

LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL

HELD AT 7.00 P.M. ON WEDNESDAY, 2 MARCH 2022

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

Members Present:

Mayor John Biggs	Councillor Tarik Khan
Councillor Faroque Ahmed	Councillor James King
Councillor Kabir Ahmed	Councillor Eve McQuillan
Councillor Rajib Ahmed	Councillor Harun Miah
Councillor Sabina Akhtar	Councillor Abdul Mukit MBE
Councillor Sufia Alam	Councillor Victoria Obaze
Councillor Amina Ali	Councillor Mohammed Pappu
Councillor Asma Begum	Councillor Kyrsten Perry
Councillor Rachel Blake	Councillor Zenith Rahman
Councillor Kevin Brady	Councillor Candida Ronald
Councillor Mufeedah Bustin	Councillor Gabriela Salva Macallan
Councillor Kahar Chowdhury	Councillor Dan Tomlinson
Councillor Shad Chowdhury	Councillor Helal Uddin
Councillor David Edgar	Councillor Abdal Ullah
Councillor Danny Hassell	Councillor Motin Uz-Zaman
Councillor Mohammed Ahabab Hossain	Councillor Val Whitehead
Councillor Asma Islam	Councillor Bex White
Councillor Sirajul Islam	Councillor Andrew Wood

Members Present Virtually:

Councillor Shah Ameen	Councillor Denise Jones
Councillor Dipa Das	Councillor Rabina Khan
Councillor Marc Francis	Councillor Ayas Miah
Councillor Peter Golds	Councillor Leema Qureshi
Councillor Ehtasham Haque	

**The Speaker of the Council, Councillor Mohammed Ahabab Hossain in
the Chair**

The Speaker reported that the Council were all deeply shocked and saddened by the conflict between Russia and Ukraine. He understood that this may be a distressing time - particularly for those who have friends and family living in the countries concerned. The Council were here to support the community and colleagues at this time.

The Speaker was also sad to announce the passing of former Tower Hamlets Councillors: Nigel Huxted, Fred Stratford and Sajjad Miah. They will be remembered for their dedication and community work.

The Council's thoughts and prayers are with those affected by these events.

The Council rose to observe a minute's silence.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received on behalf:

- Councillor Puru Miah

Apologies for lateness were received on behalf of Councillor Sufia Alam.

2. DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS AND OTHER INTERESTS

The Director of Legal and Monitoring Officer advised that the Standards Advisory Committee had agreed a general dispensation to all Councillors in respect of matters relating to the Council Tax and also on Housing where the Councillor (or spouse or partner) holds a tenancy or lease with the Council. Members did not therefore have to declare a DPI in respect of these matters.

Councillor Kahar Chowdhury declared a Non Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in agenda item 5, Budget and Council Tax 2022/23, in relation to any budget proposals that affected care services. This was due to his wife's employment.

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

There were none.

4. TO RECEIVE PETITIONS

4.1 Petition regarding Complete Cycleway 2

Dan Simpson and others addressed the meeting on behalf of the petitioners, and responded to questions from Members. Councillor Kahar Chowdhury, Cabinet Member for Highways and the Public Realm then responded to the matters raised in the petition

He noted that improving walking and cycling routes in the Borough is a key priority of the Council, as set out in its Transport Strategy. Therefore, the Council were working closely with TfL on a number of initiatives, including:

- Working to identify improvements to the cycle network. This included: delivering Cycleway 2, (which is on the TfL network), and changes to the network at Mile End Road and by the Ocean Estate.

- Developing the Whitechapel Road Improvement Programme, including measures to improve the section of highway between Vallance Road and Cambridge Heath Road.

He also recognised that the changes may impact on bus lanes and the local area. Therefore, it was important to secure stakeholders support for the improvements. The Council will continue to work with such partners to do this and identify funding for improvements.

RESOLVED:

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

5. BUDGET AND COUNCIL TAX 2022/23

Mayor John Biggs **moved**, the budget and council tax proposals of the Mayor and Executive as set out in the agenda pack. Councillor Candida Ronald **seconded** the proposals.

Councillor Andrew Wood **moved** the amendment set out in the supplementary agenda, but, due to the absence of a seconder, this amendment could not be considered.

Following debate, the substantive Budget for 2022-23, the Council Tax Resolution and the Treasury Management Strategy and Investment Statements and the Capital Report submitted by Mayor John Biggs were put to a recorded vote and were **agreed**.

RESOLVED:

Budget Motion

Revenue 2022-23 and Capital 2022-25

1. To note a General Fund Revenue Budget of £389.473m and approve a Council Tax (Band D) of £1,124.39 (Council share) for 2022-23 as set out in the motion and Council Tax Resolution attached at Annex 1 to the Council report. This incorporates a freeze to the Tower Hamlets element of Council Tax and to only levy a 1% Adult Social Care precept for 2022-23.
2. To note the GLA precept as set out in the Council Tax Resolution.
3. To note the changes in the budget report appendices to reflect the final Local Government Finance Settlement grant allocations (Annex 2 Appendix 1A, 1B, 2 and 3A)
4. To note the Capital Programme, Housing Revenue Account budget and Dedicated Schools budget

Treasury Management Strategy Statement, Investment Strategy and Capital Strategy 2022-23

5. To adopt the Treasury Management Strategy Statement set out in Annex 3 Appendix A attached to the Council report.
6. To adopt the Investment Strategy Report set out in Annex 3 Appendix B attached to the report.
7. To adopt the Capital Strategy Report (which incorporates the Minimum Revenue Provision Policy Statement) set out in Annex 3 Appendix C attached to the report.

Section 25, Local Government Act 2003

8. To note the Section 151 officer's view on the robustness of estimates and adequacy of reserves required under Section 25 of the Local Government Act 2003, set out in section 2 of the report.

Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme (LCTRS)

9. To note that the Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme will remain unchanged for 2022-23.

**BUDGET COUNCIL
2ND MARCH 2022
COUNCIL TAX REQUIREMENT 2022-23**

That Council:

1. Approve the Council Tax Resolution detailed in Appendix A to this motion.
2. Agree a General Fund revenue budget of £389.473m and a Council Tax requirement for Tower Hamlets in 2022-23 of £121.674m.
3. Agree the Council's 2022-23 Budget Report set out in Annex 2.
4. Agree the report of the Corporate Director Resources (S151 officer) to the Audit Committee of 27th January 2022; Treasury Management Strategy Statement Investment Strategy Report and Capital Strategy Report for 2022-23 set out in Annex 3.

Appendix A

**LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS
COUNCIL 2nd MARCH 2022
COUNCIL TAX RESOLUTION**

1. That the revenue estimates for 2022-23 be approved.
2. That it be noted that, at its meeting on 18th January 2022, Cabinet agreed 108,213 as its **Council Tax base** for year 2022-23 [Item T in the formula in Section 31B of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended (the Act)]
3. That the following amounts be now calculated by the council for the year 2022-23 in accordance with Section 31 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 as amended and the Local Authorities (Alteration of Requisite Calculations) (England) Regulations 2011.
 - (a) £1,334,441,266 Being the aggregate of the amounts which the council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(2) of The Act [**Gross Expenditure**]
 - (b) £1,212,767,651 Being the aggregate of the amounts which the council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(3) of The Act [**Gross Income**]
 - (c) £121,673,615 Being the amount by which the aggregate at 3(a) above exceeds the aggregate at 3(b) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31A (4) of The Act, as its council tax requirement for the year (Item R in the formula in Section 31 B of The Act) [**Council Tax Requirement**]
 - (d) £1,124.39 Being the amount at 3(c) above (Item R), all divided by Item T (2 above), calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31B (1) of The Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year [**Council Tax**]
4. Being the amount given by multiplying the amount at 3(d) above by the number which, in the proportion set out in Section 5(1) of The Act, is applicable to dwellings listed in a particular valuation band divided by the number which in that proportion is applicable to dwellings listed in valuation band D, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 36(1) of The Act, as the amount to be taken into account for the year in respect of categories of dwellings listed in different valuation bands. **Tower Hamlets Council Tax:**

Band A	Band B	Band C	Band D	Band E	Band F	Band G	Band H
£749.59	£874.53	£999.46	£1,124.39	£1,374.26	£1,624.12	£1,873.98	£2,248.78

5. That, it be noted that for the year 2022-23 the **Greater London Authority (GLA)** has stated the following amounts in precepts issued to the Council, in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:

Band A	Band B	Band C	Band D	Band E	Band F	Band G	Band H
£263.73	£307.68	£351.64	£395.59	£483.50	£571.41	£659.32	£791.18

6. That, having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts at 4 and 5 above, the council, in accordance with Section 30(2) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, hereby sets the following amounts as the amounts of **Council Tax for the year 2022-23** for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:

Band A	Band B	Band C	Band D	Band E	Band F	Band G	Band H
£1,013.32	£1,182.21	£1,351.10	£1,519.98	£1,857.76	£2,195.53	£2,533.30	£3,039.96

7. That the council hereby determines in accordance with Section 52ZB of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, that its relevant basic amount of Council Tax for 2022-23 is not excessive in accordance with the principles approved by the Secretary of State under 52ZC of the Local Government Finance Act 1992. As the billing authority, the council has not been notified by a major precepting authority that its relevant basic amount of Council Tax for 2022-23 is excessive and that the billing authority is not required to hold a referendum in accordance with Section 52ZK of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.

Results of Vote on Substantive Budget Motion.	
Councillor Faroque Ahmed	For
Councillor Kabir Ahmed	Against
Councillor Rajib Ahmed	For
Councillor Sabina Akhtar	For
Councillor Sufia Alam	For
Councillor Amina Ali	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 David Edgar	For
Councillor Danny Hassell	For
Councillor Mohammed Ahbab Hossain	For
Councillor Asma Islam	For
Councillor Sirajul Islam	For
Councillor Tarik Khan	For
Councillor James King	For
Councillor Eve McQuillan	For
Councillor Harun Miah	Against
Councillor Abdul Mukit MBE	For
Councillor Victoria Obaze	For
Councillor Mohammed Pappu	For
Councillor Kyrsten Perry	For
Councillor Zenith Rahman	For
Councillor Candida Ronald	For
Councillor Gabriela Salva Macallan	Against

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
Carried	

Members in attendance virtually.

Those Members who were attending virtually were asked to give an indication as to how they would have voted had they been present. These are purely indicative and do not form part of the voting record for this meeting.

Indication of vote in support of Budget Motion:

- Councillor Shah Ameen.
- Councillor Marc Francis.
- Councillor Ehtasham Haque.
- Councillor Denise Jones.
- Councillor Ayas Miah.
- Councillor Leema Qureshi.

Indication of vote against:

- Councillor Peter Golds

Indication of vote to abstain:

- Councillor Rabina Khan

The meeting ended at 9.00 p.m.

Speaker of the Council