



Meeting of the

TOWER HAMLETS COUNCIL

Wednesday, 21st September 2011 at 7.30 p.m.

A G E N D A

VENUE

Council Chamber, 1st Floor,
Town Hall, Mulberry Place,
5 Clove Crescent,
London E14 2BG

If you require any further information relating to this meeting, would like to request a large print, Braille or audio version of this document, or would like to discuss access arrangements or any other special requirements, please contact:

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**TO THE MAYOR AND COUNCILLORS OF THE LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER
HAMLETS**

You are summoned to attend a meeting of the Council of the London Borough of Tower Hamlets to be held in **THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, 1ST FLOOR, TOWN HALL, MULBERRY PLACE, 5 CLOVE CRESCENT, LONDON, E14 2BG** at 7.30 p.m. on **WEDNESDAY, 21ST SEPTEMBER 2011**

Kevan Collins
Chief Executive

LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

COUNCIL MEETING

WEDNESDAY, 21ST SEPTEMBER 2011

7.30 p.m.

	PAGE NUMBER
1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE	
To receive any apologies for absence.	
2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST	1 - 2
To note any declarations of interest made by Members, including those restricting Members from voting on the questions detailed in Section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act, 1992. See attached note from the Chief Executive.	
3. MINUTES	3 - 22
To confirm as a correct record of the proceedings the unrestricted minutes of the ordinary meeting of the Council held on 13 th July 2011.	
4. TO RECEIVE ANNOUNCEMENTS (IF ANY) FROM THE CHAIR OF COUNCIL OR THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE	
5. TO RECEIVE PETITIONS	23 - 24
The deadline for receipt of petitions to be presented to this meeting is noon on Thursday 15 th September 2011.	
At the time of agenda despatch, one petition had been received as set out in the attached report. Any further valid petitions received before the deadline will be notified to Members before the meeting.	
6. TO RECEIVE WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC	25 - 26
The questions which have been received from members of the public to be put at this meeting are set out in the attached report.	
A maximum period of 20 minutes is allocated to this agenda item.	

7. MAYOR'S REPORT

In accordance with the Council's Constitution as amended, provision is made at each ordinary Council meeting for the Elected Mayor to give a report.

A maximum of five minutes is allowed for the Elected Mayor's report, following which the Chair of Council will give the respective political group leaders an opportunity to respond for up to one minute each if they wish.

8. TO RECEIVE WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL 27 - 32

The questions which have been received from Councillors to be put at this meeting are set out in the attached report.

A maximum period of 30 minutes is allocated to this agenda item.

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

There is no business to conduct under this agenda item.

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

There is no business to conduct under this agenda item.

11. OTHER BUSINESS

11 .1 Appointment of Independent Members to the Standards Committee and Co-opted Members to the Pensions Committee 33 - 38

To make appointments to two vacant positions of 'Independent Member' on the Standards Committee and two non-voting Co-opted Members on the Pensions Committee in accordance with the Council's Constitution. The report of the Service Head, Democratic Services is attached.

11 .2 Establishment of Standing Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee for Inner North-East London 39 - 50

To agree the establishment of a Standing Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee for Inner North-East London. The report of the Service Head, Democratic Services is attached.

11 .3 Review of proportionality and allocation of places on committees 51 - 54

To undertake a review of proportionality and agree the allocation of places on committees and panels following a change in the political composition of the Council. The report of the Service Head, Democratic Services is attached.

11 .4 Appointments to London Councils Committee and Forums 55 - 58

To agree arrangements for the appointment of the Council's representatives to London Councils committees and forums. The report of the Service Head, Democratic Services is attached.

11 .5 Appointment of Interim Chief Executive 59 - 60

To confirm the appointment of the Interim Chief Executive (Head of Paid Service). The report of the Monitoring Officer is attached.

12. TO CONSIDER MOTIONS SUBMITTED BY MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL 61 - 88

The motions submitted by Councillors for debate at this meeting are set out in the attached report.

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Agenda Item 2

DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS - NOTE FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

This note is guidance only. Members should consult the Council's Code of Conduct for further details. Note: Only Members can decide if they have an interest therefore they must make their own decision. If in doubt as to the nature of an interest it is advisable to seek advice **prior** to attending at a meeting.

Declaration of interests for Members

Where Members have a personal interest in any business of the authority as described in paragraph 4 of the Council's Code of Conduct (contained in part 5 of the Council's Constitution) then s/he must disclose this personal interest as in accordance with paragraph 5 of the Code. Members must disclose the existence and nature of the interest at the start of the meeting and certainly no later than the commencement of the item or where the interest becomes apparent.

You have a **personal interest** in any business of your authority where it relates to or is likely to affect:

- (a) An interest that you must **register**
- (b) An interest that is not on the register, but where the well-being or financial position of you, members of your family, or people with whom you have a close association, is likely to be affected by the business of your authority more than it would affect the majority of inhabitants of the ward affected by the decision.

Where a personal interest is declared a Member may stay and take part in the debate and decision on that item.

What constitutes a prejudicial interest? - Please refer to paragraph 6 of the adopted Code of Conduct.

Your personal interest will also be a prejudicial interest in a matter if (a), (b) and either (c) or (d) below apply:-

- (a) A member of the public, who knows the relevant facts, would reasonably think that your personal interests are so significant that it is likely to prejudice your judgment of the public interests; AND
- (b) The matter does not fall within one of the exempt categories of decision listed in paragraph 6.2 of the Code; AND EITHER
- (c) The matter affects your financial position or the financial interest of a body with which you are associated; or
- (d) The matter relates to the determination of a licensing or regulatory application

The key points to remember if you have a prejudicial interest in a matter being discussed at a meeting:-

- i. You must declare that you have a prejudicial interest, and the nature of that interest, as soon as that interest becomes apparent to you; and
- ii. You must leave the room for the duration of consideration and decision on the item and not seek to influence the debate or decision unless (iv) below applies; and

- iii. You must not seek to improperly influence a decision in which you have a prejudicial interest.
- iv. If Members of the public are allowed to speak or make representations at the meeting, give evidence or answer questions about the matter, by statutory right or otherwise (e.g. planning or licensing committees), you can declare your prejudicial interest but make representations. However, you must immediately leave the room once you have finished your representations and answered questions (if any). You cannot remain in the meeting or in the public gallery during the debate or decision on the matter.

LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL

HELD AT 7.30 P.M. ON WEDNESDAY, 13 JULY 2011

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

Members Present:

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

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

The Chair of Council opened the meeting and welcomed those present.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors Lutfu Begum and Carli Harper-Penman; and apologies for lateness from Councillor Shelina Aktar.

RESOLVED

That the apologies received 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	12.7	Personal	Member of the Local Government Pension Scheme
Cllr Rajib Ahmed	12.7	Personal	Member of the Local Government Pension Scheme
Cllr Shahed Ali	12.7	Personal	Member of Local Government Pension Scheme
Cllr Tim Archer	12.5	Personal	Committee member, Tower Hamlets Community Housing
Cllr Abdul Asad	12.7	Personal	Member of the Local Government Pension Scheme
Cllr David Edgar	12.8	Personal	Works for the Young Foundation, which receives some of its funding from parts of the NHS
Cllr Judith Gardiner	12.7	Personal	Member of Local Government Pension Scheme
Cllr Carlo Gibbs	5.2	Personal	A Governor at Bangabandhu Primary School
Cllr Carlo Gibbs	12.1	Personal	A Governor at Bangabandhu Primary School
Cllr Carlo Gibbs	12.7	Personal	Member of the Local Government Pension Scheme
Cllr Shafiqul Haque	12.7	Personal	Member of the Local Government Pension Scheme
Cllr Sirajul Islam	5.2	Personal	Local Education Authority Governor of John Scurr School
Cllr Sirajul Islam	12.1	Personal	Local Education Authority Governor of John Scurr School
Cllr Sirajul Islam	12.5	Personal	A Council tenant and on the waiting list for a larger accommodation
Cllr Ann Jackson	12.7	Personal	Member of the Local Government Pension Scheme
Cllr Denise Jones	5.2	Personal	School Governor at Mulberry School
Cllr Denise Jones	12.1	Personal	School Governor at Mulberry School
Cllr Denise Jones	12.3	Personal	School Governor at Mulberry School

Cllr Rabina Khan	12.1	Personal	School Governor at Mulberry School
Cllr Rania Khan	5.1	Personal	Member of National Union of Teachers
Cllr Rania Khan	12.1	Personal	Member of National Union of Teachers
Cllr Rania Khan	12.3	Personal	Member of National Union of Teachers
Cllr Rania Khan	5.3	Personal	Bromley by Bow Ward Councillor and resident
Cllr Rania Khan	6.5	Personal	Bromley by Bow Ward Councillor and resident
Cllr Rania Khan	12.7	Personal	Member of Local Government Pension Scheme
Cllr Shiria Khatun	12.7	Personal	Member of the Local Government Pension Scheme
Cllr Anna Lynch	12.1	Personal	Community School Governor at Columbia Primary School
Cllr Anna Lynch	12.7	Personal	Member of the Local Government Pension Scheme
Cllr Anna Lynch	12.8	Personal	Employed by Barts and the London NHS Trust
Cllr Md. Mukit MBE	12.1	Personal	Governor, St Matthias Primary School
Cllr Ahmed Omer	12.7	Personal	Member of the Local Government Pension Scheme
Cllr Lesley Pavitt	12.1	Personal	A Governor at Bethnal Green Technology College
Cllr Lesley Pavitt	12.3	Personal	A Governor at Bethnal Green Technology College
Cllr Joshua Peck	12.7	Personal	Member of the Local Government Pension Scheme
Cllr Joshua Peck	12.11	Personal	Employer has a contract with LOCOG
Cllr Oliur Rahman	5.2	Personal	Supporter of campaign against academy status
Cllr Oliur Rahman	6.5	Personal	Supporter of campaign against academy status
Cllr Oliur Rahman	12.1	Personal	Supporter of campaign against academy status
Cllr Oliur Rahman	12.3	Personal	Supporter of campaign against academy status
Cllr Oliur Rahman	12.7	Personal	Member of PCS Union
Cllr Zenith Rahman	12.7	Personal	Member of the Local Government Pension Scheme
Cllr Rachael Saunders	5.2	Personal	Member of St Paul's Way School Trust Board
Cllr Rachael Saunders	12.1	Personal	Member of St Paul's Way School Trust Board

Cllr Rachael Saunders	12.3	Personal	Member of St Paul's Way School Trust Board
Cllr Rachael Saunders	12.7	Personal	Member of the Local Government Pension Scheme
Cllr Bill Turner	12.7	Personal	Member of the Local Government Pension Scheme
Cllr Abdal Ullah	12.8	Personal	A non-executive board member of Barts and the London Hospital
Cllr Abdal Ullah	12.7	Personal	Member of the Local Government Pension Scheme
Cllr Abdal Ullah	12.11	Personal	Wife is a non paid advisor on 2012
Cllr Motin Uz-Zaman	12.5	Personal	RSL Council representative
Cllr Motin Uz-Zaman	12.7	Personal	Employee in the NHS
Cllr Motin Uz-Zaman	12.8	Personal	On a pension scheme in the NHS
Cllr Amy Whitelock	12.7	Personal	Member of the Local Government Pension Scheme

3. MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the Annual Council Meeting held on 18th May 2011 be confirmed as a correct record of the proceedings and the Chair of the Council be authorised to sign them accordingly.

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

4.1 Mr Barry Blandford

The Chair of Council made an announcement regarding the death on 2nd July 2011 of Mr Barry Blandford, a former Councillor for Lansbury Ward and Mayor of Tower Hamlets in 1991/92. He outlined Mr Blandford's work and achievements for the Borough.

Tributes to Mr Barry Blandford were also paid by Councillors Stephanie Eaton, Joshua Peck and Peter Golds.

The Council then rose for a minute's silence in Mr Blandford's memory.

5. TO RECEIVE ANY PETITIONS

5.1 Petition from Mr A. Bentham, Mr Terry McGrenara and others regarding Budget Savings

Mr Terry McGrenara addressed the meeting on behalf of the petitioners and replied to questions from Members.

Councillor Alibor Choudhury, Cabinet Member for Resources, then responded to the issues raised. He shared the petitioners' disgust and objection to the cuts forced on to the Borough by the Coalition Government. Whilst it was a legal requirement to ensure a balanced budget, the Mayor and Cabinet were working hard to ensure that the centrally driven cuts did not impact on frontline services and those who needed support most. Children's centres, THEOs and the Youth Service had been protected and building of social housing had continued. Compulsory redundancies were some of the lowest in London and savings were being made through more efficient working practices.

RESOLVED

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

5.2 Petition from East London Teachers' Association regarding Academy Status

Mr Paul McGarr addressed the meeting on behalf of the petitioners and responded to questions from Members.

Councillor Oliur Rahman, Cabinet Member for Children's Services, then responded to the issues raised. He regretted that the Chair of the Labour Party in the borough was a key player in the Bethnal Green Technology College vote to apply for academy status. The Mayor's position against academy status was clear. Educational results in Tower Hamlets had improved at a faster rate than any other area in the country over the past ten years and this had been achieved through collective work between schools and the local authority.

RESOLVED

That the petition be referred to the Acting Corporate Director, Children, Schools & Families, for a written response on any outstanding matters within 28 days.

Change to Order of Business

Councillor Motin Uz-Zaman **MOVED** and Councillor Joshua Peck **SECONDED** a procedural motion – "That under Procedure Rule 14.1.3

the order of business be varied to allow motion 12.1 to be considered after item 5.2.”

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

12.1 Motion proposed by Councillor Bill Turner regarding Academy Schools – Bethnal Green Technology College

Councillor Bill Turner **MOVED**, and Councillor Amy Whitelock **SECONDED**, the motion as printed in the agenda and as amended by their own tabled amendment, the terms of which are incorporated hereunder.

Councillor Peter Golds **MOVED**, and Councillor Zara Davis **SECONDED**, a further tabled amendment as follows: –

“Delete all and insert:

This Council notes:

- That Academy Schools were first established under the Tony Blair Government in 2000 and there are now 629 throughout England.
- The Mossbourne Academy in neighbouring Hackney, the venue for a joint promotional meeting by Tony Blair and Gordon Brown in 2005, is now one of the most popular and successful state schools in the entire country, a vast difference from its days as the failing Hackney Downs School.

This Council further notes:

- That although Academy Schools are funded directly from the Department of Education and are therefore independent of local authority control, they remain focused in their local community and to qualify for Academy Status each must meet the National Curriculum core subject requirements and are subject to inspection by Ofsted.
- The council notes that Academy Schools are overwhelmingly successful and popular with parents and pupils. We believe the Bethnal Green Academy will be a huge boost to Tower Hamlets, just as Mossbourne has been in Labour run Hackney.

This Council believes:

- That the current Government is following on from the former Labour Government and is working to increase Academy numbers and bring additional to help drive up standards and ensure that school leavers in areas such as Tower Hamlets are

educated to compete in an increasingly global and competitive environment.”

During debate on the amendment Councillor Alibor Choudhury **MOVED** and Councillor Ohid Ahmed **SECONDED** a procedural motion – “That the vote be now put.” On being put to the vote, the procedural motion was **defeated**.

Following further debate, the amendment moved by Councillor Golds was put to the vote and was **defeated**.

Councillor Fozol Miah **MOVED**, and Councillor Harun Miah **SECONDED**, a further tabled amendment as follows:-

Add to “This council resolves:...”

“6) To support any legitimate initiative to secure a judicial review of flawed consultation processes that lead to academy conversion.”

Following debate, the amendment moved by Councillor Miah was put to the vote and was **defeated**.

The substantive motion as amended was then put to the vote and was **agreed**. Accordingly, it was: –

RESOLVED

This Council notes:

1. That education results in Tower Hamlets have improved at a faster rate than in any other area of the country over the last 10 years.
2. This significant improvement in attainment has been achieved through collective working between schools and the Local Authority, under previous Labour administrations.
3. That the previous Labour Government initiated the academy programme as a way of leveraging funding for improvements in failing schools.
4. That the Tory-led coalition Government’s policy to allow outstanding schools to automatically become academies and others to apply for academy status is an extension of their policy of opt-outs in the 1990s and will allow thousands of privately owned and managed schools to operate, fully funded by the taxpayer.
5. That Tower Hamlets Council has consistently maintained its support for non-selective comprehensive education and has

previously declined the prospect of an academy in the borough, believing our schools are stronger together than apart.

This Council further notes:

1. The Governors of Bethnal Green Technology College (BGTC) voted to apply to become an academy with the intended conversion date of 1st January 2012.
2. BGTC has moved rapidly from special measures and made significant progress in the last three years with exam results rising from 27% 5+ A* to C including English and Maths in 2007 to 59% in 2010.
3. This improvement has been achieved with support from the Local Authority, including £17 million of funding from Building Schools for the Future (BSF).
4. Officers at Tower Hamlets Council are committed to working closely with the leadership and governors of BGTC to achieve the highest aspirations of the school, and the Lead Member for Children's Services has stated his own commitment in this regard.
5. That the leadership of the school however has identified a problem with high levels of midterm admissions, that they believe the Council has failed to resolve.
6. Sir William Burrough and Ian Mikardo schools have also registered interest in academy status.
7. Many local groups and individuals are opposed to BGTC's and other schools' applications for academy status, including the National Union of Teachers, East London Teachers' Association and local headteachers, several of whom have publicly made a convincing case for the damage academy status would do to the community of schools in our borough, with few tangible benefits for the schools in question.

This Council further notes:

1. That academies are removed from local accountability structures, meaning parents and pupils have no recourse to assistance from local authorities.
2. That academies are not subject to the admissions procedures of the local authority.
3. That there is no conclusive evidence that academy schools are more effective at raising educational standards than other types of maintained school.

4. That academies have a destabilising effect on the ability of neighbouring schools to achieve a balance of abilities amongst their pupil intakes.
5. That exclusions of pupils in academies have been significantly higher than the national average.
6. That parental representation on governing bodies is minimal.
7. That unlike maintained schools, academies are not required to automatically recognise trade unions and many choose not to and that academies are not required to adhere to the national terms of pay and conditions for teachers, meaning that many teachers are subject to inferior arrangements for pay, conditions of service or working time.

This Council believes:

1. That the long-standing principle of the non-selective comprehensive system must be defended, to ensure all our children in Tower Hamlets have free and equal access to a high quality education, regardless of background or income.
2. That the Tory-led Government's academy programme is intended to break up Local Authority involvement in education and extend privatisation in education, removing schools from local, democratic control.
3. That if one school converts to an academy, this will undermine the collective agreement to date between schools that remaining with the Local Authority is in the best interests of local children and there is too much to lose by opting out.
4. That this could lead to more schools becoming academies and result in a two-tier system of state education in Tower Hamlets, with the Local Authority powerless to drive up standards or ensure consistent admission standards or curriculums.
5. That BGTC has significantly benefitted from the strong collective approach to education in Tower Hamlets, not least agreement among local schools that BGTC should be prioritised for BSF funding.
6. That the principal aims of BGTC's academy bid – to become an outstanding school and to become popular and fully subscribed – can be achieved under the current system with support from the Local Authority, as with Stepney Green school before.

This Council resolves:

1. To oppose any future proposal to establish an academy school in Tower Hamlets.
2. To urge the Headteachers and Governors of BGTC to continue to work with the Local Authority and the family of schools, whatever the outcome of their application for academy status.
3. To work with other schools to maintain support for the collective system of state education provision in Tower Hamlets.
4. To work with BGTC to effectively address its concerns with high levels of midterm admissions.
5. Where schools do convert to academies, to work with parents, teachers and the unions to encourage cooperation with the Local Authority and other schools, to ensure local children's access to high quality education is not undermined.

5.3 Petition from Mr Ernest Dawe and others regarding Council properties in Bruce Road, E3

Mr Ernest Dawe addressed the meeting on behalf of the petitioners and responded to questions from Members.

Councillor Rabina Khan, Cabinet Member for Housing, then responded to the issues raised. There were several options under consideration for the short-life properties in Bruce Road and a full report would be submitted to Cabinet in due course. Any revenues from sales would go directly to providing new long-term social housing. One of the Mayor's main pledges was to provide 1,000 new social houses a year and in the current year 1,531 houses for social rent would be provided, of which over 680 were 3+ bedrooms.

RESOLVED

That the petition be referred to the Corporate Director, Development & Renewal, for a written response on any outstanding matters within 28 days.

Change to Order of Business

Councillor Motin Uz-Zaman **MOVED** and Councillor Joshua Peck **SECONDED** a procedural motion – "That under Procedure Rule 14.1.3 the order of business be varied to allow motion 12.5 to be considered after item 5.3."

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

12.5 Motion proposed by Councillor Judith Gardiner regarding Housing Sales Phases 2 and 3

Councillor Judith Gardiner **MOVED**, and Councillor Helal Uddin **SECONDED**, the motion as printed in the agenda.

Councillor Timothy Archer **PROPOSED**, and Councillor Peter Golds **SECONDED**, a procedural motion under Rule 14.1.4 - "That the matters detailed in this motion be referred to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for consideration." This procedural motion was put to the vote and was **agreed**.

Following debate, the substantive motion was put to the vote and was **agreed**. Accordingly, it was -

RESOLVED

This Council notes that:

1. Tower Hamlets has amongst the highest levels of housing need in London with the waiting list standing at about 23,000 households. Of these, over 1,677 households need a home with four bedrooms or more.
2. Despite this, in December 2010, the newly elected Mayor and his Cabinet agreed to dispose of 5 properties in Swaton Road and two other properties – 19 Parfett St (a 6 bed house) 102 Tredegar Road. In April 2011 the Cabinet also agreed to dispose of 63A Sewardstone Road - on the open market by auction.
3. A further 12 properties in Bruce Road, Old Ford Road and Mount Terrace have also been identified for sale.
4. The sales of Swaton Road properties have now taken place and have achieved some £1.6m, the sale of 19 Parfett St, 102 Tredegar Road and 63A Sewardstone Road have already been advertised.

This Council believes

1. That given the desperate need for family size and street level properties in this Borough, disposal of such properties should be halted.
2. That it was wrong for the Mayor to reverse the Labour cabinet's decision to seek to maintain family sized homes as social housing and instead sell them to the highest bidder.

This Council therefore calls upon the Mayor to ensure

1. That receipts from any such sales are ring-fenced for the provision of new family size homes, preferably in the areas where these homes are being lost, rather than for other housing purposes.

FURTHER RESOLVED

That the matters detailed in the motion above be referred to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for consideration.

Additional Petition

At this point Councillor Alibor Choudhury **MOVED** and Councillor Joshua Peck **SECONDED** that Procedure Rule 19.2 be suspended to enable the following additional petition to be heard:-

5.4 Petition from Mr Glyn Robbins and others regarding the English Defence League (EDL)

"We the undersigned note the stated intention of the English Defence League (EDL) to stage a 'demonstration' in Tower Hamlets in August/September 2011.

We regard the EDL as an intolerant, bigoted organisation whose activities around the UK have sought to provoke racism and Islamaphobia.

We further note that many of their demonstrations have led to violence and brought fear and division to the communities where they have taken their message of hate, particularly those with significant Muslim populations.

We believe that a demonstration by the EDL in Tower Hamlets is deliberately provocative and incompatible with the peaceful nature of our community which values diversity and mutual respect. The East End is No Place for Hate. We oppose discrimination of all kinds.

For these reasons, we call on Tower Hamlets Council to:

1. Make representations to the Home Secretary to ban any form of demonstration by the EDL in Tower Hamlets on the grounds of community safety and incitement to religious and racial hatred.
2. Hold discussions with the Police about increasing and maintaining a visible police presence in areas of the borough where and when EDL supporters might be expected.

3. Promote borough-wide a statement of opposition to the values and threat of the EDL and a reaffirmation of Tower Hamlets as a successful, multi-cultural place where many different communities and lifestyles live peacefully side by side.
4. To work together with local people, political parties, trade unions, cultural, youth, faith and community organisations to build a peaceful and diverse celebration of community unity to coincide with and oppose any EDL demonstration in our borough.

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

Mr Glyn Robbins addressed the meeting on behalf of the petitioners and responded to questions from Members. Statements in opposition to the proposed EDL demonstration in the Borough were also made by Mr John McLoughlin (Tower Hamlets Unison), Mr Alan Greenwood, Sister Christine Frost and a representative of Rainbow Hamlets.

Change to Order of Business

Councillor Fozul Miah **MOVED** and Councillor Shiria Khatun **SECONDED** a procedural motion – “That under Procedure Rule 14.1.3 the order of business be varied to allow motion 12.12 to be considered after item 5.4.”

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

12.12 Motion proposed by Councillor Shiria Khatun regarding the English Defence League

Councillor Shiria Khatun **MOVED**, and Councillor Kosru Uddin **SECONDED**, the motion as printed in the agenda.

Following debate, the motion was put to the vote and was **agreed unanimously**. Accordingly it was –

RESOLVED

This Council notes:

- That the English Defence League (EDL) has signalled its intention to hold a march in Tower Hamlets this August.
- That the EDL had planned to march through Tower Hamlets in June 2010, but after discussion with the Council, local police and community Groups, their plans were cancelled.
- That previous EDL marches around the UK have been marred by violence, racism and tension within communities.

This Council believes

- That Tower Hamlets is a community which is at its best when it is united.
- That any group or organisation that encourages division and tension in our communities is not welcome in the Borough.

This Council Resolves:

- To call on the Home Secretary to ban the proposed EDL march in Tower Hamlets.
- To work with the Mayor, political groups, the Police, Interfaith Forum and community organisations to respond to any planned action by the EDL and ensure the safety and security of residents.

Closure of meeting

At this point the Service Head, Democratic Services, advised that only two minutes remained before the time limit for the meeting would expire and the Council proceedings would terminate.

Councillor David Snowdon **MOVED** and Councillor Stephanie Eaton **SECONDED** a procedural motion under rule 14.1.13 'That in accordance with Procedure Rule 9, the meeting be extended by up to 30 minutes to enable the remaining business to be debated'. The procedural motion was put to the vote and was **defeated**.

The outstanding items on the agenda were therefore dealt with under the guillotine procedure at Rule 9.2 without debate as follows:-

6. TO RECEIVE WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

- 6.1** Question from Mr Sheikh Raquib to Mayor Lutfur Rahman regarding Major Works charges made by housing associations in the borough.
- 6.2** Question from Ms Myra Garrett to Mayor Lutfur Rahman regarding housing benefit payments.
- 6.3** Question from Mr Saif Uddin to Mayor Lutfur Rahman regarding housing benefit payments.
- 6.4** Question from Ms Sultana Ali to Mayor Lutfur Rahman regarding King Edward Memorial Park.
- 6.5** Question from Ms Kerstyn Comley of The Wapping and Shadwell

Secondary Education Trust to Mayor Lutfur Rahman on the matter of an application submitted by the Trust to provide a comprehensive, inclusive free school.

The above questions were not put due to the time limit of the meeting being reached. Written responses would be provided to each question.

7. MAYOR'S REPORT

No report was made due to the time limit for the meeting being reached.

8. TO RECEIVE WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

8.1 Question from Councillor Judith Gardiner to Mayor Lutfur Rahman:

“Can the Mayor tell me why the Council is selling large, family sized homes at auction to the highest bidder when there is a desperate shortage of this type of social housing across the Borough?”

8.2 Question from Councillor David Snowdon to Mayor Lutfur Rahman:

“In the course of his duties on behalf of Tower Hamlets Council has the Mayor ever consulted the Islamic Forum for Europe on Council policy? Does he believe they are an appropriate organisation to consult on Council matters?”

8.3 Question from Councillor Kosru Uddin to Mayor Lutfur Rahman:

“Does the Mayor share my concerns over potential police counter closures and changes to Safer Neighbourhood Teams in Tower Hamlets?”

8.4 Question from Councillor Harun Miah to the Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Councillor Oliur Rahman:

“Whilst acknowledging that it is ignorance rather than knowledge which leads young people into unfortunate, inappropriate and abusive sexual relationships, is the Cabinet Member for Education aware of the widespread concern amongst many parents about the current practices in teaching Sex and Relationship Education (SRE) in the borough, particularly in relation to some aspects of SRE being taught to those under the age of 11 and being taught with a particular DVD which has provoked concern, and could he outline what measures the Council is taking to reassure parents that Sex and Relationship Education in this borough is taught appropriately, using the appropriate materials and at the appropriate ages?”

8.5 Question from Councillor David Edgar to Mayor Lutfur Rahman:

“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?”

8.6 Question from Councillor Zara Davis to Mayor Lutfur Rahman:

“In 2010 how many GCSE students in LBTH schools achieved 5 A* grades including English and Maths, and how many A2 students at LBTH colleges and sixth forms achieved at least 1 A* and 2 A grades? What is being done to ensure that the brightest students in our borough are being stretched?”

8.7 Question from Councillor Denise Jones to Mayor Lutfur Rahman:

“Can the Mayor tell me what negotiations the Council has had with LOCOG over the Olympic Route Network?”

8.8 Question from Councillor Fozol Miah to the Cabinet Member for Housing, Councillor Rabina Khan:

“Is the Cabinet Member for Housing aware that many homes, including large family homes, built in recent years have been built in “car free zones”, that large and poorer families in particular need large family cars for cheap and secure transport and to transport foodstuffs in bulk and that “car free” homes therefore discriminate against larger and poorer families and will she therefore agree to lobby central government to repeal legislation and to seek changes to strategic planning which has imposed these “car free” homes on Tower Hamlets residents, to seek any loopholes that may exist to reduce the number of “car free” homes that currently exist or will be built in the future and to seek to enable residents in “car free” homes access to at least one resident’s parking permit if needed?”

8.9 Question from Councillor Rachael Saunders to Mayor Lutfur Rahman:

“Can the Mayor tell me what the composition of the new Health and Wellbeing board will be?”

8.10 Question from Councillor Craig Aston to Mayor Lutfur Rahman:

“What progress has been made in implementing the Motion in the names of Councillors Snowdon and Davis agreed at the Full Council meeting on October 27th which called for the full details of all premises, regulated entertainment and late night refreshment licenses to be published on the Tower Hamlets Website?”

8.11 Question from Councillor Shiria Khatun to Mayor Lutfur Rahman:

“Can the Mayor update me on the Council’s bid for city status and tell me what Council resources are being used to support the bid?”

8.12 Question from Councillor Stephanie Eaton to the Cabinet Member for Housing, Councillor Rabina Khan:

“Could I be advised how much the Borough pays to send waste to landfill, and how much of this cost could be saved by the use of the waste to energy facility proposed for Fish Island South? How can existing local residents and the residents of the forecast 2000 new homes at Fish Island be informed about the safety and environmental impact of the facility, especially in relation to emissions and the siting of such a plant in a flood risk area?”

8.13 Question from Councillor Mohammed Abdul Mukit to the Cabinet Member for Children’s Services, Councillor Oliur Rahman:

“Can the Lead Member tell me what discussions the Council has had with Bethnal Green Technology College about its bid for Academy Status?”

8.14 Question from Councillor Peter Golds to Mayor Lutfur Rahman:

“Having used £120,000 of public money on a new office suite, which will enable the Mayor to, according to East End Life, “host foreign dignitaries”;

sending council officers to purchase two iPhone 4 handsets at £600 each and;

leasing a silver Mercedes car from ING car leasing at £72 per day, plus chauffeur.

Will the Mayor inform the Council which are the next personal aspects of his office to be enhanced from public money and whether he will be visiting the Government Art Collection to secure suitably impressive art works for the Mayor of a London Borough to be made available when he is receiving “foreign dignitaries” in his one way mirrored office?”

8.15 Question from Councillor Joshua Peck to Mayor Lutfur Rahman:

“Will the Mayor commit to working with all political groups, the Police, Interfaith Forum and community organisations to respond to any planned action by the EDL this summer in Tower Hamlets and ensure the safety and security of residents?”

8.16 Question from Councillor Emma Jones to Mayor Lutfur Rahman:

“When will work commence to repair Wapping Wall, as agreed in this years' budget?”

8.17 Question from Councillor Anna Lynch to Mayor Lutfur Rahman:

“Can the Mayor confirm that residential care we may provide for our Learning Disabled residents has been recently inspected and that we have addressed any concerns; and whether the difficulties being experienced by provider Southern Cross will have an impact on any of our homes?”

8.18 Question from Councillor Tim Archer to Mayor Lutfur Rahman:

“Does the Mayor believe we are an energy efficient council?”

8.19 Question from Councillor Anwar Khan to Mayor Lutfur Rahman:

“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?”

8.20 Question from Councillor Maium Miah to Mayor Lutfur Rahman:

“Will the Mayor inform Members how he will be allocating the 1000 jobs that Lord Coe has provided to Tower Hamlets? What provision has he in place that these will be spread across the borough and will include Millwall and the Isle of Dogs?”

8.21 Question from Councillor Gloria Thienel to Mayor Lutfur Rahman:

“What steps has the Mayor taken to make sure we receive good value for money from our role in hosting a large section of the London Marathon?”

8.22 Question from Councillor Shafiqul Haque to Mayor Lutfur Rahman:

Question withdrawn.

The above questions were not put as the time limit for the meeting had been reached. Written responses would be provided to each question.

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

9.1 Tower Hamlets Community Plan Refresh 2011

The Council considered the draft Tower Hamlets Community Plan 2011 and the recommendations of the Cabinet in this regard.

RESOLVED

1. That the Tower Hamlets Community Plan 2011 be approved as attached at Appendix 1 to the report (CAB 005/112) (Attached at Appendix A to the Council report).
2. That the Chief Executive, after consultation with the Mayor, be authorised to make appropriate and necessary amendments to the Tower Hamlets Community Plan 2011 prior to publication.

9.2 Responsible Drinking Borough

The Council considered a proposal to designate the London Borough of Tower Hamlets as a Responsible Drinking Borough. The report of the Corporate Director, Communities, Localities and Culture was included in the agenda papers and an addendum report was tabled setting out the Cabinet's decision on the matter and giving further information on the Equalities Impact Assessment that had been carried out.

RESOLVED

That the London Borough of Tower Hamlets be designated by means of a Designated Public Place Order under Section 13 of the Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001, to be known as a Responsible Drinking Borough, as set out in the circulated Cabinet report (CAB 014/112).

9.3 Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report

The Council considered the annual report of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for 2010/11.

RESOLVED

That the annual report of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for 2010/11 be noted.

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

There was no business under this agenda item.

11. OTHER BUSINESS

11.1 Treasury Management Outturn Report 2010-11, Update to 31 May 2011

RESOLVED

That the report be noted.

12. TO CONSIDER MOTIONS SUBMITTED BY MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

Motions 12.1, 12.5 and 12.12 had been considered earlier in the meeting.

Motions 12.2, 12.3, 12.4, 12.6, 12.7, 12.8, 12.9, 12.10, 12.11, 12.13 and 12.14 were not considered due to the time limit for the meeting being reached.

The meeting ended at 10.30 p.m.

Chair,
Council

LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

COUNCIL MEETING

WEDNESDAY 21ST SEPTEMBER 2011

PETITIONS

**REPORT OF THE SERVICE HEAD,
DEMOCRATIC SERVICES**

SUMMARY

1. The Council's constitution as amended provides that a maximum of three petitions are received at any meeting. These are taken in order of receipt. This report sets out the valid petitions submitted for presentation at the Council meeting on Wednesday 21st September 2011.
2. The deadline for receipt of petitions for this meeting is noon on Thursday 15th September. At the time of agenda despatch one petition had been received as set out overleaf. Any further valid petitions received before the deadline will be notified to Members before the meeting.
3. In each case the petitioners may address the meeting for no more than three minutes. Members may then question the petitioners for a further four minutes. Finally, the relevant Cabinet Member or Chair of Committee may respond to the petition for up to three minutes.
4. Any outstanding issues will be referred to the relevant Corporate Director for attention who will respond to those outstanding issues in writing within 28 days.
5. Members should confine their contributions to questions and answers and not make statements or attempt to debate.

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

“We the undersigned are opposed to Tower Hamlets Council allowing commercial events to be held in Island Gardens Park, Millwall Park, St John’s Park or Sir John McDougal Gardens.”

LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS
COUNCIL MEETING
WEDNESDAY 21ST SEPTEMBER 2011
QUESTIONS SUBMITTED BY
MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC
REPORT OF THE SERVICE HEAD,
DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

SUMMARY

1. Set out overleaf are the questions submitted by members of the public, for response by the appropriate Cabinet Member or committee chair at the Council Meeting on 21st September 2011.
2. The Council's Constitution sets a maximum time limit of twenty minutes for this item.
3. A questioner who has put a question in person may also put one brief supplementary question without notice to the Member who has replied to his or her original question. A supplementary question must arise directly out of the original question or the reply. Supplementary questions and Members' responses to written and supplementary questions are each limited to two minutes.
4. Any question which cannot be dealt with during the twenty minutes allocated for public questions, either because of lack of time or because of non-attendance of the questioner or the Member to whom it was put, will be dealt with by way of a written answer.
5. Unless the Chair of Council decides otherwise, no discussion will take place on any question, but any Member of the Council may move, without discussion, that the matter raised by a question be referred for consideration by the Cabinet or the appropriate Committee or Sub-Committee.

QUESTIONS

Three questions have been submitted as set out below:-

6.1 Question from Abdullah Mahmud to Mayor Lutfur Rahman:

“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?”

6.2 Question from Asad Uddin Khan to Mayor Lutfur Rahman:

“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?”

6.3 Question from Lil Collins to Mayor Lutfur Rahman:

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

LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

COUNCIL MEETING

WEDNESDAY 21ST SEPTEMBER 2011

**QUESTIONS SUBMITTED BY
MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL**

**REPORT OF THE SERVICE HEAD,
DEMOCRATIC SERVICES**

SUMMARY

1. Set out overleaf are the questions submitted by Members of the Council for response by Members of the Executive at the Council meeting on Wednesday 21st September 2011.
2. Questions are limited to one per Member per meeting, plus one supplementary question unless the Member has indicated that only a written reply is required and in these circumstances a supplementary question is not permitted.
3. Oral responses are time limited to one minute. Supplementary questions and responses are also time limited to one minute each.
4. There is a time limit of thirty minutes for consideration of Members' questions with no extension of time allowed and any question not answered within this time will be dealt with by way of a written response. The Chair will decide the time allocated to each question.
5. Members must confine their contributions to questions and answers and not make statements or attempt to debate.

MEMBERS' QUESTIONS

29 questions have been received from Members of the Council as follows:-

8.1 Question from Councillor Khales Uddin Ahmed to Mayor Lutfur Rahman:

“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?”

8.2 Question from Councillor Craig Aston to Mayor Lutfur Rahman:

“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?”

8.3 Question from Councillor Carlo Gibbs to Mayor Lutfur Rahman:

“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?”

8.4 Question from Councillor Fozol Miah to Mayor Lutfur Rahman:

“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?”

8.5 Question from Councillor Joshua Peck to Mayor Lutfur Rahman:

“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?”

8.6 Question from Councillor Zara Davis to Mayor Lutfur Rahman:

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

8.7 Question from Councillor Helel Uddin to Mayor Lutfur Rahman:

“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?”

8.8 Question from Councillor Harun Miah to Councillor Oliur Rahman, Cabinet Member for Children’s Services:

“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?”

8.9 Question from Councillor Motin Uz-Zaman to Councillor Rabina Khan, Cabinet Member for Housing:

“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?”

8.10 Question from Councillor Tim Archer to Mayor Lutfur Rahman:

“What is the future of Cubitt Town library?”

8.11 Question from Councillor Md. Abdul Mukit to Mayor Lutfur Rahman:

“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?”

8.12 Question from Councillor Peter Golds to Mayor Lutfur Rahman:

“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?”

8.13 Question from Councillor Anwar Khan to Mayor Lutfur Rahman:

“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?”

8.14 Question from Councillor David Snowdon to Mayor Lutfur Rahman:

“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?”

8.15 Question from Councillor Lesley Pavitt to Mayor Lutfur Rahman:

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

8.16 Question from Councillor Gloria Thienel to Mayor Lutfur Rahman:

“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.”

8.17 Question from Councillor Judith Gardiner to Mayor Lutfur Rahman:

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

8.18 Question from Councillor Dr Emma Jones to Mayor Lutfur Rahman:

“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?”

8.19 Question from Councillor David Edgar to Mayor Lutfur Rahman:

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

8.20 Question from Councillor Kabir Ahmed to Mayor Lutfur Rahman:

“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?”

8.21 Question from Councillor Denise Jones to Mayor Lutfur Rahman:

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

8.22 Question from Councillor Stephanie Eaton to Mayor Lutfur Rahman:

“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?”

8.23 Question from Councillor Sirajul Islam to Mayor Lutfur Rahman:

“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?”

8.24 Question from Councillor Aminur Khan to Mayor Lutfur Rahman:

“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?”

8.25 Question from Councillor Rachael Saunders to Mayor Lutfur Rahman:

“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?”

8.26 Question from Councillor Lutfa Begum to Mayor Lutfur Rahman:

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

8.27 Question from Councillor Anna Lynch to Mayor Lutfur Rahman:

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

8.28 Question from Councillor Md. Maium Miah to Mayor Lutfur Rahman:

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

8.29 Question from Councillor Kosru Uddin to Mayor Lutfur Rahman:

“Does the Mayor share my concerns over cuts to police service in Tower Hamlets?”

LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

COUNCIL MEETING

WEDNESDAY 21ST SEPTEMBER 2011

APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT MEMBERS TO THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE AND CO-OPTED MEMBERS TO THE PENSIONS COMMITTEE

REPORT OF THE SERVICE HEAD, DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report recommends 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.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 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)
- 2.2 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)

3. STANDARDS COMMITTEE – INDEPENDENT MEMBERS

Background

- 3.1 It is a statutory requirement that local authority Standards Committees must include Independent Members who are neither Members nor officers of the Council or of another relevant authority. The Standards Board for

England recognises that Independent Members are important in helping to increase public confidence in local government and provide a clear signal that the Standards Committee acts fairly and impartially. They also bring a wider perspective from their outside experience. Independent Members must form at least 25% of the Committee's membership but beyond this the Council may decide how many to appoint and how long they should serve for. An Independent Member must chair the Committee.

- 3.2 Tower Hamlets Council has decided there shall be a majority of Independent Members on the Standards Committee. The membership of the Committee was increased from May 2008 following the introduction of the local assessment of complaints and now includes six Councillors and up to nine Independent Members. The Independent Members each serve a three year term and retire by rotation to ensure continuity of knowledge and experience. A retiring Independent Member may apply to serve an additional term or terms. Persons appointed undergo training on the Code of Conduct and other matters before taking up their place.

Existing Independent Members

- 3.3 Recruitment of Independent Members has taken place at regular intervals as vacancies have occurred either as a result of retirements or the expansion of the Committee's membership in response to its developing role. During the municipal year 2010/11 eight Independent Members have served on the Committee as follows:-

- Mr Ibrahim Ali (term of office to May 2011);
- Mr Eric Pemberton (to May 2011);
- Ms Salina Bagum (to May 2012);
- Mr Barry Lowe (to May 2012);
- Mr Matthew Rowe (to May 2012)
- Mr Barry O'Connor (Chair) (to May 2013);
- Ms Sue Rossiter (to May 2013)
- Mr Richard Hopkins (resigned 3 November 2010);
- (1 vacancy)

- 3.4 As set out above, two of the Independent Members – Mr Ibrahim Ali and Mr Eric Pemberton - reached the end of their respective terms of office in May 2011. Mr Pemberton indicated that he wished to be considered to serve a further term on the Committee.

- 3.5 Mr Ali did not indicate that he wished to continue. Mr Ali has served on the Standards Committee since 2008 and the Committee Members have placed on record their thanks and appreciation for the contribution that he has made to the work of the Committee during that period.

Proposed appointments

- 3.6 An advertisement was published and a recruitment process held to identify suitable persons for appointment to the positions available following the retirement of the above members and the existing vacancies. Statutory

rules apply to the appointment of Independent Members and the Standards Board for England has also issued guidance to ensure that appointees are chosen in a fair and open way. The position(s) must be advertised publicly and no one may be appointed unless they have applied for the appointment. The following may not be appointed as an Independent Member of the Council's Standards Committee:-

- Someone who has been a Member or employee of the Council within 5 years before the date of the appointment;
- A Member or officer of the Council or another relevant authority; or
- A close friend or relative of a Member or employee of the Council.

3.7 The Standards Board for England has set out the following skills and competences that Independent Members should demonstrate:

- A keen interest in standards in public life;
- A wish to serve the local community and uphold local democracy;
- High standards of personal integrity;
- The ability to be objective, independent and impartial;
- Sound decision making skills;
- Questioning skills;
- Leadership qualities, particularly in respect of exercising sound judgement; and
- The ability to act as a chair of an assessment or review sub-committee or a determination hearing.

3.8 As far as possible the Council seeks to achieve a diversity of representation amongst the Independent Members in relation to gender and ethnicity; and has previously sought to recruit persons with experience in a range of different sectors i.e. academic/public, business and community.

3.9 The closing date for applications in the current recruitment round was 29th July 2011. Following assessment of the applications against the selection criteria and interview of the applicants by a panel including the Monitoring Officer and the Independent Chair of the Committee, the following persons are recommended for appointment:-

<u>Name</u>	<u>Experience/Background</u>
Mr Denzil Johnson	(New applicant): Barrister and caseworker for national medical professional regulatory body. Previous background in nursing and active in voluntary Disability Tribunal role. Lay member of Education Appeals Panel for another local authority.
Mr Eric Pemberton	(Application for a further term): Retired local resident and mature student. Chair of Local Area Partnership. Active in leaseholder and community associations. Previously active in

local politics and trade union representative.
Has served on the Standards Committee since
2008.

- 3.10 It is necessary for the appointment of Independent Members to be agreed by a majority of the total number of Members of the Council.
- 3.11 Two further positions on the Committee remain vacant and these will be the subject of a further report to the Council in due course.

4. PENSIONS COMMITTEE – CO-OPTED MEMBERS

Background

- 4.1 The guidance on the governance arrangements for Local Authority pension funds set down four basic principles against which practice is judged as follows:-
1. The management of the administration of benefits and strategic management of fund assets clearly rests with the main committee established by the appointing council;
 2. That representatives of participating LGPS employers, admitted bodies (other employers who have chosen to join the scheme) and scheme members (including pensioner and deferred members) are members of either the main committee or a secondary committee established to underpin its work;
 3. That where a secondary committee or panel has been established, the structure ensures effective communication across both levels; and
 4. That where a secondary committee or panel has been established, at least one seat on the main committee is allocated for a member from the secondary committee or panel.
- 4.2 On 22nd April 2009 the Council agreed, on the recommendation of the Constitution Working Party, to new arrangements for the Pensions Committee in order to comply with (2) above. The membership of the Committee was extended by the inclusion of two non-voting Co-opted Members, one representing the Admitted Bodies and the other representing the Trade Unions.

Nominations received

- 4.3 During 2010/11 the following representatives served on the Pensions Committee in these co-opted positions:-
- Mr Frank West: Trade Union representative (GMB)
 - Mr John Gray: Admitted Bodies representative (Circle Anglia)
- 4.4 Nominations have been sought for these positions in the current municipal year. Mr West and Mr Gray have once again been nominated by the constituent organisations and the Council is now recommended to agree their re-appointment to the Committee.

5. OBSERVATIONS OF THE CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER

- 5.1 The Council's Scheme of Members Allowances provides for an Independent Member of the Standards Committee to claim a co-optee's allowance of £117 for attendance at any meeting of the Committee or a conference or training event where attendance is on behalf of and authorised by the Council. An Independent Member may also claim travel and subsistence allowance under the scheme.
- 5.2 Any payments made under 5.1 above will be met from within the existing budget provision for Members' Allowances held by Democratic Services.

6. CONCURRENT REPORT OF THE CHIEF LEGAL OFFICER

- 6.1 The legal implications are included in the main body of this report.

7. IMPLICATIONS FOR ONE TOWER HAMLETS

- 7.1 The Independent members of the Standards Committee are drawn from a variety of communities represented within the borough. The Co-opted Members of the Pensions Committee provide representation for the range of scheme members.

8. ANTI-POVERTY IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 There are no anti-poverty implications arising from this report.

9. RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 The Standards Committee plays a key role in ensuring the adequacy of the Council's Governance arrangements and ethical and assurance framework. The Pensions Committee helps to ensure that the Council fulfils its obligations and duties under the Superannuation Act 1972 and the various statutory requirements in respect of investment matters.

10. SUSTAINABLE ACTION FOR A GREENER ENVIRONMENT (SAGE)

- 10.1 There are no SAGE implications arising from this report.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT, 2000 (SECTION 97)

LIST OF "BACKGROUND PAPERS" USED IN THE PREPARATION OF THIS REPORT

Brief description of "background paper"	Name and telephone number of holder and address where open to inspection
None.	

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LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

COUNCIL MEETING

WEDNESDAY 21ST SEPTEMBER 2011

ESTABLISHMENT OF INNER NORTH EAST LONDON STANDING JOINT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

REPORT OF THE SERVICE HEAD, DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

1. Summary

- 1.1 This report sets out proposals to establish a Standing Inner North East London Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee (JOSC) comprising of the London Borough of Tower Hamlets, Newham, Hackney and the City of London; and proposes that the Council agree the establishment of the JOSC and delegate to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee authority to appoint Tower Hamlets' representatives to the Joint Committee.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 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 attached Terms of Reference (Appendix A) and Procedure Rules (Appendix B).
- 2.2 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.
- 2.3 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.

3. Background

- 3.1 The Local Authority (Overview and Scrutiny Committee Health Scrutiny Functions) Regulations 2002 give local authorities the power to establish joint overview and scrutiny committees with general or specific health-related functions. The Secretary of State may make a direction under Regulation 10 requiring local authorities in certain circumstances to establish such a joint committee.
- 3.2 On 27th July 2003 the Secretary of State issued a Regulation 10 Direction requiring that local authorities of those areas where a substantial variation or development to health services covers more than one area establish a Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee. Only the joint committee may then report back and the NHS need only report to and attend the joint committee.
- 3.3 There are a number of NHS consultations currently affecting the Inner North-East London sub-region which could require the establishment of a Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee (JOSC) under the 17th July 2003 Regulation 10 Direction a standing JOSC is therefore proposed to undertake scrutiny and respond to these as required.

4. Previous ad hoc Joint O&S Committees

- 4.1 Tower Hamlets has previously participated in a number of ad hoc Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committees which have been established to consider particular NHS service change consultations, most recently the Inner North East London (INEL) Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee which looked at the Health for North East London proposals for change to acute services. The Council was also previously involved in a pan-London Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee looking at Stroke and Trauma services.

5. Current and forthcoming issues

- 5.1 There are a number of current issues affecting the Inner North-East London sub-region. At present there are NHS consultations around proposed changes to mental health in-patient services and to London cancer services. In addition a consultation is proposed on changes to IVF services.
- 5.2 These consultations could each require the establishment of a JOSC under the 2003 Secretary of State Regulation 10 Direction mentioned above, and the Primary Care Trusts have requested that the Inner North-East London authorities consider forming a standing joint committee that would meet as required to consider sector based proposals for service changes or developments.

- 5.3 In April 2011, the 3 Primary Care Trusts covering inner north east London (NHS Newham, NHS Tower Hamlets and NHS City and Hackney) joined together in order to achieve the significant savings in management costs that the Government required them to make.
- 5.4 There are currently proposals to merge three of the four acute trusts within the East London region (Newham, Whipps Cross and Barts and the Royal London), with this merger due to take place in early 2012.
- 5.5 There is a trend of centralising highly specialised health services in fewer centres which means that residents may be treated away from their local acute or primary care providers more frequently. This will increasingly mean that local authorities across the region will need to come together and look collectively at health issues. The establishment of a standing joint committee will ensure that they are able to respond quickly to developments without having to formally establish a new Committee every time an issue arises.
- 5.6 Under current legislation the Secretary of State may require local authorities to meet jointly to consider consultations which substantially change services. A standing Inner North East London Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee could consider such consultations alongside any other work programme areas that participating boroughs consider appropriate.
- 5.7 Appendices A and B set out respectively the proposed draft Terms of Reference and Procedure Rules for the Joint Committee.

6. Comments of the Chief Finance Officer

- 6.1 Any costs arising from the establishment of the INEL JOSC, including occasional hosting by Tower Hamlets of meetings of the Joint Committee, are minimal and can be met from the existing budgets for Overview and Scrutiny and Democratic Services.

7. Concurrent report of the Chief Legal Officer

- 7.1 The report correctly refers to the power in the Local Authority (Overview and Scrutiny Committees Health Scrutiny Functions) Regulations 2002 for one or more local authorities to appoint a joint committee and arrange for that committee to exercise their functions to review and scrutinise matters relating to the planning, provision and operation of health services in the area of each local authority. The authorities may make the exercise of functions by the joint committee subject to such terms and conditions as they consider appropriate. A joint committee may not discharge any other functions than the health scrutiny functions the subject of the arrangements made by the authorities.

- 7.2 The joint committee will be subject to sections 21(6) to 21(15) of the Local Government Act 2000, in the same way as is the Council's own Overview and Scrutiny Committee. In this way, the joint committee may not include any member of the executive of one of the participating authorities. Those provisions also deal with: (1) the power to appointment sub-committees and the exercise of functions by those sub-committees; (2) the power to co-opt non-voting members; (3) the requirement to comply with the access to information provisions of Part VA of the Local Government Act 1972; (4) the duty to allocate seats according to the requirement for political balance; and (5) the power to require members and officers to attend and answer questions.
- 7.3 It is proposed that the Council should appoint 3 members to the joint committee and that each of the participating authorities should appoint up to this number. The setting of the number of members of the committee is a matter falling within the arrangements that the authorities may make (as specified in 7.1 above), but is also specifically permitted by section 102(2) of the Local Government Act 1972.
- 7.4 It is proposed that the Council delegate to the Council's own Overview and Scrutiny Committee its power to make appointments to the joint committee. This delegation is permissible pursuant to the power in section 101(1)(a) of the Local Government Act 1972.
- 7.5 Before establishing the joint committee, the Council is required under the Equality Act 2010 to have due regard to the need to avoid unlawful conduct under the Act, such as discrimination, the need to promote equality of opportunity and the need to promote good relations between those who share protected characteristics and those who do not. The Council may take the view that joint scrutiny of health functions will have a positive effect when judged against these requirements.

8. Implications for One Tower Hamlets

- 8.1 The proposed establishment of the Joint O&S Committee will ensure efficient scrutiny of any NHS consultations affecting the four Inner North-east London authorities to the benefit of all local communities.

9. Risk Management implications

- 9.1 There are no direct risk management implications arising from the recommendations in this report. The establishment of a JOSOC will ensure the requirements of the 2003 Direction are fulfilled and will mitigate any risk that the Council does not have sufficient time to respond and react to health developments.

10. Sustainable Action for a Greener Environment (SAGE)

10.1 There are no direct SAGE implications arising from the recommendations in this report.

11. Crime and Disorder Reduction Implications

11.1 There are no direct crime and disorder reduction implications arising from the recommendations in this report.

**Local Government Act, 1972 Section 100D (As amended)
List of “Background Papers” used in the preparation of this report**

Brief description of “background papers”	Name and telephone number of holder and address where open to inspection.
Health and Social Care Act 2001 - Directions to Local Authorities (Overview And Scrutiny Committees, Health Scrutiny Functions), issued 17 th July 2003.	John S. Williams Tel: 020 7364 4204 Mulberry Place, E14 2BG

JOINT HEALTH OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

**PROPOSED STANDING INNER NORTH EAST LONDON JOINT
OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

DRAFT TERMS OF REFERENCE

1. Consider and respond to any health matter which:
 - *Impacts on two or more participating authorities or on the sub region as a whole, and for which a response has been requested by NHS organisations under Section 244 of the NHS Act 2006, and*
 - *All 4 participating authorities agree to consider as an INEL JOSOC*
2. To constitute and meet as a Committee as and when participant boroughs agree to do so subject to the statutory public meeting notice period.

**Inner North East London Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee
(INEL JOSC)**

Proposed Committee Procedure Rules

1. Establishment

- 1.1. The establishment of the committee is for London boroughs: London Borough of Hackney, London Borough of Newham, London Borough of Tower Hamlets and the City of London Corporation. This is in accordance with s.245 of the NHS Act 2006 and the Local Authority (Overview and Scrutiny Committees Healthy Scrutiny Functions) Regulations 2002.

2. Chair

- 2.1. The INEL JOSC will elect the Chair and Vice Chair at the first formal meeting of the INEL JOSC. The preference is the Chair and the Vice Chair will be drawn from different participating authorities.
- 2.2. Members of the Committee interested in either post will provide a written submission to the Committee support officer a week before the first meeting.
- 2.3. The written submissions will be circulated to all the Members of the INEL JOSC and at the first meeting one Member will nominate for the position of Chair / Vice Chair and a second Member will second the nomination.
- 2.4. A vote (by show of hands) will follow and the results will be collated by the supporting Officer.
- 2.5. It is assumed that in addition to Chairing the meetings of the INEL JOSC the Chair and Vice Chair will act as the member steering group for the INEL JOSC.
- 2.6. The appointments of Chair and Vice Chair will be for a period of two municipal years, following which the JOSC will again elect a Chair and Vice-chair on the basis of the provisions contained in clauses 2.1 to 2.5 above. If the INEL JOSC wishes to or is required to change the appointed Chair or Vice Chair, an agenda item should be requested supported by three of the four constituent Authorities following which the appointments will be put to a vote.

3. Membership of Committee

- 3.1. London Borough of Hackney, London Borough of Newham and London Borough of Tower Hamlets will each nominate up to 3 members of the INEL JOSC. The City of London Corporation will nominate up to two members. Appointments will be until further notice. Individual boroughs may change appointees at any time (providing they have acted in accordance with their own procedure rules) but should inform the supporting officers of any such changes.
- 3.2. Political proportionality rules apply to this Committee and each participating Borough's nomination should represent the political proportionality of their Borough.

4. Co-optees

- 4.1. If the Committee chooses it can co-opt non-voting persons as it deems appropriate to the Committee.
- 4.2. Confirmed appointments of co-optees will be for a duration as determined by the JOSC.

5. Substitutions

- 5.1. Named substitutes may attend Committee meetings in lieu of nominated members. Continuity of attendance is strongly encouraged.
- 5.2. It will be the responsibility of individual committee members and their local authorities to arrange substitutions and to ensure the supporting officer is informed of any changes prior to the meeting.
- 5.3. Where a named substitute is attending the meeting, it will be the responsibility of the nominated member to brief them in advance of the meeting.

6. Quorum

- 6.1. The quorum of a meeting of the INEL JOSC will be the presence of a member from each of three of the four participating authorities. In an instance where only three authorities choose to participate in responding to a consultation, quorum will be the presence of a member from two of the three participating authorities. Where only two authorities choose to participate in a consultation, quorum will be the presence of a member from both authorities.

7. Voting

- 7.1. Members of the INEL JOSC should endeavour to reach a consensus of views. In the event that a vote is required, each member present will have one vote. In the event of there being an equality of votes the Chair of the meeting will have the casting vote.
- 7.2. Where the Committee has reviewed a topic or proposed service change and it wishes to make recommendations to a statutory health body, the Committee shall produce a single final report, agreed by consensus and reflecting the views of all the scrutiny committees involved.

8. INEL JOSC Role, Powers and Function

- 8.1. The INEL JOSC can co-operate with any other Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee, joint health overview and scrutiny committee or committee established by two or more local authorities within the greater London area.
- 8.2. INEL JOSC will have the same statutory scrutiny powers as an individual health overview and scrutiny committee that is:
 - accessing information requested
 - requiring members, officers or partners to attend and answer questions
 - making reports or recommendations to any NHS body or unitary authority with social care responsibility.
- 8.3. Efforts will be made to avoid duplication. The individual health overview and scrutiny committees of individual authorities shall endeavour not to replicate any work undertaken by the INEL JOSC. All scrutiny statutory powers for that topic being reviewed will be transferred to the INEL JOSC.

9. Support

- 9.1. The lead administrative and research support will be provided by the Health Scrutiny officer from the London Borough of Hackney with assistance as required from the officers of the participating borough.
- 9.2. Meetings of the JOSC will be rotated between participating authorities as agreed by the JOSC. The host authority for each meeting of the INEL JOSC will be responsible for arranging appropriate meeting rooms; ensuring that refreshments are available providing spare copies of agenda papers on the day of the meeting; and producing minutes of the meeting within five working days.

- 9.3. Each authority will identify a key point of contact for all arrangements and Statutory Scrutiny Officers are at all times to be kept abreast of arrangements for the JOSC.

10. Meetings

- 10.1. Meetings of the INEL JOSC will be held in public unless the public is excluded by resolution under section 100a (4) Local Government Act 1972 / 2000 and will take place at venues in one of the four INEL authorities. Accessibility issues may mean that locations in the authorities main Council Office i.e. Council Chamber would be the preferred option.
- 10.2. However, there may be occasions on which the INEL JOSC may need to hold site visits outside of the formal Committee meeting setting. Arrangements for these site visits will be made by the officers nominated to support the INEL JOSC with assistance from the officers of the borough being visited.
- 10.3. A written record of information from any site visit undertaken will be made for noting purposes for the INEL JOSC.

11. Agenda

- 11.1. The agenda will be prepared by the officer supporting the INEL JOSC guided by the Chair. The officer will send, by email, the agenda to all members of the INEL JOSC, the Statutory Scrutiny Officers and their support officers.
- 11.2. It will then be the responsibility of each borough to:
- publish official notice of the meeting
 - put the agenda on public deposit
 - make the agenda available on their Council website; and
 - make copies of the agenda papers available locally to other Members and officers of that Authority and stakeholder groups as they feel appropriate.

12. Local Overview and Scrutiny Committees

- 12.1. The INEL JOSC will invite participating authority's health overview and scrutiny committees and other partners to make known their views on the proposal(s) or review(s) being conducted.
- 12.2. The INEL JOSC will consider those views in making its conclusions and comments on the proposals outlined or reviews

13. Representations

- 13.1. The INEL JOSC will identify and invite witnesses to address the committee and may wish to undertake consultation with a range of stakeholders. However as a general principle the committee will consider any written or verbal submissions from individual members of the public and interest groups that represent geographical areas in Inner North East London that are contained within one of the participating local authority areas.
- 13.2. The INEL JOSC will specifically request that the NHS bodies conducting consultations consider reviews undertaken by participating Borough's Overview and Scrutiny Committees. Summaries of the key points from these submissions will be appended to the INEL JOSC's final report for submission to the consulting NHS body decision making board.

14. Timescale

- 14.1. This Inner North East London Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (INEL JOSC) is constituted until further notice and insofar as it continues to have the support of the constituent participating authorities. It may be dissolved upon agreement of the participating authorities.

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LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

COUNCIL MEETING

WEDNESDAY 21ST SEPTEMBER 2011

REVIEW OF PROPORTIONALITY AND ALLOCATION OF PLACES ON COMMITTEES AND PANELS OF THE COUNCIL

REPORT OF THE SERVICE HEAD, DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 A change in the political composition of the Council occurred on 28th July 2011 when Councillor Md. Maium Miah notified the Chief Executive for the purposes of the Local Government & Housing Act 1989 ('the 1989 Act') that he was no longer a member of the Conservative Group on the Council and would henceforth serve as an independent Councillor.
- 1.2 Consequent on this change the Council must review the allocation of places on Committees and other bodies covered by the proportionality requirements in the 1989 Act.
- 1.3 The proposed new allocations are set out overleaf. The only change from the allocations agreed at the Annual Council meeting in May 2011 is a reduction of one member in the Conservative Group representation on the Licensing Committee.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That the review of proportionality at paragraph 3 overleaf 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.
- 2.2 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).
- 2.3 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

3. REVIEW OF PROPORTIONALITY

3.1 Section 15(i) of the 1989 Act requires the Council as soon as practicable after a change in the political composition to carry out a review to determine the allocation to the political groups of seats on the committees/panels of the Council. The principles which must be adopted are:

- (i) that in relation to each body covered by the Act, all seats are not allocated to the same political group;
- (ii) that the majority of seats on each body must go to the political group with the majority on the Council;
- (iii) that subject to (i) and (ii) the number of seats on the total of all the ordinary committees/panels of the authority allocated to each group bears the same proportion as that group's proportion of the seats on the full Council; and
- (iv) that subject to the above three principles, the number of seats on each ordinary committee/panel of the authority allocated to each political group bears the same proportion as that group's proportion of the seats on the full Council.

3.2 Once the political groups have been allocated their places in accordance with the above rules, the Council may appoint ungrouped members to any remaining positions.

3.3 Neither the Cabinet and its executive sub-groups; nor the Standards Committee are covered by the requirement for proportionality.

3.3 Following the changes described in Paragraph 1 to this report, the political composition of the Council is now as follows:

Group	seats	%
Labour	32	62.74
Conservative	7	13.73
Respect	2	3.92
(Ungrouped*)	10	
Total	51	

* NB: For the purposes of the 1989 Act an individual Councillor cannot constitute a political group. The 'ungrouped' category above therefore includes Councillor Stephanie Eaton (Liberal Democrat) as well as the nine 'independent' Councillors.

4. ALLOCATION OF PLACES ON COMMITTEES

4.1 The committees and panels established by the Council for the municipal year 2011/12 are listed below. There are a total of 80 places on these committees and panels. Seats will now be allocated to the political groups in proportion to their numbers on the full Council as follows:-

Labour: 51 places
 Conservative: 11 places
 Respect: 3 places

4.2 The remaining 15 places are available for ungrouped members. Applying the principles in the Act as closely as is reasonably practicable the proposed allocation of places on the committees and panels for the remainder of the municipal year is as follows:-

(a) Committees/panels covered by the requirement for proportionality

Committee	Total	Labour	Conser- vative	Respect	Un- grouped
Overview & Scrutiny Committee (plus 6 co-optees)	9	6	1	1	1
Health Scrutiny Panel	7	5	1		1
Appeals Committee	7	4	1	1	1
Audit Committee	7	4	1		2
Development Committee	7	5	1		1
Strategic Development Committee	7	5	1		1
General Purposes Committee	7	4	1		2
Human Resources Committee	7	4	1		2
Licensing Committee	15	10	2	1	2
Pensions Committee	7	4	1		2

(b) Committee not covered by the requirement for proportionality

Committee	Total	Labour	Conser- vative	Respect	Un- grouped
Standards Committee (plus 9 Independent (non-Councillor) Members)	6	3	2	1	-

4.4 Each political group is invited to submit nominations to the positions allocated to that group and the Constitution provides for the Assistant Chief Executive then to agree appointments to committees/panels in accordance with the

nomination of the political group to which a position has been allocated by the Council.

5. CONCURRENT REPORT OF THE ASSISTANT CHIEF EXECUTIVE (LEGAL)

5.1 The legal position is set out in the main body of the report.

6. COMMENTS OF THE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

6.1 There are no direct financial considerations arising from this report.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT, 1972 SECTION 100D (AS AMENDED)

LIST OF "BACKGROUND PAPERS" USED IN THE PREPARATION OF THIS REPORT

Brief description of background papers:	Name and telephone number of holder and address where open to inspection
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- None

LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

COUNCIL MEETING

21ST SEPTEMBER 2011

APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVES TO LONDON COUNCILS COMMITTEES AND FORUMS

REPORT OF THE SERVICE HEAD, DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report recommends that the Council agree to appointments being made to committees and forums of London Councils by the Mayor, as listed on the attached schedule.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That the Council agree that the appointment of the authority's representatives to the various committees and forums of London Councils, as listed in Appendix A to this report, be made by the Mayor.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 At the Annual Council Meeting on 18th May 2011, the Council noted a number of appointments made by the Mayor of Councillors to serve as Tower Hamlets' representatives on the various committees and forums of London Councils.
- 3.2 Pursuant to the changes in Cabinet appointments made since the Annual Council Meeting, there is a need to amend some of the nominations to the London Councils committees and forums.
- 3.3 Subsequent to the item referred to at 3.1 above, the Council agreed new arrangements for making appointments to outside bodies. These are now the responsibility of the Council, except in cases where the outside body has requested that the nominee be a Cabinet member and with the agreement of the Council, when the appointment shall be made by the Mayor.

- 3.4 In the case of the London Councils committees and forums, London Council has advised authorities that the appointments shall preferably be the relevant Cabinet/Lead Member in each case. In relation to the Grants Committee, it is a legal requirement that the nominee and any deputies are Executive Members.
- 3.5 The Council is therefore recommended to agree that appointments to the London Councils committees and forums, as listed at Appendix A, attached, shall be made by the Mayor.

4. LONDON COUNCILS

- 4.1 London Councils plays a unique role in London Government. It is part think-tank and part lobbying organisation and has also established a number of pan-London bodies and cross-borough partnerships which contribute to the overall governance of London.
- 4.2 London Councils also works with and funds voluntary groups across London to tackle a wide range of problems, including economic and social disadvantage and the promotion of social inclusion, as well as improving the lives of people who live, work in and visit London.
- 4.3 In addition London Councils delivers a range of transport-related services on behalf of London's boroughs, including the Freedom Pass and the Taxi Card Schemes; provides a specialist housing advice and research analysis service on behalf of subscribing boroughs; and acts as the employers' organisation for the 32 London boroughs.
- 4.4 London Councils' main policy committee is the Leaders' and Mayors' Committee, which comprises Leaders and Executive Mayors drawn from all London boroughs including Tower Hamlets. To aid its work the organisation has also established a number of committees and forums covering specific policy and service areas. Each committee/forum reflects the overall political balance of London Councils. The London Councils Executive is not directly appointed by the boroughs but nominations to it come from the party groups. The arrangements for appointment to the London Councils member structures this year remain largely unchanged from 2010/11.

APPENDIX A

LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

NOMINATIONS TO LONDON COUNCILS COMMITTEES/FORUMS 2011/12

Committees	Nominations sought and any guidance provided by London Councils
Leaders' and Mayors' Committee (s101 Joint Committee) & London Councils Limited.	One voting member (usually the Mayor) plus up to two named deputies.
Transport and Environment Committee (Associated Joint Committee)	One voting member (usually the lead member for transport or environment) plus up to four named deputies.
Grants Committee (Associated Joint Committee)	One voting member (preferably the lead member for partnerships and/or the voluntary sector) plus up to four named deputies. NB: Both the voting member and all of the deputies must be members of the Council's Cabinet.
Greater London Provincial Council	No direct nominations - GLPC Employers' Side comprises 15 members nominated from the combined membership of the Leaders' and Mayors' Committee and the Greater London Employment Forum)
Forums	(Nominees will usually be the lead member in the relevant area. Appointment of officer positions are made by the Leaders' and Mayors' Committee)
Health and Adult Services Forum	One member (normally the lead member for health/social services) plus one named deputy.
Housing Forum	One member (normally the lead member for housing) plus one named deputy.
Culture, Tourism and 2012 Forum	One member (normally the lead member for culture, sport or 2012) plus one named deputy.

Crime and Public Protection Forum	One member (normally the lead member for community safety) plus one named deputy.
Economic Development Forum	One member (normally the lead member for regeneration/economic development) plus one named deputy.
Children and Young People Forum	One member (normally the lead member for children's services) plus one named deputy.
Greater London Employment Forum	One member (normally the member responsible for human resources issues) plus one named deputy.
Lead Members	Lead Members for Equalities, Improvement and Sustainability are appointed by the Leaders' and Mayors' Committee. These are not nominated directly by boroughs but appointed from candidates put forward by the party groups at London Councils.

LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS
COUNCIL MEETING
WEDNESDAY 21ST SEPTEMBER 2011
APPOINTMENT OF INTERIM CHIEF EXECUTIVE
REPORT OF MONITORING OFFICER

Summary

1. This report requests the Council to confirm the appointment of an Interim Chief Executive (Head of the Paid Service) as required by section 4 of the Local Government and Housing Act, 1989, following the resignation of Dr Kevan Collins from the post of Chief Executive.

Recommendation

2. The Council is recommended to confirm the appointment of Aman Dalvi, currently Corporate Director, Development and Renewal, as Interim Chief Executive (Head of the Paid Service) with effect from 26th September 2011.

Background

3. As Members are aware the Chief Executive will be leaving the authority's service in the near future to take up a national role as the first Chief Executive of the Education Endowment Foundation. The provisions of Section 4 of the Local Government and Housing Act, 1989 require every relevant authority to "designate one of their officers as Head of the Paid Service". The Chief Executive is currently the Head of the Paid Service.
4. The Mayor has announced the appointment of Aman Dalvi, Corporate Director, Development and Renewal, to undertake the role of Chief Executive on an interim basis.

Comments of the Assistant Chief Executive (Legal Services)

5. The statutory duty to designate a Head of Paid Service is referred to in paragraph 3 above. Additionally Article 12 of the Council's Constitution at

paragraph 12.01 (c) provides that the Council has designated the officer holding the post of Chief Executive to be Head of the Paid Service.

Comments of the Chief Financial Officer

7. All proposals set out within the report can be managed within existing budgets.

LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

COUNCIL MEETING

WEDNESDAY 21st SEPTEMBER 2011

**MOTIONS SUBMITTED BY
MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL**

**REPORT OF THE SERVICE HEAD,
DEMOCRATIC SERVICES**

SUMMARY

1. Nineteen motions have been submitted by Members of the Council under Council Procedure Rule 13 for debate at the Council meeting on Wednesday 21st September 2011.
2. In accordance with the protocol agreed by the Council on 21st May 2008, the order in which the motions are listed is by turns, one from each group, continuing in rotation until all motions submitted are included. The rotation starts with any group(s) not reached at the previous meeting.
3. Motions must be about matters for which the Council has a responsibility or which affect the Borough. A motion may not be moved which is substantially the same as a motion which has been put at a meeting of the Council in the previous six months; or which proposes that a decision of the Council taken in the previous six months be rescinded; unless notice of the motion is given signed by at least twenty Members.
4. There is no specific duration set for this agenda item and consideration of the attached motions may continue until the time limit for the meeting is reached. The guillotine procedure at Council Procedure Rule 9.2 does not apply to motions on notice and any of the attached motions which have not been put to the vote when the time limit for the meeting is reached will be deemed to have fallen. A motion which is not put to the vote at the current meeting may be resubmitted for the next meeting but is not automatically carried forward.

MOTIONS

Set out overleaf are the motions that have been submitted.

12.1 August Disturbances

Proposer: Councillor Zara Davis

Seconded: Councillor Tim Archer

This Council:

- condemns the violence and looting that took place in Tower Hamlets on 8th August, including on the Isle of Dogs, in Bethnal Green and in Bow;
- recognises that the disturbances were the result of pure criminality;
- applauds the policemen and women, including volunteer special constables, who worked long shifts to protect our residents and our streets.

This Council welcomes:

- The Conservative-led Government's £20 million High Street Support Scheme which is aimed at streets where businesses suffered most during the disturbances;
- The business rate relief being provided by the Government to those businesses affected by the violence and looting;
- The Mayor of London's £50 million recovery package to make long term improvements to town centres and high streets damaged in the disturbances;
- The High Street Fund of £4 million, which was kick-started by the Mayor of London with funding of £500k to provide grants to small businesses directly affected by the riots through looting or damage.

This Council resolves:

- to enter discussions with the Government and the Mayor of London's office to secure recovery and regeneration funds for the businesses and areas in Tower Hamlets affected by the disturbances;
- to sign up to the 'Borough Beat' scheme whereby Local Authorities allow their employees to become Special Constables and have time off work to undertake their training and duties as volunteer police officers.

12.2 Zero tolerance for Sex Entertainment Venues

Proposer: Councillor Fozol Miah

Seconder: Councillor Harun Miah

This Council notes that:

- a) there are 11 so-called Sex Entertainment lap dancing clubs currently licensed within the borough of Tower Hamlets
- b) there are more Sex Entertainment Venues on the borders of Tower Hamlets, especially in the area known as the Shoreditch triangle
- c) the previous Labour government passed legislation giving councils greater powers to control the spread of Sex Entertainment Venues and to revoke the licences of such venues after a campaign by many people including the former Respect MP George Galloway and Respect councillors in Tower Hamlets and residents in this borough

This Council believes:

- a) so-called Sex Entertainment Venues degrade and denigrate women, turning them into sex objects for exploitation
- b) Sex Entertainment Venues encourage anti-social behaviour
- c) Sex Entertainment Venues in Tower Hamlets are largely used by those coming into the borough and in particular people coming from the City of London which has refused to licence such venues within the City of London
- d) the current consultation process will confirm that the overwhelming majority of residents in this borough do not want these Sex Entertainment Venues in or near Tower Hamlets
- e) therefore the Council should act swiftly upon the conclusion of the consultation process to revoke the licenses of all Sex Entertainment Venues where it is legal to do so and to refuse further licences
- f) the Council should contact neighbouring councils to encourage them to act similarly to remove the scourge of these Sex Entertainment Venues from East London.

12.3 English Defence League

Proposer: Councillor Joshua Peck

Seconder: Councillor Rachael Saunders

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

12.4 Park Events

Proposer: Councillor David Snowdon
Seconder: Councillor Zara Davis

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.

12.5 The Government's disastrous cuts

Proposer: Councillor Harun Miah

Seconder: Councillor Fozol Miah

This Council notes that:

- a) many advanced industrialised economies are slipping back towards very low economic growth and maybe even into a so-called "double-dip" recession
- b) the fall in growth in many economies, including Britain's, currently stems from private individuals and private sector businesses cutting spending in order to reduce their indebtedness
- c) the fall in growth is occurring despite very low interest rates, very low government borrowing costs as a result and despite repeated attempts to reflate the economy through printing money (quantitative easing)
- d) the growth in government debt in many economies, including Britain's, is not the product of profligate spending by previous governments, including the Labour government, but because of falling tax revenues and rising spending that is a consequence of lower growth and recession
- e) despite low borrowing costs and lower growth, the Condem government is imposing yet further swingeing cuts on the London borough of Tower Hamlets to the tune now of £100 million

This Council believes that:

- a) the cuts being imposed by this government on Tower Hamlets and elsewhere are not only immoral, denying jobs and services to the hose least able to secure jobs and necessary services, but completely counter-productive, cutting growth and thereby further exacerbating the government's budget deficit
- b) the best way to stimulate the economy and raise growth is not by cutting taxes for the rich as the Tories would like, but through government spending and investment
- c) increased government spending will lead to a rise in employment and therefore tax revenues thereby cutting the government's budget deficit
- d) there is no evidence the government will suffer an interest rate penalty from the bond markets by increasing spending at this time
- e) the Mayor should lead a campaign attacking the government for its completely unjust and counter-productive spending cuts, particularly on this most impoverished of boroughs and demand either a reversal of those policies and that councils like Tower Hamlets should have the right to raise money themselves in the bond markets in order to generate jobs and provide essential services

12.6 Sex Establishments

Proposer: Councillor Rachael Saunders

Secunder: Councillor Helal Abbas

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.

12.7 London Permit Scheme

Proposer: Councillor Tim Archer

Seconder: Councillor Zara Davis

This Council notes that:

Boris Johnson introduced the London Permit Scheme for road works and street works in January 2010

Fifteen boroughs, the City of London and TfL have participated in the scheme from the outset

A further nine boroughs have since joined the London Permit Scheme, Greenwich has joined and two more intend to join shortly

The first year evaluation report on the permit scheme has shown that it is a success

The total of number of works undertaken by utility companies has reduced by 17% in the permitting authorities, compared to only 7% in non-permitting authorities

The number of collaborative work sites, where utility companies and the highway authority undertake works on the same road at the same time has increased by 130% in permitting authorities, thereby enormously reducing the number of times that the same stretch of road is dug up

The number of days of disruption saved through joint working and collaboration increased from 726 days in 2009 to 1793 days in 2010, i.e. an increase of 147%.

The Council resolves to:

Join the London Permit Scheme as soon as possible to ensure that residents in Tower Hamlets can benefit from a reduced number of road works and reduced disruption to their journeys

12.8 Neighbourhood Policing

Proposer: Councillor Kosru Uddin

Seconder: Councillor Joshua Peck

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.

12.9 Reduction in size of Council

Proposer: Councillor Peter Golds

Seconder: Councillor Craig Aston

This Council notes that with the introduction of the Executive Mayor the role of councillors has changed.

That as a result of operating under an Executive Mayor the Unitary Borough of Hartlepool will be reduced in size from 48 to 33 members from May 2012.

The London Borough of Lewisham has a smaller number of councillors compared to London boroughs with a similar population due to the Mayoral system and that Hammersmith likewise has a reduced council membership, although not proceeding to function with an Executive Mayor.

The London Boroughs of Bromley and Redbridge, although working under the Cabinet system are seeking to reduce council membership to streamline their operation and save money.

Therefore, this Council calls upon the Local Government Boundary Commission for England to review the membership of Tower Hamlets Council and reduce numbers of councillors to reflect the change of duties of councillors following the introduction of the Mayoral system of management.

12.10 Tower Hamlets Homes – Options Appraisal

Proposer: Councillor Marc Francis

Seconder: Councillor Sirajul Islam

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.

12.11 English Defence League

Proposer: Councillor Kabir Ahmed

Seconder: Councillor Alibor Choudhury

This Council notes:

- That the English Defence League (EDL) held a static protest in the square mile on Saturday 3 September
- That the EDL's proposal for a march through the borough was banned by the Home Secretary on application from the Metropolitan Police
- That this decision to ban the march followed a long and hard-fought campaign led by the Mayor, councillors, community activists and local organisations, including a unanimous vote of this Council
- That hundreds of local young people took an active part in stewarding the day's events and played a key role in keeping the peace. Whilst there were no arrests of local residents during the demonstrations, a large number of EDL activists were arrested
- The comments from Adrian Tudway, Scotland Yard's National Coordinator for Domestic Extremism, that EDL were not an extremist organisation

This Council believes:

- That the EDL is a racist and extremist organisation
- That the Mayor and Council were right to pursue a ban on a march by the EDL, and that the Home Secretary's ban on the march was the right decision
- That local people conducted themselves admirably when under this terrible threat
- That the police performed extremely well in difficult circumstances, and were instrumental in ensuring that the borough was free from outbreaks of serious violence, fighting and related disorder
- That the Government's Prevent strategy needs to be reviewed to address the threat of far-right extremism

This Council resolves:

- To thank the Home Secretary for listening to the community and introducing the ban on the EDL.
- To thank the Police for their valiant efforts in defending this borough and its community.

- To thank all the community leaders, trade unionists, faith groups, anti-racist campaigners, politicians and business leaders who all came together to support our endeavour to stop the EDL.
- To thank our young people for the positive role and discipline they displayed throughout the day.
- To call on the Metropolitan Police to reclassify the EDL as an extremist organisation.
- To call on the Home Secretary to ban any further proposed 'static demonstrations' which incite racial hatred
- To call on the Home Secretary to review the Government's Prevent strategy so that it recognises and addresses the threat of far-right extremism

12.12 Olympic Route Network

Proposer: Councillor Denise Jones

Seconder: Councillor Lesley Pavitt

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.

12.13 Housing

Proposer: Councillor Rabina Khan

Seconded: Councillor Shahed Ali

This Council notes:

- The housing charity Crisis report a 10% increase in homelessness in the last year, and predict a further increase in the coming year due to government failure to invest in social housing, cuts to housing benefits and the economic downturn.
- There are an estimated 630,000 "hidden homeless" in London – families forced to squeeze into one room rather than a flat.
- Average rents in the private sector are now over £1,000; those on low wages are spending over 70% of their salaries on rent.
- LBTH builds more council housing than any other authority in the country.

This Council believes:

- Government failure on housing is further compounded by the ineffectiveness of London Mayor Boris Johnson. His latest proposals fail to deliver on providing social housing for the hundreds of thousands of low income households trapped on the waiting lists.
- The Government needs to reverse housing benefit cuts, introduce greater control on exploitative landlords, and make greater investment in council house building programmes.

This Council resolves:

- To support the Mayor's pledge to build 4000 new houses, especially family-sized affordable houses
- To support campaigning work with housing charities and other local authorities to this end.

12.14 Fairtrade

Proposer: Councillor Carlo Gibbs

Seconded: Councillor Anwar Khan

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.

12.15 The riots and youth provision

Proposer: Councillor Oliur Rahman

Seconder: Councillor Ohid Ahmed

This meeting notes:

- That the cost to London alone for the recent riots will be over £75 million.
- That police have so far arrested 2,333 people, 513 of whom are under 18.
- That Tower Hamlets saw some disturbances but these were not on the scale of the incidents that took place in other boroughs
- That two-thirds of all those arrested live in neighbourhoods with below-average income, and only 3 per cent hail from the wealthiest 20 per cent of areas.
- That Government plans to cut 16,000 police officers.
- That there have been no cuts to youth provision in Tower Hamlets.

This meeting believes:

- That there should be a full independent commission of inquiry into the events of 6-10 August, and their causes.
- That while the causes of the riots are multi-faceted; cuts to policing and youth provision are counter-productive in minimising the likelihood of any repeat of rioting.
- That London Mayor Boris Johnson's criticisms of the government about police cuts are disingenuous in view of the fact Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary state there will be 1,907 fewer officers over the next three to four years as a result of the Mayor's proposed budget and plans.

This meeting resolves:

- To write to Mayor Johnson urging him to rescind cuts to the Metropolitan Police.
- To write to Government demanding a full independent commission of inquiry into the events of 6-10 August and their causes
- To support current Council policy to continue protecting front-line youth provision from cuts.

12.16 Enterprise

Proposer: Councillor David Edgar

Seconder: Councillor Rachael Saunders

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.

12.17 Education results

Proposer: Councillor Abdul Asad

Seconder: Councillor Kabir Ahmed

This Council notes:

- That local pupils achieved the best GCSE results the borough has ever seen
- That 61.6 per cent of youngsters achieved at least five A* to C passes including English and Maths
- That this tops the national average of 54 per cent last year and is almost double the figure of 34% in 2005/6
- That figures for A* to C grades in any subject have also hit an all-time high in Tower Hamlets, at 82 per cent.
- That this is nearly double the percentage of pupils who achieved the equivalent in 2002.

This Council believes:

- That these results reflect the outstanding efforts and abilities of our pupils as well as the unrelenting hard work of our talented teachers and school staff, and they all deserve profound congratulations on their achievements
- That to reach such astounding heights in attainment would not have been possible were it not for the strong partnership between our close family of schools and the local authority

This Council resolves:

- To continue to put our young people first, and build on these achievements by aiming even higher next year and thereafter
- To cherish our fruitful partnership with our family of schools, despite the central government narrative which seeks to devalue this with the advent of academies and free schools
- To work closely with all of our schools, whatever their constitution, and refuse to put politics above the ultimate imperative of our children's' education

12.18 National Anti-Slavery Day

Proposer: Councillor Lutfu Begum

Seconder: Councillor Rania Khan

This meeting notes:

- That October 18th 2011 is National Anti-Slavery Day.
- That despite the abolition of slavery over 200 years ago, modern forms of trading in human beings continue, whether for sexual exploitation, forced labour, domestic slavery or organised crime.
- That in the UK many thousands of individuals are bought and sold as commodities and forced into modern-day slavery.

This Council believes:

- That National Anti-Slavery Day can play an important role in raising awareness and opposition to human trafficking and modern-day slavery.
- That schools should be encouraged to incorporate the topic into their curricula to raise awareness among students.
- That the efforts made by individuals, business, organisations, the police, government and educational institutions to promote the observance of an Anti-Slavery Day each year represent the ongoing commitment in the UK to raise awareness of human trafficking and to oppose such trafficking actively.

This Council resolves:

- To express its support for the work that ECPAT UK (End Child Prostitution, Child Pornography and the Trafficking of Children for Sexual Purposes) is doing around the UK to promote the rights of children and for the measures the organisation is taking to protect them from commercial and sexual exploitation and abuse.
- To acknowledge the potential impact of the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games on trafficking, in the context of a possible increase of people entering the UK due to human trafficking.

12.19 Tower Hamlets' Bid for City Status

Proposer: Councillor Rania Khan

Secunder: Councillor Md. Maium Miah

This Council notes:

- That the Government has announced a competition for local authorities to bid for city-status
- The ultimate award of city-status to the successful local authority will mark HM The Queen's Diamond Jubilee, in 2012
- The London Borough of Tower Hamlets is one of a number of local authorities to have submitted a bid for city-status
- That the borough's bid for city-status is being supported by the major financial institutions in Canary Wharf, the Tower of London, the City of London corporation and celebrities including England international football star Ledley King, among other notable dignitaries/institutions

This Council believes:

- That the borough's rich cultural history and diverse and cohesive community make it uniquely placed as a contender for city-status
- That the borough's status as the second largest financial centre in Europe further adds to its potential as a future city
- That city-status would boost the borough's prestige, attract more tourism and have a positive impact on the future of this deprived East London borough

This Council resolves:

- To give its wholehearted support to the London Borough of Tower Hamlets' bid for city-status in HM The Queen's Diamond Jubilee

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