

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

**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. letter from Stephen Halsey to the Secretary of State dated 17 March 2015 regarding Direction A1 and enclosed Best Value Strategy and Action Plan;
- g. letter from the Commissioners to the Secretary of State regarding the appointment of a permanent Head of Paid Service dated 18 March 2015; and
- h. representations made by the Authority on the proposed further Directions from Lutfur Rahman and the Chair of the Human Resources Committee, received 13 April 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.

**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.

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 with a long horizontal stroke underneath the name.

Paul Rowsell

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

Date: 29 April 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 define and establish, within one month of the date of these Directions and with the agreement of the Commissioners, a new senior officer position, the holder of which is:
  - (a) to have direct or indirect line management responsibility for all the Authority's staff, other than political assistants appointed in pursuance of section 9 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989;
  - (b) to have delegated to him or her responsibility for exercising such functions as are agreed with the Commissioners; and
  - (c) to be designated as head of paid service under section 4(1) of the 1989 Act.
2. To undertake a recruitment exercise, to be conducted under the direction of, and to the satisfaction of, the Commissioners, with the aim of making a suitable permanent appointment to this new senior officer position within 3 months of it being established, subject to Annex A paragraph 4 to the Directions of 17 December 2014. For the avoidance of doubt the reference to a recruitment exercise is a reference to an open competition, and an existing employee of the Authority may apply and be appointed to the position through such a recruitment exercise, subject to Annex A paragraph 4 to the Directions of 17 December 2014.
3. 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.
4. Paragraphs 1 and 2 above replace paragraph 3 of Annex A to the Directions of 17 December 2014 insofar as that paragraph 3 relates to the recruitment to a post the holder of which is to be designated as the head of paid service.

