

LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS**MINUTES OF THE CABINET****HELD AT 3.08 P.M. ON WEDNESDAY, 27 MARCH 2024****COUNCIL CHAMBER - TOWN HALL, WHITECHAPEL****Members Present in Person:**

Mayor Lutfur Rahman	
Councillor Maium Talukdar	(Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Education, Youth and Lifelong Learning (Statutory Deputy Mayor))
Councillor Kabir Ahmed	(Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Inclusive Development and Housebuilding)
Councillor Saied Ahmed	(Cabinet Member for Resources and the Cost of Living)
Councillor Suluk Ahmed	(Cabinet Member for Equalities and Social Inclusion)
Councillor Gulam Kibria Choudhury	(Cabinet Member for Health, Wellbeing and Social Care)
Councillor Abu Chowdhury	(Cabinet Member for Safer Communities)
Councillor Iqbal Hossain	(Cabinet Member for Culture and Recreation)
Councillor Kabir Hussain	(Cabinet Member for Environment and the Climate Emergency)
Councillor Abdul Wahid	(Cabinet Member for Jobs, Skills and Growth)

Officers Present in Person:

John Ainsworth	(Senior Performance Improvement Analyst)
Ashraf Ali	(Acting Director of Public Realm)
Jill Bayley	(Head of Legal Safeguarding)
Ann Corbett	(Director, Community Safety)
Azizul Goni	(Environmental Services Manager)
Stephen Halsey	(Chief Executive)
Fiona Heyland	(Head of Waste Strategy Policy and Procurement, Public Realm)
Julie Lorraine	(Corporate Director Resources)
Jack Painter	Democratic Services Officer
Denise Radley	(Corporate Director, Health & Adult Social Care & Deputy Chief Executive)
Steve Reddy	(Interim Corporate Director, Children's Services)
Karen Swift	(Divisional Director, Housing and Regeneration)

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None.

2. DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS AND OTHER INTERESTS

There were none.

3. UNRESTRICTED MINUTES**RESOLVED:**

1. That the unrestricted minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on Wednesday 21 February 2024 be approved and signed by the Mayor as a correct record of proceedings.

4. ANNOUNCEMENTS (IF ANY) FROM THE MAYOR

Stephen Halsey, Chief Executive, announced that:

The Best Value inspection is progressing well and is in its fourth week. The inspection is scheduled to last for twelve weeks and the inspectors have been meeting with various individuals.

The Mayor chaired two appointment sub committees for the Corporate Director of Children Services and the Corporate Director of Health and Adult Social Care and shortlisting is currently taking place.

The Council has been shortlisted for nine LGC awards and the Council won two awards at the previous weeks national civil trust awards held in Manchester.

5. OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**5.1 Chair's Advice of Key Issues or Questions**

Councillor Musthak Ahmed, Chair Overview and Scrutiny Committee addressed the meeting on behalf of the Committee. He provided the Mayor and Cabinet with an overview of the Committee's previous meeting including the Committee's comments on the two quarterly reports being considered at today's meeting of the Cabinet and the Council's progress and challenges in becoming a net zero Council. Councillor Ahmed thanked officers and members of the Cabinet that attended the Committee to help with the discussions of those topics.

The Mayor thanked Councillor Ahmed and the rest of the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee in the role that they play in ensuring that the Council has checks and balances and for the work that they do.

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

None.

6. UNRESTRICTED REPORTS FOR CONSIDERATION

6.1 Fixed Penalty Notice Increase for Environmental Crime

Councillor Kabir Hussain, Cabinet Member for Environment and the Climate Emergency, introduced the report that asked the Mayor in Cabinet to agree new levels for fixed penalty notices (FPNs) for offences related to littering, graffiti/fly-posting, fly-tipping, and breach of the household waste duty of care. The report also asked to Mayor in Cabinet to set new discount levels and periods for those FPNs. Ashraf Ali, Director of Public Realm provided further detail.

The Cabinet welcomed the report but asked officers to make sure that residents are clearly communicated about the changes in the levels.

The Mayor welcomed the report and the benefits to the Council and residents in deterring the offences that FPNs cover and keeping the Council a cleaner borough. The Mayor echoed the Cabinet comments on making sure that all residents are communicated these changes. The Mayor also asked that officers look into the locations of bins in the borough and whether they are in the correct place.

RESOLVED that the Mayor in Cabinet:

1. Agrees to adopt new levels for fixed penalty notices (FPNs) for offences related to littering, graffiti/fly-posting, fly-tipping, and breach of the household waste duty of care and to set discount levels and periods as detailed in the table below.

Description of offence	Proposed FPN level	Proposed discounted FPN level (payable within ten days of issue)
Depositing litter	£500	£250
Graffiti and fly-posting	£500	£250
Household waste duty of care offences	£600	£300
Fly-tipping	£1,000	£500

6.2 Budget Monitoring 23/24 Quarter 3

Councillor Saied Ahmed, Cabinet Member for Resources and the Cost of Living, introduced the report that introduced the report that presented the forecast year end outturn compared to the budget as of 31st December 2023 (Period 9/Quarter 3) for the General Fund, Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG), Housing Revenue Account (HRA), progress against savings targets, the council's capital programme and provides projections on General Fund earmarked reserves.

Cabinet members and relevant corporate directors introduced the key variances that fell within their portfolio areas and explained the drivers for each.

The Mayor thanked officers for the report and all the work they have done and asked officers to make sure that any variances in budgets going forward are report to the Cabinet as soon as possible.

RESOLVED that the Mayor in Cabinet.

1. Notes the council's position and consequent forecast outturn as at 31st December 2023, against General Fund Budget (£0.1m underspend) Dedicated Schools Grant Budget (£0.3m overspend), Housing Revenue Account (£0.1m underspend).
2. Notes the actions taken to date to address the demand pressures as set out in Appendix A to the report, Section 3.2.
3. Notes the progress made against the 2023-24 savings targets, based on forecasts as of 31st December 2023.
4. Notes the council's forecast outturn position against General Fund and Housing Revenue Account capital programme approved budgets for 2023-24, based on forecasts as of 31st December 2023.
5. Approves the anticipated net slippages of £6.7m and net overspends of £2.6m across the General Fund capital programme and net slippages of £7.2m and net overspends of £0.1m across the Housing Revenue Account capital programme as detailed in sections 3.13 and 3.14 of the report submitted.
6. Notes that there are no equalities implications directly resulting from this report, as set out in Section 4 of the report submitted.

6.3 Strategic Delivery and Performance Report Year 2 Quarter 3

Councillor Saied Ahmed, Cabinet Member for Resources and the Cost of Living, introduced the report that provided the Mayor in Cabinet with a Quarter 3 monitoring update of Year 2 Annual Delivery Plan 2023-24 performance measures. Councillor Ahmed outlines some of the key achievements from the past quarter, as well as some areas where the Council continued to experience challenge in meeting in targets.

The Mayor welcomed the report and noted the successful performance measures. With respect to the seven red, he invited lead members, supported by relevant corporate directors, to provide explanation for the underperformance and to outline the measures in-place, or planned to reverse the underperformance.

The Mayor offered his thanks to Cabinet members and officers for their contributions.

RESOLVED that the Mayor in Cabinet.

1. Notes the strategic delivery and performance report for Q3 covering the period of 1st October 2023 to 30th December 2023.
2. Notes the measures in Q3 tracking the delivery of Year 2 of the Strategic Plan 2023-2024 in Appendix A of the report submitted.

7. ANY OTHER UNRESTRICTED BUSINESS CONSIDERED TO BE URGENT

Nil items.

8. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

A motion to exclude the press and public was not required.

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. EXEMPT / CONFIDENTIAL REPORTS FOR CONSIDERATION

Nil items.

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

Nil items.

The meeting ended at 4.22 p.m.

Chair, Mayor Lutfur Rahman
Cabinet