GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

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Tuesday, 26 February 2019 at 6.30 p.m.

ROOM C1, 1ST FLOOR, TOWN HALL, MULBERRY PLACE, 5 CLOVE CRESCENT, LONDON, E14 2BG

SUPPLEMENTAL AGENDA 1
Spitalfields CGR Updates

This meeting is open to the public to attend.

Contact for further enquiries: David Knight, Democratic Services 1st Floor, Town Hall, Mulberry Place, 5 Clove Crescent, E14 2BG Tel: 020 7364 4878 E-mail: david.knight@towerhamlets.gov.uk Web: http://www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/committee	Scan this code for an electronic agenda:

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London Borough of Tower Hamlets community governance review

Initial analysis and draft recommendations

Published 4 March 2019

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Introduction

Tower Hamlets Council received a valid petition on 23 July 2018 from 324 local residents requesting the creation of a new parish council, which they wished to be titled 'Spitalfields Town Council'. The boundaries of the parish proposed in the petition would sit within the two wards of Spitalfields & Banglatown and Weavers.

On receipt of a valid petition the council is required to carry out a community governance review under the provisions of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007. This review is considering whether a new parish should be created. The review covers the area proposed by the petitioners as well as adjacent areas. For the purposes of the review the council has defined adjacent areas as comprising the two wards of Spitalfields & Banglatown and Weavers. The parish boundaries proposed by the petitioners falls within these two wards.

The revised terms of reference for the review extending the phase 2 consultation period to twelve weeks are attached as an appendix to the cover report.

The wording of the petition was as follows:

"We, the undersigned, are electors who live in Spitalfields and believe that Spitalfields should have a Town Council which we hope will be subdivided into at least three electoral wards.

"We ask that Tower Hamlets Council undertake a Community Governance Review in accordance with its duties under Section 83 of the Act. We hope that the outcome of this review leads to the creation of a new local council for Spitalfields to be called Spitalfields Town Council, which would work with Tower Hamlets to represent our community and bring about improvements to our town. We recommend the Town Council area includes Spitalfields Neighbourhood Planning Area and the Former Bishopsgate Goods Yard site (only that part within Tower Hamlets)."

A map showing the boundaries of the parish proposed by the petitioners was presented with the petition. This map is shown in the community governance review terms of reference.

As part of a community governance review the council is required to consult all local government electors in the area covered by the review as well as any other person, organisation or business who has an interest.

Two consultation phases are taking place as part of the review. The first phase ran from 8 October 2018 and closed on 31 December 2018. This sought views on the proposals in the petition. This report summarises the feedback the council received from the first phase of the consultation, clarifies the options available and presents the council's draft recommendations for consultation.

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The second stage of consultation, on the council's draft recommendations, will take place from 4 March to 26 May 2019. Local government electors as well as any other person, organisation or business that has an interest in the review will be able to respond to the council's draft recommendations.

A final decision will be made by the council in July 2019.

Phase 1 consultation summary

Consultation methods
Phase 1 of the community governance review consultation sought views on the petitioners' proposal from local government electors in the two wards of Spitalfields & Banglatown and Weavers as well as any other person, organisation or business that appeared to have an interest in the review.

The council stated that its preferred means for people to respond to the consultation was on its website through an online questionnaire. Additionally, a designated email address was advertised, allowing respondents to request a paper copy questionnaire or any additional information or support they needed to help inform them of the process and how to respond.

Supporting information on the council website included terms of reference for the review, the phase 1 consultation document and a detailed map of the parish boundaries proposed by the petitioners. At the request of the Spitalfields & Banglatown Town Council Campaign, the council also added a link to the National Association of Local Council's booklet 'All About Local Councils'.

The council wrote to all households in the two wards under review drawing their attention to the community governance review and informing them how they could respond. Emails and letters were also sent to resident associations and community groups in the area, Third Sector organisations, all councillors, local MPs, neighbouring boroughs, the GLA and others.

To ensure that the consultation would reach a wide cross section of the community a decision was taken to use community researchers employed by the council. They conducted outreach to raise awareness of the consultation and to encourage people to complete the questionnaire online. They distributed posters and fliers in both English and Bengali. The community researchers also supported nineteen people to complete a questionnaire. During the consultation period a review of demographic information showed lower than expected response rates from women and people of Bangladeshi ethnicity. The community researchers were tasked with developing strategies for increasing responses from these two groups. This included outreach at places of worship and local schools.

Consultation questions:
In order to ascertain views on the petitioners' proposals the council asked the following questions:
1. Do you support the proposal to create a parish council ('Town Council') for the Spitalfields area? Please give the reasons for your response.
2. Do you support the proposed boundaries for the parish council ('Town Council'). Please give the reasons for your response.
3. If a parish council is created, the petitioners propose that it is called 'Spitalfields Town Council'. What do you think?
4. If a parish council is created, the petitioners propose that it is divided into at least three electoral wards. What do you think?

Consultation responses
In all, 892 valid responses were received. Of these 515 were received via the survey on the council website. A further 377 responses were received on paper (19 questionnaires from community researchers employed by the council, 358 from questionnaires handed in at the council reception).

A full analysis of the phase 1 consultation responses can be found on the council website at
www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/lgnl/council_and_democracy/consultations.

This section summarises the key findings of that report.

Of all responses received 75% were against the proposal to create a parish council, with 25% supporting the proposal. A majority from all areas opposed the proposal but opposition was particularly strong in areas outside the boundary proposed by the petitioners. Of those living within the proposed parish boundary 39% supported the proposal to create a parish council and 61% were against.

There are differences in the level of support for the proposal based on the response channels used. All bar one of the papers response oppose the creation of a parish. This contrasts with the online responses, where two in five support a new parish. All the responses handed in at the council reception oppose the creation of a parish council. The council understands that these were collected and submitted by campaigners against the proposals in the petition. The council is aware that there are groups campaigning actively both for and against the proposal to create a parish council.

The reasons given for opposition vary greatly. Almost a quarter (24%) are worried that the creation of a parish council will divide the local community. Respondents also have financial concerns in terms of having to pay more taxes (18%). Others were concerned that the proposal would divide wealthy areas from more deprived areas (15%).

Of those supporting the proposal to create a parish council the main reasons given were wanting to have a voice in local decision making (25%), greater local democracy (23%) and a desire to address the needs of the area (18%).

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The majority of respondents oppose the boundary proposed by the petitioners (80%). This indicates that even amongst some who support the proposal in general there are issues with the proposed boundary. Again the level of opposition varies by location, with marginally more support for the boundaries, amongst those located in the area proposed by the petitioners (35%). The reasons why respondents oppose these boundaries vary. Almost a quarter oppose the proposals in general and so oppose the boundaries (23%). Similarly, almost a quarter oppose the boundaries because they believe it will divide communities (23%).

About three out of five (59%) of respondents do not agree with naming the parish council 'Spitalfields Town Council'. Just over half of those who responded online disagree with the name (51%) compared with 78% of those who responded in other ways.

There was no overall consensus on proposals for electoral arrangements. About one in five (21%) agree with that there should at least three electoral wards, while 45% disagree.

Key considerations

Identity and interests of the community in the area
When considering a proposal to create a new parish a principal council must consider whether the proposal is reflective of the identities and interests of the community in that area.[1] Parishes should reflect distinctive and recognisable communities of interest, with their own sense of identity. The feeling of local community and the wishes of local inhabitants are key considerations that a principal council needs to take into account.[2]

In a borough like Tower Hamlets, there may well be a variety of different communities of interest; for example, representing age, gender, ethnicity, faith or life-style groups. There are other communities with specific interests in schools, hospitals or in leisure pursuits. Any number of communities of interest may flourish in an area but they do not necessarily centre on a specific place or help to define it.

Spitalfields as a place name has appeared in records since the Middle Ages. The area is recognised as a distinct identifiable place in the council's Local Development Framework 2010. Government guidance states that boundaries should reflect the 'no-man's land' between communities represented by areas of low population or barriers such as rivers, roads or railways. They need to be, and be likely to remain, easily identifiable.[3] In a densely populated urban area like Tower Hamlets there are not always such clear physical boundaries between communities.

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[1] Local Government & Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 93(4)
[2] Guidance on Community Governance Reviews. DCLG 2010 s.59
[3] Guidance on Community Governance Reviews. DCLG 2010 s.83

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Government guidance also suggests that principal councils consider the impact on community cohesion of community governance arrangements.[4] Cohesion issues are connected to the way people perceive how their local community is composed and what it represents, and the creation of parishes and parish councils may contribute to improving community cohesion. However, the guidance specifically asks principal councils to consider whether a recommendation made by petitioners will undermine community cohesion in any part of its area.[5]

Community governance arrangements should reflect, and be sufficiently representative of, people living across the whole community and not just a discrete cross-section or small part of it. A principal council is further advised not to make a decision to create a parish and a parish council which reflects community identities and interests in the area and at the same time threatens community cohesion. Principal councils may decline to set up such community governance arrangements where they judge that to do so would not be in the interests of either the local community or surrounding communities, and where the effect would be likely to damage community cohesion.[6]

Effective and convenient local governance
Legislation requires a principal council to consider whether a parish council would be an effective and convenient form of local governance. The government has stated that by 'effective and convenient' it means that a parish council is able to deliver quality services economically and efficiently, and give users of services a democratic voice in the decisions that affect them.[7]

Clarifying the role of a parish council
We want people to clearly understand what a parish council is, what it can do and the implications of setting one up. This section restates some of the facts about the functions of a parish council contained within the phase 1 consultation document. It also corrects some of the misconceptions that arose during the first phase of the consultation.

The functions of parish councils
A parish council operates at a local level below the principal council, in this case Tower Hamlets Council. A parish council can also be called 'community council', 'neighbourhood council', 'village council', or 'town council'. The universal term is 'local council'. They all operate within the same legal framework. Parish councils are the lowest tier of local government. They are not linked to any religion or religious institution.

A parish council is a democratically elected, additional and legally independent tier of local government with its own councillors, which can provide a range of local services within a defined area. A parish council is not

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[4] Guidance on Community Governance Reviews. DCLG 2010 s.67
[5] Guidance on Community Governance Reviews. DCLG 2010 s.75
[6] Guidance on Community Governance Reviews. DCLG 2010 s.74
[7] Guidance on Community Governance Reviews. DCLG 2010 s.62

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a replacement for a principal council and will not deliver complete independence and autonomy for an area.

Parish councils' activities fall into three main categories: representing the local community; delivering services to meet local needs; and striving to improve quality of life and community well-being.

Parish councils are not tasked with statutory responsibilities relating to the provision of housing, social care, education and waste collection. They are a statutory consultee in relation to planning but they are not a planning authority.

They have the option to exercise a variety of powers and duties, including the delivery of a small number of specific local services that add to those provided by the principal council including allotments, bridleways, burial grounds, bus shelters, car parks, commons and open spaces, community transport schemes, community safety and crime reduction measures, events and festivals, footpaths, leisure and sports facilities, litter bins, public toilets, street cleaning and lighting, tourism activities, traffic calming measures, village greens and youth projects.

A parish council can choose not to deliver any services and instead act purely as a means of influencing local service provision made by the principal council or other partners such as the police. Alternatively, a parish council can provide additional services to those provided by the principal council such as the provision of car parking with the consent of the principal council.

When a parish council is formed it can enter into discussions with the principal council (e.g. Tower Hamlets Council) about the transfer of services, budgets and assets within the service areas listed above. However this is subject to mutual agreement and securing "best value" by law.

The Localism Act 2011 enables parish councils and others to express an interest in running a local authority service. This is called the community right to challenge (CRC). Exceptions to this are services that are excluded by legislation (e.g. packages of services for health and social care for named individuals). The CRC relates to 'relevant services' and not functions. Principal councils must consider an expression of interest to run a local authority service submitted by a parish council or other relevant group. There are various reasons why an expression of interest can be rejected or modified, but if it is accepted, the authority must carry out a procurement exercise. There is no guarantee that the eventual provider of the service would be the organisation that launched the expression of interest. Parish councils can also exercise the community right to bid to purchase assets of community value if they come up for sale, for example a pub, shop or community hall.

The Localism Act 2011 also created a new process for neighbourhood planning, which enables parish councils, as well as neighbourhood forums, to work with the principal council (the planning authority) to create a plan for their

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area. The plan sets out policies and priorities for the physical development of the area and must be in accordance with the local development plan approved by the planning authority and the secretary of state.

Guidance on neighbourhood planning in Tower Hamlets can be found on the council's website at:

www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/lgnl/planning_and_building_control

More information about parish councils can be found online:

www.gov.uk/government/get-involved/take-part/set-up-a-town-or-parish-council

www.nalc.gov.uk/our-work/create-a-council

Financing a parish council

It is important that residents are clear about the potential costs of a parish council and the likely cost to council tax payers within a parish. Parish councils are funded principally through an annual precept, an additional council tax levied on eligible individuals. This is set by the principal council in the first year and then by the parish council itself once elected. Nationally, the average Band D precept charged by a parish or charter trustee for 2018-19 will be £64.05, an increase of £3.02, or 4.9%, from 2017-18.[8]

The tax base for a parish council in the area shown on the map as option 1 is estimated at 3,277 Band D equivalent properties. At the national average of a £64.05 precept, the estimated total precept for a parish council in this area would be in the region of £209,892.[9]

[FIGURES FOR OPTIONS 2 AND 3 HERE]]

A parish can also be funded through income generated through, for example, car parks or markets. A parish council would also be eligible for a portion (15-25%) of the Community Infrastructure Levy collected in the area. Parish councils do not receive any contributions from business rates.

Parish councils have to consider the scope of service delivery they propose, any income that can be generated, the tax base and the precept they wish to charge. This funding supports the governance and administration of the parish council and the additional services it provides. All councils have costs related to the actual functions of running a council. In the case of a parish council such costs include democratic, management, civic and central administrative expenses.

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[8]
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/700668/Council_tax_levels_set_by_local_authorities_in_England_2018-19_revised.pdf
[9] If a council tax collection rate of 97.25% is assumed then the figure would be 3,177 Band D equivalent properties with an estimated total precept of £203,487

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[BENCHMARKING INFORMATION SECTION TO BE ADDED HERE FOR PUBLISHED VERSION.]

Options appraisal

The council is mindful of its duty to have regard to the need to secure that community governance within the area under review:

> a) reflects the identities and interests of the community in that area, and
> b) is effective and convenient[10][11]

Relevant considerations which influence judgements against these two principal criteria include the impact on community cohesion, and the size, population and boundaries of the proposed area.

Where a principal council has conducted a review following receipt of a petition, it will remain open to the council to make a recommendation which is different to the recommendation the petitioners wished the review to make.[12] This could be different boundaries, electoral arrangements or a different name from those set out in the petition.

After considering responses to the first phase of consultation the council believes that there are four broad options for community governance in the Spitalfields area.

a) *Adopt the petitioners' proposals in full*
    This would entail the creation of a new parish along the boundaries set out in the petition, with a parish council established. It would also involve the establishment of a number of wards with up to three councillors elected for each of those wards. The council is unable to give the new parish council the style 'Town Council'. This would be a matter for the parish council, if it were to be established.

    The council will not be including the boundary set out in the petition for further consultation. At this stage the council is of the view that the original boundary proposal could have a potentially negative impact on community cohesion. The parish area proposed is significantly less deprived than neighbourhoods to the south, east and north of the proposed parish boundary, potentially dividing more affluent communities from their less affluent neighbours.

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[10] Local Government & Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 93(4)
[11] The government has said that the effectiveness and convenience of local government is best understood in the context of a local authority's ability to deliver quality services economically and efficiently, and give users of services a democratic voice in the decisions that affect them. Guidance on community governance reviews 2010 para 62
[12] Guidance on community governance reviews 2010 para 95 [CHECK REF]

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b) *Create a parish council but with modifications to the proposals made in the petition*

While the council is not persuaded at this stage that the creation of a parish would be in the interest of the local community or a suitable for the delivery of services it wishes to consult further on these matters.

At this stage the council believes that if a parish were to be created its boundaries would need to vary from the original proposal in the petition. Any boundary proposal would need to clearly reflect the identities and interests of the community and be effective and convenient in terms of service delivery. Relevant considerations which influence judgements against these two principal criteria include the impact on community cohesion, and the size, population and boundaries of the proposed area.

During phase 1 of the consultation the Spitalfields & Banglatown Town Council Campaign proposed an extension of the boundary of the proposed parish eastwards. The council will consult on a modified version of this boundary proposal, which does not include the Bishopsgate Goods Yard site. This area is shown on the map at Appendix 2 as option 1 for consultation.

The council will not include the former Bishopsgate Goods Yard site in any option for consultation for the following reasons. The site has strategic significance and is shared with the London Borough of Hackney. It abuts onto the area covered by the East Shoreditch Neighbourhood Planning Area which also has an interest. The site is awaiting development and has no residents to consult. The council will keep this area under review and may consider it in a future community governance review if a parish were to be created.

The council will include two further boundary options for consultation in phase 2.
- a boundary following the Spitalfields & Bangaltown ward boundary on the west as far south as the neighbourhood planning area boundary. This boundary is shown on the map at Appendix 2 as option 2 for consultation.
- A possible extension of the above area southwards to the Whitechapel Road.) This area is shown on the map at Appendix 2 as option 3 for consultation.

The map at Appendix 2 shows the parish boundary options that the council will be putting forward for further public consultation. The council considers these boundaries better balance different considerations in respect of community identity, service provision and clear natural boundaries.

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Following consultation in phase 1, if a parish were to be created, the council recommends that it should be called 'Spitalfields & Banglatown Parish'.

If a new parish and parish council were to be created, the principal council has a duty to make consequential recommendations covering electoral arrangements for a parish council should one be established. Tower Hamlets Council will follow national guidance on electoral arrangements including the number of parish council wards and councillors.

c)   *Reject the proposal to create a parish council and retain existing governance arrangements*

The council respects the views of the local government electors who signed the original petition which triggered this community governance review. However, it is also mindful that they represent only 8.6% of the electorate within the proposed parish boundary (3784 registered electors). Only 222 responses in favour of the proposal to create a parish were received by the council during phase 1 of the consultation. The council does not regard this level of support as indicating strong local opinion in favour of a parish being established.

At this stage the council believes that the proposal to create a parish is not be reflective of the identity and interests of the community in the area nor would it provide effective and convenient local governance. It has significant concerns about the impact that establishing such a parish would have on community cohesion.

d)   *Reject the proposal to create a parish council but instead create or strengthen non-parish forms of community governance.*

The council has a duty to take into account any other arrangements that could be made for the purposes of community engagement or community representation in respect of the area under review.[13] The council is currently reviewing arrangements to strengthen local democratic accountability across the borough. Options under consideration include strengthening neighbourhood management arrangements, area or community forums, or additional support for residents and community associations.

The council's conclusions and recommendations

The council is treating the petition from over three hundred local government electors with the utmost seriousness, as an expression of the wishes of those individuals. However, the council is also mindful of its duty to ensure that the other residents in the area, surrounding areas and the wider borough can have a say.

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[13] Local Government & Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 93(5)

Following the first phase of consultation and subsequent analysis the council's assessment, prior to the second consultation phase and analysis taking place, is that it is not at this point persuaded that creating a parish would reflect the identities and interests of the community in that area nor be an effective and convenient form of local governance. Our reasons are as follows:

i)   The council does not believe that there is significant local support for the proposal to create a parish although it recognises that there are committed campaigners both for and against.

ii)   The council acknowledges the historic and current identity of Spitalfields as a place, however it does not believe that the creation of a parish would best reflect the interests of the community in that area. Community identity is diverse and complex with many different interests and needs which have to be balanced.

iii)   The council is particularly concerned that the establishment of a parish could have a negative impact on community cohesion. This was a significant concern expressed by respondents in phase 1 of consultation. The council would welcome views on how these concerns could be addressed.

iv)   The option of a parish council for the Spitalfields area should also be considered alongside the broader needs of the borough. The strength of its many local communities adds up to a bigger community that is more than the sum of its parts. In the council's view all areas of the borough should contribute to its civic life and public services.

v)   The council does not believe that the original proposal by the petitioners would lead to the delivery of effective and efficient local governance in terms of value for money or service provision. The council would welcome views on whether the extended boundaries proposed would address this concern.

The council has set out what it believes are the four broad options:

a) *Adopt the petitioners' proposals in full*
b) *Create a parish council but with modifications to the proposals made in the petition*
c) *Reject the proposal to create a parish council and retain existing governance arrangements*
d) *Reject the proposal to create a parish council but instead create or strengthen non-parish forms of community governance.*

The council remains strongly committed to localism and community engagement within the borough. We acknowledge that the borough cannot and should not be run from one central location and the diversity of the borough and local needs must be reflected in how decisions are made. We

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committed to giving local people a greater say over decisions that affect them and an enhanced focus on responding to service users and local communities.

At this stage the council's recommended option is option d). It will be seeking, through consultation and engagement outside the scope of this community governance review, proposals and ideas for how non parish forms of community governance could be created or strengthened.

The council will also consult further on options b) and d). It acknowledges that parish councils are not a familiar form of local government in London and that information needs to be available to help local people come to a final view on their preferred option.

What happens next?

In this report the council has set out its draft recommendations and the rationale for them. Before it makes a final decision it will consult further on these as required by law.[14] Phase 2 of the community governance review will take place from 4 March to 26 May 2019.

In accordance with the terms of reference for the review the council will consult on its draft recommendations with all local government electors for the wards of Spitalfields and Banglatown and Weavers, and any other person, organisation or business who appears to have an interest in the review.

The council will write to all those who submitted a response in phase 1 of the consultation inviting them to give their views on the draft recommendations. It will also write to households in the area who did not submit a response inviting them to also contribute to the review. Letters will be accompanied by an FAQ or similar providing factual information about parish councils including their legal status, powers and how they are funded. It will also include information about the likely cost of a parish council to local council tax payers if one were to be established.

A full consultation document will be posted on the council's website and may also be requested by email or post.

An online consultation form will be made available on the council's website. This is the council's preferred method for gathering views for reasons of cost and efficiency. However, the council recognises that this may not be suitable for everyone. It will therefore make the consultation form available for download, or send it by email or post on request. Responses by letter will also be accepted. Individuals may ask for support in making a response if they are unable to do this themselves. The minimum requirement for a paper consultation response to be deemed valid is that a full name, address and signature are provided.

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[14] Local Government & Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 93(3)

The council will organise a number of information giving events within the area under review. A static information display will be located for viewing in a public place within the area. General communications and targeted publicity about the review will be released throughout the consultation period. The council will concentrate efforts to publicise the consultation within the areas of the proposed boundaries.

All information relating to the community governance review will be published on the council's website.

The community governance review will conclude in July 2019 with a final decision made by the council.

Appendix 1 Community Governance Review terms of reference

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Appendix 2 Boundary maps
[MAPS HERE]

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Tower Hamlets Council

Community Governance Review Consultation

Phase 1 Consultation Findings Report

07 February 2019

Contents

Introduction

This report summarises the responses to the first phase of a Community Governance Review consultation which is being undertaken in response to a petition from residents requesting the creation of a new parish council in the Spitalfields area of the London Borough of Tower Hamlets.

Phase 1 of the Community Governance Review consultation opened on the 8 October and ran for 12 weeks until the 31 December 2018. The council chose a consultation period of 12 weeks to enable a broad range of views to be gathered. The consultation programme covered online, print and face-to face channels to encourage a broad range of responses from different groups.

Background

The council received a valid petition on 23 July 2018 from residents requesting the creation of a new parish council, 'Spitalfields Town Council', to be located within the two wards of Spitalfields and Banglatown and Weavers.

The petition was organised and submitted by the Spitalfields Forum, the Spitalfields Society and Spitalfields Community Group. The council is now carrying out a community governance review under the provisions of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007.

Terms of reference for the review were published on the council website on 8 October 2019. The review is considering whether a parish council should be created. The council is consulting all residents in the two wards of Spitalfields & Banglatown and Weavers as well as any other person, organisation or business who has an interest in the review.

Two consultation phases will take place as part of the review. The first phase, on the proposals as set out in the petition, ran from 8 October 2018 and closed on 31 December 2018. This report details the findings from this phase of consultation.

A second consultation stage, putting forward the council's draft recommendations, will take place in spring 2019.

Phase 1 Consultation

Phase one of the consultation was designed to gather views and gauge the level of support for the proposals made by the petitioners. Namely:

- that a new parish council should be created;
- that its boundaries should be those set out by the petitioners in the map submitted with the petition
- that its name should be 'Spitalfields Town Council'
- that it should be divided into at least three wards

The consultation document explained that a parish council operates at a local level below the principal council, in this case Tower Hamlets Council. A parish council is a democratically elected, additional and legally independent tier of local government with its own councillors, which can provide a range of local services within a defined area. The petitioners proposed the creation of new

parish council, to be called 'Spitalfields Town Council'. They also proposed boundaries for the new parish and that it should have at least three electoral wards.

Government guidance states that parish councils work towards greater responsiveness to community needs and interests. Their activities fall into three main categories:

1. Representing the local community
2. Delivering services to meet specific local needs
3. Striving to improve quality of life and community wellbeing, including promoting community cohesion

Consultation documents outlined the areas where parish councils could exercise powers and duties, with the consent of the principle authority (i.e. Tower Hamlets). It would also be a statutory consultee for planning applications.

The consultation document stated that the parish council would be funded principally by an annual precept – an additional council tax levied on local council tax payers. But it could also be funded through income generated through, for example, car parking or markets. A parish council would also be eligible for a portion of the Community Infrastructure Levy collected in the area.

Objectives

The objectives of this consultation were:

1. To fulfil the council's obligations to undertake a community governance review following the receipt of a valid petition. The current guidelines state that we must complete this review within 12 months of the receipt of the petition.
2. To consider whether the creation of a parish council reflects the identities and interests of the community in the area.
3. To ensure that any proposed arrangements provide effective and convenient local government, including viability in the provision of services, the promotion of well-being and community cohesion.
4. To consider any other arrangements for community representation and engagement in the area that are already in place or that could be made.
5. To consider options for electoral arrangements for the parish council should the proposal to create a parish council be adopted.

Consultation Programme

Public consultation on whether a new parish council should be created commenced on the 08 October and lasted for 12 weeks until the 31 December 2018. The consultation programme covered online, printed and face-to face channels to encourage a broad range of responses from different groups including residents, workers, visitors, business owners/representatives and organisations such as Residents Associations and amenity groups.

Proposed Boundary

The border of the parish proposed by the petitioners was outlined in the consultation document and in a detailed map on the council website. During the consultation, the Spitalfields & Banglatown Town Council Campaign Group suggested an alternative boundary that encompassed the original boundary, plus an extension eastward. The council has agreed to consult further with this revised boundary in phase 2.

Proposed Parish Council Area

The area being consulted on is shown on the map below.

Responding to the Consultation

The council stated that its preferred means for people to respond to the consultation was on its website through an online questionnaire. This consisted of a mixture of closed and open questions to understand support or opposition to the creation of a new parish council. The questions included are listed below. The online questionnaire also requested some demographic information about the respondent if they wished to provide this.

The full questionnaire can be found in Appendix A.

The consultation questionnaire was accessible online via the council website. Additionally, a designated email address which was advertised, allowing respondents to request a paper questionnaire or any additional information or support they needed to help inform them of the process and how to respond.

To ensure the council could reach a wide cross section of the community a decision was taken to work with community researchers employed by the council. They conducted outreach to raise awareness of the consultation and encourage people to complete the questionnaire online. They distributed posters and fliers in both English and Bengali. The community researchers also supported nineteen people to complete a questionnaire. During the consultation period a review of demographic information collected through the online survey showed lower than expected response rates from women and people of Bangladeshi ethnicity. The community researchers were tasked with developing strategies for increasing responses from these two groups. This included outreach at places of worship and local schools.

Communications Programme

A broad range of communications were used to inform the local area about the consultation. The consultation was publicised on the council's website and through its social media channels. A press release was issued with the launch of the consultation. Letters were sent to over eight thousand residents of the two wards who are on the council tax register. The council also wrote to local faith organisations and places of worship, voluntary and community groups in the area, and local businesses. Posters were put up in council premises and other public venues. The council also distributed 500 dual language fliers (English / Bengali). The consultation was also promoted by word of mouth through face to face engagement and outreach.

Social media
The consultation was promoted on the councils' Twitter account (@TowerHamletsNow) and the councils' Facebook page.

- The council posted 11 of tweets about the consultation and received 20178 impressions.
- The council published 8 posts on the Tower Hamlets Council Facebook page, which had a combined reach of 7761.

Leaflets
To provide information about the consultation and the proposed parish council, Tower Hamlets produced 500 dual language leaflets that could be read in either English or Bangladeshi. These leaflets were distributed at various venues in the proposed area.

Letters
Letters about the consultation were sent to 8664 residents that were listed on the Council Tax Register as living in the proposed area.

Emails

Emails were sent to a variety of relevant organisations including:

- Local businesses
- Local voluntary sector organisations and community groups
- Neighbouring local authorities (City of London Corporation, Hackney Council, Newham Council.

Other promotion

A5 posters were produced and distributed in council owned premises and other public spaces to promote the consultation.

Consultation Response

In total, the council receive 1028 responses to the consultation. Through data cleaning 136 responses were removed. As a result, 892 responses were considered of which, 673 responded as individuals, 40 responded on behalf of an organisation and 179 did not say in what capacity they were responding. Maps showing the distribution of responses by type of respondent and geographical area can be found in the maps in section below.
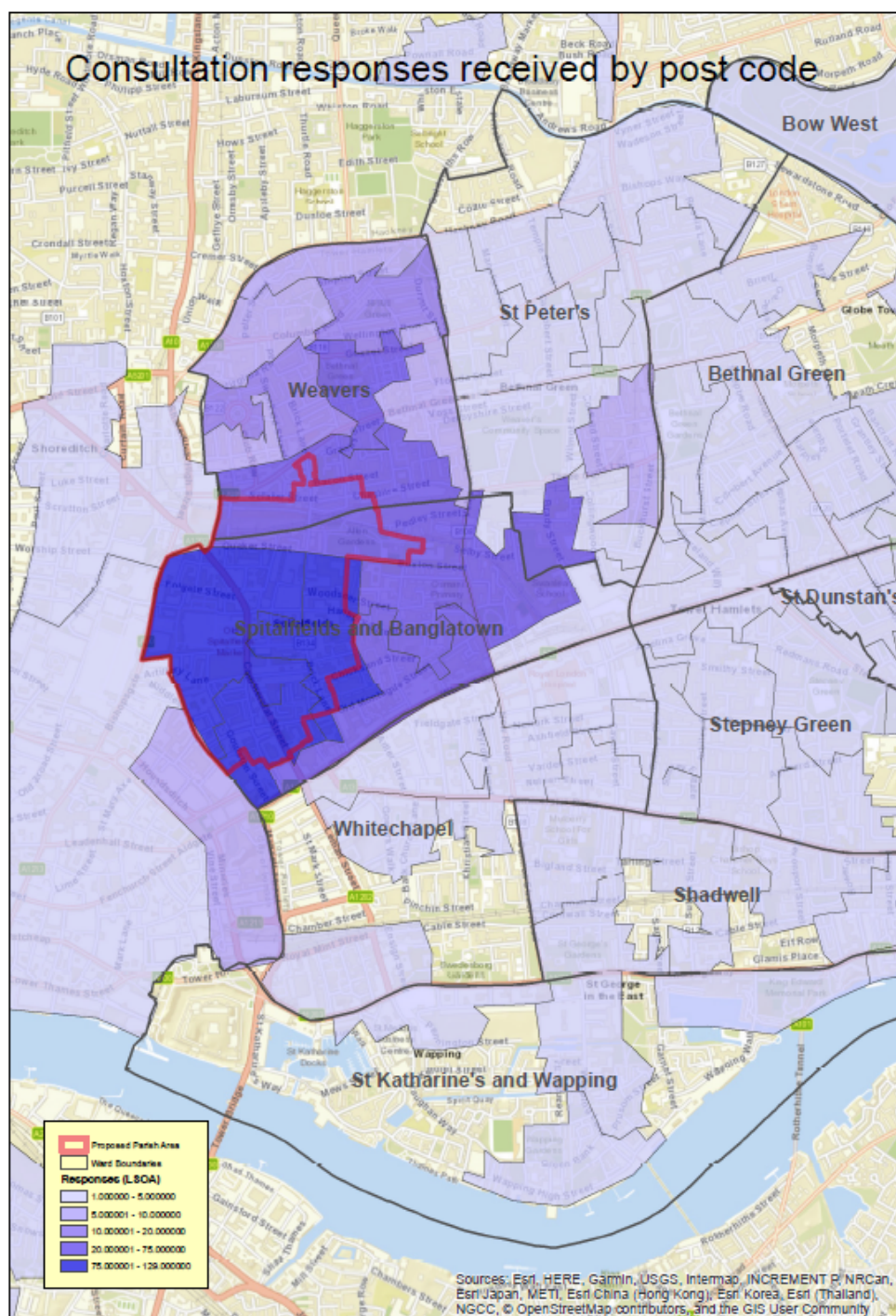
Analysis Methodology

There were 892 responses, 515 responses were submitted online, 19 were submitted by community researchers on council designed questionnaires and 350paper questionnaires were handed in at the council reception, and eight responses were received in the form of a letter. N.b the 350 questionnaires handed in at council reception were not designed by the council but asked the same questions as the online questionnaire and were therefore deemed to be valid consultation responses. Only basic demographic information was included on these questionnaires.

Responses to the survey were cleaned to remove duplicate responses, where an individual has submitted more than one response to the consultation. Where duplicates responses were found, the most recent response was retained, and older versions were removed. This is because the most recent duplicate response is seen as providing the respondent's most recent views on the proposal.

All the open-ended questions in the consultation questionnaire were coded into themes to allow the responses to be quantified. This encompassed reading every response to these questions and creation of a code frame.

A breakdown of responses by survey method is presented below.

Analysis Methodology	Total	Living in proposed parish area	% of total received by method
Online	515	216	41.9%
Paper questionnaires handed in at Council Reception	350	132	37.7%
Paper questionnaires submitted by community researchers	19	11	57.9%
Responses by letter	8	3	37.5%
Total	892	362	40.6%

Next steps

The next phase of the Community Governance Review will be for the council to publish and consult on their draft recommendations. The findings from this phase 1 consultation will inform the recommendations.

The draft recommendations are scheduled for publication in March 2019 at which point there will be a further consultation period of twelve weeks.

The final recommendations will be prepared and agreed by the council in July 2019.

Executive Summary

Three quarters of respondents (75%) oppose the creation of a parish council. Opposition is uniform across all areas but particularly strong in Tower Hamlets wards other than Weaver and Spitalfields & Banglatown, with nine out of ten (90%) opposing the creation of a new parish council.

It is also noteworthy that 100% of the 358 responses handed in at the council reception oppose the creation of a parish council. The most likely explanation is that these were collected and submitted by campaigners against the proposals in the petition. The council is aware that there are groups campaigning actively both for and against the proposal to create a parish council.

The reasons given for this opposition vary greatly. Almost a quarter (24%) are worried that the creation of a parish council will divide the local community. Respondents also have financial concerns both in terms of having to pay more taxes and fees (18%) and in terms of dividing wealthy areas from more deprived areas (15%).

Of those supporting the proposal to create a parish council the main reasons given were wanting to have a voice in local decision making (25%), greater local democracy (23%) and a desire to address the needs of the area (18%).

The vast majority of respondents oppose the proposed boundaries (80%). This indicates that even amongst some who support the proposal in general, there are concerns with the proposed boundaries.

Again, the level of opposition varies by locations, with marginally more support for the boundaries, amongst those located in the area proposed by the petitioners (35%). In contrast, fewer than two out of ten respondents located in the extended area proposed by the Spitalfields & Banglatown Town Council Campaign Group offer their support (14%).

The reasons why respondents oppose these boundaries vary. Almost a quarter oppose the proposals in general and so oppose the boundaries (23%). Similarly, approximately one in five oppose the boundaries because they believe it will divide communities (23%).

About three out of five (59%) of respondents do not agree with naming the parish council 'Spitalfields Town Council'. Just over half of those who responded online disagree with the name (51%) compared with 78% of those who responded in other ways.

There was no consensus on the proposed electoral wards. About one in five (21%) agree with that there should at least three electoral wards, while 45% disagree.

Appendix C provides a breakdown of responders by response method and geography.

Analysis

1. Overall support for creation of parish council

Only a quarter (25%) of respondents who answered this question said that they agree with the proposal to create a parish council in the Spitalfields area. The majority of those that answered (75%) said they oppose the creation of a parish council.

Do you support the proposal to create a parish council ('Town Council') for the Spitalfields area?

Support	25%	75%

■ Yes ■ No
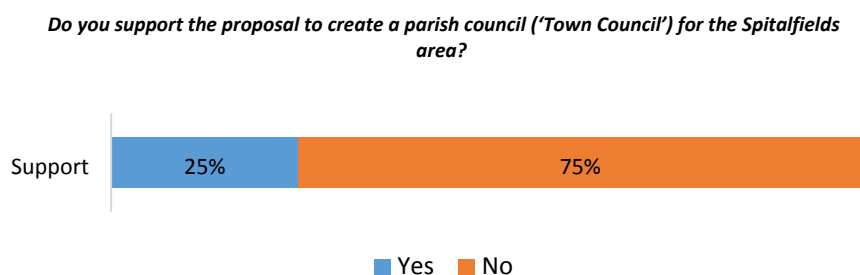
Analysis by respondent type

The level of support for the proposal varies greatly between respondents situated in the proposed boundary for 'Spitalfields Town Council'. While a quarter of respondents to this question overall support the establishment of a parish council, almost four out of ten (39%) of residents living in the proposed area would like this to happen. This indicates that there might be slightly more support for this proposal within the proposed area, compared with people located outside the proposed boundary.

Only 67 of the respondents who answered this question are in the extended area proposed by the Spitalfields & Banglatown Town Council Campaign Group. Of these, only 15% support the creation of a parish council.

The level of support for a new parish council in Weaver and Spitalfields & Banglatown is slightly higher (30%) than the overall responses. In contrast, only 10% of Tower Hamlets residents living outside these two wards support the creation of a parish council.

Outside of Tower Hamlets, approximately one in five (21%) support the creation of a parish council.

Fewer than one in ten who responded via a paper survey (5%) support the creation of a parish council. The contrasts with 40% of those online.

Q. Do you support the proposal to create a parish council ('Town Council') for the Spitalfields area?

Analysis by area

There are significant differences in the way people responded, depending on their location. A higher proportion of respondents located in the area proposed by the petitioners support the creation of a parish council (39%), than respondents overall (25%).

	Yes	**No**
No. of responses	*222*	*665*
Total	25%	75%
Area proposed by the petitioners	39%	61%
Weavers (ward)	27%	73%
Spitalfields & Banglatown (ward)	31%	69%
Weavers and Spitalfields & Banglatown (wards combined)	30%	70%
Other wards in Tower Hamlets (excl. Weavers and Spitalfields & Banglatown)	10%	90%
Outside of Tower Hamlets	21%	79%

Analysis by methodology

There are significant differences in the level of support for the proposal based the response channel. All bar one paper response opposes the plans (100%). This contrasts strongly with online responses, where two in five (40%) support a new parish council.

	Yes	**No**
No. of responses	*222*	*665*
Total	25%	75%
Online (515)	40%	60%
Paper (377)	5%	95%

Q. Please give the reasons for your response.

Once respondents had said whether they support or oppose the creation of 'Spitalfields Town Council', respondents were asked to give the reasons for their answer in an open question. The section below explores these justifications. There were 887 responses to this question. The responses were divided between those who support and oppose the proposal as understandably their reasoning differs significantly.

Of those that gave their reasoning, 222 respondents support the creation of a parish council. Amongst these respondents, a quarter argue that they need to have a voice in local decision making (25%).

'Spitalfields is different to the rest of the borough. We need a council which could represent us and prioritise our interest.'

Similarly, more than one in five (23%) want greater levels of democracy and local democracy.

'More direct involvement and local say in the neighbourhood. More local democracy.'

Fewer, respondents (18%) feel that a parish council will address local needs.

'Tower Hamlets Council is in docklands, E14, The council does not represent us in anyway, they are too far away and aloof. We need proper representation on a local level away from bureaucrats.'

The table shows the top 10 open answer themes to this question.

Answer	Number of responses	% among those who responded to this question
Want/ need to have a voice/ be represented/ have a say	56	25%
Greater democracy/ local democracy/ local governing	50	23%
Local area needs / address local needs	41	18%
Get control of crime/ the streets/ services/ planning	34	15%
I agree/ I support proposal	26	12%
Spitalfields is a great/ unique/ special area	24	11%
It will help the area/ be good for the area	19	9%
Will be good/ nice a good idea (unspecific)	19	9%
Hold Tower Hamlets Council to account/ dislike Tower Hamlets Council	15	7%
Independence/ autonomy/ our own area	13	6%

Analysis by respondent type

Those that support the creation of a parish council have fairly uniform reasons for doing so. We cannot compare the justifications by respondent types as to few people responded on behalf of organisations to allow for reliable comparisons to be made. Similarly, no one who responded via a paper survey supported the proposal.

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Analysis by area

The top reason given by respondents living in the area proposed by the petitioners is that the creation of a parish council will lead to greater levels of democracy (26%). A similar proportion of respondents argue that they need to have a voice (25%).

Area proposed by the petitioners only	Number of responses	% among those who responded to this question
No. of responses	*140*	
Greater democracy/ local democracy/ local governing	37	26%
Want/ need to have a voice/ be represented/ have a say	35	25%
Local area needs / address local needs	25	18%
Get control of crime/ the streets/ services/ planning	23	16%
I agree/ I support proposal	16	11%
Spitalfields is a great/ unique/ special area	16	11%
Will be good/ nice a good idea (unspecific)	15	11%

32 of the responses to this question are from responders who live in Weaver ward. Caution should be taken when analysing results among this group due to the small number of responses. The most common comments among this group were in favour of the parish council, saying they want to have a voice/need to be represented (11 comments), feel this will address local needs and help control services and local issues.

Weaver (ward)	Number of responses	% among those who responded to this question
No. of responses	*32*	
Want/ need to have a voice/ be represented/ have a say	11	34%
Get control of crime/ the streets/ services/ planning	7	22%
Local area needs / address local needs	6	19%
Accountability/ accountability is good	4	13%
Using money/ resources for local needs	2	6%

156 of the responses to this question from responders who are living in Spitalfields & Banglatown ward, who answered this question, the most common comments were in favour of the parish council. The top comments cantered on having local representation (26%), addressing local needs (19%) and getting control of services and local issues (15%).

Spitalfields & Banglatown (ward)	Number of responses	% among those who responded to this question
No. of responses	*156*	
Want/ need to have a voice/ be represented/ have a say	40	26%
Local area needs / address local needs	29	19%
Get control of crime/ the streets/ services/ planning	24	15%
Using money/ resources for local needs	8	5%
Accountability/ accountability is good	6	4%
Not representative	1	1%
Not good for the area	1	1%
Poor communication to Bengali residents / ignored	1	1%

The combined comments from those living in both wards can be seen in the table below.

Weavers and Spitalfields & Banglatown (wards combined)	Number of responses	% among those who responded to this question
No. of responses	*188*	
Want/ need to have a voice/ be represented/ have a say	51	27%
Local area needs / address local needs	35	19%
Get control of crime/ the streets/ services/ planning	31	16%
Using money/ resources for local needs	10	5%
Accountability/ accountability is good	10	5%
Not representative	1	1%
Not good for the area	1	1%
Poor communication to Bengali residents / ignored	1	1%

Only 19 respondents outside of Weaver and Spitalfields & Banglatown wards and 15 outside of Tower Hamlets borough answered this question. As a result, it is not possible to draw reliable conclusions about the views of these groups from the survey.

Tower Hamlets Excl. Weaver and Spitalfields & Banglatown	Number of responses	% among those who responded to this question
No. of responses	*19*	
Local area needs / address local needs	4	21%
Want/ need to have a voice/ be represented/ have a say	3	16%
Get control of crime/ the streets/ services/ planning	2	11%
Using money/ resources for local needs	2	11%
Accountability/ accountability is good	1	5%
Not representative	1	5%

Only 15 respondents outside Tower Hamlets borough answered this question. As a result, it is not possible to draw reliable conclusions about the views of this group from the survey.

Outside of Tower Hamlets	Number of responses	% among those who responded to this question
No. of responses	*15*	
Want/ need to have a voice/ be represented/ have a say	2	13%
Local area needs / address local needs	2	13%
Get control of crime/ the streets/ services/ planning	1	7%
Using money/ resources for local needs	1	7%

Analysis by methodology

Those who responded online also want more of a voice (25%) and greater local democracy (24%).

Online	Number of responses	% among those who responded to this question
No. of responses	*205*	
Want/ need to have a voice/ be represented/ have a say	52	25%
Greater democracy/ local democracy/ local governing	49	24%
Local area needs / address local needs	40	20%
Get control of crime/ the streets/ services/ planning	34	17%
Spitalfields is a great/ unique/ special area	24	12%

Only 17 people who responded via paper, support a new parish council. As a result, it is not possible to draw reliable conclusions on the views of this group from the survey.

Paper	Number of responses	% among those who responded to this question
No. of responses	*17*	
Will be good/ nice a good idea (unspecific)	6	35%
It will help the area/ be good for the area	5	29%
Want/ need to have a voice/ be represented/ have a say	4	24%
I agree/ I support proposal	3	18%
Local area needs / address local needs	1	6%
Hold Tower Hamlets Council to account/ dislike Tower Hamlets Council	1	6%
A way to change/ a change for the better	1	6%

'No'

Of the 887 responses to this open question, 665 responses are from respondents who do not want a new parish council.

Almost a quarter of those who oppose a new parish council argue that it will divide communities (24%).

> *'It is divisive and smacks of the "them and us" attitude that causes social exclusion.'*

Just under a fifth are worried about how finance implications of the proposal, such as higher taxes (18%).

'To run a parish council a new administration would have to be created and paid for by a new council tax precept. This will cost the people of Tower Hamlets more money, with no benefits.'

In a similar vein to other themes, 15% are concerned that the proposal creates further divides between wealthy and poorer residents.

'I don't think it's valid for a wealthy part of the borough to try and separate from its responsibilties to the rest of the borough'

Below is a breakdown of the top ten reasons of opposing the creation of a parish council.

Answer	Number of responses	% among those who responded to this question
It will divide communities	158	24%
Extra cost/ higher taxes/ fewer services	117	18%
Wealthy vs. poor / Poorer areas	101	15%
Do not support/ do not agree/ do not like	99	15%
Happy with existing council/ with Tower Hamlets Council	70	11%
Profit – personal Financial gain for some/ few	68	10%
No need for this	68	10%
More layers of bureaucracy/ government	57	9%
Bad idea (unspecific)	38	6%
Satisfied with the current system	38	6%

Analysis by respondent type

The reasoning behind respondents' opposition is also relatively uniform. However, online response tends to focus more on financial concerns, for instance they are significantly more likely to cite concerns that the proposals will divide wealthy areas from more deprived areas (30%) and argue that the creation of a new parish council is motivated by people pursuing personal financial gains (18%).

Analysis by area

Around one in five (21%) of respondents located in the area proposed by the petitioners expressed concern that a new parish council would lead to high taxes and conversely fewer services.

Area proposed by the petitioners only	Number of responses	% among those who responded to this question
No. of responses	*211*	
Extra cost/ higher taxes/ fewer services	44	21%
Divisive/ will divide communities	38	18%
Do not support/ do not agree/ do not like	26	12%
Happy with existing council/ with Tower Hamlets Council	26	12%
Wealthy vs. poor / Poorer areas	24	11%

86 of the respondents to this question live in Weaver ward. The most common comments among this groups centred on this being a divisive proposal (25%) and the difference between the economic outlook for those within the boundary compared with those outside (21%).

Weaver (ward)	Number of responses	% among those who responded to this question
No. of responses	*86*	
Divisive/ will divide communities	21	25%
Wealthy vs. poor / Poorer areas	18	21%
Extra cost/ higher taxes/ fewer services	14	16%
Do not support/ do not agree/ do not like	13	15%
Happy with existing council/ with Tower Hamlets Council	7	8%

Among those living in Spitalfields & Banglatown, the most common reasons to oppose the creation of a parish council, are that it will divide the community (22%) and perceived cost this will create (20%).

Spitalfields & Banglatown (ward)	Number of responses	% among those who responded to this question
No. of responses	*346*	
Divisive/ will divide communities	76	22%
Extra cost/ higher taxes/ fewer services	67	20%
Do not support/ do not agree/ do not like	49	14%
Happy with existing council/ with Tower Hamlets Council	39	11%
Wealthy vs. poor / Poorer areas	37	11%

When looking at the combined comments from those living in both wards, the most common comments centre on this being a divisive proposal (23%) and costs (19%).

Weavers and Spitalfields & Banglatown (wards combined)	Number of responses	% among those who responded to this question
No. of responses	*432*	
Divisive/ will divide communities	97	23%
Extra cost/ higher taxes/ fewer services	81	19%
Do not support/ do not agree/ do not like	62	15%
Wealthy vs. poor / Poorer areas	55	13%
Happy with existing council/ with Tower Hamlets Council	46	11%

Among those living outside of Weaver and Spitalfields & Banglatown wards the most common reasons to oppose the creation of a parish council are that this will divide communities and cost.

Tower Hamlets Excl. Weaver and Spitalfields & Banglatown	Number of responses	% among those who responded to this question
No. of responses	*176*	
Divisive/ will divide communities	52	30%
Wealthy vs. poor / Poorer areas	33	19%
Extra cost/ higher taxes/ fewer services	28	16%
Do not support/ do not agree/ do not like	21	12%
Happy with existing council/ with Tower Hamlets Council	16	9%

Among those living outside of Tower Hamlets altogether, the most common comment given was general opposition (29%) to the parish council followed by the divide between wealthy and poorer areas (23%).

Outside of Tower Hamlets	Number of responses	% among those who responded to this question
No. of responses	*57*	
Do not support/ do not agree/ do not like	16	29%
Wealthy vs. poor / Poorer areas	13	23%
Divisive/ will divide communities	9	16%
Extra cost/ higher taxes/ fewer services	8	14%
Happy with existing council/ with Tower Hamlets Council	8	14%

Analysis by methodology

Online respondents are very concerned that the proposals will divide wealth and poorer neighbourhoods (30%). Linked with this, these respondents are concerned more generally that proposals will divide communities (26%).

Online	Number of responses	% among those who responded to this question
No. of responses	*308*	
Wealthy vs. poor / Poorer areas	91	30%
Divisive/ will divide communities	80	26%
Extra cost/ higher taxes/ fewer services	72	23%
Profit – personal Financial gain for some/ few	56	18%
More layers of bureaucracy/ government	52	17%

In contrast to online responses, those who completed the paper question are more likely to simply express general disagreement with the proposal (23%) followed by concern that it will divide communities (22%).

Paper	Number of responses	% among those who responded to this question
No. of responses	*347*	
Do not support/ do not agree/ do not like	80	23%
Divisive/ will divide communities	78	22%
Extra cost/ higher taxes/ fewer services	45	13%
Bad idea/ rubbish (unspecific)	30	9%
No need for this	30	9%
Happy with existing council/ with Tower Hamlets Council	28	8%

2. Overall support for proposed boundaries

Q. Do you support the proposed boundaries for the parish council ('Town Council')

Participants were asked to consider the proposed boundaries of the 'Spitalfields Town Council'. They were then asked where to support the proposed boundaries. Only one in five (20%) support the proposed boundaries, instead the vast majority (80%) oppose the proposal.

Do you support the proposed boundaries for the parish council ('Town Council')?
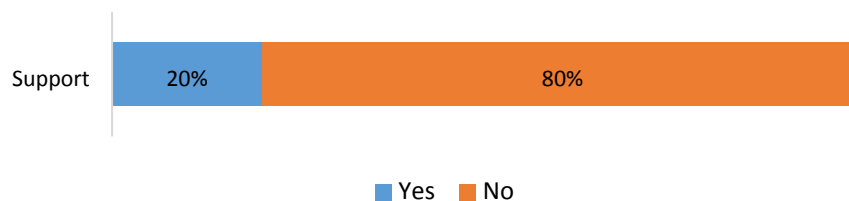
Analysis by respondent type

As with the first question, almost all paper responses opposed the proposed boundaries (100%). Understandably, respondents located in suggested extension to the boundaries are the least likely to support the proposed boundaries.

Q. Do you support the proposed boundaries for the parish council ('Town Council')??

Analysis by area

In a similar pattern to the earlier question asking whether respondents want a parish council, more respondents located in the area proposed by the petitioners are supportive of the proposed boundaries.

	Yes	**No**
No. of responses	*176*	*710*
Total	20%	80%
Proposed boundary (359)	35%	65%
Weaver (ward)	19%	81%
Spitalfields & Banglatown (ward)	26%	74%
Weaver and Spitalfields & Banglatown (wards combined)	25%	75%
Other Tower Hamlets wards	6%	94%
Outside Tower Hamlets	17%	83%

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Analysis by methodology

As with earlier questions, almost all those who responded via a paper questionnaire oppose the new boundaries. In contrast, roughly a third (32%) of online responses support the proposed boundary.

	Yes	**No**
No. of responses	*176*	*710*
Total	20%	80%
Online (515)	32%	63%
Paper (371)	4%	96%

Q. Please give the reasons for your response.

Once respondents had said whether they support or oppose the proposed boundaries, in an open question they were asked to explain why. The section below explores these justifications. There were 886 responses to this question. The responses were divided between those who support and oppose the boundary, as understandably their reasoning differs significantly.

'Yes'

Of those that answered this question, 176 support the proposed boundaries.

Just under a third of supporters argue that the proposed boundaries define the area well (31%). The boundaries encompass an area with a distinctive and different.

> *'It would seem to be a coherent area, where there is already a sense of community.'*

One in five supporters (20%) argue that it covers the area known as Spitalfields and so is appropriate.

> *'They are appropriate and cover the town-centre of Spitalfields.'*

Almost one in ten supporters say that the boundaries will allow the parish council to offer better local governance of the area.

> *'The proposed area is big enough to warrant the governance of a parish council but includes only those areas that share specific planning and management issues.'*

The table overleaf shows the top ten justifications for the supporting the proposed boundaries.

Answer	Number of responses	% among those who responded to this question
Defines area well/ covers core areas/ defines areas correctly/ appropriate boundaries/ areas/ accurate	55	31%
Covers the are known as Spitalfields/ covers the centre of Spitalfields	35	20%
Areas that need better management/ policing/ care	16	9%
Support proposals	11	6%
I am living in these areas	11	6%
Looks good/ seems good	9	5%
Larger area/ include more areas	9	5%
Historic reasons/ historic streets/ areas	8	5%
Reasonable idea/ good idea/ sensible/ logical	7	4%
More representative	7	4%

Analysis by respondent type

As relatively small sample, the reasoning given for support of the boundaries is fairly uniform across all types of respondents. Additionally, too few people who responded as representatives of organisations, support the boundaries to allow comparisons between individuals and organisations. Finally, no one responding via paper surveys support the current boundaries and so comparisons cannot be made.

Analysis by area

When asked why they support the proposed boundaries, a third of those living in the area proposed by the petitioners said that it defines that area well (34%). Just under a quarter agreed with the boundaries because it covers the Spitalfields area (22%).

Proposed boundary	Number of responses	% among those who responded to this question
No. of responses	*125*	
Defines area well/ Covers core areas/ defines areas correctly/ Appropriate boundaries/ areas/ accurate	43	34%
Covers the are known as Spitalfields/ covers the centre of Spitalfields	28	22%
Areas that need better management/ policing/ care	12	10%
I am living in these areas	9	7%
More representative	7	6%

Only 23 residents living Weaver ward commented on why they support the proposed boundary, and as a result it is not possible to make reliable conclusions about the views of this group.

Weaver (ward)	Number of responses	% among those who responded to this question
No. of responses	*23*	
Defines area well/ Covers core areas/ defines areas correctly/ Appropriate boundaries/ areas/ accurate	7	30%
Larger area/ include more areas	5	22%
Support proposals	4	17%
Looks good/ seems good	3	13%
Covers the are known as Spitalfields/ covers the centre of Spitalfields	2	9%
Areas that need better management/ policing/ care	2	9%

Among those living in Spitalfields & Banglatown who support the proposed boundary, 130 commented on why they feel this way. The most common comments were that this defines the area appropriately (32%) and covers the area currently known as Spitalfields (24%).

Spitalfields & Banglatown (ward)	Number of responses	% among those who responded to this question
No. of responses	*130*	
Defines area well./ Covers core areas/ defines areas correctly/ Appropriate boundaries/ areas/ accurate	41	32%
Covers the area known as Spitalfields/ covers the centre of Spitalfields	31	24%
Areas that need better management/ policing/ care	12	9%
I am living in these areas	10	8%

When the views of those living In Weavers and Spitalfields & Banglatown are combined the most commons reasons for supporting the proposed boundary is that it defines the area appropriately (31%) and covers the Spitalfield & Banglatown area (22%).

Weavers and Spitalfields & Banglatown (wards combined)	Number of responses	% among those who responded to this question
No. of responses	*153*	
Defines area well./ Covers core areas/ defines areas correctly/ Appropriate boundaries/ areas/ accurate	48	31%
Covers the are known as Spitalfields/ covers the centre of Spitalfields	33	22%
Areas that need better management/ policing/ care	14	9%
I am living in these areas	11	7%
Looks good/ seems good	9	6%
Support proposals	9	6%

Only a small number of respondents living outside of the two wards commented here. As a result, we are not able to draw reliable conclusions about the views of this group.

Other Tower Hamlets wards	Number of responses	% among those who responded to this question
No. of responses	*11*	
Defines area well./ Covers core areas/ defines areas correctly/ Appropriate boundaries/ areas/ accurate	5	45%
Support proposals	2	18%

Similarly, there were too few responses from people living outside of Tower Hamlets borough to draw reliable conclusions about the views of this group.

Outside Tower Hamlets	Number of responses	% among those who responded to this question
No. of responses	*11*	
Defines area well./ Covers core areas/ defines areas correctly/ Appropriate boundaries/ areas/ accurate	2	18%
Covers the are known as Spitalfields/ covers the centre of Spitalfields	2	18%
Reasonable idea/ good idea/ sensible/ logical	2	18%

Analysis by methodology

The top reason for online responses, the main reasons for supporting the boundaries remain that it defines the area well (31%) and covers the Spitalfields area (21%).

Online	Number of responses	% among those who responded to this question
No. of responses	*163*	
Defines area well/ Covers core areas/ defines areas correctly/ Appropriate boundaries/ areas/ accurate	50	31%
Covers the are known as Spitalfields/ covers the centre of Spitalfields	34	21%
Areas that need better management/ policing/ care	16	10%
I am living in these areas	11	7%
Support proposals	9	6%
Looks good/ seems good	9	6%
Larger area/ include more areas	9	6%

Only 12 people who responded by a paper support the proposed boundaries. As a result, it is not possible to draw reliable conclusions about the views of this group.

Paper	Number of responses	% among those who responded to this question
No. of responses	*12*	
Defines area well/ Covers core areas/ defines areas correctly/ Appropriate boundaries/ areas/ accurate	5	42%
Unique business hub/ area	2	17%
Covers the are known as Spitalfields/ covers the centre of Spitalfields	1	8%
Support proposals	2	17%
Reasonable idea/ good idea/ sensible/ logical	1	8%
Good sizes/ not too big	1	8%
Divisive/ don't want to divide Tower Hamlets/ the community	1	8%
Wealthy vs poor/ gentrification	1	8%

'No'

Of those that justified their answer, 710 oppose the new boundaries. Their concerns mirror the issues raised when asked whether people support the proposal overall.

Respondents top concern, with almost a quarter (23%) arguing that the boundaries will literally be divisive and divide the local community.

'Creates a further ghetto of desirable accommodation and businesses, destroying the local sense of cohesion.'

A similar number of people (23%) simple just do not support this option.

'I don't agree with the proposal anyway, so any border is going to be unacceptable. i.e. there are no borders that would make me change my mind.'

Around 16% are concerned that the boundaries will divide the wealthier and more economically deprived.

'These proposed boundaries divide the wealthier and poorer parts of Spitalfields creating further division in the local community.'

The table overleaf shows the top ten justifications for not supporting the boundaries.

Answer	Number of responses	% among those who responded to this question
Divisive/ don't want to divide Tower Hamlets/ the community	159	23%
Do not support the option/ don't agree/ do not do this/ No	157	23%
Wealthy vs poor/ gentrification	107	16%
Don't like boundaries	55	8%
Larger area/ include more areas	55	8%
Not needed/ no need for this	54	8%
Waste of money/ extra costs/ fewer services/ CIL would not help poor areas	52	8%
Bad idea	29	4%
Happy as it is/ Happy to be one borough	28	4%
Happy with Tower Hamlets Council/ once council	27	4%

Analysis by respondent type

There were few differences in the reasons given for opposing the boundaries by different groups of respondents. People who responded online tended to be more concerned about dividing the wealthier areas from areas of deprivations (26%), whereas paper responses tend to focus on the division of the area more generally.

Q. Do you support the proposed boundaries for the parish council ('Town Council')

Analysis by area

When asked why they do not support the proposed borders around three out ten (28%) just simply do not support the proposal overall. Roughly one in five (22%) feel that the borders will divide the community.

Proposed boundary	Number of responses	% among those who responded to this question
No. of responses	*213*	
Do not support the option/ don't agree/ do not do this/ No	59	28%
Divisive/ don't want to divide Tower Hamlets/ the community	46	22%
Wealthy vs poor/ gentrification	26	12%
Not needed/ no need for this	19	9%
Don't like boundaries	16	8%
Larger area/ include more areas	18	8%
Waste of money/ extra costs/ fewer services/ CIL would not help poor areas	18	8%

Among those living in Weaver ward, the most common comments from those who oppose the proposed boundary express general opposition (18%) and that this will gentrify the area (16%).

Weaver (ward)	Number of responses	% among those who responded to this question
No. of responses	*94*	
Do not support the option/ don't agree/ do not do this/ No	17	18%
Wealthy vs poor/ gentrification	15	16%
Divisive/ don't want to divide Tower Hamlets/ the community	13	14%
Don't like boundaries	12	13%

Results among those living in Spitalfields & Banglatown are similar to those living in Weaver, with comments centring on general opposition to the parish council (26%) and that this will divide the community (23%).

Spitalfields & Banglatown (ward)	Number of responses	% among those who responded to this question
No. of responses	*355*	
Do not support the option/ don't agree/ do not do this/ No	92	26%
Divisive/ don't want to divide Tower Hamlets/ the community	83	23%
Wealthy vs poor/ gentrification	46	13%
Larger area/ include more areas	38	11%
Not needed/ no need for this	30	8%

When the views of residents living in both Weaver and Spitalfields & Banglatown are combined almost a quarter (24%) express general opposition and more than one in five are worried that proposal will divide the community (21%).

Weaver and Spitalfields & Banglatown (wards combined)	Number of responses	% among those who responded to this question
No. of responses	*449*	
Do not support the option/ don't agree/ do not do this/ No	109	24%
Divisive/ don't want to divide Tower Hamlets/ the community	96	21%
Wealthy vs poor/ gentrification	61	14%
Larger area/ include more areas	46	10%
Not needed/ no need for this	38	8%

Amongst those that living in other wards, almost a quarter (24%) believe that the proposed boundaries will divide the community. There are some that are concerned that boundaries will accentuate gentrification (17%).

Other Tower Hamlets wards (excl. Weaver and Spitalfields & Banglatown)	Number of responses	% among those who responded to this question
No. of responses	*181*	
Divisive/ don't want to divide Tower Hamlets/ the community	43	24%
Do not support the option/ don't agree/ do not do this/ No	35	19%
Wealthy vs poor/ gentrification	31	17%
Don't like boundaries	16	9%
Not needed/ no need for this	15	8%

Over a third of those who responded to the survey, oppose the boundaries and don't live in the borough, are worried that the boundaries will divide the community (36%). Over a quarter are concerned that the boundaries will further increase the rate of gentrification (27%).

Outside Tower Hamlets	Number of responses	% among those who responded to this question
No. of responses	*56*	
Divisive/ don't want to divide Tower Hamlets/ the community	20	36%
Wealthy vs poor/ gentrification	15	27%
Do not support the option/ don't agree/ do not do this/ No	13	23%
Waste of money/ extra costs/ fewer services/ CIL would not help poor areas	8	14%
Don't like boundaries	7	13%

Analysis by methodology

As with other groups, the main concern for respondents online is that the proposals will divide the community (28%). There is also a significant level of concern that these divisions will divide people based on their wealth (26%).

Online	Number of responses	% among those who responded to this question
No. of responses	*352*	
Divisive/ don't want to divide Tower Hamlets/ the community	98	28%
Wealthy vs poor/ gentrification	93	26%
Larger area/ include more areas	50	14%
Don't like boundaries	43	12%
Waste of money/ extra costs/ fewer services/ CIL would not help poor areas	36	10%

Around two in five responses via paper focus on general opposition to the creation of a parish council (38%). Almost one in five are concerned that the proposed boundaries will create divisions in the community (18%)

Paper	Number of responses	% among those who responded to this question
No. of responses	*334*	
Do not support the option/ don't agree/ do not do this/ No	127	38%
Divisive/ don't want to divide Tower Hamlets/ the community	61	18%
Bad idea	26	8%
Not needed/ no need for this	22	7%
Waste of money/ extra costs/ fewer services/ CIL would not help poor areas	16	5%

3. Name of parish council

Q. If a parish council is created, the petitioners propose that it is called 'Spitalfields Town Council'. What do you think?

Respondents were asked what they think of the proposed name for the parish council - Spitalfields Town Council.

Overall, 29% of those who answered this question said they agree or are content with the proposed name for the parish council. However, three in five (61%) disagree or are not content with this name. The top ten most common comments on this question are detailed below.

Response	Number of responses	% among those who responded to this question	% of all respondents
Base	*861*	*861*	*892*
Net : Agree with name	**249**	**29%**	**28%**
Net: Disagree with name	**527**	**61%**	**59%**
No/No way	142	16%	16%
Disagree/ I do not agree/ do not support	80	9%	9%
Good idea/ Good/ fine/ cool/ great/ ok/ Sounds good	66	8%	7%
Bad idea/ not a good idea/ do not like the idea	51	6%	6%
Good name/ fantastic name	50	6%	6%
Disagree with the creation of a Parish Council	47	5%	5%
Agree/ I agree/ Agree with the name	47	5%	5%
It will destroy the heritage of Spitalfields and Banglatown	34	4%	4%
Spitalfields is a well-known name for the area	25	3%	3%
Not representative/ unfair	22	3%	2%
Prefer other names (Spitalfields Council/ Spitalfields & Brick Lane/ Spitalfields & Banglatown Council/ Spitalfields & Weavers Town Council)	21	2%	2%

Analysis by respondent type

Analysis by Area

Among those living within the proposed boundary area, just over two in five (43%) agree or are positive about the proposed name for the parish council. Half (50%) disagree or a negative about the name.

Proposed boundary	Number of responses	% among those who responded to this question
No. of responses	*345*	
Net : Agree with name	**148**	**43%**
Net: Disagree with name	**171**	**50%**
Agree/ I agree/ Agree with the name	37	11%
Good idea/ Good/ fine/ cool/ great/ ok/ Sounds good	38	11%
Good name/ fantastic name	30	9%
Spitalfields is a well known name for the area	19	6%
No/ No way (No more specific)	46	13%
Disagree/ I do not agree/ do not support	27	8%
Disagree with the creation of a Parish Council	20	6%
Bad idea/ not a good idea/ do not like the idea	17	5%
It will destroy the heritage of Spitalfields and Banglatown	13	4%

Among those living in Weaver ward, a third agree with the propose name (34%), with three in five disagreeing (59%).

Weaver (ward)	Number of responses	% among those who responded to this question
No. of responses	*115*	
Net : Agree with name	**39**	**34%**
Net: Disagree with name	**68**	**59%**
Good idea/ Good/ fine/ cool/ great/ ok/ Sounds good	15	13%
Good name/ fantastic name	12	10%
Disagree/ I do not agree/ do not support	10	9%
No/ No way (No more specific)	14	12%
Prefer other names (White Spitalfields/ Spitalfields Council/ Spitalfields & Brick Lane/ Spitalfields & Banglatown Council/ Spitalfields & Weavers Town Council	6	5%

Similarly, 34% of those living in Spitalfields & Banglatown agree with the name while 57% oppose.

Spitalfields & Banglatown (ward)	Number of responses	% among those who responded to this question
No. of responses	*491*	
Net : Agree with name	**168**	**34%**
Net: Disagree with name	**282**	**57%**
No/ No way (No more specific)	78	16%
Disagree/ I do not agree/ do not support	47	10%
Good idea/ Good/ fine/ cool/ great/ ok/ Sounds good	44	9%
Agree/ I agree/ Agree with the name	40	8%
Bad idea/ not a good idea/ do not like the idea	29	6%

When the views of Weavers and Spitalfields & Banglatown residents are combined, approximately a third (34%) support the name, while 58% oppose the name.

Weaver and Spitalfields & Banglatown (wards combined)	Number of responses	% among those who responded to this question
No. of responses	*606*	
Net : Agree with name	**207**	**34%**
Net: Disagree with name	**350**	**58%**
No/ No way (No more specific)	92	15%
Good idea/ Good/ fine/ cool/ great/ ok/ Sounds good	59	10%
Disagree/ I do not agree/ do not support	57	9%
Agree/ I agree/ Agree with the name	41	7%
Good name/ fantastic name	41	7%

Agreement with the proposed name of the parish council is even lower among those living outside of the two wards– with around one in five agreeing (15%).

Other Tower Hamlets wards (excl. Weaver and Spitalfields & Banglatown)	Number of responses	% among those who responded to this question
No. of responses	*188*	
Net : Agree with name	**28**	**15%**
Net: Disagree with name	**130**	**69%**
No/ No way (No more specific)	36	19%
Disagree/ I do not agree/ do not support	18	10%
Bad idea/ not a good idea/ do not like the idea	16	9%

Similarly, around one in five people living outside the borough (21%) agree that the parish council should be called 'Spitalfields Town Council'.

Outside of Tower Hamlets	Number of responses	% among those who responded to this question
No. of responses	*67*	
Net : Agree with name	**14**	**21%**
Net: Disagree with name	**47**	**70%**
No/ No way (No more specific)	14	21%
Disagree with the creation of a Parish Council	11	16%
Disagree/ I do not agree/ do not support	5	7%
Agree/ I agree/ Agree with the name	4	6%
Bad idea/ not a good idea/ do not like the idea	4	6%

Analysis by Methodology

Just over two in five of those who responded online agree or are positive about the proposed name of the parish council (43%). Around half disagree or are not supportive of the name (51%).

Online	Number of responses online	% of responses online
No. of responses	*514*	
Net : Agree with name	**223**	**43%**
Net: Disagree with name	**264**	**51%**
Good idea/ Good/ fine/ cool/ great/ ok/ Sounds good	58	11%
Disagree/ I do not agree/ do not support	57	11%
Good name/ fantastic name	47	9%
Agree/ I agree/ Agree with the name	46	9%
Disagree with the creation of a Parish Council	43	8%

Among those who responded via paper survey, only 7% agree with the proposed name, 76% disagree or do not support this. The most common comments from this group are all negative.

Paper	Number of responses via paper	% of responses via paper
No. of responses	*347*	
Net : Agree with name	**26**	**7%**
Net: Disagree with name	**263**	**76%**
No/ No way	131	38%
Bad idea/ not a good idea/ do not like the idea	34	10%
Disagree/ I do not agree/ do not support	23	7%

4. Proposed electoral wards

Q. If a parish council is created, the petitioners propose that it is divided into at least three electoral wards. What do you think?

Respondents were asked whether they think the new parish council should be split into at least three electoral wards.

Overall, 21% of those who answered this question said they agree or are positive about this proposal. Over two in five however, disagree or are negative about this proposal. The top ten most common comments on this question are detailed below.

Response	Number of responses	% among those who responded to these questions	% of all respondents
Base	*861*	*861*	*892*
Net: Agree with proposal/positive response	**188**	**22%**	**21%**
Net: Disagree with proposal/negative response	**402**	**46%**	**45%**
Disagree/ I do not agree/ do not support	101	12%	11%
Agree/ I agree	73	8%	8%
Good idea/ Good/ fine/ cool/ great/ ok/ Sounds good	46	5%	5%
Waste of resources/ waste of money	45	5%	5%
Disagree with the creation of a Parish Council	43	5%	5%
Wards too small for number of councillors/too many councillors for areas/ people would be underrepresented/ not enough people will live in them	34	4%	4%
Divisive/ would cause divisions	32	4%	4%
Bad idea/ not a good idea/ do not like the idea	31	4%	3%
No ned/ unnecessary	26	3%	3%
Keep it as it is/ Don't change	24	3%	3%

Analysis by respondent type

Analysis by Area

Results for respondents living within the proposed boundary area, around a third (34%) agree or are content with the proposal to have at least three electoral wards, and two in five (39%) disagree or are not content with this.

Proposed boundary	Number of responses	% among those who responded to this question
No. of responses	*343*	
Net : Agree with proposal/positive response	**118**	**34%**
Net: Disagree with proposal/negative response	**133**	**39%**
Disagree/ I do not agree/ do not support	51	15%
Agree/ I agree/ Agree with the name	50	15%
Good idea/ Good/ fine/ cool/ great/ ok/ Sounds good	32	9%
It would make each ward fairly represented/ more democracy	21	6%
Divisive/ would cause divisions	17	5%

Among those living in Weaver ward, one in five agree (21%) with the proposed electoral wards for the parish council.

Weaver (ward)	Number of responses	% among those who responded to this question
No. of responses	*115*	
Net : Agree with proposal/positive response	**24**	**21%**
Net: Disagree with proposal/negative response	**53**	**46%**
Waste of resources/ waste of money	10	9%
Don't know	9	8%
Good idea/ Good/ fine/ cool/ great/ ok/ Sounds good	8	7%
Disagree/ I do not agree/ do not support	8	7%
No Need/ unnecessary	8	7%

Just under three out of ten (27%) agree with the proposed electoral wards while more than two in five disagree (43%).

Spitalfields & Banglatown (ward)	Number of responses	% among those who responded to this question
No. of responses	*490*	
Net : Agree with proposal/positive response	**132**	**27%**
Net: Disagree with proposal/negative response	**212**	**43%**
Disagree/ I do not agree/ do not support	72	15%
Good idea/ Good/ fine/ cool/ great/ ok/ Sounds good	33	7%
Divisive/ would cause divisions	24	5%
Bad idea/ not a good idea/ do not like the idea	20	5%
Wards too small for number of councillors/ Too many councillors for areas/ people would be underrepresented/ not enough people will live in them/ low density of people	19	4%
Don't know	19	4%

When the views of residents living in both Weavers and Spitalfields and Banglatown are combined, just over a quarter support the proposal (26%) and while 44% disagree with the proposed electoral wards.

Weavers and Spitalfield & Banglatown (wards combined)	Number of responses	% among those who responded to this question
No. of responses	*605*	
Net : Agree with proposal/positive response	**156**	**26%**
Net: Disagree with proposal/negative response	**265**	**44%**
Disagree/ I do not agree/ do not support	80	13%
Agree/ I agree/ Agree with the name	64	11%
Good idea/ Good/ fine/ cool/ great/ ok/ Sounds good	41	7%
Don't know	28	5%

Amongst those living in other wards, only 11% agree with the electoral ward divisions whereas over half oppose (56%).

Other Tower Hamlets wards (excl. Weaver and Spitalfields & Banglatown)	Number of responses	% among those who responded to this question
No. of responses	*189*	
Net : Agree with proposal/positive response	**20**	**11%**
Net: Disagree with proposal/negative response	**105**	**56%**
Waste of resources/ waste of money	20	11%
Disagree/ I do not agree/ do not support	18	10%
No Need/ unnecessary	10	5%
Wards too small for number of councillors/ Too many councillors for areas/ people would be underrepresented/ not enough people will live in them/ low density of people	9	5%

Outside Tower Hamlets, only 18% agree with the electoral wards. Whereas almost half disagree with the proposed electoral wards (48%).

Outside Tower Hamlets	Number of responses	% among those who responded to this question
No. of responses	*67*	
Net : Agree with proposal/positive response	**12**	**18%**
Net: Disagree with proposal/negative response	**32**	**48%**
Disagree with the creation of a Parish Council	14	21%
Agree/ I agree/ Agree with the name	4	6%
Disagree/ I do not agree/ do not support	3	4%
No/ No way (No more specific)	3	4%
Other answers	3	4%

Analysis by Methodology

Just over a third (34%) of those who responded online agree or are positive about the proposal to have at least three electoral wards. However, half disagree or are not supportive of this.

Online	Number of responses online	% of responses online
No. of responses	*514*	
Net : Agree with proposal/positive response	**173**	**34%**
Net: Disagree with proposal/negative response	**255**	**50%**
Agree/ I agree/ Agree with the name	72	14%
Disagree/ I do not agree/ do not support	66	13%
Good idea/ Good/ fine/ cool/ great/ ok/ Sounds good	41	8%
Disagree with the creation of a Parish Council	39	8%

Among those who responded via paper survey, only 4% agree with the proposal to have at least three electoral wards. Two in five disagree or are negative about this (42%). The most common comments from this group are all negative.

Paper	Number of responses via paper	% of responses via paper
No. of responses	*347*	
Net : Agree with proposal/positive response	**15**	**4%**
Net: Disagree with proposal/negative response	**147**	**42%**
Disagree/ I do not agree/ do not support	35	10%
Waste of resources/ waste of money	22	6%
Divisive/ would cause divisions	18	5%
Bad idea/ not a good idea/ do not like the idea	16	5%

Appendix A

1a. Do you support the proposal to create a parish council ('Town Council') for the Spitalfields area? *

- Yes
- No

1b. Please give the reasons for your response.

_____

2a. Do you support the proposed boundaries for the parish council ('Town Council')? *

- Yes
- No

2b. Please give the reasons for your response.

_____

3. If a parish council is created, the petitioners propose that it is called 'Spitalfields Town Council'. What do you think?

_____

4. If a parish council is created, the petitioners propose that it is divided into at least three electoral wards. What do you think?

_____

So we can validate the outcome of the consultation, please provide us with the following information. We will not share your personal details with other parties and will only use it for the purposes of this consultation. For further information on how we handle your data and privacy read our privacy notice.

5. Name

_____

6. Address *

_____

7. Postcode *

_____

8. Are your responding as a *

- As an individual

- On behalf of an organisation or group

9. Do you:

- Live
- Work
- Study
- Have a business in the area _____

10. How old are you?

- 0-15
- 16-24
- 25-34
- 35-44
- 45-54
- 55-64
- 65+
- Prefer not to say

11. What is your ethnic origin?

- White: British
- White: Irish
- White: Gypsy/Roma or Traveller
- White: Any other background
- Black or Black British: African
- Black or Black British: Caribbean
- Black or Black British: Somali
- Black or Black British: Any other background
- Asian or Asian British: Bangladeshi
- Asian or Asian British: Indian
- Asian or Asian British: Pakistani
- Asian or Asian British: Any other background
- Mixed/Dual Heritage: White & Black African
- Mixed/Dual Heritage: White & Asian
- Mixed/Dual Heritage: White & Black Caribbean
- Mixed/Dual Heritage: Any other background
- Other Ethnic Groups: Vietnamese
- Other Ethnic Groups: Chinese
- Other Ethnic Groups/ Any Other Group
- Prefer not to say
- Other_____

12. Which of the following describes how you think of yourself?

- Male
- Female
- Trans Intersex
- Prefer not to say

13. Is your gender identity the same as the sex you were assigned to at birth?

- Yes
- No
- Prefer not to say

14. What is your sexual orientation?

- Bisexual
- Homosexual (Lesbian/Gay)
- Heterosexual (Straight)
- Prefer not to say
- Other_____

15. What is your religion or belief system?

- No Religion
- Agnostic
- Muslim
- Christian
- Jewish
- Buddhist
- Sikh
- Hindu
- Humanist
- Prefer not to say
- Other_____

16. What is your relationship status?

- Civil partnership
- Married
- Single
- Co-habiting
- Prefer not to say

17. Do you consider yourself to have a disability according to the terms given in the Equality Act 2010?

- Yes
- No
- Prefer not to say

Appendix B

Equalities Data

Equalities data of responders is provided against the protected characteristics. Data relates to responders to the online consultation, where consent to publish was sought. Data is show for all responders to the online consultation and for those responders who indicated they live in the proposed parish area. Equalities data gathered from the Census 2011 is also provided for comparison purposes.

Age

Survey Responders by Age	All Responders		Responders from proposed parish area	
	Count	%	Count	%
0 to 15	2	0.4%	1	0.5%
16 to 24	30	5.8%	11	5.1%
25 to 34	104	20.2%	35	16.2%
35 to 44	110	21.4%	39	18.1%
45 to 54	92	17.9%	47	21.8%
55 to 64	81	15.7%	35	16.2%
65+	47	9.1%	26	12.0%
blank	1	0.2%	0	0.0%
Prefer not to say	48	9.3%	22	10.2%
Grand Total	515	100.0%	216	100.0%

Census Data by Age (KS102EW)	ALL	Spitalfields and Banglatown	Weavers	Proposed Parish Council Area
0-15	19.7%	14.7%	14.7%	11.6%
16-24	16.8%	21.2%	21.2%	18.5%
25-44	43.4%	45.5%	45.5%	52.3%
45-64	13.9%	13.4%	13.4%	13.3%
65+	6.1%	5.2%	5.2%	4.4%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%

Disability

Survey Responders by Disability	All Responders		Responders from proposed parish area	
	Count	%	Count	%
Blank	12	2.3%	3	1.4%
No	393	76.3%	173	80.1%
Prefer not to say	86	16.7%	34	15.7%
Yes	24	4.7%	6	2.8%
Grand Total	515	100.0%	216	100.0%

Census Data by General Health (QS302EW)	ALL	Spitalfields and Banglatown	Weavers	Proposed Parish Council Area
All categories: General health	254,096	12,578	12,885	5,732
Very good health	50.6%	51.6%	49.5%	53.7%
Good health	32.7%	31.3%	32.6%	32.2%
Fair health	10.7%	10.2%	11.1%	8.9%
Bad health	4.4%	4.8%	5.0%	3.9%
Very bad health	1.6%	2.0%	1.8%	1.3%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Gender Reassignment

Survey Responders by Gender Reassignment	All Responders		Responders from proposed parish area	
	Count	%	Count	%
no	2	0.4%	1	0.5%
Prefer not to say	84	16.3%	35	16.2%
yes	418	81.2%	174	80.6%
Blank	11	2.1%	6	2.8%
Grand Total	515	100.0%	216	100.0%

Marriage & Civil Partnership

Survey Responders by Living Arrangements	All Responders		Responders from proposed parish area	
	Count	%	Count	%
Blank	17	3.3%	7	3.2%
Civil partnership	5	1.0%	3	1.4%
Co-habiting	36	7.0%	14	6.5%
Married	161	31.3%	70	32.4%
Prefer not to say	132	25.6%	56	25.9%

Single	164	31.8%	66	30.6%
Grand Total	515	100.0%	216	100.0%

Census Data by Living Arrangements (QS108EW)	ALL	Spitalfields and Banglatown	Weavers	Proposed Parish Council Area
All categories: Living arrangements	200,214	9,891	10,605	4,650
Living in a couple: Married	28.3%	25.7%	22.2%	21.7%
Living in a couple: Cohabiting (opposite-sex)	10.3%	9.5%	10.7%	13.4%
Living in a couple: In a registered same-sex civil partnership or cohabiting (same-sex)	2.0%	1.9%	2.6%	2.9%
Not living in a couple: Single (never married or never registered a same-sex civil partnership)	44.7%	49.7%	49.3%	50.3%
Not living in a couple: Married or in a registered same-sex civil partnership	3.5%	3.9%	2.9%	3.3%
Not living in a couple: Separated (but still legally married or still legally in a same-sex civil partnership)	2.7%	2.0%	2.7%	1.8%
Not living in a couple: Divorced or formerly in a same-sex civil partnership which is now legally dissolved	4.9%	3.9%	5.3%	4.0%
Not living in a couple: Widowed or surviving partner from a same-sex civil partnership	3.6%	3.4%	4.2%	4.7%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	102.1%

Race

Survey Responders by Ethnicity	All Responders		Responders from proposed parish area	
	Count	%	Count	%
A variety	1	0.2%	1	0.5%
Asian or Asian British: Any other background	7	1.4%	4	1.9%
Asian or Asian British: Bangladeshi	85	16.5%	32	14.8%
Asian or Asian British: Indian	7	1.4%	3	1.4%
Asian or Asian British: Pakistani	3	0.6%	1	0.5%
Black or Black British: African	3	0.6%	1	0.5%
Black or Black British: Caribbean	4	0.8%	1	0.5%
Blank	6	1.2%	4	1.9%
British	1	0.2%	0	0.0%
British arab	1	0.2%	0	0.0%
Middle Eastern	1	0.2%	0	0.0%
Mixed/Dual Heritage: Any other background	5	1.0%	2	0.9%

Survey Responders by Ethnicity	All Responders		Responders from proposed parish area	
	Count	%	Count	%
Mixed/Dual Heritage: White & Asian	7	1.4%	2	0.9%
Mixed/Dual Heritage: White & Black African	1	0.2%	0	0.0%
Mixed/Dual Heritage: White & Black Caribbean	1	0.2%	0	0.0%
Native American of Choctaw Nation	1	0.2%	0	0.0%
Other Ethnic Groups/ Any Other Group	3	0.6%	3	1.4%
Other Ethnic Groups: Chinese	3	0.6%	1	0.5%
Prefer not to say	88	17.1%	35	16.2%
White: Any other background	64	12.4%	35	16.2%
White: British	207	40.2%	88	40.7%
White: Irish	16	3.1%	3	1.4%
Grand Total	515	100.0%	216	100.0%

Survey Responders by Ethnicity (compressed categories)	All Responders		Responders from proposed parish area	
	Count	%	Count	%
Black	7	1.4%	2	0.9%
Blank	6	1.2%	4	1.9%
Bangladeshi	85	16.5%	32	14.8%
Mixed	14	2.7%	4	1.9%
Prefer not to say	88	17.1%	35	16.2%
Other White	80	15.5%	38	17.6%
All Other	28	5.4%	13	6.0%
White: British	207	40.2%	88	40.7%
Grand Total	515	100.0%	216	100.0%

Census Data by Ethnicity (KS201EW)	All LBTH	Spitalfields and Banglatown	Weavers	Proposed Parish Council Area
Black	7.3%	3.3%	4.6%	30.1%
Bangladeshi	32.0%	28.6%	19.1%	20.2%
Mixed	4.1%	2.2%	3.0%	3.4%
Other White	12.4%	11.1%	9.1%	26.5%
All other	13.0%	37.4%	40.4%	3.8%
White British	31.2%	17.5%	23.7%	16.0%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%

Religion or Belief

Survey Responders by Religion	All Responders		Responders from proposed parish area	
	Count	%	Count	%
Agnostic	17	3.3%	8	3.7%
Athiest	1	0.2%	0	0.0%
Blank	16	3.1%	5	2.3%
Buddhist	2	0.4%	0	0.0%
Catholic	1	0.2%	0	0.0%
Christian	77	15.0%	38	17.6%
Hindu	4	0.8%	1	0.5%
Humanist	6	1.2%	2	0.9%
Jewish	10	1.9%	4	1.9%
Muslim	87	16.9%	33	15.3%
My beliefs are not systematic.	1	0.2%	1	0.5%
No Religion	156	30.3%	64	29.6%
Pagan	2	0.4%	1	0.5%
Prefer not to say	128	24.9%	55	25.5%
Society of Friends (Quakers)	3	0.6%	2	0.9%
Sikh	3	0.6%	2	0.9%
SPIRITUALIST	1	0.2%	0	0.0%
Total	515	100.0%	216	100.0%

Census Data by Religion (QS601EW)	ALL	Spitalfields and Banglatown	Weavers	Proposed Parish Council Area
All categories: Religion	254,096	12,578	12,885	5,732
Christian	27.1%	18.4%	24.7%	22.9%
Buddhist	1.1%	0.6%	1.0%	0.9%
Hindu	1.7%	1.2%	0.5%	1.2%
Jewish	0.5%	0.6%	0.8%	0.8%
Muslim (Islam)	34.5%	41.5%	30.1%	28.0%
Sikh	0.3%	0.3%	0.2%	0.2%
Other religion: Total	0.3%	0.3%	0.4%	0.4%
No religion: Total	19.1%	21.1%	25.2%	26.8%
Religion not stated	15.4%	16.0%	17.1%	18.7%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Sex

Survey Responders by Sex	All Responders		Responders from proposed parish area	
	Count	%	Count	%
blank	7	1.4%	3	1.4%
Female	153	29.7%	57	26.4%
Intersex	1	0.2%	1	0.5%
Male	282	54.8%	125	57.9%
Prefer not to say	71	13.8%	30	13.9%
Trans	1	0.2%	0	0
Grand Total	515	100.0%	216	100%

Census Data by Sex (QS104EW)	ALL	Spitalfields and Banglatown	Weavers	Proposed Parish Council Area
Male	51.50%	53.90%	51.50%	100.00%
Female	48.50%	46.10%	48.50%	55.00%
Total	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	45.00%

Sexual Orientation

Survey Responders by Sexual Orientation	All Responders		Responders from proposed parish area	
	Count	%	Count	%
A variety	1	0.2%	1	0.5%
Bisexual	19	3.7%	10	4.6%
Blank	17	3.3%	6	2.8%
Heterosexual (Straight)	296	57.5%	117	54.2%
Homosexual (Lesbian/Gay)	32	6.2%	14	6.5%
Prefer not to say	150	29.1%	68	31.5%
Grand Total	515	100.0%	216	100.0%

Appendix C

Table of responses

Support for creation of parish council

All responders	Not answered		No		Yes		Grand Total
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	
Online	0	0.00%	310	60.20%	205	39.80%	515
Paper questionnaires handed in at reception	0	0.00%	3	15.80%	16	84.20%	19
Paper questionnaires submitted by community researchers	5	1.40%	345	98.60%	0	0.00%	350
Responses by letter	0	0.00%	7	87.50%	1	12.50%	8
Total	5	0.6%	665	74.6%	222	24.9%	892

Responders living in the parish council area proposed in the first stage consultation	Not answered		No		Yes		Grand Total
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	
Online	0	0.00%	84	38.90%	132	61.10%	216
Paper questionnaires handed in at reception	0	0.00%	3	27.30%	8	72.70%	11
Paper questionnaires submitted by community researchers	4	3.00%	128	97.00%	0	0.00%	132
Responses by letter	0	0.00%	3	100.00%	0	0.00%	3
Total	4	1.1%	218	60.2%	140	38.7%	362

Responders living in the Weavers Ward	Not answered		No		Yes		Grand Total
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	
Online	0	0.00%	54	65.90%	28	34.10%	82
Paper questionnaires handed in at reception	0	0.00%	2	50.00%	2	50.00%	4
Paper questionnaires submitted by community researchers	0	0.00%	24	100.00%	0	0.00%	24
Responses by letter	0	0.00%	1	50.00%	1	50.00%	2
Total	0	0.0%	81	72.3%	31	27.7%	112

Responders living in the Spitalfields & Banglatown Ward	Not answered		No		Yes		Grand Total
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	
Online	0	0.00%	147	49.50%	150	50.50%	297
Paper questionnaires handed in at reception	0	0.00%	2	15.40%	11	84.60%	13
Paper questionnaires submitted by community researchers	5	2.50%	199	97.50%	0	0.00%	204
Responses by letter	0	0.00%	6	100.00%	0	0.00%	6
Total	5	1.0%	354	68.1%	161	31.0%	520

Responders living in Tower Hamlets	Not answered		No		Yes		Grand Total
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	
Online	0	0.00%	288	59.10%	199	40.90%	487
Paper questionnaires handed in at reception	0	0.00%	3	16.70%	15	83.30%	18
Paper questionnaires submitted by community researchers	5	1.50%	338	98.50%	0	0.00%	343
Responses by letter	0	0.00%	7	87.50%	1	12.50%	8
Total	5	0.6%	636	74.3%	215	25.1%	856

Responders living outside Tower Hamlets	Not answered		No		Yes		Grand Total
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	
Online	0	0.00%	22	78.60%	6	21.40%	28
Paper questionnaires handed in at reception	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	1	100.00%	1
Paper questionnaires submitted by community researchers	0	0.00%	7	100.00%	0	0.00%	7
Responses by letter	0		0		0		0
Total	0	0.0%	29	80.6%	7	19.4%	36

Support for proposed boundaries

All responders	Not answered		No		Yes		Grand Total
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	
Online	0	0.00%	352	68.30%	163	31.70%	515
Paper questionnaires handed in at reception	0	0.00%	7	36.80%	12	63.20%	19
Paper questionnaires submitted by community researchers	6	1.70%	344	98.30%	0	0.00%	350
Responses by letter	0	0.00%	7	87.50%	1	12.50%	8
Total	6	0.7%	710	79.6%	176	19.7%	892

Responders living in the parish council area proposed in the first stage consultation	Not answered		No		Yes		Grand Total
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	
Online	0	0.00%	97	44.91%	119	55.09%	216
Paper questionnaires handed in at reception	0	0.00%	5	45.45%	6	54.55%	11
Paper questionnaires submitted by community researchers	4	3.03%	128	96.97%	0	0.00%	132
Responses by letter	0	0.00%	3	100.00%	0	0.00%	3
Total	4	1.1%	233	64.4%	125	34.5%	362

Responders living in the Weavers Ward	Not answered		No		Yes		Grand Total
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	
Online	0	0.00%	62	75.60%	20	24.40%	82
Paper questionnaires handed in at reception	0	0.00%	2	50.00%	2	50.00%	4
Paper questionnaires submitted by community researchers	0	0.00%	24	100.00%	0	0.00%	24
Responses by letter	0	0.00%	1	50.00%	1	50.00%	2
Total	0	0.0%	89	79.5%	23	20.5%	112

Responders living in the Spitalfields & Banglatown Ward	Not answered		No		Yes		Grand Total
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	
Online	0	0.00%	172	57.90%	125	42.10%	297
Paper questionnaires handed in at reception	0	0.00%	5	38.50%	8	61.50%	13
Paper questionnaires submitted by community researchers	5	2.50%	199	97.50%	0	0.00%	204
Responses by letter	0	0.00%	6	100.00%	0	0.00%	6
Total	5	1.0%	382	73.5%	133	25.6%	520

Responders living in Tower Hamlets	Not answered		No		Yes		Grand Total
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	
Online	0	0.00%	329	67.60%	158	32.40%	487
Paper questionnaires handed in at reception	0	0.00%	7	38.90%	11	61.10%	18
Paper questionnaires submitted by community researchers	6	1.70%	337	98.30%	0	0.00%	343
Responses by letter	0	0.00%	7	87.50%	1	12.50%	8
Total	6	0.7%	680	79.4%	170	19.9%	856

Responders living outside Tower Hamlets	Not answered		No		Yes		Grand Total
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	
Online	0	0.00%	23	82.10%	5	17.90%	28
Paper questionnaires handed in at reception	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	1	100.00%	1
Paper questionnaires submitted by community researchers	0	0.00%	7	100.00%	0	0.00%	7
Responses by letter	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0
Total	0	0.0%	30	83.3%	6	16.7%	36

Equality Analysis (EA)

Section 1 – General Information (Aims and Objectives)

Name of the proposal including aims, objectives and purpose
(Please note – for the purpose of this doc, 'proposal' refers to a policy, function, strategy or project)

Background

This Equality Analysis is being prepared to consider equality impacts relating to community governance review triggered by a petition from local residents to set up a parish('town') council within the Tower Hamlets council wards of Spitalfields & Banglatown and Weavers. A parish council is a democratically elected, additional and legally independent tier of local government with its own councillors, which can provide a range of local services within a defined area. A parish council operates at a local level below the principal council, in this case Tower Hamlets Council.

The council is required to consult local government electors in the area under review, and others who appear to have an interest in the review. When undertaking a review they must have regard to the need to ensure that community governance reflects the identities and interests of the community in the area under review, and the need to ensure that community governance in that area is effective and convenient.

In the development of its proposals the council has a legal duty to engage people with protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010.

Phase 1 of the public consultation fn the community governance review opened on 8 October 2018 and ran for 12 weeks until 31 December 2018. The council chose an initial consultation period of 12 weeks to enable a broad range of views to be gathered and to guage levels of support for proposals in the petition. The consultation programme covered online, social media, print and face-to-face channels in order to encourage a broad range of responses that represented the diverse population of the borough.

The second stage, putting forward the council's draft recommendations after considering findings from phase 1, will begin 4 March 2019 and run for a futher 12 weeks until 27 May 2019 The review must be complete by 22 July 2019.

Review objectives

The objectives of the review set out in the terms of reference are as follows:

1. To fulfil the council's obligations to undertake a community governance review following the receipt of a valid petition. The current guidelines state that we must complete this review within 12 months of the receipt of the petition.

2. To consider whether the creation of a parish council reflects the identities and interests of the community in the area.

3. To ensure that any proposed arrangements provide effective and convenient local government, including viability in the provision of services, the promotion of well-being and community cohesion.

4. To take into account any other arrangements for community representation and engagement in the area that are already in place or that could be made.

5. To consider options for electoral arrangements for the parish council should the proposal to create a parish council be adopted.

Conclusion - To be completed at the end of the Equality Analysis process
A final equality analysis will be published after the close of the phase 2 consultation on the council's draft recommendations to inform the council's final recommendations for publication in July 2019.

Name:
(signed off by)

Date signed off:
(approved)

Service area: Governance

Team name:
Strategy, policy & performance

Service manager:
Afazul Hoque

Name and role of the officer completing the EA:
Jannette John
Katy McGinty

Section 2 – Evidence (Consideration of Data and Information)

What initial evidence do we have which may help us think about the impacts or likely impacts on service users or staff?

Information available and which has been considered is:

- Census 2011 data
- Borough Profile 2018 data
- London Borough of Tower Hamlets Council Tax data
- Community governance review – consultation survey analysis
- Producing modelled estimates of the size of the lesbian, gay and bisexual (LGB) population of England report published by Public Health England

Section 3 – Assessing the Impacts on the 9 Groups

Please refer to the guidance notes below and evidence how you're proposal impact upon the nine Protected Characteristics in the table on page 3?

For the nine protected characteristics detailed in the table below please consider:-

- **What is the equality profile of service users or beneficiaries that will or are likely to be affected?**

Use the Council's approved diversity monitoring categories and provide data by target group of users or beneficiaries to determine whether the service user profile reflects the local population or relevant target group or if there is over or under representation of these groups

- **What qualitative or quantitative data do we have?**

List all examples of quantitative and qualitative data available
(include information where appropriate from other directorates, Census 2001 etc)
- *Data trends – how does current practice ensure equality*

- **Equalities profile of staff?**

Indicate profile by target groups and assess relevance to policy aims and objectives e.g. Workforce to Reflect the Community. Identify staff responsible for delivering the service including where they are not directly employed by the council.

- **Barriers?**

What are the potential or known barriers to participation for the different equality target groups? e.g. -communication, access, locality etc.

- **Recent consultation exercises carried out?**

Detail consultation with relevant interest groups, other public bodies, voluntary organisations, community groups, trade unions, focus groups and other groups, surveys and questionnaires undertaken etc. Focus in particular on the findings of views expressed by the equality target groups. Such consultation exercises should be appropriate and proportionate and may range from assembling focus groups to a one to one meeting.

- **Additional factors which may influence disproportionate or adverse impact?**

Management Arrangements - How is the Service managed, are there any management arrangements which may have a disproportionate impact on the equality target groups

- **The Process of Service Delivery?**

In particular look at the arrangements for the service being provided including opening times, custom and practice, awareness of the service to local people, communication

Please also consider how the proposal will impact upon the 3 One Tower Hamlets objectives:-

- Reduce inequalities
- Ensure strong community cohesion
- Strengthen community leadership.

Please Note -
Reports/stats/data can be added as Appendix

Target Groups	Impact – Positive or Adverse What impact will the proposal have on specific groups of service users or staff?	Reason(s) • Please add a narrative to justify your claims around impacts and, • Please describe the analysis and interpretation of evidence to support your conclusion as this will inform decision making Please also how the proposal with promote the three One Tower Hamlets objectives? -Reducing inequalities -Ensuring strong community cohesion -Strengthening community leadership
Race		Tower Hamlets is ranked as the 16th most ethnically diverse local authority in England in terms of the mix of different ethnic group populations. The Spitafields/Banglatown and Weavers wards are reflective of this diversity. The Census 2011 identified that 17.5% of residents in the Spitafields/Banglatown Ward identify as White British, 11.1% as Other White, 2.2% Mixed, 28.6% Bangladeshi, 3.3% Black and 37.4% as other. The ethnic makeup of Weavers Ward residents is similar with 23.7% White British, 9.1% other White, 2.2% Mixed, 19.1% Bangladesh, 4.6% Black and 40.4% as other. Census 2011 data identified that residents in the area of which the first stage consultation is based on includes 30.1% of residents who identify as White British, 20.2% as Other White, 3.4% as Mixed, 26.5% as Bangladeshi, 3.8% as Black and 16% as 'other'. This data therefore illustrates that the largest ethnic group in the proposed area are residents who identify as White British (30.1%) followed closely by Bangladeshi residents (26.5%). This differs slightly to the overall population of Tower Hamlets identified in the Borough Profile 2017/18 where Bangladeshi residents were found to make up 32% of the total population which is the largest Bangladeshi population in England. Prior to the phase 1 consultation we identified residents from under-represented groups that could be potentially adversely impacted by this proposal. In order to mitigate any negative impacts on those from an ethnic minority background several actions were undertaken to engage with various groups. These actions included the following: • Online engagement including social media posts and tweets about the consultation to raise

		awareness of the proposal and consultation taking place; • Letters were written to all residents listed on the Council Tax Register as living in the area; • Letters/emails were sent to all faith community and voluntary organisations/community groups. • Fliers were produced in both English and Bangladeshi and were available at various locations in the area. • Posters were produced and distributed to locations in and around the area. • Local residents some of whom were from ethnic minority backgrounds were employed as community researchers to engage on a face to face basis encouraging people from ethnic minority backgrounds to participate in the consultation. To make this process effective the researchers were able to communicate with residents in a variety of languages. • Pull up banners were printed and displayed around the borough to inform people about the consultation and encourage them to participate or ask questions if they required further information. • A special email address was created so that residents could directly request further information about the consultation when required. The results of the online survey were as follows. Ethnicity data was given for 515 individuals to the online survey. 487 (94.5%) of responders were from within the Tower Hamlets Borough and 379 (40.7%) reside within the Spitafields & Banglatown or Weavers wards. For online survey responses there is a significant over representation of White British responders (38.9% of total responders compared with 31.2% borough-wide). There is a significant under representation of Bangladeshi responders to the online survey (14.8% of total responders compared with 32% borough-wide). It is recommended that consultation activity in phase 2 should encourage responses through both paper and online channels. It is further recommended that at least one static displays of consultation information and material is made available for local residents to view within the area. It is suggested that a number of information giving events are held in the area to ensure that people have the opportunity to consider proposals. needs to continue with community leaders from ethnic minority backgrounds to encourage participation in the consultation. Consideration should be given to providing information in Bengali and other community languages.
Disability		Census 2011 data identified that 4.1% of residents in the Spitafields/Banglatown Ward identify as long term sick or disabled, this is similar to the Weavers Ward where the number is 4.6% of residents. 3.2% of residents identify as long term sick or disabled in the proposed area which is slightly lower than the wards.

| | | | Prior to the consultation we identified residents from under-represented groups that would be potentially adversely impacted by this proposal. In order to ensure residents who are less able were aware of the consultation and to mitigate any negative impacts several actions were undertaken to engage with disability groups. These actions included the following:
• The council funds a disability advocacy group that has a wide reaching network and its own steering group that is made up of people with disabilities. A meeting was held with the steering group encouraging them to participate and share the information about the consultation.
• Mixed methods for engagement included online, face to face, and in writing
• Residents were offered support in completing a questionnaire if they wished.

It is recommended that the following actions are taken in phase 2.

• Further outreach to a broader range of disability groups including REAL (local voices project), and AccessAble to help promote the consulation and encourage participation by their membership base.
• Consultation materials are produced in a format that is accessible to a broader range of people with disabilities. |
| Gender | | | Census 2011 data identifies that there are similar numbers of male and female residents in both the Wards with 53.9% male and 46.1% female residents in the Spitfields/Banglatown ward and 51.9% male and 48.1% females residents in the Weavers Ward. This is consistent with Tower Hamlets as a whole as identified in the Borough Profile 2017/18 where male residents were found to slightly outnumber female residents in Tower Hamlets by around 12,900.

Census 2011 data identified that residents in the area of which the consultation is based on includes 55% residents who identify as male and 45% of residents who identify as female.

Prior to the consultation we identified residents from under-represented groups that would be potentially adversely impacted by this proposal. Actions were undertaken to engage with these groups, which includes the following:
• Leaflets were handed out at Mariam Centre which is a womans only mosque in order to encourage more woman to take part in the consultation.
• Online engagement including social media posts and tweets about the consultation to raise awareness of the proposal and consultation taking place; |

- Letters were written to all residents listed on the Council Tax Register as living in the area;
- Letters/emails were sent to all faith community and voluntary organisations/community groups.
- Fliers were produced in both English and Bangladeshi and were available at various locations in the area.
- Fliers and posters were produced and distributed to locations in and around the area.
- Local residents (both female and male) were employed as community researchers to engage on a face to face basis encouraging people to participate in the consultation. These researchers were tasked to specifically target women in order to increase participation.
- Pull up banners were printed and displayed around the borough to inform people about the consultation and encourage them to participate or ask questions if they required further information.
- A special email address was created so that residents could directly request further information about the consultation when required.

For the purpose of this analyses the results of the online survey will be considered. In total 515 valid responses were received to the online survey. 487 (94.5%) of responders were from within the Tower Hamlets Borough and 379 (73.5%) reside within the Spitafields & Banglatown or Weavers wards.

The gender of the respondents to the online survey is set out below:

Responder Gender	Number	%
Female	153	29.7%
Intersex	1	0.2%
Male	282	54.8%
Prefer not to say	71	13.8%
Trans	1	0.2%
(blank)	7	1.4%
Total	**515**	100.0%

The majority of respondents were male (54.8%) followed by respondents who were female (29.7%). The number of female respondents is lower than the number of residents who identify as female in the area so in phase 2 further engagement needs to occur with this cohort.

		During consultation outreach community researchers identified that a barrier to engagaing with women and specifically those from ethnic minority background was language and English being predominantly a second language. It is recommended that in order to overcome this barrier in phase two of the consultation the following steps will be undertaken: • Female community leaders who can speak Bengali to attend community events for translations purposes in order to encourage participation by women. • Further outreach to womens groups to encourage attendees to participate in the consultation. • Further outreach to schools to engage with mothers and encourage participation.
Gender Reassignment		There is no readily available data to help inform us of this protected characteristic. We do however believe that the necessary steps were taken to ensure that information would be made available to people with this protected characteristic as part of the consultation process as outlined below. Prior to the consultation we identified residents from under-represented groups that would be potentially adversely impacted by this proposal. These actions included the following: • Online engagement including social media posts and tweets about the consuiltation to raise awareness of the proposal and consultation taking place; • Letters were written to all residents listed on the Council Tax Register as living in the area; • Letters/emails were sent to all faith community and voluntary organisations/community groups (including LGBTQ organisations and those providing services to LGBTQ residents). • Fliers were produced in both English and Bangladeshi and were available at various locations in the area. • Fliers and posters were produced and distributed to locations in and around the area. • Local residents were employed as community researchers to engage on a face to face basis encouraging people to participate in the consultation. • Pull up banners were printed and displayed around the borough to inform people about the consultation and encourage them to participate or ask questions if they required further information. • A special email address was created so that residents could directly request further information about the consultation when required. There is very little information relating to gender reassignment from survey respondents however in phase two of the consultation, in addition to the above the following actions will be undertaken to engage

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		with residents who may be undergoing gender reassignment:
		• There will be further outreach to LGBTQ groups including ELOP to help promote the consultation and encourage participation by their user base.
Sexual Orientation		*Producing modelled estimates of the size of the lesbian, gay and bisexual (LGB) population of England* report published by Public Health England in January 2017 identified that 8.7% of respondents of the GP Patient Survey 2015 residing in Tower Hamlets identified as lesbian, gay, bisexual or 'other', This was the third highest in Greater London. This information indicates that Tower Hamlets has the third highest population of LGBT residents in London although we do not have a further breakdown by ward. Prior to the consultation we identified residents from under-represented groups that would be potentially adversely impacted by this proposal. These actions included the following: • Online engagement including social media posts and tweets about the consuiltation to raise awareness of the proposal and consultation taking place; • Letters were written to all residents listed on the Council Tax Register as living in the area; • Letters/emails were sent to all faith community and voluntary organisations/community groups (including LGBTQ organisations and those providing services to LGBTQ residents). • Fliers were produced in both English and Bangladeshi and were available at various locations in the area. • Fliers and posters were produced and distributed to locations in and around the area. • Local residents were employed as community researchers to engage on a face to face basis encouraging people to participate in the consultation. • Pull up banners were printed and displayed around the borough to inform people about the consultation and encourage them to participate or ask questions if they required further information. • A special email address was created so that residents could directly request further information about the consultation when required. There is very limited information relating to the sexual orientation of survey respondents however in phase two of the consultation it is recommended that • Further outreach to LGBTQ groups including ELOP to help promote the consulation and encourage participation by their user base; and • We will utilise the LBTH LGBT Staff Forum 'Tower PRIDE' to help cascade information to staff

		who are residents in the area. • Targeted information via social media and other channels is considered
Religion or Belief		Tower Hamlets has the highest proportion of Muslim residents in the country with the Borough Profile identifying that 38% of residents identify as Muslim. This number for London is 13% and England 5%. Christianity is the second highest religion/belief in the Borough with 30% of residents identifying as Christian which is lower than both the rates in London and England which are 49% and 59% respectively. Tower Hamlets has a significantly higher proportion of residents who did not state their religion on the census form when compared to London and the rest of England Census information tells that in Spitalfields & Banglatown ward the proportion of residents who identified themselves as Christian was 18.4 per cent – lower than the borough average of 27.1 per cent. At 41.5 per cent of the population, the proportion of Muslim residents was higher than the borough average. 2,660 residents in the ward explicitly stated that they had no religion, this equated to 21.1 per cent of the ward population, compared to the borough average of 19.1 per cent. There were just over 2,000 residents in the ward who did not state their religion on the census form – accounting for 16 per cent of the ward's population, higher than the borough average. The proportion of residents who identified themselves as Christian was 24.7 per cent. At just over 30 per cent of the population, the proportion of Muslim residents was lower than the borough average. 3,251 residents in the Weavers ward explicitly stated that they had no religion, this equated to 25.2 per cent of the ward population, one of the highest proportions in the borough. Prior to the consultation we identified residents from under-represented groups that would be potentially adversely impacted by this proposal. These actions included the following: • We wrote to all faith communities including mosques and churches in the area encouraging them to cascase the information about the consulation and how to engage with their members. • Online engagement including social media posts and tweets about the consuiltation to raise awareness of the proposal and consultation taking place; • Letters were written to all residents listed on the Council Tax Register as living in the area; • Letters/emails were sent to all faith community and voluntary organisations/community groups • Fliers were produced in both English and Bangladeshi and were available at various locations in the area. • Fliers and posters were produced and distributed to locations in and around the area. • Local residents were employed as community researchers to engage on a face to face basis

| | | | encouraging people to participate in the consultation. Researchers were instructed to stand outside of places of worship to target those residents and encourage them to participate in the consultation.
• Pull up banners were printed and displayed around the borough including at places at worship to inform people about the consultation and encourage them to participate or ask questions if they required further information.
• A special email address was created so that residents could directly request further information about the consultation when required.

For the purpose of this analyses the results of the online survey will be considered. In total 515 valid responses were received to the online survey. 487 (94.5%) of responders were from within the Tower Hamlets Borough and 379 (73.5%) reside within the Spitafields & Banglatown or Weavers wards.
. Survey responses indicate that 17.6% of respondents indentify as Christian with 15.3% of respondents identifiing as Muslim. This number of Muslim respondents is significantly lower than the general population of the Spitafileds/Banglatown and Weavers ward residents which is 41.5% and 30% respectively. – a lower proportion than the population. In addition, 25.5% of responders stated that they preferred not to say, and 29.6% stated that they had no religion.

In addition to the above it is recommended that further outreach should be undertaken to engage with residents from the Mulsim faith who are under represented as consultation responders. |
| Age | | | The Borough Profile 2017/18 identified that Tower Hamlets has the 4th youngest population in the UK with almost half of residents (46%) being aged between 20 – 39. This is consistent with Census 2011 data which identified that the majority of residents in Spitafields/Banglatown and Weavers Wards are under the age of 44 with these numbers being 81.4% and 81.4% respectively.

Prior to the consultation we identified residents from under-represented groups that would be potentially adversely impacted by this proposal. These actions included the following:
• Online engagement including social media posts and tweets about the consuiltation to raise awareness of the proposal and consultation taking place;
• Letters were written to all residents listed on the Council Tax Register as living in the area;
• Letters/emails were sent to all faith community and voluntary organisations/community groups (including LGBTQ organisations and those providing services to LGBTQ residents).
• Fliers were produced in both English and Bangladeshi and were available at various locations in the area. |

- Fliers and posters were produced and distributed to locations in and around the area.
- Local residents were employed as community researchers to engage on a face to face basis encouraging people to participate in the consultation. Researchers were instructed to locate themselves around schools and youth facilities to capture different age groups.
- Pull up banners were printed and displayed around the borough including at places at worship to inform people about the consultation and encourage them to participate or ask questions if they required further information.
- A special email address was created so that residents could directly request further information about the consultation when required.

Age Profile – Survey responders	0-15	16-24	25-44	45-64	65+	Prefer not to say / blank	Total
ALL Responders	2 (0.4%)	30 (5.8%)	211 (40.9%)	173 (33.5%)	47 9.1(%)	48 (9.5%)	515

For the purpose of this analyses the results of the online survey will be considered. The majority of survey respondents (40.9%) were aged 25 – 44. This age group accounts for 52% of the areas population so response rates are lower than what would be expected. Similarly while residents aged 16-24 make up 16.8% of the brorough wide population this age group only makes up 5.8% of survey respondents.

In contrast, there is an over representation of residents who are 45-64 who responded to the survey. These residents make up 13.3% of the boroughs population however accounted for 33.5% of survey respondents.

This results of the survey illustrates that more engagement with those aged 16 – 24 and 25 – 44 needs to occur in phase two of the consultation. It is recommended that consideration is given to:
- outreach to schools, colleges and universities along with youth clubs and community centres to raise awareness of the consultation and encourage participation by this age group.
- To target those aged 25 – 44 at least one information giving event to be held out of normal working hours to encourage this age group to attend and participate in the consultation.

- Placement of information in workplaces
- We will target facilities that this age group are likely to frequent such as pubs/bars, restaurants, markets and leisure centres.

| Marriage and Civil Partnerships. | | Census 2011 data for the living arrangements of residents living in Spitafields/Banglatown and Weavers wards is outlined below. |

Census Data by Living Arrangements (QS108EW)	ALL	Spitalfields and Banglatown	Weavers	Proposed Parish Council Area
Living in a couple: Married	28.3%	25.7%	22.2%	21.7%
Living in a couple: Cohabiting (opposite-sex)	10.3%	9.5%	10.7%	13.4%
Living in a couple: In a registered same-sex civil partnership or cohabiting (same-sex)	2.0%	1.9%	2.6%	2.9%
Not living in a couple: Single (never married or never registered a same-sex civil partnership)	44.7%	49.7%	49.3%	50.3%
Not living in a couple: Married or in a registered same-sex civil partnership	3.5%	3.9%	2.9%	3.3%
Not living in a couple: Separated (but still legally married or still legally in a same-sex civil partnership)	2.7%	2.0%	2.7%	1.8%
Not living in a couple: Divorced or formerly in a same-sex civil partnership which is now legally dissolved	4.9%	3.9%	5.3%	4.0%
Not living in a couple: Widowed or surviving partner from a same-sex civil partnership	3.6%	3.4%	4.2%	4.7%

For the purpose of this analyses the results of the online survey will be considered. In total 515 valid

responses were received to the online survey. 487 (94.5%) of responders were from within the Tower Hamlets Borough and 379 (73.5%) reside within the Spitafields & Banglatown or Weavers wards. As outlined below 31.8% of survey responders identified themselves as single with 31.3% identifying as married and 25.6% preferring not to day.

Survey Responders by Living Arrangements	All Responders	
	Count	%
Blank	17	3.3%
Civil partnership	5	1.0%
Co-habiting	36	7.0%
Married	161	31.3%
Prefer not to say	132	25.6%
Single	164	31.8%
Grand Total	515	100.0%

The steps we can make to ensure that information would be made available to this protected characteristic as part of the consultation process as outlined below:

- Online engagement including social media posts and tweets about the consuiltation to raise awareness of the proposal and consultation taking place;
- Letters were written to all residents listed on the Council Tax Register as living in the area;
- Letters/emails were sent to all faith community and voluntary organisations/community groups (including LGBTQ organisations and those providing services to LGBTQ residents).
- Fliers were produced in both English and Bangladeshi and were available at various locations in the area.
- Fliers and posters were produced and distributed to locations in and around the area.
- Local residents were employed as community researchers to engage on a face to face basis encouraging people to participate in the consultation.
- Pull up banners were printed and displayed around the borough to inform people about the consultation and encourage them to participate or ask questions if they required further information.
- A special email address was created so that residents could directly request further information about the consultation when required.

| Pregnancy and Maternity | | There is no readily available data to help inform us of this protected characteristic. We do however believe that the necessary steps were taken to ensure that information would be made available to this protected characteristic as part of the consultation process as outlined below.

Prior to the consultation we identified residents from under-represented groups that would be potentially adversely impacted by this proposal. These actions included the following:
- Online engagement including social media posts and tweets about the consuiltation to raise awareness of the proposal and consultation taking place;
- Letters were written to all residents listed on the Council Tax Register as living in the area;
- Letters/emails were sent to all faith community and voluntary organisations/community groups (including LGBTQ organisations and those providing services to LGBTQ residents).
- Fliers were produced in both English and Bangladeshi and were available at various locations in the area.
- Fliers and posters were produced and distributed to locations in and around the area.
- Local residents were employed as community researchers to engage on a face to face basis encouraging people to participate in the consultation.
- Pull up banners were printed and displayed around the borough to inform people about the consultation and encourage them to participate or ask questions if they required further information.
- A special email address was created so that residents could directly request further information about the consultation when required.

There is no specific information relating to whether survey respondents are pregnant or have maternity status however in phase two of the consultation, the above actions will again be undertaken to engage with residents who may be pregnant or on maternity leave:. Further consideration should be given to outreach to GP clinics, hospitals, health centres, antenatal classes etc in order to increase the awareness about the consulation and encourage participation by those who are pregnant or on maternity leave. |
|---|---|---|

Section 4 – Mitigating Impacts and Alternative Options

From the analysis and interpretation of evidence in section 2 and 3 - Is there any evidence or view that suggests that different equality or other protected groups (inc' staff) could be adversely and/or disproportionately impacted by the proposal?

Yes?   No? X

If yes, please detail below how evidence influenced and formed the proposal? For example, why parts of the proposal were added / removed?

Whilst there is not any clear evidence that the proposal to create a parish would disproportionately impact people with a protected characteristic it is important that the principal council (Tower Hamlets) makes every effort to ensure that the views of people with a protected characteristic are taken into account in terms of consultation on the proposals. For these reasons a number of recommendations are made above on the conduct of phase 2 of the community governance review consultation

(Please note – a key part of the EA process is to show that we have made reasonable and informed attempts to mitigate any negative impacts. An EA is a service improvement tool and as such you may wish to consider a number of alternative options or mitigation in terms of the proposal.)

Where you believe the proposal discriminates but not unlawfully, you must set out below your objective justification for continuing with the proposal, without mitigating action.

Section 5 – Quality Assurance and Monitoring

Have monitoring systems been put in place to check the implementation of the proposal and recommendations?

Yes?   No? At this stage the proposal to create a parish council has not been adopted. In terms of the phase 2 consultation, data on protected characteristics will be collected. As in phase 1 responses will be monitored by the CGR steering group and further action taken if required.

How will the monitoring systems further assess the impact on the equality target groups?

See above

Does the policy/function comply with equalities legislation?
(Please consider the OTH objectives and Public Sector Equality Duty criteria)

Yes? A community governance review is a process governed by statute.   No?

If there are gaps in information or areas for further improvement, please list them below:

How will the results of this Equality Analysis feed into the performance planning process?

Section 6 - Action Plan

*As a result of these conclusions and recommendations what actions (if any) **will** be included in your business planning and wider review processes (team plan)? Please consider any gaps or areas needing further attention in the table below the example.*

Recommendation	Key activity	Progress milestones including target dates for either completion or progress	Officer responsible	Progress
Example 1. Better collection of feedback, consultation and data sources	1. Create and use feedback forms. Consult other providers and experts	1. Forms ready for January 2010 Start consultations Jan 2010	1.NR & PB	
2. Non-discriminatory behaviour	2. Regular awareness at staff meetings. Train staff in specialist courses	2. Raise awareness at one staff meeting a month. At least 2 specialist courses to be run per year for staff.	2. NR	

Recommendation	Key activity	Progress milestones including target dates for either completion or progress	Officer responsible	Progress
Ensure that people are able to respond to consultation through a wide range of channels	Design and delivery of consultation information. Consultation events, static displays, outreach.	Monthly review by CGR steering group	Steve Morton / Kerry Middleton	
Production of consultation information	Universal and targeted information including material suitable for people	Review at start of consultation period and half way point	Kerry Middleton	

	whose first language is not English and people with sensory impairment			
Collect and report data on protected characteristics of respondents	Design and administration of response monitoring	Monthly review by CGR steering group	Vicky Allen	

Appendix A

(Sample) Equality Assessment Criteria

Decision	Action	Risk
As a result of performing the analysis, it is evident that a risk of discrimination exists (direct, indirect, unintentional or otherwise) to one or more of the nine groups of people who share *Protected Characteristics.* It is recommended that the use of the policy be suspended until further work or analysis is performed.	**Suspend – Further Work Required**	**Red**
As a result of performing the analysis, it is evident that a risk of discrimination exists (direct, indirect, unintentional or otherwise) to one or more of the nine groups of people who share *Protected Characteristics.* However, a genuine determining reason may exist that could legitimise or justify the use of this policy.	**Further (specialist) advice should be taken**	**Red Amber**
As a result of performing the analysis, it is evident that a risk of discrimination (as described above) exists and this risk may be removed or reduced by implementing the actions detailed within the *Action Planning* section of this document.	**Proceed pending agreement of mitigating action**	**Amber**
As a result of performing the analysis, the policy, project or function does not appear to have any adverse effects on people who share *Protected Characteristics* and no further actions are recommended at this stage.	**Proceed with implementation**	**Green:**