

LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS**MINUTES OF THE CABINET****HELD AT 5.35 P.M. ON WEDNESDAY, 27 NOVEMBER 2019****C1, 1ST FLOOR, TOWN HALL, MULBERRY PLACE, 5 CLOVE CRESCENT,
LONDON, E14 2BG****Members Present:**

Mayor John Biggs	
Councillor Sirajul Islam	(Statutory Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Housing)
Councillor Rachel Blake	(Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Planning, Air Quality and Tackling Poverty)
Councillor Asma Begum	(Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Equalities)
Councillor Sabina Akhtar	(Cabinet Member for Culture, Arts and Brexit)
Councillor Amina Ali	(Cabinet Member for Adults, Health and Wellbeing)
Councillor David Edgar	(Cabinet Member for Environment)
Councillor Danny Hassell	(Cabinet Member for Children, Schools and Young People)
Councillor Candida Ronald	(Cabinet Member for Resources and the Voluntary Sector)
Councillor Motin Uz-Zaman	(Cabinet Member for Work and Economic Growth)

Other Councillors Present:

Councillor Sufia Alam	
Councillor Peter Golds	
Councillor Andrew Wood	(Leader of the Conservative Group)

Officers Present:

Andrew Bate	(Senior Executive, Communications)
Allister Bannin	(Head of Strategic and Corporate Finance)
Kevin Bartle	Interim Divisional Director of Finance, Procurement and Audit
Stephen Bramah	(Deputy Head of the Mayor's office)
Claudia Brown	(Divisional Director of Adults Social Care)
David Courcoux	(Head of the Mayor's Office)
Keith Daley	Interim Head Substance Misuse
Thorsten Dreyer	(Head of Intelligence and Performance)
Janet Fasan	(Divisional Director, Legal, Governance)
Jane Jin	(Team Leader, Planning Services, Place)
Debbie Jones	(Corporate Director, Children and Culture)
Neville Murton	Corporate Director of Resources
Matthew Pullen	(Infrastructure Planning Manager)
Denise Radley	(Corporate Director, Health, Adults & Community)

Marissa Ryan-Hernandez	(Plan Making Team Leader)
Ann Sutcliffe	(Corporate Director, Place)
Warwick Tomsett	Joint Director, Integrated Commissioning
Will Tuckley	(Chief Executive)
Joshim Uddin	Principal Infrastructure & Development Viability Officer
Matthew Vaughan	(Political Advisor to the Conservative Group, Democratic Services, LPG)
John Webster	Senior Project Manager
Matthew Mannion	(Head of Democratic Services, Governance)

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of:

- Councillor James King, Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, for whom Councillor Sufia Alam (Vice-Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee) was deputising.
- Asmat Hussain, Corporate Director, Governance and Monitoring Officer, for whom Janet Fasan, Divisional Director, Legal Services, was deputising.

2. DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS

There were no Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests.

3. UNRESTRICTED MINUTES

RESOLVED

1. That the unrestricted minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on Wednesday 30 October be approved and signed by the Chair as a correct record of proceedings.

4. ANNOUNCEMENTS (IF ANY) FROM THE MAYOR

The Mayor noted that the meeting was being held during the Pre-Election Period in the run up to the 12 December 2019 General Election.

5. OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

5.1 Chair's Advice of Key Issues or Questions

Pre-Decision Scrutiny Questions and officer responses were received in respect of agenda items:

- 6.1 Refresh of Tower Hamlets Substance Misuse Strategy 2020-2025
- 6.2 Award of Contracts for the Support Service in Three Hostels for the Single Homeless
- 6.3 Adoption of the Tower Hamlets Local Plan 2031: Managing Growth and Sharing the Benefits

- 6.4 Adoption of the Tower Hamlets Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Charging Schedule
- 6.5 Update Report on recommendations for the future delivery of Contract Services
- 6.6 Scrutiny Report – Improving Health, Environmental Quality, Economic and Social Outcomes through housing open spaces
- 6.8 Revenue and Capital Budget Monitoring Q2 2019-20

These were considered during discussion of each relevant agenda item.

In addition, Councillor Sufia Alam, Vice-Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (OSC) provided Cabinet with an update on scrutiny activities. In particular she reported back on the OSC meeting earlier in the week at which they had:

- Undertaken a Spotlight session on Leisure Services and had a robust discussion of the changing landscape of leisure provision in the borough.
- Received a presentation from Councillor Candida Ronald, Cabinet Member for Resources and the Voluntary Sector, on the Council's budget performance and planning. The committee expressed concerns about the sizeable savings required and the robustness of the approaches being used.
- Received a presentation by Councillor Sirajul Islam as Statutory Deputy Mayor on the Council's performance regime. They examined both the areas meeting their targets and also looked at targets which were proving challenging and discussed the viability of some targets.

The Mayor thanked Councillor Sufia Alam for her presentation.

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

Nil items.

6. UNRESTRICTED REPORTS FOR CONSIDERATION

6.1 Refresh of Tower Hamlets Substance Misuse Strategy 2020-2025

Councillor Amina Ali, Cabinet Member for Adults, Health and Wellbeing, introduced the report on the proposed refresh of the Tower Hamlets Substance Misuse Strategy. She highlighted the three priorities within the strategy on; early intervention and prevention, evidence based treatment and recovery support, and reducing drug and alcohol related harm and anti-social behaviour. The meeting also heard from Councillor Asma Begum, Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Community Safety who also endorsed the report.

During discussion the **Mayor** heard that there had been extensive consultation efforts and that many partners had been involved in preparing the strategy. He noted the difficult decisions needed in balancing the different

priorities set out in the strategy. A number of Members also expressed thanks for the work that had gone into preparing the strategy.

The **Mayor** thanked officers for their work, noted the pre-decision scrutiny questions and officer responses and **agreed** the recommendations as set out.

RESOLVED

1. To endorse the Tower Hamlets Community Safety Partnership Substance Misuse Strategy attached at appendix 1 to the report.
2. To note the specific equalities considerations as set out in Paragraph 9 of the report and the actions that will be taken to mitigate these.
3. To note that the strategy will be underpinned by detailed annual delivery plans. It will be officially launched in January 2020 when an online version and a printed version of the strategy will be made available to residents.

6.2 Award of Contracts for the Support Service in Three Hostels for the Single Homeless

Councillor Amina Ali, Cabinet Member for Adults, Health and Wellbeing, introduced the report on the proposed awarding of contracts for hostel support services. In particular she highlighted the £100k capital investment proposed to help meet the needs of the residents.

The **Mayor** welcomed that the contracts were being met within existing costs. He noted the Pre-Decision Scrutiny Questions and officer responses and **agreed** the recommendations as set out.

RESOLVED

1. To agree to exempt Providence Row Housing Association (PRHA) for up to 3 years from 01 April 2020 from any tendering exercise relating to provision of support services at Edward Gibbons House, Providence House and Daniel Gilbert House in recognition of:
 - PRHA capital investment of £101k to improve the quality and design of the hostels buildings via increased provision of:
 - medical rooms,
 - catering facilities,
 - wet rooms/rooms suitable for residents with restricted mobility
 - PRHA revenue investment to better respond to the changing needs of Service Users via provision of:
 - homeless specific palliative care and support training
 - AQA accredited Safeguarding training
 - clinical psychologist support

2. To authorise the Divisional Director, Legal Services to execute all necessary contract documents in respect of the awards of contracts referred to at recommendations 1 above.
3. To note the specific equalities considerations as set out in Paragraph 4 of the report.

6.3 Adoption of the Tower Hamlets Local Plan 2031: Managing Growth and Sharing the Benefits

Councillor Rachel Blake, Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Planning, Air Quality and Tackling Poverty, introduced the report. She highlighted that the Plan had been presented to Cabinet on a number of occasions and been part of numerous discussions and consultations. This report was proposing that a final version be forwarded to Council to agree its adoption.

The purpose of the Plan was to positively support the development and infrastructure needs of existing and future communities encouraging high design standards, avoiding over development and encouraging mixed and stable communities.

During discussion a number of points were made including that:

- Officers had undertaken a massive amount of very detailed work on preparing the Plan.
- It was important to feed back to residents and groups following on from their contributions and submissions.
- The policy was important in promoting affordable housing.

The **Mayor** thanked officers for their work and noted the Pre-Decision Scrutiny Questions and officer responses. Finally, he **agreed** the recommendations as set out.

RESOLVED

1. To note that the Local Plan has been subject to further amendments (following its submission to the Inspector in February 2018) as part of the independent public examination, as described in:
 - a. the Inspector's Final Report (see appendix 1), and;
 - b. schedule of main and additional modifications (see appendix 2).
2. To note the recommendation stated in the Inspector's Final Report.
3. To agree to refer the Report to the Full Council to formally adopt the Local Plan, including the modifications recommended by the Inspector and the additional minor modifications proposed by officers, in accordance with Section 23 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act.

4. To recommend to Full Council to Authorise the Corporate Director of Place to prepare and publish an Adoption Statement and the final Integrated Impact Assessment Report, in accordance with S26 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012.
5. To recommend to Full Council to authorise the Corporate Director of Place in consultation with the Mayor and Lead Member for Planning, Air Quality and Tackling Poverty to make typographical amendments to the plan prior to its publication to improve cross-referencing (e.g. paragraph numbering, page re-numbering) and typographical errors.
6. To recommend to Full Council to revoke the Council's current adopted Core Strategy (2010) and Managing Development Document (2013). It is recommended that the current adopted Plans are revoked following the statutory six week legal challenge period of the Local Plan adoption.
7. Subject to adoption of the Local Plan by the Full Council, agree to revoke the following Council's supplementary/Interim planning documents (see appendix 3 for a full SPD review). These need to be removed as planning policy guidance to ensure an effective and efficient development management process. It is recommended that the current the following documents are revoked following the adoption of the Local Plan by the Full Council and following the statutory six week legal challenge period of the Local Plan adoption.
 - a. Wood Wharf Masterplan (2003)
 - b. Aldgate Masterplan (2007)
 - c. Former Whitechapel Masterplan (2007)
 - d. Bishopsgate Goods Yard (2009)
 - e. Bromley-by-Bow Masterplan (2012)
 - f. Whitechapel Vision Masterplan (2013)
 - g. South Quay Masterplan (2015)
 - h. Millennium Quarter Public Realm Guidance Manual (2008)

6.4 Adoption of the Tower Hamlets Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Charging Schedule

Councillor Rachel Blake, Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Planning, Air Quality and Tackling Poverty, introduced the report setting out the proposed Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) for the borough. In particular she drew the meeting's attention to increased charges in a number of areas and in particular on residential development and it was estimated that they could raise around £29 million more than the current scheme. She confirmed that the proposals had been out for consultation. She thanked officers for their hard work and expertise.

Councillor Andrew Wood, Leader of the Conservative Group, welcomed the report as an improvement on the existing scheme. He highlighted the

importance of constantly monitoring the boundaries of the charge zones as circumstances change.

The **Mayor** welcomed the report, thanked officers and noted the Pre-Decision Scrutiny Questions and officer responses as tabled. He agreed the recommendations as set out.

RESOLVED

1. To allow all relevant reporting and associated actions to take place for the full Council to formally adopt the new CIL Charging Schedule in accordance with The Community Infrastructure Levy Regulations 2010, Regulation 25.
2. To note that there have been some minor amendments made subsequent to the examination in public (in respect of student housing and some minor errors in the funding gap report). These amendments are not substantial or affect the need for a Charging Schedule.

6.5 Update Report on recommendations for the future delivery of Contract Services

The **Mayor** agreed the reasons for urgency as set out in the report, namely that:

“At a recent meeting of the Health Scrutiny Sub-Committee it was requested that this update report be brought to Cabinet at the earliest opportunity. The report was prepared but had missed the regular deadlines for report preparation in the standard report cycle for November Cabinet. Given that the report is for noting, it has been finalised outside of the statutory deadline.”

Councillor Amina Ali, Cabinet Member for Adults, Health and Wellbeing, introduced the report. She explained that this was a noting report setting out the results of a review officers had undertaken in relation to the provision of meals for clients. The council was looking at alternative options for the delivery of services but it was highlighted that no clients would see any changes until their personal circumstances had been reviewed.

The **Mayor** noted the pre-decision scrutiny questions and officers responses and **agreed** the recommendations as set out.

RESOLVED

1. To note the update provided in the report and the summary of the Equalities Impact Assessment undertaken for service users and Contract Services employees affected by the change of service delivery for meals to clients.

2. To note that the CPU will remain open and Contract Services will work with Corporate Asset Management to identify additional leasing or trading opportunities.

6.6 Scrutiny Report - Improving health, environmental quality, economic and social outcomes through Housing Open Spaces

Councillor Sirajul Islam, Statutory Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Housing, introduced the report. He welcomed the review scrutiny had undertaken and highlighted the importance of open spaces in the health and wellbeing of residents and he committed to taking the agreed recommendations forward.

Councillor Andrew Wood, Leader of the Conservative Group, welcomed the report but challenged why there wasn't a complete commitment not to build on open spaces.

The **Mayor** welcomed the report. He highlighted that the borough generally lacked open spaces and that it was vital those that existed were used in the best way possible. He thanked scrutiny and officers for their work. He noted the Pre-Decision Scrutiny Questions and officer responses and **agreed** the recommendation as set out.

RESOLVED

1. To note the scrutiny report of Housing Open Spaces (to improve health, environmental quality, economic and social outcomes through Housing Open Spaces) and agree the action plan in response to the report recommendations.

6.7 Quarterly Performance & Improvement Monitoring – Q2 2019/20

The **Mayor** introduced the latest quarterly performance and improvement monitoring report. He noted the good progress in many areas but also the need to focus on the issues highlighted. He welcomed the engagement of scrutiny in monitoring the Council's performance. He noted how this work fed into the Strategic Plan for the coming year.

He **agreed** the recommendations as set out.

RESOLVED

1. To note the Quarter 2 2019/20 summary status as set out at the beginning of the attached monitoring report;
2. To note the performance of the strategic measures at the end of Quarter 2 2019/20, including those measures where the minimum expectation has been missed; and
3. To note progress in delivering Strategic Plan activities.

6.8 Revenue and Capital Budget Monitoring Q2 2019-20

Councillor Candida Ronald, Cabinet Member for Resources and the Voluntary Sector introduced the latest capital and budget monitoring report. She highlighted the challenge in meeting the required savings levels with overspends predicted in a number of high pressure services such as children's social care and transport services. These pressures were being seen by many authorities but would nevertheless need to be managed.

The **Mayor** confirmed that there were serious challenges for the Council. He welcomed scrutiny's involvement in monitoring the Council's performance. Finally, he noted that the Council awaited any spending announcements by the new government following the upcoming general election.

He noted the Pre-Decision Scrutiny Questions and officer responses and agreed the recommendations as set out.

RESOLVED

1. To note the Council's projected outturn position against General Fund, Dedicated Schools Budget and Housing Revenue Account budgets agreed for 2019-20, based on information as at the end of September as detailed in the Appendices to the report.
2. To note and approve the three capital change notes, total of £8.962m to be added into the Council's capital programme, as detailed in Appendix 7 to the report.
3. To note that there are no equalities implications directly resulting from this report, as set out in Paragraph 4 of the report.

7. ANY OTHER UNRESTRICTED BUSINESS CONSIDERED TO BE URGENT

Nil items.

8. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

Nil items.

9. EXEMPT / CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES

Nil items.

10. OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

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

Nil items.

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

Nil items.

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

Nil items.

The meeting ended at 6.45 p.m.

MAYOR JOHN BIGGS