

LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL

HELD AT 7.30 P.M. ON WEDNESDAY, 21 SEPTEMBER 2011

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

Members Present:

Mayor Lutfur Rahman	Councillor Ann Jackson
Councillor Helal Abbas	Councillor Denise Jones
Councillor Kabir Ahmed	Councillor Rabina Khan
Councillor Khales Uddin Ahmed	Councillor Aminur Khan
Councillor Ohid Ahmed	Councillor Anwar Khan
Councillor Rajib Ahmed	Councillor Rania Khan
Councillor Rofique U Ahmed	Councillor Shiria Khatun
Councillor Shelina Aktar	Councillor Anna Lynch
Councillor Shahed Ali	Councillor Md. Maium Miah
Councillor Tim Archer	Councillor Harun Miah
Councillor Abdul Asad	Councillor Fozol Miah
Councillor Craig Aston	Councillor Mohammed Abdul Mukit MBE
Councillor Lutfu Begum	Councillor Lesley Pavitt
Councillor Mizan Chaudhury	Councillor Joshua Peck
Councillor Alibor Choudhury	Councillor Zenith Rahman
Councillor Zara Davis	Councillor Rachael Saunders
Councillor David Edgar	Councillor David Snowdon
Councillor Judith Gardiner	Councillor Bill Turner
Councillor Carlo Gibbs	Councillor Helal Uddin
Councillor Peter Golds	Councillor Kosru Uddin
Councillor Shafiqul Haque	Councillor Abdal Ullah
Councillor Carli Harper-Penman	Councillor Motin Uz-Zaman
Councillor Sirajul Islam	Councillor Amy Whitelock

The meeting commenced at 7.35 p.m.

The Chair of Council, Councillor Mizanur Chaudhury, in the Chair

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors Stephanie Eaton, Marc Francis, Dr Emma Jones, Oliur Rahman and Gloria Thienel.

RESOLVED

That the apologies for absence be noted.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors made declarations of interest on items included on the agenda as follows:-

Councillor	Item	Type of interest	Reason
Cllr Helal Abbas	5.3	Personal and prejudicial	Business interest within the Spitalfields and Banglatown ward within which the Brick Lane area is located.
Cllr Rajib Ahmed	5.2	Personal	Deputy Chair of Council
Cllr Abdul Asad	11.1	Personal	Member of Local Government Pension Scheme
Cllr Mizanur Chaudhury	5.2	Personal	Chair of Council
Cllr Judith Gardiner	12.10	Personal	I am a Tower Hamlets Homes Board Member
Cllr Shafiqul Haque	11.1	Personal	Member of Local Government Pension Scheme
Cllr Sirajul Islam	12.10	Personal	I am a Tower Hamlets Homes Board Member
Cllr Denise Jones	5.3	Personal	I run a bookshop business in Brick Lane
Cllr Rania Khan	8.2 and 12.2	Personal	Active in campaign regarding sex establishments
Cllr Rania Khan	12.3	Personal	Active in campaign against the EDL
Cllr Joshua Peck	11.1	Personal	Mr Frank West, a co-opted member of the Pensions Committee, is known to me as a member of thw GMB.
Cllr Joshua Peck	12.7	Personal and prejudicial	One of my employers would be affected by the scheme
Cllr Joshua Peck	12.12	Personal	My employer has a contract with LOCOG
Cllr Bill Turner	11.1	Personal	UNISON member
Cllr Bill Turner	11.2	Personal	The Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee has a relationship with the East London NHS Foundation Trust, of which I am a Member.

Cllr Whitelock	Amy	12.10	Personal	Board Member of Tower Hamlets Homes
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3. MINUTES

The Leader of the Majority Group commented that it had not been possible to consider items relating to questions from Councillors and the public at the last meeting, due to time constraints. He expressed the view that all questions and replies thereto should be included in Council meeting minutes in future. He also indicated that his Group would not on this occasion support the bringing forward of motions from their existing order on the agenda; to ensure that the report relating to the appointment of an Interim Chief Executive could be properly addressed.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the minutes of the ordinary meeting of the Council meeting held on 13th July 2011 be confirmed as a correct record of the proceedings and the Chair of Council be authorised to sign them accordingly.
- (2) That full details of all questions from Councillors and the public, with relevant answers, be included in the minutes in future.

4. TO RECEIVE ANNOUNCEMENTS (IF ANY) FROM THE CHAIR OF COUNCIL OR THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

No announcements were made at the meeting.

5. TO RECEIVE PETITIONS

5.1 Petition from 265 local residents regarding commercial events in Isle of Dogs parks

Mr Charles Eder addressed the meeting on behalf of the petitioners and responded to questions from Members.

Councillor Shahed Ali, Cabinet Member for Environment, then responded to the issues raised. He stated that a feasibility study was currently being carried out to look at which parks might be suitable for different types of activity and any programme of development would be conducted in a way that minimised the impact on residents. It was intended to put an upper limit on the number of hirings in any one year for each of the parks used and no park would be completely shut to the public as hires would be restricted to designated areas within the park. Events would be mostly family fun day events, such as promoted in Island Gardens for healthy eating, etc. Many boroughs were also in the position of having to make more use of parks to raise funds in view of savings that had to be achieved to meet Government cutbacks and protect front line services.

RESOLVED

That the petition be referred to the Corporate Director, Communities, Localities and Culture for a written response on any outstanding matters within 28 days.

5.2 Petition from Mohammed Sanu Miah and others regarding the role of the First Citizen of the Borough

Mr Doros Ullah and Mr James King addressed the meeting on behalf of the petitioners and responded to questions from Members.

Councillor Alibor Choudhury, Cabinet Member for Resources, then responded to the issues raised. He commented that all Members agreed that sacrifices had to be made to meet cuts imposed by the Conservative Government. The Council had agreed the savings that were required in the provision for receptions and other hospitality at the Town Hall. Councillor Choudhury stated that the Elected Mayor did not stand on ceremony and believed that neither should the Chair of Council. The previous Leader of the Council had spent funds on expanding the public gallery which would have been better spent on jobs.

The Chair of Council stated that all Members should refrain from making political points in relation to the civic function.

At 8.03 p.m., due to disruption in the public gallery, the Chair of Council indicated that the meeting would be **adjourned** for five minutes.

The meeting reconvened at 8.08 p.m., when the Chief Executive stated that the meeting would move to next business.

RESOLVED

That the petition be referred to the Assistant Chief Executive (Legal Services) for a written response on any outstanding matters within 28 days.

5.3 Petition from Brick Lane Market Traders and others regarding Trading Hours

Mr Suresh Unadath and Mr Munir Bashir addressed the meeting on behalf of the petitioners and responded to questions from Members.

Councillor Shahed Ali, Cabinet Member for Environment then responded to the issues raised. He stated that the Market Service agreed it would be beneficial to increase the trading hours for the whole market as it recognised that shopping trends/patterns had changed and visitors no longer attended markets early in the morning but arrived later, therefore staying later. These shopping trends were also being driven by the high number of private market

operators in the area that remained trading later, often into the evening. Accordingly, Officers were looking into the matter of extending market hours. Traders and residents would be consulted on this and would be updated as proposals were developed.

RESOLVED

That the petition be referred to the Corporate Director, Communities, Localities and Culture for a written response on any outstanding matters within 28 days.

6. TO RECEIVE WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

6.1 Question from Mr Abdullah Mahmud re: new legislation on the licensing of sexual encounter establishments

Could the Mayor explain the local authority's approach to the new legislation on the licensing of sexual encounter establishments such as strip joints and lap-dancing clubs?

Response by Councillor Rania Khan, Cabinet Member for Culture:

I know that this is an important issue to many residents and that this borough has a history of campaigning on this. I myself was involved in the Overview and Scrutiny process in the council which helped to bring about a change in the national legislation. We know and share the concerns residents have around community safety, female exploitation and anti-social behaviour.

I am extremely pleased to say that under this administration the Council has agreed to adopt the new legislation.

This allows greater control over licensing of strip joints and lap-dancing clubs. The policy we have designed looks at the different areas in Tower Hamlets and judges their suitability for lap dancing clubs and strip joints. The policy looks at the number of schools, places of worship, parks and other facilities which are not suited to being located near such premises. The policy suggests that there are no places in the borough suitable for lap-dancing clubs and strip joints.

This is now out for consultation and I would urge all of you to fill it out and let us know your thoughts on the policy. If the consultation supports the policy, we will be able to implement a 'nil' policy both going forward and retroactively.

I am confident, that knowing the strength of feeling of residents around this issue that we will be able to rid the borough of these venues for good. This will make us one of the only boroughs in the country to have implemented such a policy.

No supplementary question was put.

6.2 Question from Mr Asad Uddin Khan re: progress in maintaining unity in diversity (Note: Mr Khan was unable to attend the Council Meeting and his question was put by Mr Aktaru Zaman):

I'd like to congratulate the Mayor on his stewardship of the campaign to ban the EDL's hate march, and my question to him is where do we go from here in terms of maintaining our unity in diversity?

Response by Councillor Ohid Ahmed, Deputy Mayor:

We must continue to strengthen the ties that bind our communities together, and marginalise those who propagate messages of hate. Our No Place for Hate initiative is central to our work in this regard.

In relation to the EDL I think it is important we are pro-active in minimising the threat they pose to community cohesion.

To that end I am in communication with the police about ensuring its counter-extremism strategy is focusing on the threat of far-right extremism, and I am calling for the Home Secretary to have the power to ban static demonstrations that incite hate crimes.

Summary of supplementary question from Mr Zaman: *I was disappointed not to see Labour and Conservative leaders on the day. Where were they?*

Summary of Deputy Mayor's response: *I cannot speak for them but I hope they will join us next time.*

[Note: Following the above question and response, Councillor Joshua Peck and Councillor Peter Golds each rose to give a point of personal explanation.

Councillor Peck stated that the Labour Group leadership and local MPs had called on residents not to demonstrate on grounds of safety, and this call had been largely heeded. Councillor Peck stated that unlike the Mayor he had not called for people to stay away but then attended for photo-opportunities.

Councillor Golds also pointed out that he had been fully involved in the opposition to the EDL march and had attended many events in this regard.]

6.3 Question from Ms Lil Collins re: Poplar Baths

Could the Mayor update me about what progress he is making with Poplar Baths?

Response by Councillor Rofique Ahmed, Cabinet Member for Regeneration

Thank you for your question. As you know refurbishing Poplar Baths is one of the Mayor's priorities, and I am extremely pleased to be able to update you on our progress.

At the July Cabinet we agreed to go out to procurement for tenders.

We've ensured that the refurbished pool will re-provide the swimming pool, have indoor dry sports facilities and community space. In addition the Mayor is seeking to ensure that surrounding space will be used for the delivery of affordable homes.

We are awaiting the response from organisations interested in refurbishing Poplar Baths. Later in the Autumn we will be shortlisting and we will be able to ask successful companies to submit proposals.

I look forward to being able to update you again as we near the refurbishment of the baths.

Summary of supplementary question from Ms Collins: Thank you this is good news for the Steering Group. Do you agree now that there is even more building in the borough and open space is being lost, this facility is even more important.

Summary of Councillor Ahmed's response: Thank you and I agree with you.

7. MAYOR'S REPORT

The Mayor made his report to the Council meeting, extending a welcome to all present.

The Mayor announced that Councillor Maium Miah had resigned from the Conservative Group to support his progressive programme for the Borough. He was delighted that Councillor Miah's years of experience in the community would be put to use in an advisory capacity.

He added that, when the Council had last met, it had been principally concerned by the threat of public violence and he was very glad that the Metropolitan Police and the Home Secretary had heeded calls from Councillors and activists and had granted a ban on the proposed march by the English Defence League. The Mayor paid tribute to the work of the Police in countering violence and also the Youth Service's rapid response. He thanked volunteers and local residents in resisting provocation. The Mayor stressed the need to address measures to oppose extremism in the long term. Accordingly, he welcomed motions proposed across the political spectrum containing positive suggestions in this regard.

The Mayor made the point that there would be a challenging few months for the Police arising from the recent riots across London but he was proud that there had been less of a problem in this Borough than in other areas, which reflected the pride with which local people regarded their community.

Later on the agenda there would be discussion of the licensing of Sex Encounter establishments and the Mayor expressed the view that nowhere in Tower Hamlets was suitable for such premises: this was a generally-held consensus across the Borough.

The Mayor also commented upon the record GCSE results achieved in the Borough this year and added his congratulations to the young people and teachers who shared in the success.

In conclusion, the Mayor stated that this would be the last Council meeting to be attended by Dr Kevan Collins, who was leaving the post of Chief Executive. He paid tribute to Dr Collins' record of work in the Borough, from his first post as an aspiring teacher, then through the post of Corporate Director, Children's Services and culminating in the position of Head of the Paid Service. He expressed gratitude to Dr Collins for all his achievements for the Borough and wished him well in his future career.

The Leader of the Majority Group and Leaders of the Minority Groups each responded briefly to the Mayor's report. All endorsed the Mayor's comments regarding Dr Kevan Collins' work for, and legacy to, the Borough.

8. TO RECEIVE WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

8.1 Question from Councillor Khales Uddin Ahmed

Can the Mayor tell me how many jobs so far have been taken up by Tower Hamlets residents as a result of the deal made between him and LOCOG?

Response by Councillor Shafiqul Haque, Cabinet Member for Jobs and Skills

Following the agreement the Mayor made with LOCOG we are expecting to fill a minimum of 1,000 jobs through direct hire opportunities with LOCOG, and its contractors.

We have recently committed to filling a minimum of 1,371 interview slots with local residents with LOCOG contractors providing security, catering, cleaning, waste and retail services. Officers are working with residents to ensure they are interview ready so we can ensure that they are offered these jobs.

I am also pleased to report that a number of assessment days are being held, starting in October. This will allow for greater numbers of LBTH residents to gain an opportunity with LOCOG.

The number of residents who have already achieved jobs under the LOCOG agreement is:

- 24 residents have been given conditional, security guard, offers for the Olympic plaza and another 5 on the Olympic Village guarding the athletes bringing the total to 29.

I am confident the number will increase as recruitment for LOCOG contractors starts to build up later on in the year reaching a peak next April 2012.

In addition we have 138 Tower Hamlets residents currently directly employed by LOCOG, this is the highest of any of the host boroughs.

Summary of supplementary question from Councillor Khaled Uddin Ahmed: Do you then agree that there is no guarantee of securing 1,000 jobs this year?

Summary of response by Councillor Shafiqul Haque: It is the Mayor's priority to have over 1,000 jobs filled by Tower Hamlets residents. We will not just pay lip service to this priority but will take steps to ensure that our residents have access to the opportunities.

8.2 Question from Councillor Craig Aston

What progress has been made in implementing the Motion which called for the full details of all premises, regulated entertainment and late night refreshment licenses to be published on the Tower Hamlets Website, which assumes ever greater importance to our residents with to the proposed changes in the licensing regime and the current consultation on sex establishments?

Response by Councillor Ohid Ahmed, Deputy Mayor

The register for all Licences issued under the Licensing Act 2003 is now all available on line on the Council's website.

Summary of supplementary question from Councillor Craig Aston: My motion passed by Council on 27th October 2010 set a deadline of 1st January 2011 to have the information included on the Website and in response to my further request for progress on the matter at the last Council meeting I was told the end of July. It is now mid-September, why were these deadlines not met?

Summary of response by Councillor Ohid Ahmed: I will look into this matter and let you know.

8.3 Question from Councillor Carlo Gibbs

Can the Mayor list all of the Third Sector organisations that have had their funding from the Council a) reduced and b) cut altogether since April 2011 and explain the criteria used to make those decisions?

Response by Councillor Alibor Choudhury, Cabinet Member for Resources

The Mayor is committed to the third sector and has shown this commitment through a new third sector strategy, the CVS and we are working on developing new ways of working and including the third sector.

The Third Sector Mainstream Grants programme remains in place and has not been reduced.

The Corporate Match Funding for third sector organisations also remains in place.

Third sector organisations may have had time limited funding streams come to an end (most notably the Working Neighbourhood Fund) however it was always understood that certain programmes and funding was time limited.

Summary of supplementary question from Councillor Carlo Gibbs: The Coalition Government's are damaging to local government and the Third Sector. However the Cabinet Member will be aware of new funding that is available from the cabinet office for community groups. What will the Council do to make sure that new funding for the Third Sector is publicised to local organisations and what will be done to help organisations apply for it?"

Summary of response by Councillor Alibor Choudhury: I can confirm that some grant funding is available from Europe and the cabinet office. The publicity process is in place through advertisements in 'East End Life' and other means and most local organisations are familiar with the procedure of applying for grants.

8.4 Question from Councillor Fozol Miah

Is the Mayor aware of the comments made by Adrian Tudway, the National (Police) Co-ordinator for Domestic Extremism, reported in the Guardian, that the EDL "are not extreme right wing as a group" and that Muslims "need to open a direct line of dialogue with them [and] that might be the best way to engage them and re-direct their activity", and does he agree that the several hundred drunken, violent, racist and fascist EDL thugs who gathered on the borders of Tower Hamlets on Saturday 3rd September, and the shocking pictures of EDL members with firearms that appeared in the Daily Mail, prove that this claim by Mr Tudway is complete nonsense and entirely vindicates the demand for the EDL to be banned from marching in Tower Hamlets, and would the Mayor agree to ask the Acting Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police if Mr Tudway is still in post and if the words attributed to him represent

the official position of the Metropolitan Police and, if so, would the Mayor agree to urge the police both in London and nationally to recognise instead that the EDL is a violent, extremist and racist organisation which has no place in a democratic, tolerant and respectful society?

Response by Councillor Ohid Ahmed, Deputy Mayor

I am aware of the comments by Adrian Tudway and I am concerned about them.

That's why the Mayor has written to the officer asking him to clarify if the views attributed to him in the Guardian on Sept 2 are still his views.

It is my view that government urgently needs to broaden its approach to the threat of violent extremism.

Until now the Prevent Strategy has overwhelmingly focussed on the threat from those inspired by Al Qaeda-type extremism, and has downplayed the threat of far-right extremism.

In the wake of the terrible events in Norway, and of our own experience of the hate-filled English Defence League protests, I believe this is no longer sufficient.

The EDL, and similar organisations, should be recognised for the extremists that they are. And the government must ensure that its Prevent strategy takes full account of the risks posed by far-right extremism.

As part of this authority's strategy to protect the borough from the threat of the EDL and far-right extremism I am lobbying the police and government to this end.

No supplementary question was put.

8.5 Question from Councillor Joshua Peck

Can the Mayor confirm which fees and charges will be waived for the Mela and whether the same fees and charges will be waived for other community festivals?

Response by Councillor Rania Khan, Cabinet Member for Culture

I am sure that all my councillor colleagues are as supportive of a successful Mela as I am.

The Mela is not only the largest celebration of the Bengali New Year, with up to 120,000 people attending in 2011 but it is also the second largest street festival in the entire UK.

The Baishakhi Mela has always been a community project and will remain a community project. Management by the Council was temporary and it must be stressed that the only difference will be the management, we are clear in ensuring the council will continue to support the Mela.

One of the ways the Council can continue to support the Mela and ensure that it continues to be such a successful event is through waiving fees and charges.

We are committed to ensuring that all community events are given the support they require to go ahead.

The Mayor has instructed officers to look into this area in further detail. A report will be prepared and presented to him.

Summary of supplementary question from Councillor Joshua Peck: I am concerned that some community festivals may not be getting these benefits. Will the Cabinet Member confirm that the same fees and charges will be waived for all such events, whichever part of the community they represent?

Summary of response by Councillor Rania Khan: As mentioned we have asked the Corporate Director, Communities, Localities and Culture to report back on this matter and confirm that all groups within the community should be treated in the same way.

8.6 Question from Councillor Zara Davis

What role did the Council play in reassuring residents and helping businesses affected by the disturbances in Tower Hamlets on Monday 8th August?

Response by Councillor Alibor Choudhury, Cabinet Member for Resources

The Mayor and his team played a huge part in ensuring local life wasn't adversely affected by the events of August 8th.

I said last year that the Conservative government, with its brutal cuts and blatant disregard for poor inner city areas – was taking us into a period of misery and civil unrest. Your group laughed. I'm not sure if you found the riots funny in any way, because we didn't. We understand the needs of this borough and have invested to improve and protect our community.

The Mayor's administration worked with the police, various council departments and community groups to protect local people, property and businesses from being ravaged by the looters.

Although we weren't hit as badly as some of our neighbouring (Labour run) boroughs; a small number of businesses were affected. They were subsequently advised by our planning department on compensation available to them.

Council resources were also used to help communicate with residents and keep them informed on our activities. Both the Council website and EEL provided essential information to reassure people and that the Mayor, in their time of need, was there for them.

I must stress and praise the youth service for their proactive stance and most importantly the wider community who themselves worked with us to keep the chaos and looting to a minimum. A testament to this is the fact that of the 513 under-18s arrested, only seven were from Tower Hamlets. And only two of these received custodial sentences.

Summary of supplementary question from Councillor Zara Davis: *The Mayor described Tower Hamlets Enforcement Officers (THEOs) as a valuable resource but on the day of the riots they were on a rest day and I was informed they would not have been used anyway as the situation was too dangerous. Will the Mayor scrap the THEOs and use the money saved to secure additional Police Officers to protect the Borough?*

Summary of response by Councillor Alibor Choudhury: *The Mayor has stated that he will resist the cutting of all front line jobs. The THEOs worked well with the community during the disturbances. I have no evidence that what Councillor Davis claims is true and I would ask that she provide me with this information.*

8.7 Question from Councillor Helal Uddin

Can the Mayor tell me if he has sold any more Council owned, family sized homes since the last Council meeting and if he has, what income has been received?

Response by Councillor Rabina Khan, Cabinet Member for Housing

No disposals have been made since the last full Council.

Summary of supplementary question from Councillor Helal Uddin:

Can I have an assurance that such houses in my Ward will not be sold?

Summary of response by Councillor Rabina Khan: *I am aware of the houses you are referring to and there was never any intention on the part of the Mayor to sell them. We will make best use of available housing to benefit our residents and in relation to these properties a business case aimed at allowing their use by families in the Borough is underway.*

8.8 Question from Councillor Harun Miah

Can the Lead Member report on what measures have been taken since the decision by governors at Bethnal Green Technology College and Sir William

Burrough Primary to opt for academy status and what further measures it is intended will be taken both to encourage governors at these schools to reverse these decisions, which will be detrimental both to the pupils at these schools and more generally for education in Tower Hamlets, and also to discourage other school governors from making similar decisions?

Response by Councillor Rania Khan, Cabinet Member for Culture

You will already be aware of the views of the Mayor and his administration on this matter.

I wholeheartedly share your concerns, and spoke out publicly throughout this process, as did my Cabinet colleagues, especially Councillor Oliur Rahman, Cabinet Member for Children, Schools and Families.

Shame on the governors who voted to remove this school from the partnership with this authority that has made it such a success.

During the consultation period with governors, parents and the local community, the Local Authority tried as much as possible to offer clear information about the consequences of this decision and the effect it would have on the services we provide to all of the young people in Tower Hamlets.

We did this by attending meetings with governors, the school community and senior leaders and Chair of Governors.

The Local Authority will continue to work in partnership with both schools as we exercise our statutory duty to secure the best possible outcomes for all the children and young people in the authority.

No supplementary question was put.

8.9 Question from Councillor Motin Uz-Zaman

Can the Lead Member tell me whether officers visiting tenants under the Decent Homes scheme have been given any scripts or key messages to use when talking them through the works?

Response by Councillor Rabina Khan, Cabinet Member for Housing

Tenants have been provided with Resident Information Packs. These packs are there to inform residents about the works being carried out in their homes.

They address concerns residents may have about the works themselves, safety, access to their homes, respite facilities, timeframes, as well as providing useful contact numbers and the complaints procedure.

I have worked to ensure that an awareness of any specific resident needs are also included. This means increased sensitivity and services for residents with disabilities, young children and for overcrowded households.

These packs are available in a variety of languages and contractors will also have access to a translation service.

All information is designed to ensure that works can proceed smoothly and residents have complete confidence in the contractor and the works being carried out.

Summary of supplementary question from Councillor Motin Uz-Zaman: *You have not answered my question. Has there been a script of key messages given to officers from the Mayor and Councillors?*

Summary of response by Councillor Rabina Khan: *The important message to give is that residents will all have a decent home. Tower Hamlets social tenants will get new kitchens and bathrooms. That is the key script.*

8.10 Question from Councillor Tim Archer

What is the future of Cubitt Town library?

Response by Councillor Rania Khan, Cabinet Member for Culture

The future of Cubitt Town Library like all libraries and Idea Stores is guided by the Idea Store Strategy 2009.

The Strategy does not propose the closure of any existing library.

As provided in the Strategy future developments of libraries and Idea Stores would be subject to extensive consultation.

Summary of supplementary question from Councillor Tim Archer: *That is not a reassuring answer. Why is the consultant for the ASDA site redevelopment saying that the Council is insisting that an IDEA store is provided there, less than 200 yards from Cubitt Town library?*

Summary of response by Councillor Rania Khan: *It is too early to comment on the ASDA proposals. Although there have been pre-application discussions with developers, no planning application has yet been made and it would be entirely wrong to pre-empt the outcome of the planning process.*

8.11 Question from Councillor Md. Abdul Mukit

Can the Mayor tell me what proportion of S106 from development in Weavers has been committed or spent in a) Weavers and b) outside of the ward?

Response by Councillor Rabina Khan, Cabinet Member for Housing

From 2000 to date, the Council secured a total of £2,642,601.00 s106 contributions, from developments in Weavers Ward.

£382,623.00 has been spent outside the ward – this has been secured for 'pooled' Education and Health use, as is Council policy, and has supported wonderful projects such as St Paul's Way School and the St Andrews Health and Wellbeing Centre.

Around £2m is committed for cultural, social and community use. This will be allocated where the money is most required, as advised by officers from CLC and informed by council policy, with priority given to ensuring they are projects which benefit those affected by the development.

The remainder will be spent within borough on other specific projects.

Summary of supplementary question from Councillor Md. Abdul Mukit: Will S106 money intended for Weavers be injected into the Ward as there has been much under-provision there and the ward has suffered neglect?

Summary of response by Councillor Rabina Khan: Yes I can assure you that funding will go to Weavers. I will visit the ward to see what is needed and involve the ward councillors in discussions.

Time limit for item

At this point the Chair informed the meeting that the time allocated for Members' Questions had expired.

Questions 8.12 to 8.29 were therefore not put at the meeting due to lack of time. Written responses would be provided to these questions as set out below:-

8.12 Question from Councillor Peter Golds

Will the Mayor provide an assurance that he will not take up the extra 100 Olympic tickets offered to the Council by LOCOG, and that he will instead insist that these tickets are returned to the public ballot?

Response by Councillor Rania Khan, Cabinet Member for Culture

My position is quite clear. The Mayor and I are determined to ensure that the Olympic Games is as accessible as possible to our residents and does not become the preserve of corporate giants and the well off.

For this reason I will not give the Councillor the reassurance he wants.

On the contrary The Mayor will be making full use of the extra 100 tickets offered to the Council by LOCOG and will take great pleasure in inviting local people to nominate unpaid volunteers and local residents who have selflessly committed themselves to improving sport, healthy living, or the local community generally, so that they might benefit from them.

We have our own Olympic champions in the form of ordinary residents who day in and day out contribute to the wellbeing of our community without being paid to do so. I want to honour the contribution these people make to our society and ensure that the ordinary working people of Tower Hamlets are given the best opportunity to engage with an experience of a lifetime.

We cannot do this by insisting these tickets are returned to the public ballot which, in many cases, is neither affordable nor accessible to the people of this borough.

8.13 Question from Councillor Anwar Khan

Can the Mayor confirm the gross cost to date to the Council of East End Life this financial year, including advertising costs borne by the Council?

Response by Councillor Alibor Choudhury, Cabinet Member for Resources

Total income charged from 4th April 2011 to 29th August 2011 = £465,393.39 (£448,090 received). The sources of advertising income are Internal: £211,130.91, External: £254,262.48.

The gross cost of running EEL 5 April to 31 August 2011 = £420,521. These costs include salaries, printing and distribution.

East End Life is on target to make the full year savings of £200k as set out in the review.

The paper is on target to raise over £1.1m in ad sales by March 2012 and to reach break even in 2012-13. The break even target is £1.2m which we will hit in 2012-13 because of the full year effect of the new ad sales strategy.

8.14 Question from Councillor David Snowdon

Will Mayor Rahman inform Council as to why he declined to answer my question regarding the Islamic Forum of Europe at last Council? Members have been informed by officials that it is Mayor Rahman who decides who should answer questions (including those directed to him). Therefore why did Mayor Rahman duck this particular question?

Response by Councillor Alibor Choudhury, Cabinet Member for Resources

You have already been provided with an answer to your question, which is as follows:-

“Thank you Cllr Snowdon, but really what is this question about? We all know that a Dispatches programme made a series of allegations against IFE and East London Mosque. The truth is - well before this programme, the Council under the leadership of Michael Keith, Denise Jones and Helal Abbas funded various IFE and East London Mosque projects. Surely you should be speaking to them. They have much better knowledge about the IFE.

They say a picture speaks a thousand words. I have a picture of Denise Jones speaking at an IFE event. I tell you who else you can talk to – Rushanara Ali MP is speaking at an IFE event next Monday on 18 July. Even better, you can speak to your own colleagues in the Conservative Party. Tim Archer, Richard Barnes and Andrew Boff have visited and spoken at East London Mosque (there are pictures of them with senior IFE persons).”

8.15 Question from Councillor Lesley Pavitt

Can the Mayor give me an update on the progress of re-tendering for Home Care contracts?

Response by Councillor Abdul Asad, Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing

We are currently re-tendering existing contracts that are coming to an end.

The Mayor ordered a pause in the process to ensure that bidders would commit to creating local jobs and paying all employees the London Living Wage. I'm glad to see we have accomplished this.

An advert was placed on 29 August, and pre-qualification questionnaires are due back on 5 October. The contracts will be awarded next March. This tender is for between 6 and 8 block contracts covering the borough as a whole. This equates to half of overall home care.

8.16 Question from Councillor Gloria Thienel

What plans does the Mayor have to protect the parks on the Isle of Dogs from illegal Camp Site which could be set up during the Olympics in view of there currently being no public toilet facilities on the Isle of Dogs, the absence of which could cause public health problems for the locality?

It should be noted that during the Royal Wedding in April, Clapham Common became an unofficial site with resultant problems for residents in Lambeth and Wandsworth.

Response by Councillor Shahed Ali, Cabinet Member for Environment

At the moment we do not envisage there being any major problems regarding illegal camping on the Isle of Dogs during the Olympics. I will monitor this

closely and if this position changes I will of course take all necessary action to ensure that all parks in the Borough will be protected.

I can further ensure you that this administration will manage any situation of illegal camping concisely rather than the manner in which the Tory administration in Basildon council has mis-managed Dale Farm, currently estimated at a huge cost of some 18 million pounds of taxpayer's money.

8.17 Question from Councillor Judith Gardiner

Can the Mayor give me an update on the progress of the Housing Options Appraisal?

Response by Councillor Rabina Khan, Cabinet Member for Housing

The research phase of the project is now complete and analysis on the options is nearing completion.

We are currently surveying residents to find out their opinions about the current housing service. Questionnaires are due to be returned by 26 September.

This will give me and the Mayor important information about what residents think about the services they receive which will be used to make further improvements.

8.18 Question from Councillor Dr Emma Jones

Whilst a Councillor Mayor Rahman submitted regular timesheets.

Will Mayor Rahman therefore inform Council as to why he is not completing timesheets as all Councillors are expected to do, as the lack of a published timesheet reflects a reduction in transparency and accountability, which is not covered by his numerous photo opportunities in East End Life?

Response by Councillor Ohid Ahmed, Deputy Mayor

Councillors' timesheets are a mechanism for accountability and have served the borough well since their introduction and continue to do so.

The position in relation to the Mayor is different. The Mayor is not a Councillor and does not receive the Basic Allowance paid to Councillors, nor a special responsibility allowance (SRA).

Rather he receives a single Mayoral Allowance, set by the Council, to cover all aspects of a position that is recognised by the Independent Panel as '.. a full-time job with a high level of responsibilities..'. Currently at Tower Hamlets the level of the Mayoral Allowance is £65,000p.a. compared to the Independent Panel's recommendation of £81,029 p.a..

8.19 Question from Councillor David Edgar

Can the Mayor give me an update on when the Council's Enterprise Strategy will be presented at a Cabinet Meeting?

Response by Councillor Shafiqul Haque, Cabinet Member for Jobs and Skills

The Enterprise Strategy was approved for consultation in April of this year and comments received have been incorporated in the most recent draft.

Improving enterprise in the borough is extremely important to me and the Mayor which is why I am working to ensure the Enterprise Strategy is a robust policy which will have a positive impact on enterprise in the borough.

8.20 Question from Councillor Kabir Ahmed

Could the Mayor give Council his assessment of the events of Saturday 3rd September? What measures is the Mayor taking to prevent a potential return trip by the racist English Defence League and does he think the Government needs to reassess the threat of far-right extremism? What are the Mayor's plans to mark the 75th Anniversary of the battle of Cable Street on 4th October?

Response by Councillor Ohid Ahmed, Deputy Mayor

My assessment is that the borough came through the events of September 3 even more united than before.

The EDL wanted to parade their message of racial and religious hate through the streets of Tower Hamlets. They even assembled on the exact spot where their political ancestors, Mosley's Blackshirts, gathered on October 4th 1936. They wanted scenes of violence and disorder broadcast across our TV screens. They wanted Sunday's newspapers to be carrying stories about multiculturalism in crisis.

They failed. Instead it is the EDL who are getting the bad publicity for their intimidating and violent behaviour. Our borough has emerged stronger, more united, and more committed to a multicultural Tower Hamlets than ever before.

The Mayor has written to the police asking that if the EDL formally apply again for permission to march in our borough that the police seek permission for a ban to prevent them from doing so. We are lobbying for a change in the legislation regarding static demonstrations so that the Home Secretary has the power to ban any static demonstration that incites racial or religious hatred or hate crime of any sort. We are also lobbying for a shift in government and police policy to be more pro-active over the threat of far right extremism.

I would like once again to thank all those who helped ensure Saturday's anti-EDL protests were dignified, peaceful and such a powerful display of community unity in the face of those who sought to divide us.

The Home Secretary deserves our thanks for listening to community concerns and taking the decision to ban the EDL. The police deserve our thanks for applying for the ban and their professional operation on the day. It is never easy getting the balance right between firm and sensitive policing, but I thought they did a great job.

We asked our young people to put their faith in the police to protect our community from racist thugs. The police repaid our trust in them. Their actions have helped further strengthen relations between the community and the police. The residents, of Tower Hamlets, deserve our thanks. Thousands of residents expressed their opposition to an EDL march via the democratic process. They lobbied, petitioned, attended public meetings, and applied political pressure. That pressure helped strengthen our hand in calling for a ban.

And thanks to all the community leaders, trade unionists, faith groups, anti-racist campaigners, politicians and business leaders who all came together to support our endeavor to stop the EDL.

On the evening of 4 October we have organised an evening of film, debate and discussion with Cable Street veteran Max Levitas, Rabbi Lee Wax, Edi Freidman (Jewish Council of Racial Equality), Liz Fekete (Institute of Race Relations), broadcaster Bonnie Greer, Cllr Rabin Khan and myself to discuss the contemporary significance of the Cable St events. I think it will be a very interesting and informative evening and I would encourage everyone to attend.

Londoners treasure the fact that our city is the most multicultural city in Europe, and the residents in Tower Hamlets treasure the fact that ours is the most multicultural borough in London. Multiculturalism is embedded into our very identity; it is who we are, there is no turning back the clock. And that's the reason the EDL and the racists will never win.

8.21 Question from Councillor Denise Jones

Does the Mayor share my concerns about the Olympic Route Network and the effect it will have on Tower Hamlets residents?

Response by Councillor Shahed Ali, Cabinet Member for Environment

Whilst the Borough will undoubtedly gain as a result of having the Olympic Games on its door step, the biggest show on earth will cause some temporary disruption to residents and businesses alike.

The Olympic Route network is a Transport for London (TfL) scheme that will be imposed on London and the South East during games time.

The Mayor and I have been working hard to lobby TfL to reduce the impact of this scheme on our community. The Mayor and I are currently in dialogue with Peter Hendy, the Transport Commissioner for London, over a range of impacts and am particularly concerned about the potential problems it will cause to local business and road safety. The Mayor met with Peter Hendy and representatives of LOCOG and the ODA at the end of August and have written to all members outlining these discussions and the progress we are making.

In short the Mayor raised deep concerns regarding the adequacy of the business consultation regarding the impact of the ORN and the level of support small businesses will get to understand and plan for the impacts.

- The Transport Commissioner for London agreed to substantially enhance business engagement in Tower Hamlets and send TfL representatives to four bespoke business forums that we will help them organise.

The Mayor has expressed concerns regarding the lack of consistent messaging between TfL and LOCOG with regards to business advice.

- TfL and LOCOG accepted that they have not been as joined up as they might be on some local transport advice and will seek to improve their lines of communication.

The Mayor expressed concerns regarding the potential disruptive impact on communities of suspended crossings.

- The Commissioner has given me a firm commitment to look again at the number of crossing suspensions.

The Mayor has expressed deep safety concerns regarding TfL proposals for the management of crossings kept open on the ORN which were to have the green man deactivated.

- The Commissioner has agreed with me that this approach would be unsafe and will be abandoned.

The Mayor nevertheless remains concerned about road safety generally during games time and have lobbied for more money to run additional road safety campaigns. I remain engaged in dialogue with Peter on this issue.

The Mayor has flatly opposed the use of the alternative ORN for games family traffic on a programmed basis.

- The Commissioner has agreed that they will not now do this and will only use the alternative network if the Core ORN becomes blocked.

The Mayor has lobbied the Commissioner to reduce the impact of the Road Event ORN in the West of the Borough and to commit to consultation with business on its introduction.

- The Commissioner has agreed that its use will be limited only to seven days of the Olympic Road events and at no other time and that a consultation exercise will be held regarding its introduction.

Both the Mayor and other London Boroughs have lobbied intensively against a rolling introduction of the ORN over a four week period that would greatly extend the period of disruption.

- The Commissioner has now agreed to introduce a much shorter period of introduction spanning a few days.

Finally the Mayor expressed grave concern regarding the accessibility of information for residents and businesses regarding the ORN before and during the Games. The Mayor challenged their position of providing no hot line number and only providing written responses to queries.

- The Commissioner has given me a verbal undertaking to extend their call centre activities to include ORN queries and the Mayor will be holding him to this.

8.22 Question from Councillor Stephanie Eaton

Would the Mayor join me in requesting Transport for London to prioritise Step 3 Access to Whitechapel Underground Station in time for the opening of the new Royal London Hospital?

Response by Councillor Shahed Ali, Cabinet Member for Environment

Yes.

8.23 Question from Councillor Sirajul Islam

Can the Mayor give me an update on the progress made by the Council to promote Fairtrade products amongst Council catering services, residents and community groups and on asking Council contractors to provide Fairtrade goods?

Response by Councillor Alibor Choudhury, Cabinet Member for Resources

The Council currently buys a range of Fair Trade products and standardises on Fair Trade for foodstuffs and vending refreshments wherever possible.

The contract planning for relevant contracts is closely scrutinised for the opportunities to buy Fair Trade and other ethically sourced products.

Whilst the Council always works to achieve the most competitive prices, all contracts are awarded on an assessment of value for money, which includes quality and social criteria. Variant bids are permitted when deemed appropriate.

Contract review meetings are carried out regularly, and suppliers are asked to demonstrate their performance against various quality criteria, including the social objectives. When new Fair Trade or other ethically sourced products come on stream, they will be asked to include them in their offering to the Council.

The Council takes advantage of collaborative procurement when appropriate, but only when the contracts in question meet both price and social objectives. Many Fair Trade foodstuffs are currently purchased through London-wide contracts.

The possibility of sourcing Fair Trade clothing and sports balls will be investigated.

8.24 Question from Councillor Aminur Khan

What is the Council doing to improve the standard of council housing and does the Mayor intend to implement the Tory Government's new policy of removing tenancy for life?

Response by Councillor Rabina Khan, Cabinet Member for Housing

The Mayor and I are committed to delivering high standards of social housing as the heart of sustainable and cohesive communities.

The Government's proposals to end tenancies for life threaten this.

For this reason we do not currently intend to change our tenancy arrangements and will continue to offer tenancy for life.

8.25 Question from Councillor Rachael Saunders

Will the Mayor support our campaign to achieve a change in the law allow static demonstrations to be banned when they are a threat to people and property, through the same procedure as bans on marches?

Response by Councillor Ohid Ahmed, Deputy Mayor

The Mayor and I support all measures that will protect our borough from the threat of the EDL.

However the Mayor and I think we need to be careful with the exact demands we make to this end. Any calls for a ban on static demos should specify that the ban to be applicable to static demos that incite racial or religious hatred. These are the kind of demonstrations that pose a threat to our borough. There are no other types that currently pose a threat.

The Mayor and I are concerned that any new power that does not differentiate between static demonstrations could have the unintended consequence of ensuring the curtailing civil liberties and freedom of expression.

With the full impact of the cuts yet to be felt, I expect there will be many more protests on our streets against them from trade unionists, pensioners, students and anti-cuts campaigners. It would be a bad day for democracy in this country if legislation intended to be used against violent, racist thugs is also used against anti-cuts groups under the vague and dubious auspices of them being a 'threat of people and property'.

I would therefore ask the Labour group to more carefully define their demand so that it calls for a ban on static demos that incite hate crimes. This would dovetail with my own call and make more powerful our campaign to minimise the threat of the EDL to residents.

8.26 Question from Councillor Lutfa Begum

Could the Mayor update the Council on this year's GCSE results, and how do these compare with last year's results?

Response by Councillor Rania Khan, Cabinet Member for Culture

This year's provisional GCSE results are the best the borough has ever seen with 61.6% of pupils achieving 5 A*-C grade GCSEs. This represents a 9.8% point improvement on last year's results, our biggest single improvement in one year since the measure was introduced.

Again, according to provisional results there was an improvement in pupils achieving 5 A*-C grades at GCSE in any subject. This is up to 81.5%, representing a 6.6% point increase on last year and a 25% point increase since 2005-06.

These results remain provisional until January 2012.

8.27 Question from Councillor Anna Lynch

Does the Mayor agree with me that there should be no sex establishments in Tower Hamlets?

Response by Councillor Rania Khan, Cabinet Member for Culture

There has been a long held view by many people in Tower Hamlets that sex establishments which include striptease and lap dancing venues have an adverse impact on neighbourhoods and that the Council should do all it can to restrict this type of activity.

The new legislation that has been introduced gives the Council the opportunity to further restrict and control these premises.

The legislation will be adopted when the associated policy is agreed, following consultation. The draft policy suggests that all localities in Tower Hamlets are unsuitable for sex establishments and that there should be a "nil" policy both retrospective and going forward.

I personally agree with this stance and I have been campaigning as such for many years. I am delighted that in Cabinet I have been able to ensure officers deliver this new policy. It is also the Mayor's aspiration to deliver such a 'nil' policy but he is aware and agrees that the final policy must be determined by the responses to the consultation that is currently taking place. I would urge you to encourage residents to respond to the consultation.

8.28 Question from Councillor Md. Maium Miah

Why does the Mayor think the recent incidents of rioting and looting were of a lesser magnitude in Tower Hamlets than in neighbouring boroughs?

Response by Councillor Ohid Ahmed, Deputy Mayor

The disturbances in Tower Hamlets were treated with the utmost priority by the Council and the Mayor at the time. Tower Hamlets was fortunate not to experience the type of damage to property that other Boroughs did – with Borough's such as Croydon and Enfield experiencing multi-million pounds worth of damage. Of course, the impact of the incidents that did occur has just as much impact on those affected.

This was, in my opinion, due to the immeasurable amount of work that goes on a daily basis by Community Leaders, volunteers, the Council and its partners in promoting and enhancing 'One Tower Hamlets'.

Our youth services played a heroic role in helping minimise the dangers of our young people being caught up in the kind of activities that blighted other boroughs.

I saw with my own eyes the work of our Youth Teams. They were on the streets until the small hours of the morning every night, and contracted providers ensured that youth clubs were opened across the borough beyond normal hours. They worked closely with the police, creating a joint response, and calming rather than escalating the situation. The youth workers were

partnered with the volunteer “community champions” who are trained in response work and help our paid staff in times of crisis.

Our Youth Offending Team staff not only worked long hours in our borough, they also supported colleagues from other boroughs in the magistrates’ courts, to ensure that young people were properly supported.

It is a fact that of the 513 under-18s arrested, only seven were from Tower Hamlets. And only two of these received custodial sentences.

I think it is folly that other authorities have made huge cuts to youth provision. It is not a route we are going to travel in Tower Hamlets. I am proud we have maintained our investment in youth services and I am committed to maintaining our investment in youth services.

8.29 Question from Councillor Kosru Uddin

Does the Mayor share my concerns over cuts to police services in Tower Hamlets?

Response by Councillor Ohid Ahmed, Deputy Mayor

Any cuts to Tower Hamlets Police would be a serious concern. However, we must understand what the proposed reductions are.

There has been a Metropolitan Police Authority Consultation on the future of SNTs, which will result in this borough losing several SNT Sergeants.

The Borough Commander will be discussing with the Council how this will affect us. As a Council we have invested in Policing this financial year, funding the retention of THEOs and helping to provide 21 partnership police officers through an agreement with the Borough Commander. Overall, despite the reduction in management, there will therefore still be an increase in front line policing in Tower Hamlets.

I am deeply concerned to about the proposed cuts to policing. Boris Johnson should abandon his plans to force 600 London police sergeants to reapply for their own jobs. They should be focusing on making the streets safe for Londoners, not worrying about their own jobs. He should drop his plan to cut 300 sergeants from London's 630 safer neighbourhood teams. And he should reverse his decision to cut 1800 police officers in London over the next three years. Metropolitan Police Authority figures revealed that the number of police officers in London is being cut by 1,800 between 2011 and 2013/4.

Suspension of Procedural Rules

After debate on question 8.2, Councillor Carli Harper-Penman **MOVED** and Councillor Peter Golds **SECONDED**, a procedural motion – “That under Procedural Rule 26.1.1, Rule 13.1 be waived on grounds of urgency to enable

consideration of the following additional motion, notice of which has not been given in accordance with that rule:-

‘This meeting of Tower Hamlets Council confirms the separation of regulatory and executive functions as defined in the constitution.

The council expresses its concern that members of the Licensing Committee, who are responsible for the regulation of licensing within the borough, were not involved in the decision making or corporate publicity regarding the introduction of the touting policy and consultation on sex establishments.

As Licensing Committee members they have the most involvement and ultimately, the duty to enforce the policies when approved by full council.

This meeting calls for a full explanation as to why councillors with no interest or experience in licensing, were used for publicity purposes and assurance that in future, the correct constitutional role of committees is reflected in communications’.”

The procedural motion was put to the vote and was **agreed**.

Change to Order of Business

Councillor Carli Harper-Penman then **MOVED**, and Councillor Peter Golds **SECONDED**, a procedural motion – “That under Procedure Rule 14.1.3 the order of business be varied to allow motion the emergency motion to be considered as next business.”

The procedural motion was put to the vote and was **agreed**.

Urgent Motion re: Licensing Matters

Councillor Carli Harper-Penman **MOVED**, and Councillor Peter Golds **SECONDED** a tabled motion as set out under ‘Suspension of Procedure Rules’ above.

Following debate, the motion was put to the vote and was **agreed** with no Member voting against.

RESOLVED

This meeting of Tower Hamlets Council confirms the separation of regulatory and executive functions as defined in the constitution.

The council expresses its concern that members of the Licensing Committee, who are responsible for the regulation of licensing within the borough, were not involved in the decision making or corporate publicity regarding the introduction of the touting policy and consultation on sex establishments.

As Licensing Committee members they have the most involvement and ultimately, the duty to enforce the policies when approved by full council.

This meeting calls for a full explanation as to why councillors with no interest or experience in licensing, were used for publicity purposes and assurance that in future, the correct constitutional role of committees is reflected in communications.

9. REPORTS FROM THE EXECUTIVE AND THE COUNCIL'S COMMITTEES

There was no business under this heading.

10. TO RECEIVE REPORTS AND QUESTIONS ON JOINT ARRANGEMENTS AND EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS (IF ANY)

There was no business under this heading.

11. OTHER BUSINESS

11.1 Appointment of Independent Members to the Standards Committee and Co-opted Members to the Pensions Committee

The Council considered the report of the Service Head, Democratic Services, as included in the agenda papers, recommending the appointment of two persons as Independent Members of the Council's Standards Committee and two persons as non-voting Co-opted Representatives on the Pensions Committee in accordance with the Council's Constitution.

Councillor Ohid Ahmed **MOVED** and Councillor Alibor Choudhury **SECONDED** the recommendations contained in the report."

Following discussion, the recommendations were put to the vote and were **agreed** unanimously. Accordingly, it was:-

RESOLVED

1. That the following persons be appointed as Independent Members of the Standards Committee, each to serve a three year term of office expiring on the date of the Annual Council meeting in 2014, subject to annual confirmation by the Council:-
 - Mr Denzil Johnson (new appointment); and
 - Mr Eric Pemberton (re-appointment)

2. That the following persons be re-appointed as non-voting co-opted members of the Pensions Committee for the remainder of the municipal year 2011/12:-

- Mr Frank West (Trade Union representative); and
- Mr John Gray (Admitted Bodies representative)

11.2 Establishment of Standing Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee for Inner North-East London

The Council considered proposals to establish a Standing Inner North East London Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee (JOSC), comprising the London Boroughs of Tower Hamlets, Newham, Hackney and the City of London, together with proposals to delegate to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee authority to appoint Tower Hamlets' representatives to the Joint Committee. The report of the Service Head, Democratic Services, was contained in the agenda papers circulated for the meeting.

Councillor Ann Jackson **MOVED** and Councillor Rachael Saunders **SECONDED** the recommendations in the report.

Following discussion, the recommendations were put to the vote and were **agreed** unanimously. Accordingly, it was -

RESOLVED

1. That the Council agree the establishment of a Standing Inner North East London Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee, comprising the London Boroughs of Tower Hamlets, Newham, Hackney and the City of London to consider those health matters where a substantial variation or development to health services covers more than one local authority area, in accordance with the Terms of Reference (Appendix A) and Procedure Rules (Appendix B) attached to the report of the Service Head, Democratic Services.
2. That Tower Hamlets appoint three Members to serve on the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Overview and Scrutiny Committee be delegated authority to make those appointments from amongst the members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Health Scrutiny Panel in accordance with the required political proportionality on behalf of the Council.
3. That the Monitoring Officer be authorised to make any necessary amendments to the Council's Constitution pursuant to the establishment of the Standing Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

11.3 Review of proportionality and allocation of places on committees

The Council considered proposed new allocations of places on Committees and other bodies covered by the proportionality requirements in the Local Government & Housing Act 1989, following Councillor Maium Miah's notification to the Chief Executive on 28th July 2011 that he was no longer a member of the Conservative Group on the Council and would henceforth serve as an independent Councillor. The report of the Service Head, Democratic Services, was included in the agenda papers circulated for the meeting.

Councillor Ohid Ahmed **MOVED** and Councillor Alibor Choudhury **SECONDED** the recommendations in the report.

Following discussion, the recommendations were put to the vote and were **agreed** with no Member voting against. Accordingly, it was:-

RESOLVED

1. That the review of proportionality at paragraph 3 of the report of the Service Head, Democratic Services be noted and the Council agree the allocation of seats on committees and panels established for the remainder of the Municipal Year 2011/12 as set out at paragraph 4.2 of the report.
2. That Members and deputies be appointed to serve on those committees and panels in accordance with nominations from the political groups to be notified to the Assistant Chief Executive (Legal Services).
3. That the Assistant Chief Executive (Legal Services) be authorised to approve the appointment of ungrouped Councillors to any committee places not allocated by the Council to a political group.

11.4 Appointments to London Councils Committee and Forums

The Council considered the report of the Service Head, Democratic Services, as included in the agenda papers for the meeting, recommending that appointments to committees and forums of London Councils be made by the Mayor.

Councillor Ohid Ahmed **MOVED** and Councillor Alibor Choudhury **SECONDED** the recommendation in the report.

Following debate, the recommendations were put to the vote and were **defeated**. Accordingly, it was -

RESOLVED

That the recommendation contained in the report, regarding proposals for appointment of the authority's representatives to the various committees and forums of London Councils, be not approved.

[Note: The effect of the above decision is that the appointment of this authority's representatives to the committees and forums of London Councils will continue to be a function of the Council or the General Purposes Committee. In making those appointments the Council or General Purposes Committee will consider any nominations made by the Mayor.]

11.5 Appointment of Interim Chief Executive

The Council considered the report of the Monitoring Officer proposing the confirmation of the appointment of an Interim Chief Executive (Head of the Paid Service) as required by section 4 of the Local Government & Housing Act 1989, following the resignation of Dr Kevan Collins from the post of Chief Executive.

Councillor Ohid Ahmed **MOVED** and Councillor Alibor Choudhury **SECONDED** the recommendations in the report.

Councillor Joshua Peck **MOVED** and Councillor Motin Uz-Zaman **SECONDED** a tabled amendment as follows:-

"This Council notes:

- That under the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 the recruitment and appointment of the Council's Head of Paid Service is the responsibility of Full Council
- That the council's constitution has designated the Chief Executive as the Head of Paid Service
- That under the council's constitution recruitment of chief officers, including the Chief Executive, is a function of Full Council
- That therefore the appointment of the Chief Executive is both legally and constitutionally a function of Full Council
- That this applies to both interim and permanent appointments.
- That the Mayor made an announcement on 26 July that he had appointed an Interim Chief Executive and a Deputy Chief Executive

- The Mayor has no power to appoint the Chief Executive

This Council believes:

- That engagement to all Chief Officer positions in the council should be transparent and fair, and through the normal Chief Officer recruitment process overseen by HR Committee
- That the Council has not been involved in the consideration of who will fill the interim Chief Executive position
- That nonetheless Aman Dalvi has a strong record in his current role as Corporate Director for Development and Renewal and would be an appropriate appointment to the interim position.

This Council further notes:

- That on appointment of Aman Dalvi to the Interim Chief Executive position, his substantive post will need to be back-filled by an interim
- Four of seven positions on the Corporate Management Team will then be interims
- That the Executive has a place on the Appointments Sub-Committee to undertake the recruitment process.

This Council further believes:

- The Chief Executive is the most important position in the Council and should be filled by a permanent appointment as soon as possible, ideally within six months.
- That such a high number of interims in the CMT is a matter of concern and should be reviewed by Council

This Council therefore resolves:

- To appoint Aman Dalvi to the position of Interim Chief Executive, with effect from 26 September 2011, until the date on which a new permanent Chief Executive takes up his/her post, allowing for a handover period of no more than one month beyond that date, subject to a maximum period as Interim of six months.
- That in the event that a permanent Chief Executive is not appointed by the end of a six months period Full Council will consider an extension to Aman Dalvi's period as Interim.
- That engagement of Chief Officers, to permanent positions or interim positions of over three months, will be through the normal recruitment process overseen by the HR Committee.

- That the HR Committee will convene at 7pm on Wednesday 28 September to commence the process of recruiting a permanent Chief Executive.
- That the Mayor will be invited to take the Executive position on the panel established by the HR Committee to undertake the engagement of the Chief Executive.
- That a further HR Committee should be convened to discuss the engagement of an interim to backfill the Corporate Director for Development and Renewal and any other CMT positions that need filling at that time.
- That a report be brought to the next scheduled HR Committee meeting on outstanding recruitment to permanent Chief Officer positions.”

Following debate, the amendment was put to the vote and was **agreed**.

The substantive motion as amended was then put to the vote and was **agreed** with no Member voting against. Accordingly, it was:-

RESOLVED

This Council notes:

- That under the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 the recruitment and appointment of the Council's Head of Paid Service is the responsibility of Full Council
- That the council's constitution has designated the Chief Executive as the Head of Paid Service
- That under the council's constitution recruitment of chief officers, including the Chief Executive, is a function of Full Council
- That therefore the appointment of the Chief Executive is both legally and constitutionally a function of Full Council
- That this applies to both interim and permanent appointments.
- That the Mayor made an announcement on 26 July that he had appointed an Interim Chief Executive and a Deputy Chief Executive
- The Mayor has no power to appoint the Chief Executive

This Council believes:

- That engagement to all Chief Officer positions in the council should be transparent and fair, and through the normal Chief Officer recruitment process overseen by HR Committee
- That the Council has not been involved in the consideration of who will fill the interim Chief Executive position
- That nonetheless Aman Dalvi has a strong record in his current role as Corporate Director for Development and Renewal and would be an appropriate appointment to the interim position.

This Council further notes:

- That on appointment of Aman Dalvi to the Interim Chief Executive position, his substantive post will need to be back-filled by an interim
- Four of seven positions on the Corporate Management Team will then be interims
- That the Executive has a place on the Appointments Sub-Committee to undertake the recruitment process.

This Council further believes:

- The Chief Executive is the most important position in the Council and should be filled by a permanent appointment as soon as possible, ideally within six months.
- That such a high number of interims in the CMT is a matter of concern and should be reviewed by Council

This Council therefore resolves:

- To appoint Aman Dalvi to the position of Interim Chief Executive, with effect from 26 September 2011, until the date on which a new permanent Chief Executive takes up his/her post, allowing for a handover period of no more than one month beyond that date, subject to a maximum period as Interim of six months.
- That in the event that a permanent Chief Executive is not appointed by the end of a six months period Full Council will consider an extension to Aman Dalvi's period as Interim.
- That engagement of Chief Officers, to permanent positions or interim positions of over three months, will be through the normal recruitment process overseen by the HR Committee.

- That the HR Committee will convene at 7pm on Wednesday 28 September to commence the process of recruiting a permanent Chief Executive.
- That the Mayor will be invited to take the Executive position on the panel established by the HR Committee to undertake the engagement of the Chief Executive.
- That a further HR Committee should be convened to discuss the engagement of an interim to backfill the Corporate Director for Development and Renewal and any other CMT positions that need filling at that time.
- That a report be brought to the next scheduled HR Committee meeting on outstanding recruitment to permanent Chief Officer positions.

12. TO CONSIDER MOTIONS SUBMITTED BY MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

Change to Order of Business

At the commencement of this section, Councillor Motin Uz-Zaman **MOVED**, and Councillor Joshua Peck **SECONDED**, a procedural motion – “That under Procedure Rule 14.1.3 the motions submitted by Members of the Council be considered in the following order: 12.6; 12.3; 12.8; 12.10; 12.12; 12.14; 12.16; and then the other motions in order as printed in the agenda.”

The procedural motion was put to the vote and was **agreed**.

12.6 Sex Establishments

Councillor Rachael Saunders **MOVED**, and Councillor Helal Abbas **SECONDED**, the motion as printed in the agenda.

Following debate, the motion was put to the vote and was unanimously **agreed** by the Council. Accordingly it was:-

RESOLVED

This Council notes:

- That the Labour government passed legislation to give local people greater control over the number of sex establishments permitted in their area, through granting greater powers to local authorities
- That in the Independent Mayor's introduction to the consultation on Sex Establishments, he says that "legislation does not allow a ban on sex establishments for moral or equalities reasons".

- That the legislation does allow for impact on localities to be considered in making decisions about sex establishments.

This Council believes:

- That the campaign for this legislation was clearly driven by a gender equality campaign, as well as through anti social behaviour and other considerations;
- That the Council is bound by public sector equalities duties, which place a responsibility on us to promote equality between women and men. The operation of sex establishments is clearly gendered, and the promotion of our duty to gender equality should be at the heart of the implementation of this policy;
- That sex establishments are only a symptom of a structural gender inequality in our society;
- That in a densely populated residential area any sex establishment in any locality will have an impact on women.

This Council resolves:

- To continue to support a zero tolerance approach to sex establishments in Tower Hamlets on the grounds that such establishments are inconsistent with our commitment to gender equality and cause anti social behaviour.
- To recognise that an opposition to sex establishments must operate alongside a commitment to projects that support women in exiting the sex industry, and tackling other causes and symptoms of gender inequality such as domestic violence, sexual abuse and body image.

12.3 English Defence League

Councillor Joshua Peck **MOVED**, and Councillor Rachael Saunders **SECONDED**, the motion as printed in the agenda.

Councillor Kabir Ahmed **MOVED**, and Councillor Shahed Ali **SECONDED** a tabled amendment to the motion as follows:-

“Under ‘Tower Hamlets Council Resolves’, final bullet point, add after ‘static demonstrations’: ‘where they incite hate crimes’.”

During debate on the amendment, Councillor Joshua Peck moved, and Councillor Motin Uz-Zaman seconded, a procedural motion – “That under Procedural Rule 14.1.10 the question be now put.” The procedural motion was put to the vote and was agreed.

The amendment moved by Councillor Kabir Ahmed was accordingly put to the vote and was **defeated**.

Councillor Shahed Ali **MOVED**, and Councillor Alibor Choudhury **SECONDED**, a further tabled amendment to the motion as follows:-

“Insert under ‘Tower Hamlets Council notes’ a 5th bullet point: ‘That the well organised voluntary work of stewards from community organisations such as the IFE was rightly commended for the support they provided as stated by the Metropolitan Police Authority’.”

During debate on the amendment, Councillor Alibor Choudhury **MOVED**, and Councillor Ohid Ahmed **SECONDED**, a procedural motion – That under Procedural Rule 14.1.10 the question be now put.” The procedural motion was put to the vote and was agreed.

The amendment moved by Councillor Shahed Ali was accordingly put to the vote.

At this point more than ten Members rose to request a recorded vote on the amendment in accordance with Procedural Rule 17.4. A recorded vote was therefore taken on the amendment moved by Councillor Shahed Ali and Members indicated their votes as follows:

For the amendment (15 Councillors)

Councillor Kabir Ahmed
Councillor Ohid Ahmed
Councillor Rofique Uddin Ahmed
Councillor Shelina Aktar
Councillor Shahed Ali
Councillor Abdul Asad
Councillor Lutfu Begum
Councillor Alibor Choudhury
Councillor Shafiqul Haque
Councillor Aminur Khan
Councillor Rabina Khan
Councillor Rania Khan
Councillor Fozol Miah
Councillor Harun Miah
Councillor Maium Miah

Against the amendment (28 Councillors)

Councillor Helal Abbas
Councillor Khaled Uddin Ahmed
Councillor Rajib Ahmed
Councillor Timothy Archer
Councillor Craig Aston
Councillor Zara Davis
Councillor David Edgar

Councillor Judith Gardiner
Councillor Carlo Gibbs
Councillor Peter Golds
Councillor Carli Harper-Penman
Councillor Sirajul Islam
Councillor Ann Jackson
Councillor Denise Jones
Councillor Anwar Khan
Councillor Shiria Khatun
Councillor Mohammed Abdul Mukit, MBE
Councillor Joshua Peck
Councillor Zenith Rahman
Councillor Rachael Saunders
Councillor David Snowdon
Councillor Bill Turner
Councillor Helal Uddin
Councillor Kosru Uddin
Councillor Abdal Ullah
Councillor Motin Uz-Zaman
Councillor Amy Whitelock
Councillor Mizanur Chaudhury (The Chair of Council)

Abstained (0 Councillors)

Councillor Lesley Pavitt indicated that she had been unable clearly to hear the wording of the amendment and was therefore not able to cast her vote.

The amendment was accordingly **defeated** by 28 votes to 15.

Councillor Joshua Peck then **MOVED**, and Councillor Motin Uz-Zaman **SECONDED**, a procedural motion – “That under Procedure Rule 15.11.7 the meeting continue for a further 10 minutes beyond the three hour time limit.” The procedural motion was put to the vote and was **agreed**.

The substantive motion as printed in the agenda was then put to the vote and was **agreed** with no Member voting against.

RESOLVED

Tower Hamlets Council notes:

- That the English Defence League (EDL) is a racist organisation whose main activity is street demonstrations against the Muslim community. Although it claims only to oppose Islamic extremism it targets the entire Muslim community and its actions deliberately seek to whip up tensions and violence between Muslim and non-Muslim communities.
- That following a motion brought to Full Council by the Labour Group, all politicians in Tower Hamlets united to campaign for a ban on the proposed EDL march on the 3rd September

- That the EDL were still able to hold a static demonstration, although the area designated for their demonstration was in the City of London, not Tower Hamlets
- That the most significant disturbance on the day happened when an EDL coach drove through Stepney and Mile End.

Tower Hamlets Council believes:

- That the EDL do not represent the views of the people of Tower Hamlets
- That the EDL are not welcome in Tower Hamlets
- That the decision of the Metropolitan police to apply for a ban and the Home Secretary to grant it is welcome
- That it is only because the march was banned and the demonstration heavily policed that serious disturbance was avoided.
- That the EDL have no point of legitimate political protest-their objectives are to spread their hatred and cause disruption and violence
- That a march can be banned on the basis of potential serious public disorder.
- That even if a static demonstration is considered likely to cause such disorder it cannot be banned.
- That this is the first time the Metropolitan police has applied to ban a march since the legislation granting these powers was passed in 1983, and that the power to ban a march or demonstration should only be used in extreme circumstances.

Tower Hamlets Council resolves:

- To review the policing and management of the demonstration and counter demonstration
- To campaign for a change in the law to allow static demonstrations to be banned through the same procedure as bans on marches.

Change to Order of Business

Councillor Peter Golds then **MOVED**, and Councillor David Snowdon **SECONDED**, a procedural motion – “That under Procedure Rule 14.1.3 the order of business be varied to allow motion 12.4 to be considered after item 12.3.”

The procedural motion was put to the vote and was **agreed**.

Councillor Joshua Peck then **MOVED**, and Councillor Motin Uz-Zaman **SECONDED**, a further procedural motion – “That under Procedure Rule 15.11.7 the meeting continue for up to a further 10 minutes beyond the time already agreed, to enable the motions previously brought forward in the order to be debated.” The procedural motion was put to the vote and was **agreed**.

12.4 Park Events

Councillor David Snowdon **MOVED**, and Councillor Zara Davis **SECONDED**, the motion as printed in the agenda.

Councillor Alibor Choudhury **MOVED**, and Councillor Ohid Ahmed **SECONDED**, a procedural motion – “That under Procedural Rule 14.1.10 the question be now put.” The procedural motion was put to the vote and was **agreed**.

The motion as printed in the agenda was then put to the vote and was **agreed**. Accordingly it was:-

RESOLVED

This Council notes:

- That there are plans to hire out Sir John McDougal Gardens, Millwall Park and Island Gardens for commercial and private events
- Local residents and users of these parks have gathered a petition to oppose the introduction of any commercial or private events in these parks
- Commercial events held in Victoria Park have caused a number of problems including excessive noise, high levels of traffic congestion and local residents being unable to use the park for peace and recreation

This Council believes:

- That our parks and open spaces are a vital resource for leisure, enjoyment and wellbeing, particularly in Tower Hamlets where so many residents live in flats

This Council resolves:

- That Sir John McDougal Gardens, Millwall Park and Island Gardens will remain solely for the use of residents and community groups for the purposes of recreation, leisure and sports.

12.8 Neighbourhood Policing

Councillor Kosru Uddin **MOVED**, and Councillor Joshua Peck **SECONDED**, the motion as printed in the agenda.

Councillor Kosru Uddin **MOVED**, and Councillor Joshua Peck **SECONDED**, a procedural motion – “That under Procedural Rule 14.1.10 the question be now put.” The procedural motion was put to the vote and was **agreed**.

The motion as printed in the agenda was then put to the vote and was **agreed**. Accordingly it was:-

RESOLVED

This Council notes:

- That Safer Neighbourhood Teams (SNT's) were a Labour innovation and that Tower Hamlets was one of the first areas in the country to have an SNT in every ward.
- That SNT's in liaison with local ward panels have helped to tackle local crime and safety issues such as anti-social behaviour and have improved residents' confidence in the police.
- That the principle that SNTs were dedicated to their ward and could only be moved off in a very limited number of events guaranteed each area a minimum level of policing
- That police station counters provide an important service to residents who want to report crime, or seek the advice of the police in their area.

This Council further notes:

- The Metropolitan Police's recent review of neighbourhood policing, which will retain SNT's, aligned to political ward boundaries with the same number of PC's and PCSO's based in each ward.
- That the review also proposed keeping the SNT's under the control of the Borough Commander and retaining their focus on addressing local crime and safety concerns.
- That the Metropolitan Police intend to reduce the number of Safer Neighbourhood Sergeants by 150 in 2011/12, a reduction of between 4-6 Sergeants per Borough.
- That this review is driven by the Conservative-led government's 20% cuts to policing budgets nationally and Conservative Mayor Boris Johnson failure to protect London from bearing the brunt of these cuts.

This Council also notes:

- The recent riots in London which required a significant increase in police numbers as well as the need for additional officers at events such as the Notting Hill Carnival and to police English Defence League demonstrations.

This Council believes:

- That the decision to retain the SNT's is a welcome one which will have a positive effect on the safety of local residents in the Borough.
- That the temporary re-deployment of PC's and PCSO's to other wards at the discretion of the Borough Commander raise concerns about whether all wards will continue to receive the level of support from SNT's they currently do.
- That allowing Sergeants to be responsible for more than one SNT raise similar concerns.
- That proposals the priorities of the community as represented by local ward panels should be the driving force behind SNT activity.
- That now is not the time to cut police numbers, especially considering recent events which have required additional officers.

This Council Resolves:

- To ensure the Council works with the Borough Commander and Metropolitan Police to ensure the SNT's continue to be an effective force to tackle local crime and safety issues.
- To ask the Mayor to write to Mayor of London, Boris Johnson to ask him to urgently rethink the scale of cuts to police officers and police budgets in London.

12.10 Tower Hamlets Homes – Options Appraisal

Councillor Carli Harper-Penman **MOVED**, and Councillor Sirajul Islam **SECONDED**, the motion as printed in the agenda.

Councillor Alibor Choudhury **MOVED**, and Councillor Ohid Ahmed **SECONDED**, a procedural motion – “That under Procedural Rule 14.1.10 the question be now put.” The procedural motion was put to the vote and was **agreed**.

The motion as printed in the agenda was then put to the vote and was **agreed**. Accordingly it was:-

RESOLVED

This Council notes that:

- The Mayor has commissioned an “Options Appraisal” to decide on the future of Tower Hamlets Homes (THH) - the Arms Length Management Organisation managing the Council’s remaining housing;
- Tower Hamlets Homes achieved a Two Star (“Good”) rating from the independent Audit Commission following its recent inspection and has begun the initial £94 million investment to bring the council’s stock up to Labour’s Decent Homes Standard;
- Tower Hamlets Homes has delivered this improvement at the same time as significant efficiency savings;
- The London Borough of Newham has decided to bring its ALMO back in house, while Hackney and Waltham Forest are retaining their ALMOs;
- The Council will be required to make further savings from the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) over the course of the current Comprehensive Spending Review period.

This Council believes that:

- The present Senior Management Team and the governance arrangements at Tower Hamlets Homes have been responsible for the significant improvement in performance since its establishment in July 2008;
- There are real strengths to the current arrangements by which the council holds Tower Hamlets Homes accountable for the quality of service and budgets through a management contract;
- Given the Tory-led Government’s policies for social housing, Tower Hamlets Council should not transfer its remaining stock to a housing association;
- Given past experience and the need to maintain the drive to improve performance, it is premature to bring the management of these homes back “in-house” within Tower Hamlets Council;

This Council, therefore, resolves:

- To retain Tower Hamlets Homes as the manager of the Council’s housing for the remainder of its Five-Year contract.

12.12 Olympic Route Network

Councillor Denise Jones **MOVED**, and Councillor Lesley Pavitt **SECONDED**, the motion as printed in the agenda.

Councillor Alibor Choudhury **MOVED**, and Councillor Ohid Ahmed **SECONDED**, a procedural motion – “That under Procedural Rule 14.1.10 the question be now put.” The procedural motion was put to the vote and was **agreed**.

The motion as printed in the agenda was then put to the vote and was **agreed**. Accordingly it was:-

RESOLVED

This Council notes:

- The Olympic Games offer a huge opportunity for London and the whole country. There is a need to strike a balance between ensuring the Olympics is run smoothly whilst minimising adverse impact on residents and businesses in the city.
- That TFL is consulting on temporary road changes for the London 2012 Games. TFL have stated “When the London 2012 Games come to the Capital, the Olympic Route Network (ORN) and Paralympic Route Network (PRN) will allow 55,000 key participants - like athletes, officials and the media - to travel reliably to and from events, while keeping London moving.
- These routes - which will operate mainly between mid - July and September 2012 - will be open to general traffic and kept clear of general obstructions such as road works.
- Temporary Games Lanes, only accessible to Games Family and on-call emergency vehicles, will be introduced on around half of the ORN/PRN where there is sufficient road space. These will operate on offside lanes, while nearside lanes and some bus lanes will be open for general traffic”
- That the chosen route for Olympic route Network from Tower Hill to Blackwall will have the effect of ‘cutting off’ Wapping and reconsideration should be given to the TFL suggested closures and changes on the route.

This Council further notes:

- That some concessions have been made by TFL during the consultation process.
- 3 of the 6 bus stops in the area are to be reinstated and bus services will continue to be able to run;

- The island in the middle of the crossing outside St George's pool is to be widened permanently to give better protection to pedestrians stranded in the middle;
- the ORN will now only come into operation in mid July (possibly from the 15th July or later) rather than a whole month earlier as originally planned which is the biggest change and reduces impact during school term time;

This Council is concerned:

- That the plans to permit only one right turn onto East Smithfield/The Highway at Vaughan Way from Wapping and the numerous road closures, banned right and left turns, rerouting of some buses, suspension of pedestrian crossings over the Highway will have a major detrimental impact on local business and residents, particularly elderly, disabled and school children.
- That the changes proposed by the ORN could lead to increased risk of accidents with children and the elderly crossing the road.
- That residents using the buses for appointments at the London Hospital and attendance at schools will be delayed in traffic jams.
- That traffic on the Highway is already gridlocked going west in the morning and east in the evening during rush hours and also when the Blackwall Tunnel is closed due to accidents.
- That the suggestion for deliveries to businesses in Wapping during the night time hours is impractical for most establishments.
- That the opening of Tower Bridge on occasions could cause a traffic gridlock around the Tower Hill area.
- That the timing of the ORN from mid-July until mid September 2012 from 6am until midnight each day is extended too long either side of the dates of the Olympic Games and the Paralympic Games.
- That using lanes in going both east and west on the Highway concentrates the disruption in one area and is unfair to the residents and businesses in that location.

This Council resolves:

To call on TFL and LOCOG to:

- Run the ORN going East along the Highway and to run the ORN going West along either Whitechapel Road or Commercial Road thereby lessening the disruption in the Wapping area.

To accept that if this is not possible to call on TFL and LOCOG to make the following changes to the current proposed route:

- To open another right turn exit from Wapping – at the top of Wapping Lane, Garnet Street or Glamis Road.
- To introduce a yellow box junction at the Vaughan Way/Dock Street/East Smithfield/The Highway junction
- For 24/7 police control of that junction at least while the Olympic Lane is operating (6am-midnight)
- To rephase the traffic lights to allow more vehicles to exit Vaughan Way and Dock Street
- To suspend parking on the north east side of Vaughan Way near the junction
- To remove the Barclays Cycle Hire Docking Station in Vaughan Way
- To grant exemptions (if not already factored in) for emergency vehicles.

12.14 Fairtrade

Councillor Carlo Gibbs **MOVED**, and Councillor Anwar Khan **SECONDED**, the motion as printed in the agenda.

Councillor Alibor Choudhury **MOVED**, and Councillor Ohid Ahmed **SECONDED**, a procedural motion – “That under Procedural Rule 14.1.10 the question be now put.” The procedural motion was put to the vote and was **agreed**.

The motion as printed in the agenda was then put to the vote and was **agreed**. Accordingly it was:-

RESOLVED

This Council Notes:

- That other councils have procured the following fairly traded products:
 - a) School canteens – bananas, fruit juices, bulk sugar, cereal bars, yoghurt, oranges, grapes, kiwi fruits, herbs & spices, rice – as well as other products for special events.
 - b) Cotton staff clothing - generic polo-shirts and specialised work wear such as overalls.
 - c) Helping schools purchase Fairtrade cotton uniform items by providing information. For example, John Roan School in Greenwich took a policy decision to switch all of their uniform polo-shirts and sweat shirts to Fairtrade cotton/polyester. (Over 1,000 sales annually)
 - d) Fairly traded sport balls for leisure centres and schools.

- That 'fairly-traded' should be defined in accordance with the European Parliament's Resolution on Fair Trade and Development (A6-0207/2006).

This Council Further Notes:

- That budgets for food and drink products only make up a minority of contract caterers' overall costs compared to the costs of staff wages and distribution
- That relevant fairly traded products can only make up a tiny proportion of the overall range of products supplied to schools and council canteens.
- That several fairly traded products, like some mentioned are available at little or no extra cost compared to equivalent products
- That one Fairtrade council paid a small premium for fairly traded bananas for schools, until their contractor managed to obtain sufficient volumes to supply all schools, which then reduced prices. Other councils have been charged no extra cost.
- Approved Product Lists – when bidding for contracts contractors often quote prices for all products on a council's Approved Product List (APL), which are then binding after the contract is awarded. At this stage they are motivated to trim margins to remain competitive. After the contract is awarded catering managers who order products not included on the APL are sometimes charged prices well in excess of the market value, if contractors use 'unlisted' items to boost margins.
- That in Africa and India cotton producers face unfair mass 'dumping' of US and EU subsidised surpluses which severely depress world market prices, disastrously undermining the ability of producers to improve their living standards through fair trade.
- That in the Sialkot district of Pakistan where many sports balls are made children are often involved in the manufacturing process to such an extent that they are prevented from attending school, a practice not allowed in Fairtrade certified production.
- That the living standards of many fruit farmers has been drastically undermined by large multi-national corporations driving down prices in a 'race to the bottom' to minimise costs. As a result in south and Central America attempts to form unions have been ruthlessly suppressed by local vested interests. In Guatemala fifty union activists have been killed since 2007, including five union leaders representing workers on banana plantations.

This Council Believes:

- That the Council should support initiatives which improve producers' living standards by such measures as:

a) Guaranteed minimum prices that always cover production costs; part payments in advance; prohibiting the use of child labour where this prevents children attending school; empowering producers through building long term relationships and contracts.

b) Enabling communities to invest in development schemes and sustainable production, with environmental safeguards. Products certified by the Fairtrade Foundation have robust standards for both, independently verified. Equivalent 'ethically traded' products should also be considered where it can be demonstrated that they meet these criteria. The council particularly applauds fair trade companies such as Divine Chocolate and Cafe Direct where producers also share in profits and are involved in decision making.

This Council resolves:

- That all relevant fairly-traded products should be considered for all council facilities or services: schools and social services; sixth forms; offices; leisure centres; libraries; community centres, Adult Education centres; theatres, civic centres, etc - including vending machines.
- That a Councillor and officer should be given responsibility for developing Fairtrade policy in consultation with procurement officers and the Steering Group. Relevant officers should be made aware of revised policies and their roles. Legal advice, support and training should be given where necessary.
- That as limited price premiums for a small minority of products cause a negligible increase in contract caterers' costs, it is reasonable for the council to expect contractors to supply them at no extra cost. Judgements on this issue should be made in transparent, collaborative consultations. If contractors require information on potential suppliers or products officers can assist them, in consultation with the Steering Group if helpful.
- Advertisements / Pre Tender Questionnaires / Pre Qualification Questionnaires (PQQ's) - Although PQQ's are primarily concerned with contractors' ability to deliver services, future documents should make it clear that, as a Fairtrade council, Tower Hamlets would expect contractors to support its fair trade policy where possible.
- That Fair trade should be included in the title of relevant contracts to send a clear signal that the council would like to maximise the range of fairly traded products supplied. Example of a suitable title – 'Catering services including the provision of fairly traded products.'
- That as EU procurement law and Office of Government Commerce (OGC) Guidelines make clear, although the provision of fairly traded products cannot be a decisive factor in evaluating which company is awarded a contract, fair trade can form part of 'quality' criteria, either separately or as

part of Sustainability goals. These can then be given a minority weighting in tender documents, suitably quantified, to make contractors aware that the council wishes them to make all reasonable efforts to supply as many relevant products as possible should they win the contract.

- That tender documents should also ask contractors to commit to attending periodic reviews of progress in supplying fairly trade products, where they can also consult council officers on future possibilities as markets and available products change.
- That variant bids can be asked for if officers consider they might be useful in increasing the use or range of Fairtrade products supplied.
- That approved Product Lists – should include all relevant fairly traded products to ensure that contractors cannot charge prohibitive prices after the contract is awarded simply because fairly traded products were not listed in the original APL. This would also help contractors establish competitive sources at an early stage.

This Council further resolves:

- After awarding the contract, as part of evaluating contract performance, contractors should be expected to supply the fairly traded products detailed in their tender bid, and to attend review meetings.
- That existing contractors should be approached to ask them to support the council's Fairtrade policy by supplying as many fairly traded products as possible. If Fairtrade considerations were not incorporated in the tender documents under which they were awarded a contract, officers should consult them sensitively to ensure that they are not unduly inconvenienced and that any requests are reasonable and take account of their legitimate concerns.
- That as OGC guidelines make clear, the best value for money does not always mean buying at the lowest possible price. The council's policy is to use fairly traded products where practical within existing budgets. However, officers should not be discouraged from investigating economically viable options which may involve some limited or temporary extra costs, as in circumstances such as those outlined below:
 - a) Products of superior quality. For example, some fairly traded products can cost less than items of equivalent quality with 'brand name' premiums. If other cheaper products are of lesser quality buying them may be a false economy.
 - b) If a price differential is minimal and/or volumes used are small, thereby causing a negligible increase in costs, which may be offset by savings elsewhere.

c) If a price differential is likely to be temporary while a contractor establishes a source for large enough volumes to reduce prices. Costs should be considered over the whole life of the contract, not solely on initial 'list prices,' which may be temporary or negotiable.

d) Where a more costly product is only an extra option offered in addition to existing cheaper and similar products, because in this case consumers are free to choose at the point of sale, for example, between two brands of fruit juice.

e) Where negligible increased costs are passed on to the end user, staff or the public. Where a fairly traded product is replacing another and the price premium is more significant users should be consulted.

f) Joint procurement may reduce unit costs to viable levels. Possible initiatives should be actively investigated by councillors and/or officers contacting other Fair-trade councils or networks to obtain up to date information on initiatives and conferences.

g) Where the Council is working with partners, on their behalf, and all or most costs would be paid voluntarily by the partners.

- That public notices should be displayed in catering facilities detailing products used and Council policy.
- That where practical staff should be consulted to assess the potential demand for buying fairly traded products centrally in relatively large volumes to provide them at reduced cost - something other councils have arranged in collaboration with contractors. Officers should be responsible for this to avoid burdening contractors. If such schemes prove viable a suitable range of products should be offered to give staff choice.
- That officers should review requirements and possibilities for fairly traded clothing provided to council staff. Note, Fairtrade certified cotton garments can include cotton/polyester mixes where the cotton content is 50% or more. The Steering Group could be consulted over relevant products.
- That existing contractors should be requested to use fairly-traded sports balls and include this in future tender documents.
- That embroidered polo shirts and sweat shirts, and printed T-shirts are typically available at price premiums of 10-20% for fairly traded versions, for low volume orders. Joint procurement could achieve significant savings. As many schools are unaware of these products the council should consider contacting head teachers, governors, and teachers to provide information and facilitate consultative meetings.
- That the same initiative could provide information on fairly traded sports balls, as well as products or suppliers suitable for school breakfast clubs or

staff rooms. Officers should consult the Steering Group to ensure that all information is accurate and inclusive of all relevant suppliers.

- That machines dispensing chocolate should include some fairly traded chocolate. Machines dispensing hot drinks should provide fairly traded tea, coffee, sugar, and hot chocolate if used. If fruit juices or cola is used fairly traded options should be included.

12.16 Enterprise

Councillor David Edgar **MOVED**, and Councillor Rachael Saunders **SECONDED**, the motion as printed in the agenda.

Councillor Alibor Choudhury **MOVED**, and Councillor Ohid Ahmed **SECONDED**, a procedural motion – “That under Procedural Rule 14.1.10 the question be now put.” The procedural motion was put to the vote and was **agreed**.

The motion as printed in the agenda was then put to the vote and was **agreed**. Accordingly it was:-

RESOLVED

This Council notes:

1. That failure on growth means that this Government borrowed more in the first two months of this financial year than they did in the first two months of the last financial year (ONS Stats, 21st June)
2. That the Tory led Government plan has meant cuts to police, cuts to jobs, and cuts to funding for social housing.

This Council believes:

1. That the Conservative led plan for cuts is hurting people in Tower Hamlets, and that it isn't working in reducing the deficit, because they have failed in promoting growth.

This Council further believes:

1. That Tower Hamlets Council has a role in supporting business, especially where business growth and innovation helps provide jobs for local people
2. That we sit in the middle of Canary Wharf and the City. It is right that we do all we can to train and encourage our young people to go for jobs in finance and professional services. It is also right that we recognise that many in Tower Hamlets have different ambitions.

3. That big businesses should give legal, financial or other professional services advice as a greater part of their corporate social responsibility contribution, to local third sector organisations and small businesses.
4. That small and medium size businesses are a vital part of our social fabric and an important partner in creating a safer, more prosperous Tower Hamlets.
5. That the local authority can do more to ensure we create the best possible environment for local economic growth.

This Council resolves:

1. To campaign for big businesses based in and near Tower Hamlets to sign a pledge to undertake a minimum of 20% of their procurement from local businesses
2. To call on the Mayor to negotiate with Canary Wharf on areas including supply chain, professional advice, provision of business mentors and access to lending for local businesses. The banks, professional services firms and others based in east London will benefit themselves if they contribute further to the building of strong local communities.
3. To call on the Mayor to take the voices small and medium size businesses seriously, including setting up a forum to discuss issues such as business space, co-ordinating business support, feedback on planning and licensing, change of Council and partners' policies and programmes, such as planned road works and waste management, or regeneration proposals.

At this point the time limit for the meeting having been reached, and the business in respect of which the Council agreed to extend the meeting having been completed, the Chair of Council declared the meeting closed.

Motions 12.1; 12.2; 12.5; 12.7; 12.9; 12.11; 12.13; 12.15; 12.17 and 12.18 were not considered, due to the time limit for the meeting being reached and motion 12.19 was withdrawn by the proposer and seconder.

The meeting ended at 10.50 p.m.

Chair of Council