

## **DIRECTIONS UNDER SECTION 15(5) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1999 TO THE COUNCIL OF THE LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS 2015 (2)**

### **WHEREAS**

1. The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (“the Secretary of State”) has carefully considered the following in respect of the council of the London Borough of Tower Hamlets (“the Authority”):

a. the report of the Best Value inspection of the London Borough of Tower Hamlets by PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP of 16 October 2014 (“the PwC report”) published and given to the Authority on 4 November 2014;

b. the representations made to him on 18 November 2014 by the Authority on the PwC report and on the proposed Directions;

c. PwC’s response to representations from the Authority on PwC’s report, received 8 December 2014;

d. representations made by the Authority on PwC’s response to representations from the Authority on PwC’s report, received 10 December 2014;

e. Directions under section 15(5) and (6) of the Local Government Act 1999 to the council of the London Borough of Tower Hamlets 2014, issued 17 December 2014;

f. Directions under section 15(5) of the Local Government Act 1999 to the council of the London Borough of Tower Hamlets 2015, issued 29 April 2015;

g. the Judgment of the Election Court regarding the election Petition brought under s 127 of the Representation of the People Act 1983 (‘the 1983 Act’) in respect of the election for the Mayor of the London Borough of Tower Hamlets held on 22 May 2014 (“the Judgment”), dated 23 April 2015;

h. the facts and matters reported by the Commissioners as set out in the letter from Paul Rowsell to the Authority, dated 29 April 2015 (second letter); and,

i. representations made by the Authority on the facts and matters reported by the Commissioners as set out in the letter from Paul Rowsell to the Authority, dated 29 April 2015 (second letter), and on the proposed directions, from the Head of Paid Service and Corporate Director Communities, Localities and Culture, the Executive Cabinet, the Leader of Tower Hamlets Labour Group, and the Leader of Tower Hamlets Conservative Group, received 6 May 2015.

2. The Secretary of State remains satisfied that the Authority is failing to comply with the requirements of Part I of the Local Government Act 1999 (“the 1999 Act”).

3. The Secretary of State, having considered the representations made by the Authority as required by section 15(9) of the 1999 Act, considers it both necessary and expedient, in accordance with his powers under section 15(5) of the 1999 Act, to direct the Authority as set out below in order to secure the Authority's compliance with the requirements of Part 1 of the 1999 Act, including the specific requirements of the Directions under section 15(5) and (6) of the 1999 Act issued on 17 December 2014 and the Directions under section 15(5) of the 1999 Act issued on 29 April 2015.

**NOW THEREFORE**

4. Pursuant to his powers under section 15(5) of the 1999 Act, the Secretary of State directs the Authority to take the actions set out in the Annex to these Directions.

5. These Directions remain in force until 31 October 2015 or such earlier date as the Secretary of State may decide.

Signed on behalf of the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "P. Rowsell". The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined with a single horizontal stroke.

Paul Rowsell

A Senior Civil Servant in the Department for Communities and Local Government

Date: 6 May 2015

**ACTION THE AUTHORITY IS REQUIRED TO TAKE**

In this Annex “Authority” shall have the same meaning as in Annex A of the Directions of 17 December 2014.

The actions to be taken by the Authority are:

- 1 To undertake in the exercise of any of its functions any action that the Commissioners may reasonably require
  - a. to ensure compliance with the Directions of 17 December 2014 and 29 April 2015, or
  - b. to avoid so far as practicable incidents of poor governance or financial mismanagement that would, in the reasonable opinion of the Commissioners, give rise to the risk of further failures by the Authority to comply with the best value duty.
- 2 To provide the Commissioners, at the expense of the Authority, with such reasonable amenities and services and administrative support as the Commissioners may reasonably require from time to time to carry out their functions and responsibilities under these Directions.