


Non-Executive Report of the: COUNCIL 18 January 2017	
Report of: Graham White, Acting Corporate Director, Governance	Classification: Unrestricted
Motions submitted by Members of the Council	

Originating Officer(s)	Matthew Mannion, Committee Services Manager, Democratic Services.
Wards affected	All wards

SUMMARY

1. Ten motions have been submitted by Members of the Council under Council Procedure Rule 13 for debate at the Council meeting on Wednesday 18 January 2017.
2. The motions submitted are listed overleaf. In accordance with the protocol agreed by the Council on 21st May 2008, the motions are listed by turns, one from each group, continuing in rotation until all motions submitted are included. The rotation starts with any group(s) whose motion(s) were not reached at the previous meeting.
3. Motions must be about matters for which the Council has a responsibility or which affect the Borough. A motion may not be moved which is substantially the same as a motion which has been put at a meeting of the Council in the previous six months; or which proposes that a decision of the Council taken in the previous six months be rescinded; unless notice of the motion is given signed by at least twenty Members.
4. There is no specific duration set for this agenda item and consideration of the attached motions may continue until the time limit for the meeting is reached. The guillotine procedure at Council Procedure Rule 9.2 does not apply to motions on notice and any of the attached motions which have not been put to the vote when the time limit for the meeting is reached will be deemed to have fallen. A motion which is not put to the vote at the current meeting may be resubmitted for the next meeting but is not automatically carried forward.

MOTIONS

Set out overleaf are the motions that have been submitted.

12.1 Motion regarding the future of the Tower Hamlets Youth Service

Proposer: Councillor Gulam Robbani

Seconded: Councillor Oliur Rahman

This Council notes that:

1. Former Mayor Lutfur Rahman had a positive vision for the Youth Service which was expressed, for example, at the Cabinet in April 2012:

“He considered that what really mattered were the young people of Tower Hamlets who represented the future of the Borough and that youth services were provided that benefited them. It was his intention as Mayor that young people in Tower Hamlets received the best youth services and best education possible.”

2. That the main motivations of bringing the Youth Service back in-house were:

- to save money on duplicating management functions and re-invest it in the front line of the service;
- to respond to the Government’s localism agenda;
- to strengthen the Council’s partnership agenda;
- to obtain extra value by, for example, the youth service working effectively.

3. That although bringing the Service back in-house was a decision of the Executive Mayor, councillors were able to discuss the transfer openly within Council structures – for example, Cllr Oliur Rahman was able to explain the decision to the April meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, at which Cllr Rachael Saunders declared a personal interest on this item as she had “been in receipt of information from some of the service providers managing the contract in question.”

This Council further notes that:

1. The current Mayor’s intention to make a fundamental change in the way that the Youth Service is run (initially on an interim basis) was not mentioned at the Cabinet on 10th May 2016, although planning must have been well underway by then.

2. The Mayor’s intention to make this fundamental change was set out in a briefing paper from the Mayor’s office dated 12th May 2016 which was circulated to all councillors.

3. This paper stated that the interim delivery plan would begin in July, which clearly precludes any wider member involvement (indeed, the paper refers to the decision having been developed in discussion with John Biggs and Cllr Saunders) and a future delivery model will be in place from April 2017 (and there will be full member involvement in options for this model, but how this will happen is not explained).

4. This paper also stated that a gap analysis is underway with a view to there being a programme of procurement and commissioning in June 2016 targeted at local third sector organisations.

5. This paper also states that it is the intention to offer youth services for the rest of this financial year from only eight venues in the borough – despite the fact that youth are often very reluctant to travel far to a formal provision. The paper states that the Council intends to offer an outreach service to encourage you to travel to the formal provision and also to rely, in the interim, on whatever additional services are provided in an un-co-ordinated manner by local charities or voluntary organisations.

This Council further notes that:

1. The Mayor's decision was revealed at the Council's Annual Meeting on 18th May 2016 by Cllr Rachael Saunders in what appeared to be an unplanned announcement. This included Cllr Saunders reading out an email from her mobile phone but not saying who had sent her the email (in sad contrast to her previous openness about who was briefing her).

2. Cllr Saunders stated that "The service has faced allegations of fraud and corruption" and other serious allegations. She also said that "Investigations into these serious allegations are ongoing," and that the Youth Service does not have the capacity to deliver as much as it has in the past. She stated that "we" were working out a service plan which would be based on reduced capacity and on when that had been developed would consideration be given to identifying and filling gaps. She expected the identification of gaps to be finished by June (a couple of weeks after she was speaking) – but did not mention John Biggs's intention to fill these gaps by contracting out parts of the service to third sector organisations (or who, in the event of this being done, would manage these organisations).

3. The Council Communications Office issued a press release on 26th May referring to the change only having been prompted by "historic shortcoming". This announced that an interim delivery model would be adopted "by the summer". It gave details of the interim delivery model and stated that young people's views had been listened to throughout the review process. (The members have yet to see a concrete tangible and evidence of that)

4. There have been a number of reports in the local press since the Council AGM which have reported the detail of various allegations – presumably either on the basis of their own imaginations or on the basis of briefings from unknown parties in the Council which have not been shared with all councillors.

5. That as a result of the way the Mayor and relevant Cabinet Members have dealt with this issue, it is entirely unclear what is happening to the youth service – which has led to a great deal of serious concern among service users and in the wider community.

This Council believes that:

1. If and when there are allegations of corruption or other serious malpractice, these should be investigated in accordance with Council procedures and individuals should be dealt with appropriately. (Independent Group fully supports this approach and have publicly offered to work together for the benefit of young people of Tower Hamlets).

2. That if a service is to be reviewed in order to spend or save money by cutting certain provisions, and/or deliver the service more efficiently or effectively, this should be discussed openly, including with councillors and services users and the wider community rather than playing politics or blame-game.

3. (1) and (2) above should not be confused.

This Council further believes that:

1. The current position, in which the Administration appears to have responded to allegations against individuals by pre-emptively altering the service as a whole, and in which the Youth Service is to be run on an interim delivery model based on reduced capacity and enhanced by some sort of ad-hoc procurement, is ill thought out and poorly planned.
2. The interim service delivery model will, for the rest of this financial year, lead to an increase in Anti-Social Behaviour across the Borough – to the irritation of the whole community, for whom this is already a massive problem.
3. The interim service delivery model will, for the rest of this financial year, incur a risk of extra spending on management and quality assurance of the service – risks which have not been addressed in the little documentation available or in such public statements as have emerged.

This Council resolves that:

1. The current Mayor, John Biggs, should honour his commitment to govern in a transparent manner and he should put on the public record a full account of what has been going on, including what allegations have been made, when these were made, by whom and how - and critically how these are being investigated (releasing as much information as is possible without compromising the investigations or the individuals concerned); what prompted the service review and how it took place; and what his intentions are towards the service.
2. The current Mayor, John Biggs, to immediately stop any further work to drastically reduce and cut the Youth Service provision in the name of interim delivery model and engage in a serious, open, transparent consultation with the young people, residents and stakeholders.
3. The current Mayor, John Biggs, to reverse the decision to close unprecedented number of Youth Centres and look for an alternative way to provide effective, efficient and fit-for-purpose Borough-wide localised youth service provision.
4. The current Mayor, John Biggs, must keep the Youth Service in-house rather than privatising or contracting it out.
5. In the event that the current Mayor, John Biggs, should not agree to do think again, he must issue a statement clarifying how he intends to procure a service to fill in the gaps from the third sector, given that the Commissioners have been running grant-making functions; and he must also issue a comprehensive statement covering which of his chosen eight venues will pick up delivering the service previously provided by centres which John Biggs and Cllr Saunders have closed and how service users whose centres have been closed are expected to access the replacement services, including details of travel arrangements, etc.

12.2 Motion regarding security

Proposer: Councillor Peter Golds

Seconded: Councillor Andrew Wood

This Council notes that:

The City of London Corporation is once again investing in physical security measures and intends to build a £5 million 'ring of steel' around the City to protect it from future terrorist attacks. It will include manned checkpoints, rising street bollards, restricted roads and crash-proof barricades. It comes after MI5 warned that the "eastern cluster" of towers planned or being built around Bishopsgate is "highly sensitive to the threat of a hostile, vehicle-borne" attack. This will replace the previous ring of steel installed to ward off IRA attacks.

That the City of London Corporation is seeking S106 funds from developers in order to help fund this work.

That within Tower Hamlets that only the Canary Wharf estate has a similar level of physical protection.

That the Council further notes;

That in February 1996 the IRA planted a bomb on Marsh Wall which killed two and injured and maimed many more, some who died of their wounds years later.

That this location was chosen as a softer target than Canary Wharf estate to the immediate north but one with the same level of publicity value.

That like the City of London we also have emerging clusters of tall towers in Aldgate, Blackwall, Marsh Wall and the areas to the north of Canary Wharf. None have any form of physical security built in or in the immediate area except for some ANPR cameras on some (but not all) of the approach routes. There is not even a publicly funded CCTV network in place in most of these areas.

This Council believes that;

The Borough needs to review its security measures in line with the City of London and have appropriate security measures in place to protect and deter potential attacks.

That with so many tall buildings close together we may be perceived as a softer target especially as so many buildings are residential in nature.

We therefore call on the Mayor to;

1. Consult MI5 on the potential security threats to Tower Hamlets given its strategic location and national assets
2. Consider adding to future S106 agreements additional funding for additional security measures over and above those funded through CIL
3. Identify in advance likely targets and consider what steps would be required to mitigate the impact of any future attack.

4. To publicise such preparation where appropriate, in order to reassure residents and deter potential attackers
5. Work with the City of London Corporation to ensure that any security cordon includes developments physically located in Tower Hamlets but which are an extension of the City Fringe.
6. That there is similar security provision in the areas adjoining Canary Wharf, particularly as the City of London Corporation operates and profits from the operation of Billingsgate Market, adjoining the Canary Wharf Estate.

12.3 Motion regarding Stop the Cut to the Council Tax Reduction (CTR) Scheme

Proposer: Councillor Shafi Ahmed

Secunder: Councillor Rabina Khan

The Council Notes;

1. That by HM Revenue Customs Children in Low-income Families Local Measure, 42 per cent of all children in the borough live in poverty. This is the highest rate nationally, and is more than double the rate for England (20 per cent), and well above the London average (24 per cent).
2. That all wards in Tower Hamlets have child poverty rates well above the national average of 20 per cent: the rate ranges from 33 per cent in St Katharine's & Wapping ward up to 48 per cent in the ward of Bow East.
3. Rates are more polarised at Lower Super Output Area level (LSOA) ranging from 9 per cent in the Canary Wharf area up to 58 per cent in part of Blackwall and Cubitt Town. Only ten of the borough's 144 LSOAs have rates below the national average of 20 per cent.
4. That the risk of child poverty rises with family size: in Tower Hamlets, 47 per cent of children who live in families with 3 or more children live in poverty, compared with 34 per cent of those families with just one child. Larger families in Tower Hamlets have a higher risk of poverty than larger families nationally (47 vs. 29 per cent).
5. That Mayor John Biggs has proposed to cut the Council Tax Reduction (CTR) for thousands of the borough's poorest and most vulnerable residents but awarded an 11% overall pay raise for himself.
6. Mayor John Biggs' proposal will replace the current scheme with one where all working age claimants will be expected to pay at least 20% of their Council Tax liability, although one of the proposed options does include an exemption for a few vulnerable groups but there's no guarantee.
7. That where other London boroughs have introduced such 'Minimum Payment' schemes the result has pushed low-income residents deeper into poverty, stifling social mobility oppose this proposal.
8. That Camden Council has recognised the hardship caused by its minimum payment scheme and are proposing to abolish it and reinstate 100% support from next year. This shows it is possible to avoid passing funding cuts onto the poorest residents.

The Council Believes;

1. That to cut the council tax reduction will impact on the cost of living for many Tower Hamlets residents will be resulting in unfortunate choices between providing for their families, paying utility bills or paying their council tax which has already been increased by Mayor Biggs by 4% February 2016.
2. Mayor John Biggs' proposal could result in the abolition of the 100% support that currently exists for the borough's 23,000 working age claimants.

The Council Resolves to;

1. Call on Mayor John Biggs to withdraw his proposal to cut the Council Tax Reduction (CTR) for thousands of the borough's poorest and most vulnerable residents.

12.4 Motion regarding Government's failure to tackle the social care crisis

Proposer: Councillor David Edgar

Seconded: Councillor Danny Hassell

This council notes:

- That the Association of Directors of Adult Social Services estimates that nationally, between 2010 and 2015, £4.6bn was cut from the adult social care budget.
- The Government's announcement that it would be introducing a £240m national Adult Social Care Grant to help fund the increasing costs of social care.
- That the £240m is nowhere near what is needed to properly resolve the social care crisis.
- The £240m grant is not made up of new money; it is funded by top slicing the New Homes Bonus already given to councils. It is estimated that as a result a third of councils will actually lose money overall as a result.
- The NHB top slice means that Tower Hamlets will lose out on £4.8m of NHB in 2017/18 in order to fund the new adult social care grant but will only receive £1.5m in grant.
- This means Tower Hamlets will actually be £3.3m worse off in 2017/18 as a result of the "extra" funding for social care announced in December. This is the biggest reduction in funding in the country.
- The £3.3m reduction in funding comes on top of £58m savings the council already has to make over the next three years as a result of other government cuts to our budget.
- Government also allowed councils to raise council tax by up to 3% in order to provide additional funding for social care.

This Council believes:

- With an aging and growing population the Government should be looking for long term solutions to the social care crisis, not just moving money around and pretending it is new.
- Ministers need to do far more to meet the funding gap, but moving and relabeling pots of money, which would have gone to councils anyway, as new does nothing to achieve this. It just creates perverse situations where the fastest growing – and one of the most deprived – boroughs in the country actually loses out.
- By giving local authorities little choice but to raise council tax in order to fund social care, the Government is passing the buck and getting local authorities to do its work for it.
- Caring for our vulnerable and older citizens shouldn't be a political football. The government should be working cross-party to find long-term solutions to this care crisis.

This Council resolves:

- To call on the Government to listen to the councils and social care professionals and to properly fund the adult social care system.

12.5 Motion regarding Estate Regeneration Policy

Proposer: Councillor Andrew Wood

Seconded: Councillor Chris Chapman

This Council notes that:

Large areas of the Borough have been described in its draft Local Plan 2031 as 'Opportunities for Regeneration', for example Brick Lane, Whitechapel, Roman Road, Mile End, Shadwell & the Isle of Dogs, all outlining existing (& older) council estates.

The recent release by national government of a new "Estate Regeneration National Strategy" led by Lord Heseltine.

That London Mayor Sadiq Khan a few days later released a draft GLA consultation entitled a "Good Practice Guide to Estate Regeneration".

That after years of relative policy silence at both a national and regional level there is increasing guidance on the future of estate regenerations and how to actively involve residents in the future of their homes.

That national government have made available £2 million revenue funding to local authorities to help build commercial skills and capacity in delivering estate regeneration.

That this funding is available for the 2016 to 2017 financial year.

This Council further notes the;

That at a Borough level despite the delivery of several estate regenerations like Blackwall Reach & the Ocean Estate there is little guidance and best practice publicly available despite the large number of estates in Tower Hamlets built between the 1930's and 1970's with concerns about their long-term future.

That there is some guidance in the new draft Local Plan but that it only requires developers to consult residents and what guidance exists is split across different policies and is not in one place.

We call on the Mayor to;

Adopt Council detailed guidance on how estate regeneration should work, how it can protect the best interests of residents and to ensure that they get the best deal should full re-development be the appropriate option.

We further call on the Council;

To share with its residents the lessons it has learnt from previous estate regenerations, to more pro-actively support residents facing these issues, to update the draft Local Plan for the new national and London guidance and to seek government funding to enable this work to take place if required.

Ensure that residents are made aware that there are a wide range of options available when it comes to estate regeneration from;

Knocking everything down and rebuilding,

Estate infill on under used spaces

Upgrading existing buildings and keeping residents in their homes.

To achieve benefit for all, residents need information as to the different options.

The Council can and should assist in this process rather than leave residents alone to face development.

12.6 Motion regarding Preparing Tower Hamlets For Brexit

Proposer: Councillor Rabina Khan

Seconder: Councillor Abdul Asad

This Council Notes:

1. That the EU Referendum on 23rd June 2016 resulted in Britain voting to leave the European Union.
2. Tower Hamlets overwhelmingly voted to remain in the European Union: with a turnout of 64.59% (108,235 residents), 67.46% (73,011) voted Remain and 32.54% (35,224) voted Leave
3. The Parliamentary debate on 7th December which agreed that The Government to publish its Brexit Plan before triggering Article 50 by 31st March 2017
4. The findings of two polls published in December 2016:
 - by YouGov for Open Britain 59 per cent of people living in the north would not be willing to incur any financial penalty at all by leaving the EU and one in 10 people would be prepared to lose more than £100 a month for the cause; and
 - by Comres which found 24% of believed Brexit will leave them "better off" financially, compared to 44% who predicted they would be worse off.

The Council Further Notes:

1. That following the Autumn Statement the Office of Budget Responsibility estimated that Brexit will cost the UK economy £58.7 billion over the next five years.
2. That London contributes 30% of the UK's tax revenues. Workers and businesses in Tower Hamlets make up the third highest contributor to UK tax revenues (£12 billion).
3. Restrictions on free movement of labour and access to the European market could accelerate the move of financial firms to other European centres like Paris, Frankfurt and Amsterdam from Tower Hamlets economic centre, Canary Wharf; impacting on growth, jobs, development and enterprise. The loss of business rates in particular due to companies moving out of the borough could be devastating for the Council's budget.
4. Substantial funding to improve our local economy, development, infrastructure, employment and training currently comes from the European Union, through Tower Hamlets Council, Local Enterprise Partnerships and grant funding bodies such as Lottery Fund. Further funding to improve our local economy is a result of match funding these grants but continued support is needed to reverse the trend of social deprivation as Tower Hamlets has the highest rates of child poverty in the country.

About half the funding (£2.6bn) sits in two funds:

- European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) for research and innovation, business enterprise and creating a low carbon economy.

- The European Social Fund (ESF) is for investment in skills, social inclusion and promoting employment opportunities. Leader funds are supporting rural connectivity and small businesses.
- 4. EU funding supports the valuable work of Tower Hamlets community groups to deliver development projects. Such examples include the support to access financial growth for East London SMEs, mobile commerce innovation, green printing processes, Women's Business Innovation Network and a homelessness project.
- 5. The Government's commitment to guarantee EU grants that have been in place by the 2016 Autumn statement if they are value for money.
- 6. The Chair of the Local Government Association, Lord Porter, has called for the government to confirm "certainty around the future of all of the £5.3bn in EU regeneration funding promised to them by 2020".
- 7. Lord Porter warned that such uncertainty "risks damaging local regeneration plans and stalling flagship infrastructure projects, employment and skills schemes and local growth."

This Council Believes:

1. That a Brexit deal which jeopardises the economic strength and growth of London will jeopardise the U.K. economy, household incomes and public spending.
2. At this time of cuts, EU funding or its replacement, is vital support to economic regeneration, helping new and current businesses to create thousands of jobs and supporting broadband, new roads and bridges and other local infrastructure projects
3. Tower Hamlets Council must do all it can to protect the local economy, local regeneration projects, its residents, workers, businesses and all those in receipt of EU funding or benefitting from services funded by EU funds during this time of uncertainty.

This Council Resolves to:

1. Set up a Tower Hamlets Brexit Working Group with relevant partners to assess the consequences of Brexit in Tower Hamlets and to develop a plan so that it can protect the local economy, local regeneration and infrastructure projects, its residents, workers, businesses and all those in receipt of EU funding or benefitting from services funded by EU funds during this time of uncertainty.
2. Proactively campaign to ensure the EU funds expected by Tower Hamlets and local recipients of EU funds to be honoured until the end of the decade, 2020.
3. Instruct the Senior Management Team to provide a dedicated help and information line to residents and businesses with comprehensive and up to date information on the progress of Brexit and its effects on the Borough.
4. Instruct the Senior Management Team to seek out and respond to all direct and indirect opportunities for Tower Hamlets Council to communicate and represent Tower Hamlets interests' in the Brexit process.

5. Call on the Mayor and all Councillors' to support this motion, to ensure that the resolutions are carried out and for the Tower Hamlets Brexit Working Group to report on the progress of implementing the resolutions.

12.7 Motion regarding Scrap the fee for domestic violence victims

Proposer: Councillor Shiria Khatun

Seconded: Councillor Rachael Saunders

This Council notes that:

1. National statistics have not changed for decades. Two women are killed every week in England and Wales by a current or former partner. One in four women will experience domestic violence in their lifetimes.
2. Legal Aid is a lifeline for women fleeing domestic abuse. It helps them to protect themselves, their children and secure their financial situation. Yet due to Government changes to the rules for women to qualify for legal aid, they now need to provide a prescribed piece of evidence to prove they have been subjected to abuse.
3. One of the accepted forms of evidence is a letter from a GP. However some GPs charge a fee – in some cases as much as £75 – to produce that letter.
4. Tower Hamlets Council agreed a Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy at a meeting in December 2016.

This Council believes:

1. That it is everyone's responsibility to stop domestic violence and abuse and it is our ambition that people treat one another with respect and compassion.
2. No GP should charge victims of domestic abuse for a letter they need to access legal aid. It's unfair. It's immoral. And it has to stop.

This Council resolves:

1. To support the Scrap the Fee campaign, which was established by Tom Watson MP following a plea from Wythenshawe Safe Spots.
2. To request our local GP surgeries to voluntarily scrap the fee.
3. To ask Mayor Biggs to write to the Home Secretary, calling on the Government to scrap this unfair and unjust charge, by bringing this service back under the NHS contract.

12.8 Motion regarding Pink Bags & Recycling

Proposer: Councillor Andrew Wood

Seconder: Councillor Peter Gold

This Council notes that;

The recent change in policy about the delivery of pink bags to high rise properties whereby residents of high rise properties are now expected to visit Idea Stores at set times on a weekday with a recent proof of address to receive a year's supply of pink bags.

That the proof of address required to pick up pink bags is greater than has been required at previous elections to vote.

That this has created a large amount of confusion over what is a high-rise property, what is an annual supply, why Cubitt Town library was not included in the list and why people are expected to leave work in the middle of the day order to pick up pink bags at designated times?

That this change will probably result in damage to the previously welcome increase in recycling rates, to confusion for residents over the process and damage to the reputation of the Council in what should be a core service.

This Council further notes the;

Previous pink bag distribution processes while better than the new policy have not been perfect either and have resulted in problems for residents.

We call on the Mayor to;

As a short-term measure to re-introduce the previous policy of delivering pink bags to high rise properties and stocking them at all Idea Stores and libraries.

Use the opportunity of the contract re-negotiation with Veolia to look for a better process that encourages people to re-cycle more by reducing confusion and improving the supply of pink bags where required.

That we look at what other London Boroughs are doing on this issue.

That an improved communication process be central to any change.

12.9 Motion regarding Island Health Trust

Proposer: Councillor Dave Chesterton

Seconded: Councillor Candida Ronald

The Council notes;

1. The Island Health Trust is the 'Landlord' for the Island Health Centre, located alongside the ASDA store on East Ferry Road, Isle of Dogs;
2. The Island Health Centre came about through a campaign by local people in the 1980s;
3. The Island Health Centre has been funded through a mixture of loan finance and grants from the London Docklands Development Corporation and Tower Hamlets Council;
4. The Island Health Trust's (Landlord's) main sources of income are the rent paid by the NHS and service charges paid by the Doctors. From this, the Landlord has accumulated a surplus of some £1.3m;
5. In spite of holding these substantial reserves the Landlord is charging the Practice an unaffordable service charge, equivalent to the salaries of two doctors. The Practice has now been forced to vacate the first floor of the Health Centre because it can't afford these charges. The Schools' Psychiatric Service has also been forced to move out and the Massage Therapy curtailed because of the high costs, more services are likely to follow;
6. For the first 25 years of its life the Island Health Trust (Landlord) was managed by local Trustees. Any surplus generated was used to fund local health initiatives through a modest grants programme;
7. This changed on 1 April 2016 when the Chair, Suzanne Goodband, appointed a new board entirely made up of people with no local connection: Leonie Hirst, Christian Woodhead, Barak Maoz and Ruth Brannvall (a resident of Sweden);
8. The Trust has ambitions to demolish the Island Health Centre and exploit this valuable site. They are seeking the Practice's consent to vacate the Centre to unidentified temporary accommodation to facilitate this development.
9. Serious allegations have been made by a former Trustee relating to governance and financial management of the Trust; including Trustee personal pecuniary advantage. These have been passed by the Mayor to the Charity Commissioners for investigation.

The Council Believes;

1. The Island Health Centre and the land upon which it stands are public assets;
2. The £1.3m reserves held by the Island Health Trust are also a public asset;
3. The Island Health Trust must be run by local trustees, and the £1.3m invested to support patients of this Practice and health services for local people;

4. Health services locally are being badly damaged by the Trustees of the Island Health Trust;

5. The attempt by the Trustees to 'asset strip' the Island Health Centre is abhorrent.

The Council Resolves to;

1. To pursue with the Charity Commissioners the serious allegations made by a former Trustee;

2. To press the Island Health Trust to bring the Trust back under governance by local people for the benefit of local people;

3. To protect the patients of the Island Health Centre from the damage being done to local health services by the Trustees of the Island Health Trust.

12.10 Motion regarding Housing in Tower Hamlets

Proposer: Councillor Sirajul Islam

Secunder: Councillor Rajib Ahmed

This Council notes:

1. That our population is growing faster than anywhere in the country with 11,000 additional people living here every year.
2. London's housing market is in crisis. The shortage, cost and quality of housing in the capital is exacerbating the cost of living and making it harder for families to live in London.
3. That Mayor Biggs inherited from his predecessor a scandalous situation where 238 families had been left in temporary B&B accommodation for over six weeks, breaching even the Tory Government's limit for the maximum time a family should have to live in a B&B.
 - a. That all 238 families have been rehoused and now there is not a single Tower Hamlets family in temporary B&B accommodation for more than six weeks.
4. The Government's punitive Housing and Planning Act will only make things harder for boroughs like Tower Hamlets.
 - a. Council further notes that 'Pay to Stay' measures will no longer be mandatory, but discretionary for local authorities.
 - b. The Council's new Housing Strategy, the first in the borough since 2009, will help to protect residents from the worst excesses of the Housing and Planning Act but it cannot stop everything.
5. In the last year over a thousand affordable homes were built in the borough, over 400 more than the year before. More family sized homes at social rents have been built than at any time in the last six years with well over 300 completed in the last year.
6. The Council has rehoused 1,123 overcrowded families last year.
7. The Council has invested millions of pounds to improve and expand our parks, local GP surgeries and schools.
8. Mayor Biggs established an Affordability Commission which looked at high rents and house prices in Tower Hamlets. The Commission put forward several recommendations which were approved by Cabinet, including recommendations to deliver 100% rented housing combining social target rents and homes at 'living rent' and to explore reducing rents on S106 schemes to more affordable levels.
9. A landlord licensing scheme is now in operation in three wards, and will help drive up standards in the private rented sector.

This Council believes:

1. That Tower Hamlets is on the frontline in the battle to tackle the capital's housing crisis and unlike many Tory boroughs in outer London, we are willing to do our bit to solve it.
2. We should welcome sustainable development but crucially must also work closely with our partners to encourage good quality, affordable homes and place-making which meets our community's needs.
3. We need genuinely affordable homes developed with the right infrastructure. The new Local Plan, which is out for consultation now, will help us to achieve this by focusing on making holistic places not just pursuing numbers.

This Council resolves:

1. To call on Mayor Biggs to write to the Minister for Housing and Planning:
 - a. urging a change in the law to enable the landlord licensing scheme to apply to the whole borough and not just three wards; and
 - b. urging the Government not to implement the provisions of the Housing and Planning Act which will remove the need for housing associations to seek consent from the Homes and Communities Agency for mergers, restructuring, change of status, dissolution, land disposal and change of ownership.
2. To support the Mayor and Cabinet in ongoing work to deliver more genuinely affordable homes and the vital infrastructure that must go alongside housing, in line with the Mayor's commitment to deliver 1,000 council homes.