure Cycle Hub for around 100 cycles at Whitechapel Station;**
7. The aim to install 300 electric vehicle charging points across the borough;
8. **The LED street light replacement programme is continuing and at the moment 63% of lights in the borough have already been replaced with LEDs;**
9. Continuing to review the council's investment decisions, **including exploring all opportunities to divest our pension fund investments, noting that the LBTH Pension Fund has transferred a significant proportion of its investment in equities into Low Carbon funds;**
10. **The Council has removed single use plastic cups from its main buildings and is exploring how to remove other single use plastics, such as plastic drinks bottles in vending machines;**
11. An Air Quality Fund, providing a total of £200,000 funding to innovative groups in the community who want to do their bit to tackle air pollution;
12. **Tower Hamlets have provisionally agreed to invest £3 million into upgrading the CCTV system and in light of this, we have recently conducted a review of the Council's CCTV network, which included looking at the locations of CCTV in relation to fly-tipping and the evidence base for CCTV's effectiveness in environmental crimes;**
13. Investment in new waste fleet, reducing emissions.



**This Council believes:**

1. We face a climate emergency and need to take immediate action at a local, national and international level;
2. That air quality is not only a health issue but also a social justice issue. Deprived areas in the London region have a higher concentration of Nitrogen Dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>) than in any other deprived region in England, levels are 40% higher in deprived wards than non-deprived wards;
3. That the ban on diesel cars planned for 2040 should be brought forward to 2030;
4. That the council should work with companies and individuals, including ice cream van owners, to encourage the switch to cleaner forms of transport;
5. That the council should review its own vehicle fleet;
6. **That although the Council would always look to locate new schools away from major roads, where new sites are close to main roads serious consideration must be given to the design and layout of the school to reduce the effect, including the location of the building, mechanical ventilation and using vegetation to assist with improving air quality;**
7. That the Government must support those who rely on cars for family or employment reasons by providing financial help to make the switch from more polluting cars to cleaner vehicles and other forms of transport, as well as investing in a national diesel scrap page scheme.

**This Council resolves:**

1. To support the declaration of a climate emergency through a formal resolution of the council **and to campaign at the local, London-wide and national level to draw attention to issue and bring about changes at all levels of government;**
2. **To pledge to develop a Tower Hamlets Carbon Neutral Plan, detailing how the Council's pledge to become carbon neutral by 2025 will be achieved – and requests that this Tower Hamlets Carbon Neutral Plan is brought to Full Council for approval;**
3. To support calls for the ban on diesel cars to be brought forward to 2030 and the introduction of a national scrappage scheme;
4. To deliver our Air Quality Action Plan;
5. **To pledge to produce each year between now and 2030 a Tower Hamlets Climate Emergency Annual Report, detailing the Council's progress against the Tower Hamlets Carbon Neutral Plan – which will enable members, residents and other local stakeholders to hold the Council to account for delivery of this pledge;**

6. To work with the community to reduce air pollution through small changes to travel plans **and to ask our partner organisations to make clear commitments to dealing with this crisis;**
7. **To deliver a programme of community climate change engagement to build awareness, support and empower BAME Groups to engage with the projects around climate change.**
8. To campaign for targeted measures to reduce air pollution in our worst affected areas such as Blackwall Tunnel, Bow Roundabout, Aldgate and Whitechapel;
9. To work with neighbouring authorities through our successful Zero Emissions Network to expand support to small businesses to reduce their emissions;
10. To investigate zero emissions ice cream vans in our parks and work with neighbouring authorities on regulations to restrict emissions from fossil fuel ice cream vans.

Then Councillor Andrew Wood **moved** and Councillor Peter Golds **seconded** an amendment to the motion. (Additions in **Bold** and **Underlined**).

**This Council notes:**

1. 40% of residents in Tower Hamlets live in areas that breach EU and government guidance on safe levels of air pollution and it's the fifth worst borough in London for air pollution;
2. A recent scientific study showed that children in Tower Hamlets have up to 10% less lung capacity than normal;
3. As highlighted in the 2010 Marmot Review, individuals in deprived areas experience more adverse health effects at the same level of exposure compared to those from less deprived areas. This is, in part, because of a higher prevalence of underlying cardio-respiratory and other diseases, as well as greater exposure to air pollution as a result of homes being situated nearer to busy congested roads and with fewer green spaces;
4. **That on the 27<sup>th</sup> June 2019 the 'Climate Change Act 2008 (2050 Target Amendment) Order 2019' was enacted in law which means the government has committed the UK to become the first major economy to set net zero emissions as a target in law by the year 2050.**
5. ~~That Mayor John Biggs declared a climate emergency in March 2019 on behalf of the council,~~ **On behalf of the Council, Cllr Rachel Blake declared a climate emergency in the Borough in March 2019** and announced the aim of becoming a zero-carbon council by 2025;
6. That the Mayor has written to the Prime Minister calling on the Government to bring forward the ban on **selling new petrol and diesel cars (from 2040 to 2030)** and invest in a national scrappage scheme;
7. ~~That nationally the Labour Party has announced that climate change would be a core part of the school curriculum under a~~

**Labour government; Climate change is covered in both science and geography at Key Stage 3 (age 11-14) and Key Stage 4 (age 14-16). Both subjects are compulsory at Key Stage 3, while only science is compulsory at Key Stage 4.**

8. A recent poll showed that around 75% of UK adults believe climate change to be the biggest crisis facing humanity today.
9. **That the Department of Transport records 43,550 vehicles registered to addresses in Tower Hamlets as at 2014.**
10. **That Tower Hamlets Council operates a vehicle fleet of over 200 vehicles, all fossil fuel powered with only a few hybrids.**
11. **That we currently only have 42 publicly accessible electric vehicle charging points borough wide.**
12. **That annual recycling rates in 2018/19 were 24.3% against a London borough average of 33% and need to be improved;**

**This Council further notes the council's ongoing work to tackle poor air quality, including:**

1. The Breath Clean campaign, launched in 2018, to tackle air pollution across Tower Hamlets and raise awareness about what can be done locally to improve air quality and reduce risk to residents' health;
2. The anti-idling campaign, with a particular focus on drivers who idle outside schools;
3. 50 planned 'school streets' and 'play streets', with some roads closed off to improve air quality around schools;
4. Significant investment in a Liveable Streets fund to make it easier to get about by foot, on a bike and on public transport;
5. The aim to install 300 electric vehicle charging points across the borough;
6. Continuing to review the council's investment decisions;
7. An Air Quality Fund, providing a total of £200,000 funding to innovative groups in the community who want to do their bit to tackle air pollution;
8. Investment in new waste fleet, reducing emissions.
9. **The installation by the Port of London Authority of air quality monitors reporting their results online either side of the river Thames where cruise ships moor close to Greenwich / Island Gardens.**
10. **That the Pensions Committee has been working to reduce the carbon component of our pension investments and have looked at investing money in renewable energy infrastructure.**
11. **Applications to the governments grant funding programme for new electric vehicle chargers.**

**This Council believes:**

1. We face a climate emergency and need to take immediate action at a local, national and international level;
2. That air quality is not only a health issue but also a social justice

issue. Deprived areas in the London region have a higher concentration of Nitrogen Dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>) than in any other deprived region in England, levels are 40% higher in deprived wards than non-deprived wards;

3. That the ban on **new petrol and** diesel cars planned for 2040 should be brought forward to 2030;
4. That the council should work with companies and individuals, including ice cream van owners, **and construction companies** to encourage the switch to cleaner forms of transport **and power generation on construction sites**;
5. That the Government must support those who rely on cars for family or employment reasons by providing financial help to make the switch from more polluting cars to cleaner vehicles and other forms of transport, as well as investing in a national diesel scrappage scheme **for older vehicles**.
6. That the council should review its own vehicle fleet, **to speed up the use of electric , hydrogen or hybrid vehicles, to install electric vehicle chargers on Council properties.**

#### **This Council resolves:**

1. To support the declaration of a climate emergency through a formal resolution of the council;
2. To support calls for the ban **on the sale of new petrol and** diesel cars to be brought forward to 2030 and the introduction of a national scrappage scheme **for older vehicles**;
3. To deliver our Air Quality Action Plan;
4. To work with the community to reduce air pollution through small changes to travel plans;
5. To campaign for targeted measures to reduce air pollution in our worst affected areas such as Blackwall Tunnel, **A12 road corridor, Aspen Way/Limehouse Link, Highway road corridor, Bow Roundabout, Aldgate and Whitechapel**;
6. To work with neighbouring authorities through our successful Zero Emissions Network to expand support to small businesses to reduce their emissions;
7. **Work with the Local Government Association and other bodies to identify where we can share knowledge and experience on how to implement these objectives**;
8. To investigate zero emissions ice cream vans in our parks and work with neighbouring authorities on regulations to restrict emissions from fossil fuel ice cream vans. **To look at installing electric vehicle charging points at ice cream van locations popular with the consumers of ice cream**;
9. **Commit to make Tower Hamlets Council carbon neutral by 2025 – and to make sure that in meeting this commitment the Council takes steps to avoid any adverse impacts on vulnerable residents**;
10. **Develop a Tower Hamlets Carbon Neutral Plan, detailing how the Council's will become carbon neutral by 2025 – and requests that the Tower Hamlets Carbon Neutral Plan is**

brought to Full Council for approval by January 2020 at the latest;

11. Commit to produce, in January of each year between now and 2025, a Tower Hamlets Climate Emergency Annual Report, detailing the Council's progress against the Tower Hamlets Carbon Neutral Plan – which will enable members, residents and other local stakeholders to hold the Council to account for delivery of this commitment;
12. Commit to asking our partner organisations across Tower Hamlets to support this change;
13. Commit to explore all opportunities to reduce over time the carbon content of our pension fund investments, while discharging the relevant fiduciary responsibilities to members of the pension fund, and work to ensure that wherever possible any future investments are assessed against these principles;
14. Commit to improving recycle rates - our annual recycling rates in 2018/19 were just 24.3% against a London borough average of 33%;
15. Look at introducing street bins with different receptacles for different types of waste as is done elsewhere in London and at Canary Wharf to encourage more recycling;
16. Commit to make this council free of single-use plastics by 2020 and work towards reducing the use of 175,000 single-use plastics across all council buildings;
17. Commit to install air quality sensors outside every school, at the entrance to each market, outside each TfL station and Ideas stores in our borough which can provide real time air quality information on a range of pollutants. Make that data widely & easily available so that local people have information about what the air quality is like where they live, work and travel;
18. Acquire portable air quality monitoring equipment which can be used to better identify the sources of pollutants (& not just measure the cumulative impact) so that we can better understand the relative contribution from different types of pollution sources to air quality, in particular pollution produced by construction sites, river traffic, London City Airport, Blackwall Tunnel traffic jams etc.;
19. Commit to not approving new planning applications for homes right next to major roads, that family sized units be built away from major roads or sources of pollution, that green barriers be grown between major roads and any new homes rather than placing homes right next to major roads;
20. Commit to not expanding or building new schools next to major roads which are a known source of pollutants. That where site allocations in the Local Plan include schools, that the schools are built some distance from the major sources of pollutants;
21. Commit to no net loss of trees on any site being redeveloped;
22. Commit to write to the Royal Borough of Greenwich and the Mayor of London to express our opposition to cruise ship moorings without the use of on-shore power supply next to the

Isle of Dogs;

23. Replacing all existing light bulbs whether in Council offices, schools or street lights with LED bulbs in order to reduce electricity used;
24. Find other ways of reducing electricity being used by the Council;
25. Provide information to residents about how to better insulate their homes and the benefits of doing so (including financial);
26. To do further work on the climate change impact of tall glass fronted buildings and to review the decision of New York to phase them out;
27. Commit to publishing an action plan on how quickly the Councils vehicle fleet (leased and owned) can be replaced by electric or hybrid or hydrogen vehicles. To report on whether this will be done before the ULEZ expansion.
28. Commit to installing electric vehicle charging points at Council owned sites to allow new electric Council vehicles;
29. Encourage individual housing developments and offices with their own private car parks to install electric vehicle chargers on site through providing advice, grants and recommending installers;
30. Encourage the few remaining petrol stations in the Borough to also provide electric high capacity rechargers on-site;
31. To not allow the loss of existing petrol stations before 2030 where it would result in existing fossil fuel vehicles having to travel substantially further distances to refuel;
32. Encourage the provision of new high capacity electric vehicle recharging points (for example at supermarkets or taxi parking areas) to create a new generation of clean fuel stations;
33. Commit to install 350 electric vehicle charging points by the end of 2020. Currently there are just 42 borough wide. To then have a phased programme so that every street with on street vehicle parking has on street electric chargers by 2025;
34. Commit to returning to the practise of delivering pink recycling bags to all properties including apartment blocks;
35. Commit to enforce the law on fly tipping and to prosecute and fine those who commit this offence;
36. Commit to install more CCTV across our borough to help track those who illegally dump and to take legal action against perpetrators;
37. Commit to growing green walls/parks/tree barriers/installing planters next to all major roads in the Borough especially where residential properties are next to main roads which will help absorb pollutants and particulate matter;
38. Commit to introducing more greenery whether at ground level, on vertical walls (as at the Barbican estate) or hanging from street lights (as in Belgravia) which will help absorb pollutants and particulate matter (as well as make the Borough a more attractive place);
39. Commit to install new accessible bicycle parking spots across the borough including at our new Town Hall site in Whitechapel

- as well as at Mulberry Place;
40. Work with local communities to identify what local changes are required to encourage more people to cycle in their local area, so that they can build up confidence before using long distance cycle super highways;
  41. Commit to installing solar panels or other methods of generating clean energy on all council buildings/assets. The only council building that does have a solar panel is Watney Market Ideas store;
  42. Write to the Mayor of London calling for the creation of Low Emission Bus Zones in Tower Hamlets so that our local bus network is as clean as possible but develop this further to include electric or hydrogen buses on local bus routes and deliver electric vehicle chargers at bus termini to allow this.

Following debate the amendment was put to a vote and was **defeated**.

Then the motion as amended by the friendly amendment was then put to a vote and was **agreed**.

#### **DECISION:**

#### **This Council resolves:**

1. 40% of residents in Tower Hamlets live in areas that breach EU and government guidance on safe levels of air pollution and it's the fifth worst borough in London for air pollution;
2. A recent scientific study showed that children in Tower Hamlets have up to 10% less lung capacity than normal;
3. As highlighted in the 2010 Marmot Review, individuals in deprived areas experience more adverse health effects at the same level of exposure compared to those from less deprived areas. This is, in part, because of a higher prevalence of underlying cardio-respiratory and other diseases, as well as greater exposure to air pollution as a result of homes being situated nearer to busy congested roads and with fewer green spaces;
4. That Mayor John Biggs declared a climate emergency in March 2019 on behalf of the council, and announced the aim of becoming a zero-carbon council by 2025;
5. That the Mayor has written to the Prime Minister calling on the Government to bring forward the ban on diesel cars and invest in a national scrappage scheme;
6. That Mayor Biggs wrote to the Leader of Greenwich Council in June 2018 to express our opposition to cruise ship moorings without the use of on-shore power supply next to the Isle of Dogs;

7. That nationally the Labour Party has announced that climate change would be a core part of the school curriculum under a Labour government;
8. A recent poll showed that around 75% of UK adults believe climate change to be the biggest crisis facing humanity today.

**This Council further notes the council's ongoing work to tackle poor air quality, including:**

1. The Breathe Clean campaign, launched in 2018, to tackle air pollution across Tower Hamlets and raise awareness about what can be done locally to improve air quality and reduce risk to residents' health;
2. The anti-idling campaign, with a particular focus on drivers who idle outside schools;
3. 50 planned 'school streets' and 'play streets', with some roads closed off to improve air quality around schools;
4. 2,800 trees have been planted across Tower Hamlets over the course of the last year;
5. Significant investment in a Liveable Streets fund to make it easier to get about by foot, on a bike and on public transport;
6. Continuing to consult local people on the installation of secure residents' Cycle Parking Hangars, as well as on street visitor cycle parking and developing a proposal for a new Secure Cycle Hub for around 100 cycles at Whitechapel Station;
7. The aim to install 300 electric vehicle charging points across the borough;
8. The LED street light replacement programme is continuing and at the moment 63% of lights in the borough have already been replaced with LEDs;
9. Continuing to review the council's investment decisions, including exploring all opportunities to divest our pension fund investments, noting that the LBTH Pension Fund has transferred a significant proportion of its investment in equities into Low Carbon funds;
10. The Council has removed single use plastic cups from its main buildings and is exploring how to remove other single use plastics, such as plastic drinks bottles in vending machines;
11. An Air Quality Fund, providing a total of £200,000 funding to innovative groups in the community who want to do their bit to tackle air pollution;
12. Tower Hamlets have provisionally agreed to invest £3 million into upgrading the CCTV system and in light of this, we have recently conducted a review of the Council's CCTV network, which included looking at the locations of CCTV in relation to fly-tipping and the evidence base for CCTV's effectiveness in environmental crimes;
13. Investment in new waste fleet, reducing emissions.



**This Council believes:**

1. We face a climate emergency and need to take immediate action at a local, national and international level;
2. That air quality is not only a health issue but also a social justice issue. Deprived areas in the London region have a higher concentration of Nitrogen Dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>) than in any other deprived region in England, levels are 40% higher in deprived wards than non-deprived wards;
3. That the ban on diesel cars planned for 2040 should be brought forward to 2030;
4. That the council should work with companies and individuals, including ice cream van owners, to encourage the switch to cleaner forms of transport;
5. That the council should review its own vehicle fleet;
6. That although the Council would always look to locate new schools away from major roads, where new sites are close to main roads serious consideration must be given to the design and layout of the school to reduce the effect, including the location of the building, mechanical ventilation and using vegetation to assist with improving air quality;
7. That the Government must support those who rely on cars for family or employment reasons by providing financial help to make the switch from more polluting cars to cleaner vehicles and other forms of transport, as well as investing in a national diesel scrappage scheme.

**This Council resolves:**

1. To support the declaration of a climate emergency through a formal resolution of the council and to campaign at the local, London-wide and national level to draw attention to issue and bring about changes at all levels of government;
2. To pledge to develop a Tower Hamlets Carbon Neutral Plan, detailing how the Council's pledge to become carbon neutral by 2025 will be achieved – and requests that this Tower Hamlets Carbon Neutral Plan is brought to Full Council for approval;
3. To support calls for the ban on diesel cars to be brought forward to 2030 and the introduction of a national scrappage scheme;
4. To deliver our Air Quality Action Plan;
5. To pledge to produce each year between now and 2030 a Tower Hamlets Climate Emergency Annual Report, detailing the Council's progress against the Tower Hamlets Carbon Neutral Plan – which will enable members, residents and other local stakeholders to hold the Council to account for delivery of this pledge;

6. To work with the community to reduce air pollution through small changes to travel plans and to ask our partner organisations to make clear commitments to dealing with this crisis;
7. To deliver a programme of community climate change engagement to build awareness, support and empower BAME Groups to engage with the projects around climate change.
8. To campaign for targeted measures to reduce air pollution in our worst affected areas such as Blackwall Tunnel, Bow Roundabout, Aldgate and Whitechapel;
9. To work with neighbouring authorities through our successful Zero Emissions Network to expand support to small businesses to reduce their emissions;
10. To investigate zero emissions ice cream vans in our parks and work with neighbouring authorities on regulations to restrict emissions from fossil fuel ice cream vans.

## 8. OPPOSITION MOTION DEBATE

Motion withdrawn

## 9. 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.

### 9.1 Question from Councillor Asma Islam about a violent incident in the Borough.

**The response of Councillor Asma Begum Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Community Safety** We are working across the Borough on a multi-pronged approach which includes working with the partnership task force and is focused on the Council's priorities in tackling violence; drugs and anti-social behaviour; the Exploitation Team within Children's Services which was launched in April 2018 has a specific focus on the highest risk children and young people; the Rapid Response Team carries out on street outreach sessions with a structured focus on crime and violence and they work with people under the age of 25; the CCTV Suite is proactive in identifying and responding to violent incidents happen, co-ordination of the police response and the gathering of evidence for any subsequent investigation.

Supplementary question from Councillor Asma Islam Councillor Begum and the Mayor have been extremely helpful in working with the Councillors of Mile End to help the residents of Burdett Estate affected by the incident on St. Pauls Way. Therefore, can I get a commitment from the Mayor and Councillor Begum today that they will continue their work to get a long term solution?

**Councillor Begum's response to the supplementary question** Yes we do want to work to get a long term solution and I wish to thank the Mile End Councillors for their hard work in this difficult situation.

**9.2 Question from Councillor Andrew Wood** how much money has been spent since 2010 on upgrading the Raines school sites?

**The response of Councillor Danny Hassell, Cabinet Member for Children, Schools and Young People** Approximately £1.6 m has been spent on the Raines school sites from 2010-11 and 2018-19 this work was funded from the Department for Education locally Co-ordinated Voluntary Aided Programme and is not a grant received by the Council. In October 2017 the Cabinet agreed a further £4 m however given the uncertainty over the future development of the school only £1.5 m of this funding has been committed to date.

**Supplementary question from Councillor Andrew Wood** I understood that the Diocese had put money into the school too?

**Councillor Hassell's response to the supplementary question** The Diocese had put money in through locally Co-ordinated Voluntary Aided Programme but I am happy to confirm that in writing.

**9.3 Question from Councillor James King** has the Council been part of the consultation on the Academisation of Cyril Jackson.?

**The response of Councillor Danny Hassell, Cabinet Member for Children, Schools and Young People** the Governing Body at Cyril Jackson has consulted the Council in its proposals to become an academy. We should be clear that whilst the Council should be consulted it is not for the Council to make that determination, as that will be a decision that lies with the Department for Education or the Regional Schools Commissioner. However, as a consultee the Governing Body must seek our views and we have provided a formal response asking for further information to be provided as the Council did not feel it had sufficient information to make a submission especially with reference to (i) timescales for the academy conversion; (ii) a fuller assessment and exploration of the potential risks by the Governing Body and how they would manage those risks; and (iii) An acknowledgement of the potential conflict of interest between the role of the Executive Head Teacher; the Governing Body; the University Trust; and how this would be managed. A response has now been provided but it was near the end of the public consultation.

**Supplementary question from Councillor James King** Will the Council consider proscribing a more rigorous consultation process for primary schools wishing to become academies and will you and the Mayor join me in seeking to campaign against the Academisation of this school?

**Councillor Hassell's response to the supplementary question** In terms of the consultation whilst the requirements are not set by the Council, officers made it very clear when they met with the Head Teacher on what were our

expectations where on what good engagement should look like. However, the school is just required to meet the regulations as set out by the Department for Education. In terms of academies, we will continue to work with any school in the Borough to make sure that we provide the best for our young people. We believe that the local authority working closely schools will be able to continue to drive through improvements. We would, therefore, ask all schools considering conversion to an academy to think very carefully about the benefits they would achieve that they cannot achieve as a local authority maintained school?

**9.4 Question from Councillor Peter Golds** What is being done to reduce emissions from the Council fleet?

**The response of Councillor David Edgar, Cabinet Member for Environment** the Transport Services Unit has taken steps to replace its older more polluting vehicles with ones that met the requirements of the Ultra-Low Emission Zone (ULEZ) which came into effect on the 8th of April, 2019. What it is also doing is aiming to replace the remaining fleet with vehicles that will meet the ULEZ standards and to put in place electric charging infrastructure. These vehicles will be leased for up to 3 years and during that time that will allow the Council to look at replacing those vehicles with other electric or other clean technology vehicles. We are also going through a similar process with those vehicles that are used for the waste collection service and that will start on April 2020.

**Supplementary question from Councillor Peter Golds** the Council currently has a vehicle fleet of over 200 vehicle's many of which are diesel, we should be moving to hybrid/electric vehicles. If the Council is as ambitious as you say could we have any indication as to when we will move to hybrid/electric vehicles and have in place an electric charging infrastructure?

**Councillor David Edgar response to the supplementary question** As I said earlier the direction of travel with the vehicle fleet is to meet cleaner standards and we are looking carefully at putting in place the right infrastructure needed be it hybrid; electric or hydrogen. Also, we are looking at what options are available to replace those more powerful larger vehicles needed for the waste collection.

**9.5 Question from Councillor Val Whitehead** How many two-year-old children access early learning in the Borough?

**The response of Councillor Danny Hassell, Cabinet Member for Children, Schools and Young People** as the Mayor referred to in his report we have 1,000 two-year-olds in the Borough accessing their early learning places doubling the number from 5 years ago. Also, more than 300 of these children are in Ofsted outstanding settings, I delighted recently with the Mayor to visit recently Lincoln Hall and to see how they have benefitted from our capital investment to expand places and to support the families. We know that when a child takes up one of these places at 2 years they will be ready to learn at 5 years and gives a chance for every child to have a flying start in life.

**Supplementary question from Councillor Val Whitehead** Can you tell me what you will be doing to increase that number now?

**Councillor Danny Hassell response to the supplementary question** Yes we will be developing an action plan around communication and engagement so that parents are aware of their entitlements. We will continue to invest capital funding to allow providers to expand; we have a package of support for our maintained nursery schools which we agreed in the Budget, and in the autumn term we will be able to give an expansion of many school-based placements which I know is the preference for our parents.

**9.6 Question from Councillor Shad Chowdhury** What is being done to maintain and improve rubbish collection and recycling.

**The response of Councillor David Edgar, Cabinet Member for Environment** this is clearly an important issue and the Council's contract management team is working very closely with Veolia to improve standards of service delivery across the waste recycling and cleaning services. There are many places where this works particularly well and there are other areas where they could do better. We are putting more resources into monitoring the performance of the contract and the contractor and there are very detailed plans which analyse the way we are applying particular points of pressure to Veolia and making sure that we have the information we need to do it well. We have also committed additional street washing resources to Spitalfields and Banglatown and that has been put in to take account of the night-time economy and the activity that comes with that. A lot of work has taken place and I want to see evidence of the benefits where there are still problems.

Councillor Kevin Brady then moved a procedural motion to proceed to the next item of business and that the agenda order is varied to allow Item 10.2 to be heard as the next item of business.

Questions 9.7 to 9.14 were not put due to lack of time and would be dealt with by written responses.

(**Action by** - Matthew Mannion, Committee Services Manager, Democratic Services to arrange written response)

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

### **10.1 Report of the General Purposes Committee: Revised Constitution**

The Council considered the report and tabled supplementary papers of the General Purposes Committee setting out the revisions to the Constitution.

The recommendations set out in the report were put to the vote and were agreed. Accordingly it was:

**RESOLVED:**

That the Council:

1. Agree the revised Constitution as set out in Appendices 1 – 4 to this report;
2. Note that following agreement the Constitution will be prepared for publication in consultation with the Communications team and therefore to agree to delegate authority to the Corporate Director, Governance and Monitoring Officer to make non-material changes to the Constitution during this process subject that any changes be subsequently reported to the General Purposes Committee for noting;
3. Confirm the refreshed delegations for revising the constitution including as set out in Sections 15, 19 and 42 of the Constitution, for such that:
  - a) The Monitoring Officer can approve all non-material changes to the Constitution including those that reflect decisions taken by the Council or changes in legislation or to correct matters of fact;
  - b) The Monitoring Officer can recommend to Council or General Purposes Committee for approval any material changes to Parts A to C of the Constitution with the exception of the Executive Scheme of Delegation (Section 30) which will be amended by the Monitoring Officer should the Mayor amend his Executive Scheme of Delegation.
  - c) The introduction to Part D of the Constitution sets out the delegated authority to amend each Part D Section. Unless indicated otherwise, the Monitoring Officer has delegated authority to amend Part D documents in consultation with the Chief Executive; and
  - d) All Sections of the Constitution remain in place unless explicitly revised or removed.
4. To note the updated Corporate Scheme of Delegation within the Constitution and to note that Corporate Directors have delegated authority to create their own Directorate Schemes of Delegation. Any such schemes will be published in Part D of the Constitution.

**10.2 Report of the Standards Advisory Committee: Annual Report**

The Council considered the report of the Standards Advisory Committee: Annual Report. The provision of this annual report highlights the importance Council places on the profile of ethical standards across the organisation and affords the opportunity to highlight areas of good practice and identify any requirements for improvement.

The recommendations set out in the report were put to the vote and were agreed. Accordingly it was:

**RESOLVED:**

That the Council note the report

**10.3 Report of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee: Scrutiny Annual Report**

The Council considered the Annual Report of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. The report presented a summary of diverse range of scrutiny work conducted throughout 2018-19 by the Overview & Scrutiny Committee, Health, Housing and Grants Scrutiny Sub Committees.

The recommendations set out in the report were put to the vote and were agreed. Accordingly it was:

**RESOLVED:**

That the Council note the report

**10.4 Report of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee: Scrutiny Work programme 2019/20**

The Council considered a report that outlined the Scrutiny Work programme for 2019/20 and covered the:

- 1) Overview and Scrutiny Committee;
- 2) Health & Adults Scrutiny Sub-Committee;
- 3) Housing & Regeneration Scrutiny Sub-Committee; and
- 4) Children & Education Scrutiny Sub-Committee.

The recommendations set out in the report were put to the vote and were agreed. Accordingly it was:

**RESOLVED:**

That the Council note the report

**11. OTHER BUSINESS****11.1 Spitalfields and Banglatown Community Governance Review - Final Recommendations**

The Council considered a report of the Chief Executive that set out the proposed Final Recommendations in respect of the Spitalfields and Banglatown Community Governance Review.

It was noted that:

1. In making its final decision the Council has a duty to ensure that community governance within the area under review:
  - a. reflects the identities and interests of the community in that area, and

- b. is effective and convenient;
2. Relevant considerations which should influence the Council's judgement against these two principal criteria include the impact on community cohesion and the size, population and boundaries of the proposed area;
3. The effectiveness and convenience of local government is best understood in the context of a parish council's ability to deliver quality services economically and efficiently, and to give users of services a democratic voice in the decisions that affect them;
4. The Council has consulted with local people as required by law. It has taken into account representations received in connection with the review. Consultation findings have confirmed the Council's view that there is not significant support for the creation of a parish council. There is also significant opposition to the proposal from some sections of the community;
5. In making its final recommendations, the Council should consider the evidence it has been presented with in the form of consultation findings and other representations by local people. It should also use its own knowledge of the area as set out in the final analysis and conclusions report. In taking this evidence into account and judging the criteria in the 2007 Act against it, the Council may reasonably conclude that the recommendations set out in the petition should not be made;
6. Whilst the legal presumption is in favour of the creation of parishes and parish councils, it remains open to the Council to reject the proposal. This is particularly important where the Council believes that it is not in the interests of the wider local community and if giving effect to it would be likely to damage community relations by dividing communities along ethnic, religious or cultural lines.

The recommendations set out in the report were put to the vote and were agreed. Accordingly it was:

**RESOLVED:**

That the Council:

1. Notes the final analysis and conclusions of the Community Governance Review as set out in Appendix 1 of the report;
2. Notes the equalities analysis as set out at Annexe 6 to Appendix 1 of the report (final analysis and conclusions);
3. Notes the reasons set out for the Council's proposed recommendation and the alternative options set out in sections 2 and the 3 of this report; and
4. Agrees that there be no change to existing community governance arrangements within the wards of Spitalfields & Banglatown and Weavers and that a parish should not be created.



<b>Spitalfields and Banglatown Community Governance Review - Final Recommendations</b>	
Councillor Faroque Ahmed	For
Councillor Rajib Ahmed	For
Councillor Sabina Akhtar	For
Councillor Sufia Alam	Abstain
Councillor Shah Ameen	For
Councillor Asma Begum	For
Mayor John Biggs	For
Councillor Rachel Blake	For
Councillor Kevin Brady	For
Councillor Mufeedah Bustin	For
Councillor Kahar Chowdhury	For
Councillor Dipa Das	Abstain
Councillor David Edgar	For
Councillor Peter Golds	Against
Councillor Ehtasham Haque	Against
Councillor Danny Hassell	For
Councillor Mohammed Ahbab Hossain	For
Councillor Sirajul Islam	For
Councillor Denise Jones	For
Councillor Rabina Khan	Abstain
Councillor James King	For
Councillor Eve McQuillan	For
Councillor Ayas Miah	For
Councillor Victoria Obaze	For
Councillor Kyrsten Perry	For
Councillor Zenith Rahman	For
Councillor Candida Ronald	For
Councillor Gabriela Salva Macallan	For
Councillor Dan Tomlinson	Abstain
Councillor Helal Uddin	For
Councillor Abdal Ullah	For
Councillor Motin Uz-Zaman	For
Councillor Val Whitehead	For
Councillor Bex White	For
Councillor Andrew Wood	Against
<b>Carried</b>	

## 12. TO CONSIDER MOTIONS SUBMITTED BY MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

Nil items

The meeting ended at 10.05 p.m.

Speaker of the Council