



Meeting of the

TOWER HAMLETS COUNCIL

Wednesday, 28 February 2007 at 7.30 p.m.

A G E N D A

VENUE

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

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

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

You are summoned to attend a meeting of the Council of the London Borough of the Tower Hamlets to be held in **THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, 1ST FLOOR, TOWN HALL, MULBERRY PLACE, 5 CLOVE CRESCENT, LONDON, E14 2BG** at **7.30 p.m.** on **WEDNESDAY, 28 FEBRUARY 2007**.

Martin Smith
Acting Chief Executive

LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

COUNCIL

WEDNESDAY, 28 FEBRUARY 2007

7.30 p.m.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

To receive any apologies for absence.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

To note any declarations of interest made by Members, including those restricting Members from voting on the questions detailed in Section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act, 1992.

Note from the Chief Executive

In accordance with the Council's Code of Conduct, Members must declare any **personal interests** they have in any item on the agenda or as they arise during the course of the meeting. Members must orally indicate to which item their interest relates. If a Member has a personal interest he/she must also consider whether or not that interest is a **prejudicial personal interest** and take the necessary action. When considering whether or not they have a declarable interest, Members should consult pages 181 to 184 of the Council's Constitution. Please note that all Members present at a Committee meeting (in whatever capacity) are required to declare any personal or prejudicial interests.

A **personal interest** is, generally, one that would affect a Member (either directly or through a connection with a relevant person or organisation) more than other people in London, in respect of the item of business under consideration at the meeting. If a member of the public, knowing all the relevant facts, would view a Member's personal interest in the item under consideration as so substantial that it would appear likely to prejudice the Member's judgement of the public interest, then the Member has a **prejudicial personal interest**.

Consequences:

- If a Member has a **personal interest**: he/she must declare the interest but can stay, speak and vote.
- If the Member has **prejudicial personal interest**: he/she must declare the interest, cannot speak or vote on the item and must leave the room.

When declaring an interest, Members are requested to specify the nature of the interest, the particular agenda item to which the interest relates and to also specify whether the interest is of a personal or personal and prejudicial nature. This procedure is designed to assist the public's understanding of the meeting and is also designed to enable a full entry to be made in the Statutory Register of Interests which is kept by the Head of Democratic Renewal and Engagement on behalf of the Monitoring Officer.

3. MINUTES

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To confirm as a correct record of the proceedings the unrestricted minutes of the ordinary meeting of the Council held on 13 December, 2006. **(Attached)**

4. TO RECEIVE ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE MAYOR, LEADER OF THE COUNCIL, MEMBERS OF THE CABINET OR THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

5. TO RECEIVE ANY PETITIONS OR DEPUTATIONS

5.1 Petition Requests

The Council's constitution provides that a maximum of three petitions are permitted at any meeting and are selected in the order notice is received.

The following requests to submit petitions have been received:

- (i) David Farrar – lack of consultation on land at Jolly's Green, E14.

5.2 Deputation Requests

The Council's constitution provides that a maximum of three deputations are permitted at any meeting and are selected in the order that notice is received. The following deputation requests have been received:

- (i) Nicki Schroeder – respite care for the familiar of disabled children.
- (ii) Rev Alan Green – memorial to the victims of the 1943 Bethnal Green underground disaster.
- (iii) Toynbee Hall Pensioners Club – home care service charges.

6. TO RECEIVE WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC 17 - 20

(Maximum of 30 minutes allowed)

The questions which have been received are set out in agenda item 6.

7. TO RECEIVE QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL 21 - 26

(Maximum of 30 minutes allowed)

The questions which have been received are set out in agenda item 7.

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

Reports from the Cabinet meeting held on 7 February, 2007

8 .2 Budget 2007/08

Note:

The report and appendices from the Cabinet meeting held on 7th February 2007 are being circulated as a supplementary agenda pack in conjunction with this agenda.

9. TO RECEIVE REPORTS AND QUESTIONS ON JOINT ARRANGEMENTS AND EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS

9 .1 Joint Arrangements

No business under this heading to be considered.

9 .2 External Organisations

No business under this heading to be considered.

10. TO CONSIDER MOTIONS SUBMITTED BY MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

10 .1 Motion submitted by Councillor Rania Khan regarding Licensing Sex/Strip clubs

Proposed: Councillor Rania Khan
Seconded: Councillor

"There is almost-total unity across Tower Hamlets people of all ages, ethnicities and faith groups in opposing the exploitation and degrading of women associated with sex and strip club.

In face of growing concerns at the impact of Strip clubs and other such venues in the borough, and the effect of these on local neighbourhoods, we call on the Council leader and Cabinet to investigate how discretionary powers can be applied to maximum effect to safeguard the rights of women, and to protect children and communities.

This should include an investigation of:

- * Best Practise in applying local authority powers, in particular looking at City of London, Greenwich, Westminster, and Glasgow;
- * Latest research on the demand for and impact of such clubs;
- * Views of local residents;
- * How existing powers and publicity can be used to challenge exploitation;
- * A progress report to the next full council."

10 .2 Motion submitted by Councillor Waiseul Islam regarding council owned buildings

Proposed: Councillor Waiseul Islam
Seconded: Councillor

"Council notes:

That several council-owned buildings and sites have been sold and are being offered for sale.

These include key places in East End history such as Poplar Town Hall and key service points such as Cheviot House.

That some sites are disposed of at potential net loss to the public purse, when costs of renting alternative office space is calculated

That demolition and rebuilding on these sites does not currently maximise potential public benefit from publicly-owned assets

Council believes:

That we have a duty to manage public assets to best serve the needs of the community

That achieving best value from these assets must include a calculation of current and future use values, community benefits and the cost of alternative provision of services.

Council resolves:

To call on Cabinet to ensure that no Council land or buildings are sold off without a full review of current and potential uses and benefits, and full local and borough-wide consultation."

10 .3 Motion submitted by Councillor Lutfa Begum regarding the NHS in Tower Hamlets

Proposed: Councillor Lutfa Begum

Seconded: Councillor

"This Council considers Tower Hamlets needs excellent NHS-provided health services, with capacity for our growing population and the demands of the Olympics and we pledge to work and campaign for this. We recognise the importance of local health service providers as employers and trainers of local people. This Council opposes current NHS financial regulations leading to cutbacks and private finance schemes, and privatisation of NHS services. It calls on the Cabinet and officers, through the Partnership, the Primary Care Trust and other bodies, to investigate the costs of the Barts and London PFI programme, privatisation and cutbacks on local services, employment and training, and report publicly. This Council supports the NHS day of action on 3rd March called by NHS Together (TUC and health professional organisations) and Keep our NHS public."

10 .4 Motion submitted by Councillor Shahed Ali regarding pro-active access to council committee meetings

Proposed: Councillor Shahed Ali

Seconded: Councillor

"This Council Believes:

It has a duty to involve all members of the public to access the various council committee meetings we hold in the Town Hall. However, due to

the location of our Town Hall, it is extremely difficult for persons to make the strenuous journey to this remote location, particularly those with physical disabilities. Accommodation facilities are restricted to 30 persons in the public gallery although we have a growing population of approximately 200,000.

“This council further believes:

Every individual has the fundamental right to play an equal role in society, and this council must as a priority pro-actively address identified needs to ensure all persons have equal access to the work of the council. The facility to enhance transparency through the simple cost effective process of ‘web casting’ meetings is achievable

“This council resolves to:

- a) Agree to web cast council committee meetings subject to a cost evaluation.

“This Council seeks a report from officers:

- (a) Officers to immediately proceed to investigate the mechanics of providing web casts of council meetings.
- (b) Officers to provide a costing forecast for this provision to be completed before the cabinet meeting prior to the next full council meeting and establish how it might be paid for.”

10 .5 Motion submitted by CouncillorAbjol Miah regarding East End Life

Proposed: Councillor Abjol Miah
Seconded: Councillor

"This Council recommends to Cabinet that production of the Council’s own East End Life newspaper should not be handed over to Archant Ltd. This would lead to an unhealthy concentration of control over east London newspapers. We want to retain EEL in-house, and review editorial policies to better reflect the make up of the Council and the community it serves."

10 .6 Motion submitted by Councillor Ahmed Hussain regarding Council employment

Proposed: Councillor Ahmed Hussain
Seconded: Councillor

"Council notes:

That the Council is one of the biggest employers in Tower Hamlets
That Tower Hamlets residents have an annual average household income of less than £15,000 a year, despite also having the highest-earning postcode in the UK
That the borough has high levels of graduate unemployment
That there is a rapid rise in the number of top managers currently paid over £50,000 and over £100,000, and large numbers of interim managers on very high day rates, with some paid £600 a day

Council believes:

That highly skilled staff and managers are willing to work in the public sector for reasonable pay of less than £100,000
That permanent staff should be appointed through equal opportunity interview processes in all but exceptional cases

Council recommends to Cabinet that:

Best practise and cost effective appointments processes with permanent staff appointed wherever possible
That salaries are capped at £100,000 pa
That resources released are redirected into training schemes for Environmental Health, Planning and other skill-shortage jobs."

10 .7 Motion submitted by Councillor Louise Alexander regarding a Swaps Agency

Proposed: Councillor Louise Alexander
Seconded: Councillor Stephanie Eaton

"This Council notes

- The overcrowding facing many families in the Borough and the effects of overcrowding on health (both physical and mental), ability to study and likelihood of overcrowding encouraging the propensity of young people to spend time on the streets and be more easily lured into anti-social behaviour;
- That 49% of members enquiries concern housing transfer;
- The Mayor's Housing Strategy Evidence Base 2005 estimates that 8% of socially rented homes in London are underoccupied;
- The small numbers of larger homes proposed to be built in the LDF and London Plan, relative to need;
- The very small numbers of large families re-housed in community groups 3 and 4;
- The limited success of the financial incentive scheme to decant in reaching under-occupiers;
- That the current swaps programme is self administered;
- That many people may not want to let strangers view their home unaccompanied;
- That under 30 swaps have occurred per year over the last 5 years under the current swaps scheme.

This Council believes

- The Council needs to be pro-active in contacting under-occupiers;
- That swaps can be facilitated more easily with outside assistance;
- Many people vulnerable and elderly people need support to move home;
- That a small amount of additional resource allocating a small team to work on this project could bring a proportionately high return in terms of alleviating overcrowding and its associated effects.

This Council asks the Cabinet to report on this proposal, looking at different options for resourcing it:

- Setting up a swaps agency with the following functions:

- a) identifying under occupiers and pro-actively contacting them
- b) publicising the swaps agency
- c) identifying possible matches with overcrowded families
- d) setting up swaps 'chains'
- e) setting up viewing times and accompanying viewers
- f) ensuring the move goes smoothly and offering assistance in setting up the removals process, especially with elderly under occupiers.

10 .8 Motion submitted by Councillor Clair Hawkins regarding the Bethnal Green Tube Disaster Memorial

Proposed: Councillor Clair Hawkins
Seconded: Councillor Carli Harper-Penman

"This Council Notes:

1. That on March 3 1943, 173 people including 62 children lost their lives in the worst civilian tragedy of the war at Bethnal Green Tube station.
2. That this is the largest loss of life ever to have occurred on the London Underground.

This Council Further Notes:

1. That, working with architects Harry Patica and Jens Borstelmann, local resident and survivor, Alf Morris, has produced plans for a highly visible memorial monument cast in bronze with 173 narrow beams of light on it, representing each of the people killed.
2. That a working party called the Stairway to Heaven Memorial Group, has been established, which is investigating the possibility of setting up a charity.
3. That the group has applied for planning permission and has begun to raise funds.

This Council Resolves:

1. To pledge its full support to the campaign to erect a monument to the victims of the Bethnal Green Tube Disaster."

10 .9 Motion submitted by Councillor Denise Jones regarding Strip clubs

Proposed: Councillor Denise Jones
Seconded: Councillor Alibor Choudhury

"This Council Notes:

1. There are many people that see striptease as a degrading and morally reprehensible activity
2. Recent expert legal advice is that striptease is not an illegal activity and cannot be banned by local authorities but that actions can be taken to seek to control the activity
3. When the Licensing Policy for the new Government Licensing Regime was adopted by the Council, it included an updated version of the old striptease policy and conditions for then existing

- striptease premises were retained.
4. The new Government Licensing regime has made the regulation of striptease more problematic
 5. The new Government Licensing regime lays down four objectives that all Licensing objectives have to be judged against these are
 - Prevention of crime and disorder
 - Public safety
 - Prevention of nuisance
 - Prevention of harm to Children
 6. London Boroughs, under local legislation, can regulate sexual encounter establishments (sex shops and sex cinemas) and under a previous resolution the Council have decided not to allow any of these premises to operate in the Borough
 7. That local authorities including the City of London, Westminster, Glasgow and Greenwich are known to have interpreted the legislation in a way which allows them to exercise greater control over the licensing of strip clubs.

This Council Resolves:

1. That Overview and Scrutiny Committee be asked to seek a report of officers and review the impact of such clubs on the local community, employees and users including through inviting experts to submit evidence, through engaging with the community including faith groups and through seeking legal and professional advice and support.
2. To use the results of this review to inform the Council's approach to safeguarding the rights of women and protection of children as well as the wider community.
3. That the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee investigate ways in which existing powers under licensing law can be used to exercise greater control over strip clubs and to seek information from the local authorities named above as part of the review.
4. That a report on the outcomes of these two studies be presented to the Cabinet and to Licensing Committee for consideration for the purpose of amending the policy."

10 .10 Motion submitted by Councillor Simon Rouse regarding the Sustainable Communities Bill

Proposed: Councillor Simon Rouse
Seconded: Councillor Tim Archer

That this Council:

1. Supports the Sustainable Communities Bill which will devolve more power from Whitehall to councils and communities by
 - giving councils more power over money spent by national agencies on local matters in their areas;
 - giving councils and their communities the power to drive government policy to assist them in promoting sustainable communities; and
 - thereby help councils to protect the wellbeing of their communities and citizens.
2. Notes that the Bill is promoted in Parliament by a cross-party

group of MPs led by Nick Hurd MP, David Drew MP and Julia Goldsworthy MP and is supported by 363 MPs, well over half the House of Commons.

3. Therefore resolves to write to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, urging her to support the Bill and to inform the leading MPs of this decision."

11. OTHER BUSINESS

11 .1 Review of the Constitution	73 - 86
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LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING

HELD AT 7.30 P.M. ON WEDNESDAY, 13 DECEMBER 2006

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

Members Present:

Councillor Shafiqul Haque, Mayor, in the Chair

Councillor Helal Abbas	Councillor Ann Jackson
Councillor Ohid Ahmed	Councillor Denise Jones
Councillor Rajib Ahmed	Councillor Dr. Emma Jones
Councillor Rofique U Ahmed	Councillor Azizur Rahman Khan
Councillor Anwara Ali	Councillor Rania Khan
Councillor Shahed Ali	Councillor Shiria Khatun
Councillor M. Shahid Ali	Councillor Abdul Matin
Councillor Timothy Archer	Councillor Abjol Miah
Councillor Abdul Asad	Councillor Fozol Miah
Councillor Rupert Bawden	Councillor Abdul Munim
Councillor Lutfu Begum	Councillor Timothy O'Flaherty
Councillor Philip Briscoe	Councillor Ahmed Adam Omer
Councillor Alibor Choudhury	Councillor Joshua Peck
Councillor Shamim A. Chowdhury	Councillor Lutfur Rahman
Councillor Stephanie Eaton	Councillor Oliur Rahman
Councillor Rupert Eckhardt	Councillor M. Mamun Rashid
Councillor Marc Francis	Councillor Simon Rouse
Councillor Peter Golds	Councillor Mohammed Abdus Salique
Councillor Carli Harper-Penman	Councillor A A Sardar
Councillor Clair Hawkins	Councillor Bill Turner
Councillor Alexander Heslop	Councillor Dulal Uddin
Councillor Shirley Houghton	Councillor Abdal Ullah
Councillor Ahmed Hussain	Councillor Salim Ullah
Councillor Sirajul Islam	Councillor Motin Uz-Zaman
Councillor Waiseul Islam	

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillor Louise Alexander.

RESOLVED

That the apologies for absence be noted.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The following Declarations of Interest were made:

Councillor	Item	Type of Interest	Reason
Peter Golds	5.1(iii)	personal	ownership of nearby property
Joshua Peck	10.10	personal	employee of Heritage Lottery Fund, a potential funder of Poplar Baths
Joshua Peck	10.2 10.6	personal	Council nominee on Victoria Park Housing Association
Ohid Ahmed	10.8	personal	council nominee to East London Line Group
Ohid Ahmed	10.10	personal	employer – Leaside Regeneration
Helal U Abbas	10.2 10.6	personal	Council nominee to Tower Hamlets Community Housing
Motin Uz-Zaman	10.2 10.6	personal	Council nominee to East End Homes Board
Marc Francis	10.2 10.6	personal	Council nominee to Old Ford Housing Association
Ahmed Omer	10.2 10.6	personal	Council nominee to Tower Hamlets Community Housing
Carli Harper-Penman	11.2	personal	resident of Manhattan building – Bow Quarter
Shiria Khatun	10.2 10.6	personal	Council nominee to Poplar Harca
Sirajul Islam	10.2 10.6	personal	Council nominee to Tower Hamlets Community Housing
Denise Jones	10.2 10.6	personal	Council nominee to East End Homes Board
Abdal Ullah	10.8	personal	Council nominee to East London Group
Mohammed Abdus Salique	10.2 10.6	personal	Council nominee to Tower Hamlets Community Housing
Abjol Miah	10.6	personal	Council Tennant

3. MINUTES**RESOLVED**

That subject to the following amendments, the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on Wednesday 13th September be confirmed as a correct record of the proceedings and the Mayor be authorised to sign them accordingly:-

1. an addition to all councillors declarations in respect to agenda item 10.1 – motion on leaseholder charges. The addition to the minutes will state that the declarations of interest had been made as the members were leaseholders of Council owned property in the London Borough of Tower Hamlets;
2. the inclusion of Councillor Salim Ullah's and Councillor Rofique Ahmed's declarations of interest in respect to agenda item 10.1 - motion on leaseholder charges;
3. the deletion of Councillor Alibor Choudhury's abstention on the vote in respect to agenda item 5.1; and
4. the inclusion of Councillor Bill Turner's declaration of interest in respect to agenda item 10.11 – motion on health spending in Tower Hamlets. The declaration was made on the basis of his work with East London Mental Health Trust.

4. TO RECEIVE ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE MAYOR, LEADER OF THE COUNCIL, MEMBERS OF THE CABINET OR THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE**(a) Mayor's Charity Event**

The Mayor informed the Council that the Charity Event had raised approximately £50,000. The Mayor thanked all those who had worked tirelessly to organise such a successful event.

(b) Fairtrade Status

Councillor Joshua Peck, Lead Member for Performance and Resources, advised the Council that the London Borough of Tower Hamlets recently had been awarded Fair Trade Status and congratulated the Council and Officers on this achievement. Councillor Peck also stated that the London Borough of Tower Hamlets was the best performing Council under the Mayor's Green Procurement Award.

(c) Retirement of Interim Chief Executive.

Councillor Denise Jones, Leader of the Council, paid tribute to Mr Ian Wilson and thanked him for his dedicated service to the London Borough of Tower Hamlets. Councillor Sirajul Islam, Deputy Leader of the Council, further gave thanks to Mr Wilson's efforts and wished him all the best in the future.

5. TO RECEIVE ANY PETITIONS OR DEPUTATIONS

5.1 Petition re Ferguson Wharf

Three requests to present petitions had been submitted.

(i) David Farrar – lack of consultation on land at Jolly’s Green, E14

The Interim Chief Executive notified the Council that the petitioner, Mr Farrar, was unwell and had asked that the petition be withdrawn from consideration at the meeting.

(ii) Julie Talbot – problems on Ferguson Wharf

At the invitation of the Mayor, Ms Julie Talbot, on behalf of the petitioners, addressed the meeting on the need to reduce the impact of the local Youth Centre on Ferguson Wharf residents. Ms Talbot responded to a series of questions put by members. Councillor Abdal Ullah, Lead Member for Cleaner, Safer, Greener, responded on behalf of the Council.

RESOLVED that the petition be referred to the Corporate Director, Environment and Culture, for written response within 28 days.

(iii) Richard Perkins – illegal occupation by travellers of the land known as 443-451 Westferry Road

The Interim Chief Executive notified the Council that the petitioner, Mr Perkins, was not able to attend and had asked that the petition be withdrawn from consideration at the meeting.

5.2 Deputation Requests

(i) Pawla Cottage - setting up an Arms Length Management Organisation.

At the invitation of the Mayor, Ms Pawla Cottage, on behalf of the deputation, addressed the meeting on the subject of the setting up of an Arms Length Management Organisation.

Ms Cottage responded to a series of questions put by members. Councillor Rupert Bawden, Lead Member for Housing and Development, responded on behalf of the Council.

RESOLVED that the deputation be referred to the Corporate Director Development and Renewal, for a written response within 28 days.

(ii) Carole Swords - repairs and improvements on Council Estates.

At the invitation of the Mayor, Mrs Carole Swords, on behalf of the deputation, addressed the meeting on the subject of repairs and improvements on Council Estates.

Mrs Swords responded to a series of questions put by members. Councillor Rupert Bawden, Lead Member for Housing and Development responded on behalf of the Council.

RESOLVED that the deputation be referred to the Corporate Director Development and Renewal, for a written response within 28 days.

(iii) Guy Shennan - twinning Tower Hamlets with Jenin in Palestine.

At the invitation of the Mayor, Mr Guy Shennan, on behalf of the deputation, addressed the meeting on the subject of twinning Tower Hamlets with Jenin in Palestine.

Mr Shennan responded to a series of questions put by members. Councillor Ohid Ahmed, Lead Member for Regeneration, Localisation and Community Partnerships responded on behalf of the Council.

RESOLVED that the deputation be referred to the Assistant Chief Executive for a written response within 28 Days.

6. TO RECEIVE WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Five questions were submitted by members of the public for response by members of the Cabinet, details of which were set out in agenda item no.6. The questions together with the draft responses were tabled on blue paper.

6.1 Question from Ms Caroline Merion, re the Council's policy towards Co-operatives to Councillor Anwara Ali, Lead Member for Employment, Equalities and Skills

Councillor Ali referred to her tabled response. Ms Merion asked a brief supplementary question relating to the Council providing moral support for further investigation into the Co-operative movement. Councillor Ali agreed to provide a written response.

6.2 Question from Ms Jackie Turner, re Climate Change to Councillor Abdal Ullah, Lead Member for Cleaner, Safer and Greener

Councillor Ullah referred to his tabled response. Ms Turner asked a brief supplementary question relating to the Council taking concrete measures to reduce carbon emissions to which Councillor Ullah responded that the Council was taking substantive measures but there was more that could be done.

6.3 Question from Mr Michael Collins, re strip clubs and "sexploitation" to Councillor Abdal Ullah, Lead Member for Cleaner, Safer and Greener

Councillor Ullah referred to his table response. Mr Collins asked a brief supplementary question relating to when the Council was going to have a further debate on this issue to which Councillor Ullah responded.

MOVED by Councillor Shahed Ali, **SECONDED** by Councillor Ahmed Hussain

That in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 14.1.3 agenda item 10.12, motion submitted by Councillor Rania Khan regarding sex and strip clubs, be brought forward for consideration after item 6.3. In accordance with the provisions of Rule 17.4, 10 members requested that a recorded vote be held.

The following members voted for the motion:-

Councillor Abjol Miah
 Councillor Simon Rouse
 Councillor Stephanie Eaton
 Councillor Rajib Ahmed
 Councillor Shahed Ali
 Councillor Timothy Archer
 Councillor Lutfa Begum
 Councillor Philip Briscoe
 Councillor Shamim Ahmed Chowdhury
 Councillor Rupert Eckhardt
 Councillor Peter Golds
 Councillor Shirley Houghton
 Councillor Ahmed Hussain
 Councillor Waiseul Islam
 Councillor Doctor Emma Jones
 Councillor Azizur Rahman Khan
 Councillor Rania Khan
 Councillor Abdul Matin
 Councillor Fozol Miah
 Councillor Mohammed Abdul Munim
 Councillor Timothy O'Flaherty
 Councillor Oliur Rahman
 Councillor Mohammed Mamun Rashid
 Councillor Dulal Uddin

(24 voted for the motion)

The following members voted against the motion:-

Councillor Denise Jones
 Councillor Helal Abbas
 Councillor Ohid Ahmed
 Councillor Rofique Uddin Ahmed
 Councillor Anwara Ali
 Councillor Mohammed Shahid Ali
 Councillor Abdul Asad
 Councillor Rupert Bawden
 Councillor Alibor Choudhury
 Councillor Marc Francis
 Councillor Carli Harper-Penman
 Councillor Clair Hawkins
 Councillor Alexander Heslop
 Councillor Sirajul Islam
 Councillor Ann Jackson
 Councillor Shiria Khatun
 Councillor Ahmed Adam Omer
 Councillor Joshua Peck
 Councillor Lutfur Rahman
 Councillor Mohammed Abdus Salique
 Councillor Abdul Aziz Sardar
 Councillor Bill Turner
 Councillor Abdal Ullah
 Councillor Salim Ullah
 Councillor Motin Uz-Zaman
 Councillor Shafiqul Haque (The Mayor)

(26 voted against the motion)

The Mayor then declared that the motion was **LOST**.

6.4 Question from Ms Leigh Tiff, re works being undertaken at All Saints DLR Station to Councillor Rupert Bawden, Lead Member for Housing and Development

Councillor Bawden referred to his table response. Ms Tiff asked a brief supplementary question relating to the Council considering noise mitigation measures to which Councillor Bawden responded.

6.5 Question from Mr David Snowdon re unpaid leaseholder charges to Councillor Rupert Bawden, Lead Member for Housing and Development.

Councillor Bawden referred to his table response. Mr Snowdon asked a brief supplementary question relating to the extent of unpaid charges. Councillor Bawden agreed to provide a written response.

7. TO RECEIVE QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

27 questions were submitted by members of the Council for response by members of the Cabinet, details of which were set out in agenda item 7. The questions together with the draft responses were tabled on yellow paper.

7.1 Question from Councillor Mohammed Shahid Ali to Councillor Denise Jones, Leader of the Council, re the progress on the provision of a Muslim cemetery in the Borough

Councillor Jones referred to her tabled response to which she spoke.

7.2 Question from Councillor Dulal Uddin to Councillor Lutfur Rahman, Lead Member for Culture, re Poplar Baths

Councillor Rahman referred to his tabled response to which he spoke. Councillor Uddin asked a brief supplementary question to which the Lead Member responded.

7.3 Question from Councillor Simon Rouse to Councillor Denise Jones, Leader of the Council, re payments to central Labour Party funds

Councillor Jones referred to her tabled response to which she spoke. Councillor Rouse asked a brief supplementary question to which the Leader responded.

7.4 Question from Councillor Louise Alexander to Councillor Abdal Ullah, Lead Member for Cleaner, Safer, Greener, re the status of a fraud investigation

Not asked due to Councillor Louise Alexander's absence.

7.5 Question from Councillor Alibor Choudhury to Councillor Rupert Bawden, Lead Member for Housing & Development, re Swan Housing

Councillor Bawden referred to his tabled response to which he spoke. Councillor Choudhury asked a brief supplementary question to which the Lead Member responded.

7.6 Question from Councillor Oliur Rahman to Councillor Denise Jones, Leader of the Council, re council twinning policy

Councillor Jones referred to her tabled response to which she spoke. Councillor Rahman asked a brief supplementary question to which the Leader agreed to provide a written response.

7.7 Question from Councillor Emma Jones to Councillor Rupert Bawden, Lead Member for Housing & Development, re UNESCO world heritage sites in the Borough

Councillor Bawden referred to his tabled response to which he spoke. Councillor Jones asked a brief supplementary question to which the Lead Member responded.

7.8 Question from Councillor Stephanie Eaton to Councillor Joshua Peck, Lead Member for Performance & Resources, re the equal pay review

Councillor Peck referred to his tabled response to which he spoke. Councillor Eaton asked a brief supplementary question to which the Lead Member responded.

7.9 Question from Councillor Ann Jackson to Councillor Denise Jones, Leader of the Council, re plans for the Olympic Games in 2012

Councillor Jones referred to her tabled response to which she spoke.

7.10 Question from Councillor Abjol Miah to Councillor Joshua Peck, Lead Member for Performance & Resources, re staff who have bi-lingual skills

Councillor Peck referred to his tabled response to which he spoke. Councillor Miah asked a brief supplementary question to which the Lead Member responded.

7.11 Question from Councillor Peter Golds to Councillor Lutfur Rahman, Lead Member for Culture, re decision to re-brand Guy Fawkes Night in Tower Hamlets

Councillor Golds took Councillor Rahman's written response as tabled. Councillor Golds asked a brief supplementary question to which the Leader responded.

7.12 Question from Councillor Tim O'Flaherty to Councillor Rupert Bawden, Lead Member for Housing & Development, re how

homeless people from outside the Borough are offered accommodation in London Borough of Tower Hamlets

Councillor Bawden referred to his tabled response to which he spoke. Councillor O'Flaherty asked a brief supplementary question to which the Lead Member responded.

In accordance with Rule 12.10 questions 7.13 to 7.27 were not considered due to lack of time. Copies of the tabled responses would be forwarded to the questioners.

MOVED by Councillor Denise Jones, **SECONDED** by Councillor Sirajul Islam and **RESOLVED**: That in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 14.1.3 agenda items 11.1 and 11.2 be brought forward for consideration at this point.

11. OTHER BUSINESS

11.1 Appointment of Acting Head of the Paid Service

MOVED by Councillor Denise Jones, **SECONDED** by Councillor Sirajul Islam and

RESOLVED that the Council appoint:-

- (a) Mr Martin Smith, currently Director of Resources as Acting Head of the Paid Service (Chief Executive) from 1st January 2007 until a permanent appointment is made; and
- (b) Mr Alan Finch, Head of Corporate Finance, as Chief Finance Officer in accordance with section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972 from 1st January 2007 while Mr Smith carries out the role of Acting Head of the Paid Service (Chief Executive).

11.2 Crossrail

MOVED by Councillor Rupert Bawden, **SECONDED** by Councillor Denise Jones

“

1. That in the judgement of the Council it is expedient for the Council to oppose the 8 November 2006 Amendment of Provisions to the Crossrail Bill now being promoted in the present Session of Parliament.
2. That by this resolution the Council consents to such opposition and thereby approves the submission and content of the petition against the third tranche of Additional Provisions to the Crossrail Bill as set out in Appendix A of this report.
3. That all necessary steps be taken for the purpose of such opposition and for complying with the provisions of section 239 of the Local Government Act 1972.

4. That the Corporate Director (Development and Renewal) be authorised to continue negotiations with the Crossrail team in relation to the issues in the third petition as set out in Appendix A to this report with a view to resolving the Authority's objections to the Crossrail project and withdrawing in full or in part the second petition in the event of a successful outcome to the negotiations.
5. That the Corporate director, (Development & Renewal), be authorised to negotiate and resolve matters arising consequential to the Authority's objections to the Crossrail project insofar as the specific authority of the Council is not required."

After discussion it was **MOVED** by Councillor Simon Rouse, **SECONDED** by Councillor Denise Jones and

RESOLVED that in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 14.1.10 that the question be now put.

The motion was then put to the meeting and **CARRIED**.

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

8.1 Docklands Light Railway

After discussion it was **MOVED** by Councillor Rupert Bawden, **SECONDED** by Councillor Denise Jones and

RESOLVED that the recommendations of the report arising from the Cabinet meeting of 6 September with regard to the Docklands Light Railway be approved.

8.2 Gambling Policy

After discussion it was **MOVED** by Councillor Abdul Ullah, **SECONDED** by Councillor Bill Turner and

RESOLVED that the Council approve the recommendations contained within the Cabinet report arising from its meeting on 6 December in relation to the Council's Gambling Policy.

MOVED by Councillor Joshua Peck, **SECONDED** by Councillor Ohid Ahmed and

RESOLVED that in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 14.1.13 the meeting be extended under Rule 9 by 30 minutes.

MOVED by Councillor Simon Rouse, **SECONDED** by Councillor Tim Archer and

RESOLVED that in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 27, there be no time limit on motions by suspension of Rule 13.2.

9. TO RECEIVE REPORTS AND QUESTIONS ON JOINT ARRANGEMENTS AND EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS

No items were considered under this heading.

10. TO CONSIDER MOTIONS SUBMITTED BY MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

12 motions were submitted by members of the Council for consideration by the Council.

10.1 Motion submitted by Councillor Phil Briscoe regarding crime reduction targets and Police Station provision in the Borough.

MOVED by Councillor Philip Briscoe and **SECONDED** by Councillor Shirley Houghton:

“This Council Notes:

1. In the year 2005/06, the Tower Hamlets targets on crime reduction were missed in each of the top 10 categories, including domestic burglaries, violent crime, racial incidents, street robberies and vehicle crimes.
2. Neither the Tower Hamlets Council Community Plan 2006-07, nor the Tower Hamlets Strategic Plan 2006-2011, make any mention of the existence or importance of Police Stations in the Borough.
3. That aside from the 2 main Police Stations in the Borough (at Limehouse and Bethnal Green), there are a further 4 recognised police stations in Tower Hamlets (Isle of Dogs, Poplar, Brick Lane, Bow). Out of a possible total weekly opening of 672 hours, these 4 stations currently open for only 133.5 hours per week (19.8%).
4. That the number of hours when local residents can visit an active Police Station in Tower Hamlets is one of the lowest figures across London Boroughs. In neighbouring Boroughs, Police Station opening hours are significantly longer in Newham, Hackney, Greenwich and Lewisham.
5. The success of the residents on the Isle of Dogs and their campaign to change the opening hours of the Manchester Road Police Station via the Metropolitan Police Authority and to ensure that this facility is open in the evenings when residents need access.

This Council resolves:

1. Reference to Police Stations and their importance in the fight against crime.

2. To work with the Metropolitan Police and the Tower Hamlets Borough Police Commander to maximise the use of Police Stations to help counter crime and to reduce the fear of crime across the area.
3. To undertake meaningful consultation through the Local Area Partnership network to work with local residents and establish expectations around Police Station opening hours and how they can be improved to counter local crime issues.
4. To explore other possible options of sponsorship or partnership working to produce the resources to allow Police Stations to open for longer hours without detracting from frontline policing in the Borough.”

MOVED as an amendment by Councillor Stephanie Eaton, **SECONDED** by Councillor Rajib Ahmed, that the motion be amended as follows:

“This Council resolves:

1. (delete)

1. (insert) To recognise the importance of Police Stations and to acknowledge their value in reducing fear of crime.

5. (insert) To advertise more widely than it does at present the variety of ways in which residents may report crime and can contact their local Safer Neighbourhood Teams.”

The amendment was put to the meeting and **CARRIED**

MOVED as a further amendment by Councillor Abdal Ullah and **SECONDED** by Councillor Denise Jones that:-

**“This Council Notes:
(Replace existing points with)**

1. That in the past year Safer Neighbourhoods Teams have been rolled out in every ward, cutting crime by over 8%, criminal damage by 6% and burglary by 24%.
2. That vehicle crime has been reduced by 11%.
3. That crime in Tower Hamlets is falling faster than the average drop across London.
4. That over the last year 93% of young offenders have been helped into training, education or employment.
5. That 103 anti-social behaviour orders and anti-social behaviour contracts have been served in the last year - cutting bad behaviour.

**This Council Further Notes:
(new segment)**

1. The aim to cut crime by a further 8% over the next year with a focus on theft, youth crime and violent crime.

2. The creation of the “Better Tower Hamlets Teams” bringing together the Safer Neighbourhoods Teams with the staff of the Council and other agencies to co-ordinate interventions around crime disorder and the environment in order to obtain swifter and more effective results.
3. That while the greatest impact on crime and community safety is made by visible policing presence on our streets and estates, local people value accessible police stations.

This Council Resolves:
(Delete from text)

1. Reference to Police Stations and their importance in the fight against crime.

The amendment was put to the meeting and **CARRIED**.

The amended motion was then put to the meeting:

“This Council Notes:

1. That in the past year Safer Neighbourhoods Teams have been rolled out in every ward, cutting crime by over 8%, criminal damage by 6% and burglary by 24%.
2. That vehicle crime has been reduced by 11%
3. That crime in Tower Hamlets is falling faster than the average drop across London.
4. That over the last year 93% of young offenders have been helped into training, education or employment.
5. That 103 anti-social behaviour orders and anti-social behaviour contracts have been served in the last year – cutting bad behaviour.

This Council Further Notes:

1. The aim to cut crime by a further 8% over the next year with a focus on theft, youth crime and violent crime.
2. The creation of the “Better Tower Hamlets Teams” bringing together the Safer Neighbourhoods Teams with the staff of the Council and other agencies to co-ordinate interventions around crime disorder and the environment in order to obtain swifter and more effective results.
3. That while the greatest impact on crime and community safety is made by visible policing presence on our streets and estates, local people value accessible police stations.

This Council resolves:

1. To work with the Metropolitan Police and the Tower Hamlets Borough Police Commander to maximise the use of Police Stations to help counter crime and to reduce the fear of crime across the area.
2. To undertake meaningful consultation through the Local Area Partnership network to work with local residents and establish

expectations around Police Station opening hours and how they can be improved to counter local crime issues.

3. To explore other possible options of sponsorship or partnership working to produce the resources to allow Police Stations to open for longer hours without detracting from frontline policing in the Borough.
4. To advertise more widely than it does at present the variety of ways in which residents may report crime and can contact their local Safer Neighbourhood Teams.”

In accordance with the provisions of Rule 17.4, 10 members requested that a recorded vote be held on the motion.

The following members voted for the motion:-

The following members voted against the motion:-

Councillor Denise Jones
 Councillor Helal Abbas
 Councillor Ohid Ahmed
 Councillor Rofique Uddin Ahmed
 Councillor Anwara Ali
 Councillor Mohammed Shahid Ali
 Councillor Abdul Asad
 Councillor Rupert Bawden
 Councillor Alibor Choudhury
 Councillor Marc Francis
 Councillor Carli Harper-Penman
 Councillor Clair Hawkins
 Councillor Alexander Heslop
 Councillor Sirajul Islam
 Councillor Ann Jackson
 Councillor Shiria Khatun
 Councillor Ahmed Adam Omer
 Councillor Joshua Peck
 Councillor Lutfur Rahman
 Councillor Mohammed Abdus Salique
 Councillor Abdul Aziz Sardar
 Councillor Bill Turner
 Councillor Abdal Ullah
 Councillor Salim Ullah
 Councillor Motin Uz-Zaman
 Councillor Shafiqul Haque (The Mayor)
 Councillor Stephanie Eaton
 Councillor Rajib Ahmed
 Councillor Abdul Matin
 Councillor Timothy O’Flaherty

(30 voted for the motion)

(0 voted against the motion)

Councillors Abjol Miah, Simon Rouse, Shahed Ali, Timothy Archer, Lutfa Begum, Philip Briscoe, Shamim A Chowdhury, Rupert Eckhardt, Peter Golds, Shirley Houghton, Ahmed Hussain, Waiseul Islam, Doctor Emma Jones,

Rania Khan, Mohammed Abdul Munim, Oliur Rahman, Mohammed Mamun Rashid and Dulal Uddin abstained from voting.

The Mayor then declared that the motion was **CARRIED**.

10.2 Motion submitted by Councillor Tim Archer regarding the Housing Choice process.

MOVED by Councillor Tim Archer and **SECONDED** by Councillor Simon Rouse that:-

“This Council Notes:

- The 7 recent ‘no’ votes against stock transfer.
- The £5 million being spent by the Council on supporting the Housing Transfer process.
- The £500 million required to bring the Council’s housing stock up to the Decent Homes Standard requirement by 2010.

This Council Believes:

- That the Housing Choice process has lost all credibility with local residents and voters.
- That public money is being spent on a propaganda exercise.
- That this Council has no effective contingency plan to deal with estates that do not transfer.
- That the Housing Choice process has become overly politicised.

This Council instructs:

- That the Housing Choice programme be immediately suspended.
- That a three-month review is conducted chaired by an independent party and involving local residents, to establish a plan to achieving the Decent Homes Standard.”

Due to lack of time Motion 10.2 was not resolved and items 10.3 to 10.12 were not dealt with.

10.3 Motion submitted by Councillor Peter Golds regarding the Ideas Store Programme and other issues relating to libraries in the Borough.

10.4 Motion submitted by Councillor Simon Rouse regarding the Calendar of Council meetings and constitutional changes, to improve democratic engagement.

10.5 Motion submitted by Councillor Rupert Eckhardt concerning the Government's Proposals for an Extension of the Mayor's Powers

10.6 Motion submitted by Councillor Oliur Rahman regarding Housing Choice

- 10.7 Motion submitted by Councillor Abjol Miah regarding a Beacon for peace**
- 10.8 Motion submitted by Councillor Shamin Chowdhury regarding the East London Line**
- 10.9 Motion submitted by Councillor Bill Turner concerning the Farepak Response Fund**
- 10.10 Motion submitted by Councillor Ohid Ahmed regarding Poplar Baths**
- 10.11 Motion submitted by Councillor Clair Hawkins regarding Bethnal Green Tube Disaster Memorial**
- 10.12 Motion submitted by Councillor Rania Khan regarding sex and strip clubs**

- 11. OTHER BUSINESS**

- 11.3 Executive decisions precluded from "Call In" on the grounds of urgency (To Note)**

Due to lack of time Item 11.3 was not considered.

The meeting ended at 11.01 p.m.

Councillor Shafiqul Haque
Mayor

LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

COUNCIL MEETING

WEDNESDAY 28TH FEBRUARY, 2007

**QUESTIONS SUBMITTED BY
MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

AGENDA ITEM NO. 6

**REPORT OF THE INTERIM HEAD OF
DEMOCRATIC RENEWAL
AND ENGAGEMENT**

SUMMARY

1. Set out overleaf are the questions submitted by members of the public, for response by the appropriate Lead Member at Council on 28th February, 2007. The Lead Members' responses will be tabled at the Council meeting.
2. The Council's Constitution provides a time limit of thirty minutes for this item.
3. A questioner who has put a question in person may also put one brief supplementary question without notice to the Member who has replied to his or her original question. A supplementary question must arise directly out of the original or the reply.
4. Any question which cannot be dealt with during the thirty minutes allocated for public questions, either because of lack of time or because of non-attendance of the Member, to whom it was put, will be dealt with by way of a written answer.
5. Unless the Mayor decides otherwise, no discussion will take place on any question, but any Member of the Council may move, without discussion, that the matter raised by a question be referred for consideration to the Cabinet or the appropriate Committee or Sub-Committee.

QUESTIONS

The questions which have been submitted are set out below:

1. **Question from Mr Terry McGreenera, Devons Road, E3, to Councillor Abdal Ullah, Lead Member for Cleaner, Safer & Greener**

"What is the destination of materials collected by Tower Hamlets Council for recycling?"

2. **Question from Mr Terry Wells, Southern Grove, E3 to Councillor Abdul Asad, Lead Member for Health & Wellbeing**

"What level of care support is made for adults with different levels of disability including the provision of taxicards and why are savings directed to the most vulnerable members of society?"

3. **Question from Ms Caroline Merion, Rampart Street, E1 to Councillor Anwara Ali, Lead Member for Equalities, Employment & Skills**

"Will the Council support the plan for a new (revived) trades council now being organised by active and retired members of trade unions across the borough? This will include both council staff and staff of other bodies, as well as businesses".

4. **Question from Mr Jim Fagan of Mile End Hospital, Bancroft Road, E1 to Councillor Abdul Asad, Lead Member for Health & Wellbeing**

"NHS Together" an alliance of 14 Health Unions and Professional Organisations and the TUC have called for a national day of Action in defence of the NHS.

Will members commit themselves to attend the Tower Hamlets event, "East London TogetherDefend The NHS" March and Rally, on March 3rd?

5. **Question from Mr Stephen Hodgkins of DITO (Disability Information Training Opportunity), Southern Grove, E3 to Councillor Abdul Asad, Lead Member for Health & Wellbeing**

"Considering the failure of local social service provision to deliver entitlements to many disabled people under community care legislation through its Fair Access to Care System (indeed during 2005-2006 LBTH carried out over 2,500 assessments, 850 of which were turned down, despite being entitled to support under community care legislation, deserving people are being denied their right to support for basic services), how can the proposed cuts to social services budgets be justified and what longer term plans will be proposed to ensure that disabled people receive the support they require to be enabled to live independent lives and participate as equal citizens within the local community?"

6. **Question from Ms Elaine King, Billing House, Bower Street, E1 to Councillor Rupert Bawden, Lead Member for Housing & Development**

“Why is this Council wasting more residents money, on the pursuit of Arms Length Management of Council Housing stock, when ‘No’ results from a large number of “Housing Choice’ ballots, have conveyed the clear message from Council residents that they want, direct and accountable management of Housing by this Local Authority?”

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LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

COUNCIL MEETING

WEDNESDAY 28TH FEBRUARY, 2007

**QUESTIONS SUBMITTED BY
MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL**

AGENDA ITEM NO. 7

**REPORT OF THE INTERIM HEAD OF
DEMOCRATIC RENEWAL
AND ENGAGEMENT**

SUMMARY

1. Set out overleaf are the questions submitted by Members of the Council for response by Members of the Executive. Responses of Lead Members to the questions submitted will be tabled at the Council meeting on Wednesday 28th February, 2007.
2. Questions are limited to one per member per meeting, plus one supplementary question unless the member has indicated that only a written reply is required and in these circumstances a supplementary question is not permitted.
3. Oral responses are time limited to **two** minutes. Supplementary questions and responses are also time limited to **two** minutes each.
4. There is a time limit of thirty minutes for consideration of Members' questions with no extension of time allowed and any question not dealt within this time will be dealt with by way of written responses. The Mayor will decide the time allocated to each question.
5. Members must confine their contributions to questions and answers and not make statements or attempt to debate.

QUESTIONS

Set out overleaf are the questions which have been received.

1. **Question from Councillor Ahmed Omer to Councillor Denise Jones, Leader of the Council,**

What mechanisms is the Council putting in place to ensure that as many jobs as possible which arise from the Olympics are available to local people and what is the Council doing to ensure that residents are equipped with the knowledge and skills to take on these jobs?

2. **Question from Councillor Ahmed Hussain to Councillor Denise Jones, Leader of the Council**

“Will the Council leader and Cabinet colleagues join the Save Our NHS march on 3 March from Whitechapel, as part of the national day of protests co-ordinated by the TUC against the marketisation, bed-losses and other consequences of the government’s neo-liberal privatisation agenda for public services?”

3. **Question from Councillor Peter Golds to Councillor Abdal Ullah Lead Member for Cleaner, Safer, Greener**

“Please would the Lead Member detail:

- What consultation has the council undertaken with residents of Poplar regarding the disposal of Poplar Baths;
- What is the administration's response to the petition from local residents of Poplar asking that a community based mixed use scheme be implemented in any redevelopment; and
- When the Labour administration decided to renege on the promise made by leading Labour councillors at the LAP 7 meeting in February 2003 (minuted), namely that "the baths was not an opportunity for capital receipt by selling off the site"?

4. **Question from Councillor Bill Turner to Councillor Denise Jones, Leader of the Council**

“What importance would the Leader place in elected councillors maintaining strong links with the trade union movement at both an administrative and policy level?”

5. **Question from Councillor Oliur Rahman to Councillor Denise Jones, Leader of the Council**

“What is the Council leader doing to address local election arrangements which the Election Commissioner Richard Mawrey QC described in Court in Jan 2007 as a ‘an open invitation to electoral fraud’ which had proved “distressingly easy”, adding that at the time of the Tower Hamlets polls last year, nothing had been done to address the problem and the system remained “wide open to fraud” and emphasising that the fact that the Respect candidates' challenge to the poll results had been withdrawn “does not mean

that electoral fraud is now any harder to commit", while Scotland Yard police say there is 'a wide range of fraudulent activity' in Tower Hamlets?"

6. Question from Councillor Shirley Houghton to Councillor Denise Jones, the Leader of the Council

"With the recent news that Greenwich (and the Blackwall Tunnel) will be subject to congestion charging, will the council leader confirm what work has been undertaken by Tower Hamlets to understand the repercussions of this for our Borough, and whether any discussions have taken place or consideration been given to including additional parts of Tower Hamlets within the congestion charging zone?"

7. Question from Councillor Motin Uz-Zaman to Councillor Abdul Asad, Lead Member for Health & Wellbeing,

One in eight people in the UK are carers and this is projected to increase by almost 50% over the next 30 years. Could the Lead Member outline what does the Council do to support carers who are looking after ill, frail or disabled family members, friends or partners?

8. Question from Councillor Abjol Miah to Councillor Denise Jones, the Leader of the Council

How much public money has the Council spent prosecuting former Councillor Kumar Murshid, who had been found innocent in court and by the Standards Board for England. Who authorised the Council's strategy in relation to Cllr Murshid in this way, and will an apology now be issued to him on the Council's behalf?

9. Question from Councillor Simon Rouse to Councillor Joshua Peck, Lead Member for Resources & Performance

"Would the Lead Member please outline why he considered it appropriate to disclose his proposed 4.9% Council Tax increase in a media briefing on Tuesday 6th February but then refuse to disclose it to elected members an hour later during an Overview and Scrutiny meeting where he was directly asked to provide it? Will he apologise for treating elected members with such contempt and putting his own PR ahead of proper democratic engagement?"

10. Question from Cllr. Alibor Choudhury to Councillor Abdul Asad, Lead Member for Adult Services

"Can the Lead Member please provide information on what services the Council provides to the elderly population in Tower Hamlets and how this compares to the rest of the country?"

11. Question from Councillor Shahed Ali to Councillor Denise Jones, the Leader of the Council

“Does the Council leader share the view that the £76 billion government funds earmarked for replacing Trident nuclear missiles would be better invested in existing and new affordable secure homes, youth and education services and more provision for elders including free Home Care in Tower Hamlets for all who need it?”

12. Question from Councillor Dr Emma Jones to Councillor Helal Abbas, Lead Member for Children’s Services

“Were any reports or information regarding Tower Hamlets children included in the recent UNICEF report on child well-being in rich countries, and if so how do they compare with other regions of the UK?”

13. Question from Councillor Salim Ullah to Councillor Abdal Ullah, Lead Member for Cleaner, Safer, Greener

“While I strongly welcome the action taken by the Council in partnership with the Safer Neighbourhoods Teams to tackle the problem of restaurant touts, is the Lead Member aware of the current problem of sellers of fake DVDs and what are the Council and other agencies doing to deal with this issue?”

14. Question from Councillor Fozol Miah to Councillor Helal Abbas, Lead Member for Children’s Services

“Can the Lead Member for Children’s Services please confirm that the Council has every confidence in its ability to provide a good education to every child in the borough, in line with its statutory responsibilities? Can s/he also confirm that Tower Hamlets has adequate services for children with special needs to be given a good education within the State system, either within mainstream schools (in line with government 'inclusion' policy) or in a special school.”

15. Question from Councillor Phil Briscoe to Councillor Denise Jones, Leader of the Council

“The opening of the O2 Dome in Greenwich later this year is causing concern for many residents on the Isle of Dogs. As the nearest neighbours to this large concert venue, they have concerns over noise, disruption, and visual displays such as projected advertising etc.

Can the Leader of the Council set out the steps that Tower Hamlets council has taken to date to minimise any of these risks through the planning process, and what steps will be taken in future to ensure that the interests of local residents are paramount and that any issues that arise are quickly and effectively tackled in conjunction with the London Borough of Greenwich?”

16. Question from Councillor Mamun Rashid to Councillor Rupert Bawden, Lead Member for Housing & Development

“As tenants on every estate so far balloted on transfer to a private landlord have been told that an Arms Length Management Organisation was not an alternative for Tower Hamlets, with fact sheets saying ‘ALMOs and PFI are not appropriate for the council’ (LBTH Housing Choice FACTS 4) how does the council justify its about face, and do you agree that a full debate and vote is the democratic way to decide on whether an ALMO should be set up?”

17. Question from Councillor Rupert Eckhardt to Councillor Joshua Peck, Lead Member for Resources & Performance

“Would the Lead Member please outline how much the Council spent on providing media training to Cabinet Members in the last financial year, including on handling TV appearances, and detail each time that a Cabinet Member has appeared on TV in an official capacity since that training?”

18. Question from Councillor Dulal Uddin to Councillor Lutfur Rahman, Lead Member for Culture

“Will the Council leadership give a clear and unequivocal commitment to the people of Poplar that it will work actively, with all necessary partners and agencies, to ensure that a swimming pool is reopened on the current site of Poplar Baths?”

19. Question from Councillor Tim Archer to Councillor Rupert Bawden, Lead Member for Housing & Development

“Can the Lead Member detail how many leaseholders are currently are late in payment or formally in dispute with the Council over their service charge payments for the current 2006/2007 service charge year, how much money does this equate to?”

20. Question from Councillor Rania Khan to Councillor Denise Jones, Leader of the Council

“Will Councillor Jones work with the Campaign Against People Exploitation (CAPE) and other residents opposing the spread of sexploitation clubs in Tower Hamlets to organise a conference on this issue?”

21. Question from Councillor Waiseul Islam to Councillor Joshua Peck, Lead Member for Resources & Performance

“Can the council provide a comprehensive list of all the public buildings, blocks and land sites which have been sold off in the last 12 years?”

22. Question from Councillor Shamin Chowdhury to Councillor Denise Jones, Leader of the Council

“Does Council Leader Denise Jones agree with the 74 per cent of Londoners who want the extended and improved East London Line to continue to be operated by the public sector, in a MORI poll September 06?”

23. Question from Councillor Mohammed Munim to Councillor Abdal Ullah, Lead Member for Cleaner, Safer, Greener

“Do Council leaders believe that the achievement of Fairtrade status, green awareness and other ethical and sustainability initiatives are aided by a dedicated officer and that this area of the Council’s work should be extended rather than cut?”

REPORT OF THE CABINET

07 FEBRUARY 2007

To receive the report of the Cabinet at its meeting held on Wednesday **07 February 2007**.

The Members who attended our meeting were: -

Councillor Denise Jones (Chair)	(Leader of the Council)
Councillor Sirajul Islam (Vice- Chair)	(Deputy Leader of the Council)
Councillor Helal Abbas	(Lead Member, Children's Services)
Councillor Ohid Ahmed	(Lead Member, Regeneration, Localisation and Community Partnerships)
Councillor Abdul Asad	(Lead Member, Health and Well Being)
Councillor Rupert Bawden	(Lead Member, Housing and Development)
Councillor Joshua Peck	(Lead Member, Resources and Performance)
Councillor Lutfur Rahman	(Lead Member, Culture)

Other Members present: -

Councillor Alibor Choudhury	
Councillor Stephanie Eaton	(Scrutiny Lead Member, Learning, Achievement and Leisure)
Councillor Marc Francis	
Councillor Peter Golds	
Councillor Clair Hawkins	(Scrutiny Lead Member, Living Safely)
Councillor Ahmed Hussain	
Councillor Azizur Rahman Khan	
Councillor Abjol Miah	
Councillor Oliur Rahman	
Councillor Simon Rouse	(Scrutiny Lead Member, Excellent Public Services)
Councillor Bill Turner	
Councillor Dulal Uddin	
Councillor Motin Uz-Zaman	(Chair, Overview and Scrutiny Committee)

***1. The Youth Justice Plan 2007/2008 – Key Proposals (CAB 128/067)**

We considered a report (attached as **Appendix 1** to this council report) which: -

- Outlined the draft key proposals in respect of the 2007/08 Youth Justice Plan.
- Drew our attention to the consideration of the report, before us, by our Overview and Scrutiny Committee, to be held on 6th February 2007, as required by the Council's Budget and Policy Framework.
- Informed us that our recommendations in relation to the report before us would be reported to and considered by Council, at their meeting due to be held on 28th February 2007.

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- Advised us that this Authority is required by statute to produce an annual Youth Justice Plan, setting out how youth justice services are to be provided and funded. The Plan is written to a template provided by the national Youth Justice Board.
- Also advised us that the Youth Justice Plan is based around the 16 performance areas and 21 Key Performance Indicators against which the Youth Offending Team (YOT) is assessed. In developing the Youth Justice Plan 2007/08 Key Proposals we have considered YOT performance in 2006/2007 (set out in the Table contained in paragraph 4.4 of the report before us) in relation to the 2006/7 Youth Justice Plan, which focused on:
 - Local priorities for tackling youth offending.
 - Areas for improvement as identified through the Youth Offending Team inspection 2005 (attached at Appendix A to the report before us) and benchmarking against performance.

We considered the advice and comments of our Overview & Scrutiny Committee, in respect of the report before us, detailed in a paper presented to us for our consideration, by our Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Councillor Uz Zaman.

Our Corporate Director, Children's Services, Mr Collins, at the request of our Chair, responded to the matters raised by our Overview and Scrutiny Committee, held on 6th February 2007.

We noted the 2005 Youth Offending Team Inspection Plan summary, attached at Appendix B to the report before us.

We endorsed the 2007/2008 Youth Justice Plan Delivery Plan, attached at Appendix A to the report before us, as the basis for improved performance in relation to reducing youth offending in Tower Hamlets and agreed that Council be recommended to approve the Plan.

We therefore recommend Council to: -

Approve the 2007/2008 Youth Justice Plan Delivery Plan, attached at Appendix A to the report (CAB 128/067) (**attached at Appendix 1 to this Council Report**), as the basis for improved performance in relation to reducing youth offending in Tower Hamlets.

Councillor Denise Jones
Chair of the Cabinet

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 – SECTION 100D (AS AMENDED)
LIST OF "BACKGROUND PAPERS" USED IN THE PREPARATION OF THIS REPORT

Brief description of "background paper" number of holder	Tick if copy supplied	If not supplied, name and telephone
Cabinet Agenda – 07/02/07 Record of decisions Cabinet Meeting 07/02/07 Draft minutes Cabinet Meeting 07/02/07.		Angus Taylor 020 7364 4333

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Committee: CABINET	Date: 7 th February 2007	Classification: Unrestricted	Report No:	Agenda Item: 8.1
Report of: Corporate Director: Kevan Collins, Corporate Director Children's Services Originating officer(s): Mary Durkin, Service Head Youth and Community Learning, Children's Services		Title: Youth Justice Plan 2007 –2008: Key Proposals Wards Affected: All		

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report provides an outline and initial draft of the Cabinet report for the 2007/08 Youth Justice Plan (YJ Plan). This is required under the Council's Budget and Policy Framework before consideration by Overview and Scrutiny Committee, final consideration by Cabinet (7th February 2007) and the Full Council (28th February 2007) **See attached Appendix B Submission timetable for the full path and dates of this report.** The Council is required by statute to produce an annual YJ Plan, setting out how youth justice services are to be provided and funded. The Plan is written to a template provided by the national Youth Justice Board (YJB).
- 1.2 The plan is based around the 16 performance areas and 21 KPIs against which the Youth Offending Team (YOT) is assessed. In developing the plan we sought last year (2006-7) to focus on:
- Local priorities for tackling youth offending
 - Areas for improvement as identified through the YOT inspection 2005 (Appendix A) and benchmarking against performance.

Local Government Act, 2000 (Section 97) List of "Background Papers" used in the preparation of this report

Brief description of "background papers"	Name and telephone number of holder and address where open to inspection.
Strategic Plan and Community Plan Year 6 – 2006-07	Alastair King x4981
Children's and Young People's Plan	Kevan Collins x4953
Crime and Drugs Reduction Strategy	Clare Demuth x6061
Youth Justice Plan 2007/08	Stuart Johnson, x1144

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

Cabinet is recommended to:

- 2.1 Note the 2005 Youth Offending Team Inspection Plan summary attached at Appendix C of this report
- 2.2 Endorse the 2007/2008 Youth Justice Plan Delivery Plan, attached at Appendix A, as the basis for improved performance in relation to reducing youth offending in Tower Hamlets and recommend that Council approve the Plan.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The YOT is a statutory multi-agency body set up by the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. Its primary aim is to prevent offending by young people, and it has responsibility for the delivery of all sentences imposed by the youth court, as well as preventative and rehabilitative work with young people between the ages of 10 and 17. The YOT has jurisdiction over Tower Hamlets and the City of London and works with between 390 and 630 young people each year, out of a total 10 – 17 year old population of 21,761 (2001 Census). The YOT is newly part of Children's Services and comprises 36 staff, including secondees from Children's Services, Police, Health, Probation, Connexions, Drug Action Team and "Lifeline". Among the 36 staff are grant funded project workers. In addition, the Youth Offending service deploys 50 sessional workers and volunteers.
- 3.2 The work of the YOT is overseen by a cross-agency YOT Management Board. Last year, the YOT Management Board formally became a fully accountable sub-group of the Living Safely CPAG. It has expanded its statutory remit beyond overseeing the direct work of the YOT to looking at the wider agenda of tackling youth offending, involving all areas of the Tower Hamlets Partnership. This widening of scope was reflected in the 2005-6 YJ Plan which sought to align the planned work of the YOT with wider partnership work (including through the Children and Young People's Plan - CYPP) and the Local Area Agreement (LAA) on local priorities. The Management Board also sought to ensure that the YOT's priorities were reflected in wider service development, for example the re-tendering of the youth service contracts, and Children's Service's work on parents and families.
- 3.3 The YOT's priorities for action last year were set following consideration of:
 - Areas for improvement identified by the 2005 joint inspection of the YOT. This included strengthened performance management, victim and restorative justice work, and equality issues.
 - Areas for improvement identified by assessment of performance. This highlighted as strategic issues parenting interventions, victim work, education, employment and training and over-use of custody (in addition to the operational issues identified below).
 - Strategic Partnership priorities, in particular the LAA objectives and CYPP priority outcomes; and

- Partnership priorities in tackling youth offending, as identified by Members in the discussion of the previous year's YJ Plan, and through consultation on the YJ plan with CPAG, the YOT Management Board and more widely with partners, including the third sector, through YOT development sessions.

3.4 Accordingly, the YOT Management Board identified key priorities for the delivery plan as:

- Early intervention
- Strengthening families with a focus on parenting
- Working with victims
- Supporting partnership action on ASB and the government's Respect agenda
- Tackling disproportionate representation of some ethnic groups in the Youth Justice System – a new objective set in 2005 by the YJB.
- In addition, we have continued to develop the structures for planning, management, delivery and evaluation of work on this agenda to ensure the activity of the YOT is effectively coordinated with other partnership work, particularly around the CYPP. This includes responding to the "localisation agenda": ensuring that services respond to local needs.

3.5 The YJ Plan, in addition to the 16 YJB performance areas, will contribute to the delivery of the following strategic objectives:

- The CYPP priority outcomes, in particular: Staying Safe, Making a Positive Contribution and Achieving Economic Wellbeing
- LAA priority outcomes, especially those of the Safer Stronger Communities block, in particular Reducing Youth Violence, Tacking ASB and the associated LPSA targets.
- The Community and Strategic Plans
- The Crime and Drugs Reduction Strategy

A similar process for considering the YOT's priorities in the 2007-8 YJ Plan is underway.

4. OVERVIEW OF PERFORMANCE

4.1 In 2005, the YOT was inspected and received a rating of 'satisfactory' with a 'good basis for future development'. A summary of inspection recommendations and action taken is attached below at Appendix C. All work still outstanding on the resulting Action Plan is to be completed by April 2007.

4.2 The performance of the YOT is measured annually against 21 key performance indicators (KPIs) set by the YJB. The table below gives a summary of:

- YOT performance against KPI targets in 2005/06; and
- The most up-to-date 2006/07 YOT performance data available which relates to the first nine months of 2006 (1st April to 31st December). This gives performance against KPI targets. A comparison with YOT family borough areas will be available in the third week of February 2007.
- The 'traffic lights' in this table are allocated by the YJB on a points basis.

4.3 The final year performance figures for 2005-6 highlighted a number of strengths in our performance:

- The Key Performance Indicator table below shows a reduction of 32% in first time entrants, using the national baseline provided by the YJB. However, the YOT decided to recalculate the baseline to provide a more realistic comparison between 2004/05 and 2005/06, since the national baseline did not compare like with like and delivered unfeasibly large reductions in re-offending levels. The new baseline showed a reduction of first time entrants to the Youth Justice system of 2% in real terms, meeting the national target of 2%, and this data is presented in Appendix A, Delivery Plan. We continue to show the figures using the YJB baseline in the Key Performance Indicator table.
- The number of red indicators decreased from 2004/05 to 2005/06 as we ended the full year with no red indicators.
- The borough's performance was better than the YOT family average.
- We significantly improved performance against the parenting indicator and increased victim interventions, both priorities in last year's plan.
- The YOT performance level was raised from 3 to 4 (of 5), above the family, London and National averages.

4.4 The LBTH YOT April – December 2006 column of the table is performance feedback for the three quarterly statistical returns on which the 2007/08 Youth Justice Plan will be based. The table illustrates some areas where performance worsened in the first nine months compared to the previous year. Specific areas of note are as follows:

- First Time Entrants: the number of first time entrants to the youth justice system in the first three quarters of 2006/07 showed an increase of 25.9% on the adjusted target for the three quarter year period. Compared to the same period in 2005/06, this was an increase of 16.6%.
- Use of remand: despite a sharp rise in custodial remands in the second quarter of 2006/07, (63% increase on the first quarter of 2006/07), the YOT has managed to maintain custodial remands at the same level in the first three quarters of 2006/07 as in the previous year, 2005/06. This is despite a national rise in custodial rates, which in recent months has introduced the real prospect of young offenders commencing their custodial remands or sentences in local police station custody suites.
- Custodial sentences: remained as a yellow indicator but the percentage and number of custodial sentences increased compared to the same period in the previous year.
- Parenting: a lack of referrals in the second half of 2005/06 manifested in poor performance in the 1st three quarters of 2006/07.
- PSRs: Although this indicator remains yellow, performance is approaching the green 90% target.
- Detention and Training Order (DTO) Planning: In the first three quarters of 2006/07 there were 33 DTO sentences, more than in the whole of 2005/06 (30 in 2005/06). The large number of DTOs in the third quarter (12) put further strain on the ability of a hugely stretched custodial regime to organise and accommodate planning meetings. (See above comment on the national issue of the rise in custodial outcomes for young offenders) Despite this the YOT maintained performance in the third quarter at the same level as in the second quarter of the

current year at 66.7%. (1st quarter 88.9% on 9 DTOs). However, this level of performance was not high enough to prevent this indicator turning red.

- ETE: New YJB requirements for the more detailed recording of ETE data has required practitioners to learn new recording methods and subsequently led to a dip in performance. It is hoped that familiarity with the new processes will move this indicator into the yellow band (75% threshold) in the remaining quarter of 2006/07.

- **SUMMARY**

14 of the 21 KPI percentage scores have either improved, or maintained a green indicator. There was 1 not applicable score, and 6 scores worsened compared to 2005/06 (of those worsening scores, 2 remained amber and 3 became red indicators, and 1 is not assessed using the traffic light system)

Key Performance Indicator	Preferred Outcome	2005 - 2006			Apr - Dec 2006			
		LBTH YOT		Target	LBTH YOT		Target	YOT Family
		%	No.		%	No.		%
Reduction in First Time Entrants to the youth justice system: target 2% lower than previous year	Lower	-32%	272	-2%	25.9%	253	-2%	not known
2005/06: Final Warnings with interventions as % of all final warnings. 2006/07: Final Warnings with interventions as % of number of final warnings where young person meets national standards defined risk	Higher	78.3%	65	80%	100.0%	28	95%	not known
Custodial remands as % of all remands excluding conditional and unconditional bail	Lower	44.6%	50	<30%	44.4%	40	<30%	not known
Custodial sentences as % of all disposals	Lower	6.4%	31	<5%	8.7%	38	<5%	not known
Victims offered restorative justice as % of all victims identified	Higher	69.5%	114	75%	97.7%	127	75%	not known
Victims satisfied with restorative justice process as % of all victims commenting on process	Higher	87.5%	7	75%	100.0%	9	75%	not known
Disposals ending and supported by parenting programmes as % of all disposals ending	Higher	15.7%	37	10%	1.6%	4	10%	not known
Parents satisfied with programme as % of all parents commenting on programme	Higher	100.0%	11	75%	100.0%	3	75%	not known
Community Start Assets completed as % of all community start Assets required	Higher	92.5%	287	95%	97.6%	248	95%	not known
Community End Assets completed as % of all Community End Assets required	Higher	94.9%	245	95%	97.5%	229	95%	not known
Custodial Start Asset as % Start of all Custodial Start Assets required	Higher	96.9%	31	95%	100.0%	38	95%	not known
Custodial Transfer Assets as % of all Custodial Transfer Assets required	Higher	100.0%	28	95%	100.0%	24	95%	not known
Custodial End Asset as % of all Custodial End Assets required	Higher	100.0%	20	95%	100.0%	21	95%	not known
PSR completions as % of all PSRs requested	Higher	76.7%	112	90%	87.9%	80	90%	not known

Key Performance Indicator	Preferred Outcome	2005 - 2006			Apr - Dec 2006			
		LBTH YOT		Target	LBTH YOT		Target	YOT Family
		%	No.		%	No.		%
DTO plans completed within national standard timescales as % of all DTO plans required	Higher	77.4%	23	95%	72.7%	24	95%	not known
Young people in suitable ETE at the end of their order as % of all young people ending orders	Higher	90.1%	246	90%	71.3%	172.5	90%	not known
Young people in suitable accommodation at the end of their order as % of all young people ending orders	Higher	93.2%	259	95%	94.6%	243	95%	not known
Young people with acute mental health concerns assessed by CAMHS within national standard timescales as % of all young people with acute mental health concerns referred to CAMHS	Higher	100.0%	1	95%	100.0%	1	95%	not known
Young people with non-acute mental health concerns assessed by CAMHS within national standard timescales as % of all young people with non-acute mental health concerns referred to CAMHS	Higher	100.0%	39	95%	100.0%	33	95%	not known
Young people assessed for substance misuse within national standard timescales as % of all young people screened for substance misuse who required an assessment	Higher	88.1%	52	85%	100.0%	63	90%	not known
Young people receiving treatment for substance misuse within national standard timescales as % of all young people assessed as requiring treatment	Higher	100.0%	50	85%	98.4%	63	90%	not known

KPI Performance	Higher	85.0%			not known			not known
National Standards Compliance	Higher	61.9%			not known			not known
EPQA Performance	Higher	82.9%			not known			not known
Re-offending Performance	Higher	52.6%			not known			not known
Overall Performance	Higher	70.4%			not known			not known
Overall Level	Higher	Level 4			not known			n/a

- 4.5 The YJB sets performance targets for YOTs on an annual basis. The targets set for next year will be reviewed to ensure they reflect our local objectives and where necessary, more ambitious targets will be set locally to reflect the priorities assigned to work with children and young people in Tower Hamlets.
- 4.6 We continue to demonstrate improvement in the quality and effectiveness of our practice in the ratings achieved in the first four areas to be assessed through the Effective Practice Quality Assurance (EPQA) process. The implementation of our improvement plans has resulted in an improved rating of '3' for Early Intervention, Assessment/ planning interventions/supervision and Education/Training/Employment; Parenting has maintained its higher rating of '3'. In relation to Resettlement which received its initial assessment during

2005/06, we are predicting an improved rating through the implementation of the improvement plan which has been incorporated into the Resettlement strand in this Youth Justice Plan.

- 4.7 Of the EPQA areas inspected in 2006, Substance Misuse and Remand management, we achieved a rating of 3 and 2 respectively. In relation to the Substance Misuse area, the London Regional Monitor commented as follows "The service provided by the YOT to young people with SM needs is of a very good level." In respect of the Remand management area, the London regional monitor said, "The validation visit confirmed both the positive work already delivered by the YOT for young people on bail/remand as well as areas for development already identified by the team. The plan proposed by the YOT is quite detailed and consistent with the identified areas for further development."

5. DELIVERY PLAN PROPOSALS FOR COMMENT

- 5.1 The most important section of the Youth Justice Plan is the Delivery Plan. This is required to provide an overview of:
- Performance in the previous year; and
 - How we will meet the KPI targets set by the YJB for 2007/08 (Revisions to the targets are awaited).

Underpinning the Delivery Plan is a detailed action plan setting out the activities the partnership will undertake under each of the 16 YJB themes.

- 5.2 The draft Delivery Plan and action plan, (**last years Delivery Plan is attached at Appendix A as an example, with initial comments on the first nine months performance report in bold italics**) is to be developed by the YOT Management Board in consultation with internal and external partners and stakeholders. Officers will develop the plan in the light of comments before submission to Full Council in February 2007. [In addition, we continue working on the Race Audit Action Plan, which will set out activities to meet the new YJB objective to reduce disproportionate representation of certain ethnic groups in the youth justice system. We have established a multi-agency Race Audit Action Group which is currently analysing reports arising from the audit and advancing the action plan which we are required to submit with the Youth Justice Plan].
- 5.3 Under each theme, Cabinet is requested to consider whether the proposed activities reflect the partnership's priorities for tackling youth offending.

6. OVERVIEW OF RESOURCING

- 6.1 It is currently anticipated that all the delivery plan proposals listed above will be catered for within the 2007/08 budget, which is anticipated to grow slightly with inflation from the 2006/7 budget. However, actions may be proposed that require funding from Partnership contributions, Stronger Communities Fund (SSCF), Borough Command Unit Fund (BCU), Neighbourhood Renewal Fund, or other grant streams.
- 6.2 The 2006/07 budget for the YOT consisted of the following:

▪ Police	£100,378
▪ Probation	£54,680
▪ Social Services	£298,771
▪ Education	£93,,705
▪ Health	£59,125
▪ Local Authority - Chief Executive's Directorate	£493,000
▪ City of London	£9,000
▪ Youth Justice Board	£480,289
▪ Resettlement and Aftercare Programme	£172,928
▪ SSCF	£100,000
▪ NRF LAP YIP	£200,000
▪ TOTAL:	£2,047,276.

7. TIMETABLE FOR SUBMISSION OF THE YOUTH JUSTICE PLAN

- See Appendix B

- 7.1 The YJB last year brought forward the timescale for the submission of this statutory plan to align it with the Children's and Young People's Plan and the Annual Performance Assessment. The revised timetable means that only three-quarters of performance information will be available to inform planning.
- 7.2 The attached ambitious submission timetable aims to secure full Council agreement of the draft plan in time to incorporate any agreed additions or amendments before the YJB deadline for submission at the end of April 2007.

8. COMMENTS OF THE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

- 8.1 The Youth Justice Plan detailed in this report is to be funded from a number of sources such as central government grants and funding from partners. In 2006/7 the Council's contribution came from a number of Directorate's including Chief Executive's; Social Services and Education From 2007/2008 the entire Council contribution will be contained within the Children's services Directorate, following the integration of the Education and Children's Social Care budgets and the inclusion of the Youth Offending Team budget, previously managed by the Chief Executives Directorate.
- 8.2 All funding sources are cash limited. The Service must ensure that all funding streams are fully and correctly utilised in achieving the Plan.

9. CONCURRENT REPORT OF THE ASSISTANT CHIEF EXECUTIVE (Legal)

- 9.1 Pursuant to Section 40 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 the Council is required to submit the Youth Justice Plan to The Youth Justice Board for England and Wales on an annual basis. The plan is prepared in accordance with a template provided by the Youth Justice Board and is prepared in partnership with the Police, Probation and Health Service. This report is asking Cabinet to consider, comment and endorse the draft Youth Justice Plan for 2007/2008 and also asks for Cabinet to recommend the plan to Full Council.

9.2 Under Article 4 of the Council's Constitution the plan is a Policy Framework document and subject to the procedure set out in the Budget and Policy Framework Procedure Rules. It is for the Cabinet to take account of the responses to consultation, including any response from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and to submit recommendations to Council.

10. ANTI-POVERTY

10.1 Evidence shows that young people from impoverished backgrounds are more likely to be both victims and perpetrators of youth justice. By ensuring effective partnership working between agencies to provide a holistic response to young people at risk, the Youth Justice Plan seeks to address that discrepancy.

11. EQUAL OPPORTUNITY IMPLICATIONS

11.1 The Youth Justice Board recognises that nationally, black and minority ethnic (BME) children and young people continue to be disproportionately represented throughout the youth justice system. The YOT has undertaken a full Race Audit to identify differences between the YOT cohort and the youth demographic of the Borough. This has identified over-representation by certain groups. A Race Audit Action Group has been set up to respond to this and this work has been incorporated into the attached draft 2006/07 Delivery Plan. An amended in-depth report on key issues arising from the audit, commissioned from Social information Systems Ltd, who amalgamated all Race Audits into a national paper on behalf of the YJB, will be appended to the Youth Justice Plan 2007-8.

11.2 An Equalities Impact Assessment of the Crime and Drugs Reduction Partnership Strategy was undertaken in 2006 which identified a number of activities to be undertaken by the YOT including:

- Production of a standard protocol to ensure appropriate race equality policies are in place when working in partnership with external organisations
- Provision of gender appropriate support packages to truly reflect the offending rate of each gender group. With regard to this requirement, the YOT provides group work and one-to-one programmes using support packages such as "Pathways" (Cognitive behavioural programme), "Teen-Talk" and the Violent Offender Programme, which cater to the requirements of both genders and which can be adapted for gender specific group or one-to-one sessions. A male only group of young offenders has completed a 12 week "Pathways" programme. Gender specific work is also delivered on a one-to-one basis, especially with female young offenders who often require work which is personalised to their individual requirements. Prevention work delivered by the YISP Team via programmes such as the ongoing Health Defence programme, "Green Visions", which comprises both a taster programme and a full 4 session programme, and PAYP school holiday activities cater for both sexes, with gender specific activities for the young people where appropriate. A 5 session "Staying Cool" violent offender programme for girls will run in a local school in January 2007.

12. SUSTAINABLE ACTION FOR A GREENER ENVIRONMENT

- 12.1 The Youth Justice Plan is not anticipated to have major implications in this area. However, community reparation schemes contribute to partnership work on the environment, including the “Re-Cycle” scheme which receives unclaimed stolen bicycles from the Tower Hamlets Police Service and old or unwanted bicycles from the community, repairing and rebuilding them for shipping to Health and Charity workers in Africa, and to children’s projects in the Borough. Several schemes involve offenders in work on community farms and in cleaning, clearing and replanting neglected or disused parts of the Borough.

13. RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

- 13.1 A number of risks to the delivery of the 2007/08 Youth Justice Plan have been identified, including loss of funding and failure to meet targets. As such, a risk analysis is to be undertaken on each action contained within the action plan.

14 EFFICIENCY STATEMENT

- 14.1 The process of developing the YJ Plan has included reviewing the current allocation of resources across the Crime Reduction Partnership and Children’s Services to tackle youth crime. This has identified scope for streamlining and coordination which will result in more effective and efficient services. Example of how this has been included in the Delivery Plan include the proposal for a single parenting charter for the partnership and the alignment of assessment and referral processes, both of which avoid duplication and have the potential to deliver economies of scale.

The following documents are attached:

- **Appendix A Draft YJ Plan 2007/08: Delivery Plan**
- **Appendix B: Submission timetable**
- **Appendix C: Inspection recommendations**

DELIVERY PLAN

PREVENT OFFENDING

Overview

The number of First Time Entrants in the first nine months of 2006/07 saw a sharp rise of 16.59% compared to the first nine months of 2005 – 2006. The number of first time entrants in the period was 253, which was 25.87% more than the 2006/07 three-quarter year adjusted target of 201.

The multi-agency Youth Inclusion and Support Panel, oversees this work with young people aged between 8 and 16 years who are identified as being at risk of offending, but who have not yet entered the formal youth justice system, and who are engaged voluntarily. So far this year the YISP has identified and offered help to 261 young people, compared to 117 in the full reporting year 2005-6, they were referred to the Panel from a range of sources including Children's Services, Police, the ASB Control team, Schools, the Social Inclusion Panel, third sector agencies and self-referrals by parents. Of those referred, 99 declined to engage in the service, and to date only 2 have offended while receiving YISP support. The YISP has developed its capacity to work with young people at risk, especially those involved in ASB and those young people receiving reprimands (the YOT is not required to take any action in respect of those reprimanded, we do so of our own volition). The YISP will continue to work closely alongside the youth service, education, and third sector providers, on the wider preventative agenda.

*A key development for next year is to be the introduction of a further Youth Inclusion Panel, which will work with at least the 50 most at risk young people in its paired LAP area. We established two YIPs as planned last year and they received funds of £62,692 from the YJB Prevention grant, and match funding from their paired LAP areas. We have delivered the YIPs through the youth service as part of local multi-agency teams, ensuring coordination with the wider preventative and community safety agenda. Through our Local Area Agreement we are progressing wider partnership work to strengthen preventative work in schools and through mainstream youth service provision. Another key part of the preventative agenda is building the capacity of the partnership to support parenting and families, under the Governments "Respect" agenda and we set out how we will use the YJB prevention grant to support that work under the parenting theme. Currently the YOT youth work resource is made up of one Senior Youth Worker, who sits within the Diversion Team. The main focus of youth work has, with the advent of the YISP, become solely targeted at early intervention and prevention, for children and young people at risk of offending and who are **not involved** in the YJS.*

In 2007-8 we propose to reinforce YOT Youth work, enabling the team to undertake 1:1 Youth Work programmes incorporating and promoting "Every Child Matters" outcomes for young people already involved in the Youth Justice System. We hope to have the capacity to assess, develop and attach individual Youth Work Action Plans (YWAP's) at the Pre-Sentence Report stage, to strengthen community penalty proposals to the courts, thus helping to reduce custodial sentences.

Increased youth work resource will allow us to attach YWAP's to existing statutory orders, in order to reduce offending, and serve as a transition support plan for those being released from custody and ending statutory interventions.

A profile of first time offenders and offences is to be produced for analysis by the YOT Management Board

The Head of Youth Offending Services will develop a strategy for linking and cross-referencing case work across services, including youth service programmes, parenting, schools, housing, police, and health for the Staying Safe sub group of the CYPP

Performance against KPI

	06/07 Target	06/07 ³/₄ Year Adjusted Target	06/07 ³/₄ Year Actual	06/07 ³/₄ Year Variation from Target
Number of first time entrants into the youth justice system	2% reduction on 05/06 performance = 267	201	253	25.87%

INTERVENE EARLY

Overview

The KPI has been revised to measure only Final Warnings for young people whose Asset score is 12 or more. The target has been raised from 80% to 95% of final warnings for the specified group to be supported by an intervention programme. The target was exceeded in the first nine months of 2006/07. The 100% performance represents a major improvement in performance compared to 2005/6, when it stood at 77% for the same period..

YISP and YIP workloads and case numbers are not subject to a KPI. However we have produced a table below which shows the numbers of young people supported by the YISP and YIP teams in the first nine months of 2006/07. (In the case of the YIP team, engagement began in July 2006).

This year has been a growth period for the YISP. The upper age limit was extended to 16 with the aim of supporting children and young people on Acceptable Behaviour Contracts including Police Reprimands. The staff team was increased, with two additional Inclusion Support Officers with a specific remit to work with young people on ABCs aged 14 and above. The growth was supported by Safer Stronger Communities Fund. The YISP was also funded by Children's Fund, Positive Activities for Young People and Jack Petchey Foundation.

Interventions and support offered to children and young people had a particular focus on the Every Child Matters Outcomes. In addition, a number of targeted activities were developed to support the LAA targets, which included reducing violent crime and criminal damage, as well as anti-social-social behaviour. Programmes such "Health Defence" and "Staying Cool" violence prevention programmes, "Green Vision" Environment Project, the Good Citizen's Programme, and "Understanding Antisocial Behaviour" workshops enabled us to offer young people a range of constructive opportunities.

A total of 161 children and young people were supported between April 2006 – Dec 2006.

Issues for 2007-8 The Children's Fund funding stream is due to end in March 2008. The funding stream enabled the YISP to provide support to children and young people aged eight to 13. Therefore, strategies to sustain availability of such support will need to be put in place for the YISP.

As part of the localisation agenda, we will strengthen links with Registered Social Landlords and Safer Neighbourhood Teams, so that children and young people can be identified for support at the earliest opportunity when concerns are raised within the community and we aim to increase the take up of services by young people receiving Police Reprimands, despite there being no statutory requirement for us to do so.

The YOT's performance in delivering interventions with final warnings has significantly improved and the highest EPQA rating for this area of work demonstrates that we have good arrangements in place. All warnings are delivered at the YOT premises by officers fully trained to deliver restorative warnings. The YOT police review of the final warning process has clearly been key to raised performance.

The Crime and Disorder Reduction partnership has significantly increased its use of ABCs and ASBOs as preventative tools. We have set and exceeded a local target to ensure that at least 50% of youth ABCs and ASBOs are supported by an intervention, provided through the YISP. A partnership protocol is in place that requires the YOT to be consulted in all cases where the partnership is considering applying for an ASB intervention on a young

person, and for any young person subject to an ABC, ASBO or ASB injunction to be referred to the YOT and assessed for voluntary or statutory (in the case of Individual Support Orders) intervention. The availability of parenting support is now highlighted during the assessment process. The YOT will continue to support the partnership's provision of an intervention to every young person subject to an ABC or ASBO. We will increase use of the Individual Support Orders and parenting interventions. The ASBCU and police are to adopt the good practice in South Wales of issuing a warning letter to parents of young people whose behaviour is of concern in the first instance, before considering an ABC, the letter will include a leaflet on the parenting support programmes available. YIP outcomes are to be reported to the Living Safely CPAG.

Performance against KPI:

	06/07 ¾ Year Actual	06/07 ¾ Year %	06/07 Target	EPQA 2003 rating	EPQA 2005 result
Final Warnings supported by an intervention	28	100%	95%	2	3

YISP Team April – Dec 2006	No. young people
Young people identified and targeted for support April 2006- Dec 2006	260
Young People who declined to access the service April 2006- Dec 2006	99
Young people supported between April 2006- Dec 2006	161
Source of Referral of young people who were supported	
Young people supported who were on Acceptable behaviour Contracts	34
Young people who were issued with Police Reprimands	60
Young people identified by Education's Social Inclusion Panel and other partner agencies and self referrals	67
Young people who went on to offend whilst being supported 2006- Dec 2006	2

YIP Team Apr - Dec 2006	3/4 year 06/07
Number of young people supported by the YIP team	120

PROVIDE INTENSIVE COMMUNITY SUPERVISION

Overview

A sample of the Prevent and Deter tactical group taken on 31st December 2006 is shown below. All but one of the group had an initial Asset score of 17 or more. The data indicates that the White, Black and Mixed ethnic groups are disproportionately represented in the group. The White ethnic group comprises 34.4% of the PPO group, compared to 26.1 % of the 10 – 17 year old population. The Black ethnic group comprises 20.6% of the group, compared to 7.6% of the 10 – 17 year old population. The Mixed ethnic group comprises 10.3% of the group, compared to 3.6% of the 10 -17 year old population. In contrast, the Asian ethnic group makes up only 34.4% of the group, compared to its 60.5% proportion of the 10 – 17 year old population.

The ISSP data demonstrates the increase by the YOT in the use of this service in the first nine months of 2006/07. The number of ISSPs ending in breaches in the period demonstrates the YOT's robust practice in the area of community penalty enforcement.

The ISSP recidivism data is for the latest period for which full 2 year re-offending rates are currently available. Use of ISSP in the period was substantially less than at present, and this is reflected in the low numbers of ISSP penalties given to offenders in the 2002 and 2003 cohorts. Since the numbers are low, it is difficult to generalise about the re-offending behaviour of the offenders in the cohorts. The data shows that of the 2002 cohort of 3 young people, only 1 re-offended within two years, and that of the 2003 cohort of 5 young people, 3 re-offended within two years. The table also shows whether the re-offending was at the same level of seriousness or more serious, and whether the re-offending was at the same frequency as prior to the ISSP sentence, or more frequent.

The Prevent and Deter (P&D) tactical group works with an average of 30 offenders at any time. The multi-agency group meets monthly and comprises the YOT, Police, Connexions, Children's Services, YAP UK (Intensive Supervision and Surveillance-ISSP provider) Anti-Social Behaviour Control Unit and the Youth Service. It is chaired jointly by the YOT Manager and Detective Chief Inspector (Intelligence and Operations)

We aim to develop a multi-agency action plan for every young offender on the Prevent and Deter list and ensure added value through the P&D tactical group to existing YOT interventions for that client group

We will build capacity and partnership engagement in targeting prolific offenders through this initiative.

Tower Hamlets is a part of Thames Intensive Supervision and Surveillance Programme consortium, with Camden as lead authority, and Hackney and Islington as partners. Actions in relation to monitoring ISSP outputs and linkages to YOT have been completed; the format of group supervision of YAP advocates by the YOT operational manager has been reviewed, and the written presentation of bail ISSP proposals to the Courts has been agreed and is in place.

The consortium has reviewed its arrangements with YAP UK as ISSP provider against guidance, which has been issued by the Youth Justice Board, in preparation for the service from April 2007. ISSP is expected to become a formal sentence of the Courts in 2007, following the successful pilot period and arrangements will be made to cope with the increased demand for places on the scheme that this will produce.

The YOT will also ensure that the ISSP provider is fully engaged in the Prevent and Deter Tactical Group.

Our initiative to ensure that information on all young people made subject to ISSP is passed to the Police Prolific and Priority Offender office, for dissemination to Police Safer Neighbourhood Teams is to be fully realised this year, bringing increased surveillance to this group of offenders. Subsequent Police contacts with the young people are to be reported to the YOT.

Prolific and Priority Offender Data

% of 10 – 17 year old population figures are from the 2001 Census

Number of cases	Ethnicity %				Age %						Gender %	
	White	Asian or Asian British	Black or Black British	Mixed	14	15	16	17	18	19	Male	Female
29	34.4	34.4	20.6	10.3	6.8	0	24.1	48.2	17.2	3.4	100	0

Number of PPO cases	Age %						Gender %	
	14	15	16	17	18	19	Male	Female
29	6.80%	0%	24.10%	48.20%	17.20%	3.40%	100%	0

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Intensive Supervision and Surveillance Data

Starting, Ending, Breached

ISSPs 3/4 Year 2006/07	Number Starting	Number Ending	Number Ending in Breach
	22	12	6

ISSP Recidivism

ISSP Re-offending after 24 months	No. in cohort	No. re-offending	No. re-offending with less seriousness	No. re-offending with same or greater seriousness	No. re-offending less frequently	No. re-offending as frequently or more frequently
Oct - Dec 2002 Cohort	3	1	0	1	1	0
Oct - Dec 2003 Cohort	5	3	1	2	2	1

REDUCE RE-OFFENDING

Overview Updated figures not available until full year figures are completed

We achieved reduced re-offending in three of the four recidivism categories in 2005/6 compared to 2004/05 (see Appendix B), and achieved the target of a 5% reduction in respect of Community Penalties. The Pre-Court re-offending rate was only two percentage points above the target and the First Tier penalty rate was even closer to the target. With regard to the Custodial cohort, whose re-offending was 100%, it is important to note that this was only in respect of four individuals. We are hopeful that our early intervention plans and post-custodial support including RAP will reduce these re-offending rates further next year.

We have delivered on last years (2006-7) actions in respect of increasing the quality and quantity of restorative justice interventions to bring home to young people the impact of their actions; increasing Police resources for the Prevent and Deter group (2 researchers have joined the unit, one PC has been assigned to the scheme and a dedicated advocate is in place); establishing a protocol for improved Police response to YOT notification of arrestable matters and arranging for SNT's to provide surveillance to offenders on ISSP.

A multi-faceted approach was adopted in 2006/07 to reduce re-offending - improvement in restorative justice interventions, an extended and varied group work programme was made available throughout the year. and the use of evidence based practice work with individual offenders. All of these actions are to continue in 2007/8 and are to be rigorously monitored.

We will continue to develop the use of evidence-based practice work with individual offenders including “Pathways” and “Teentalk” (cognitive / behavioural programme) supervisory programmes.

Staff are trained in the Violent Offender Programme for use individually or in groups, three group-work programmes are to be run in the coming year.

SNT's are to report their contacts with offenders on ISSP to the YOT

These actions should also improve our National Standard performance in relation to the timeliness of contacts with the young people. The action to achieve a faster response to breaches, and work in relation to ABCs and ASBOs, the ISSP young offenders and the Prevent and Deter group (see Delivery plans above) will all contribute to improved performance against this KPI.

A promotional campaign aimed at informing young people about the penalties for commission of robbery is to be created by the Reparation Co-ordinator and young people, we will explore the possibility of a peer awareness raising programme, this could include communication campaigns with the mosques and other faith groups, LAP areas, schools, and Better Tower Hamlets Teams

We propose to establish a Youth Work Team based within the YOT. This would address the gap in provision for those already in the Youth Justice System and ensure that every offender has access to effective youth work intervention from point of contact, and support in accessing mainstream youth service provision post YOT intervention.

The aims of the team would be as follows;

To engage young people in to mainstream Youth work activities to reduce the risk of offending or re-offending by providing opportunities that will encourage positive lifestyles and the constructive use of leisure time.

Undertake 1:1 youth work programmes incorporating and promoting “Every Child Matters” outcomes for young people already involved in the youth justice system.

Assess, develop and attach individual Youth Work Action Plans (YWAP) at PSR stage, to strengthen Community penalty and supervisory proposals to the Courts, thus helping to reduce custodial sentences

Assess, develop and attach individual YWAP’s to existing statutory orders to reduce re-offending and serve as a transition support plan for those being released from custody and ending statutory intervention

Deliver accredited youth work programmes to provide a range of foundation and level 1 opportunities for structured learning within an informal setting, aimed at facilitating transfer into mainstream community based learning.

Provide targeted work in the community with offenders and their peers where it is assessed that the underlying risk factor for offending behaviour is strongly connected to peer group and neighbourhood factors

In conjunction with Safer Neighbourhood teams, develop and deliver short-term projects in neighbourhoods with a high concentration of young offenders residing in an area/estate or those designated Youth Crime hot spots.

At the YOT Away- day in January 2007, proposals were made for work in respect of Teenage gangs, Young women’s work and in particular respect to the offence of Robbery. Working groups will take the proposals through to delivery in 2007.

Performance against KPI:

Re-offending rates for the 2003 cohort after 24 months compared to the 2002 cohort after 24 months

	05/06 Actual %	05/06 Target %	06/07 Target %
Pre-Court	32.73	30.23	31.08
First Tier Penalties	61.40	59.89	58.33
Community Penalties	69.70	76.73	66.21
Custody	100	95	95

REDUCE THE USE OF CUSTODY

Overview:

The three-quarter year actual percentage for Secure Remands shows an improvement on the figure of 51.28% in the same period in the previous year. The three-quarter year actual percentage for Custodial Sentences compares to 7.33% in the same period last year, an increase which reflects national trends in custodial sentencing.

Actions completed from last year's YJ Plan include the review and refinement of the bail support scheme and targeting it at the most vulnerable groups; a spot purchasing arrangement for remand fostering was made as a temporary measure to reduce remands in custody and provide appropriate accommodation; a system is in place to undertake a management review of all cases where a custodial sentence is imposed; magistrates were consulted in relation to specific aspects e.g. ISSP assessment.

Actions to reduce the use of custody in 2007/8 will include;

Funding being made available from the YOT budget for a one year post to further review practice and implement change in respect of bail support in a more systemic way

We will establish remand fostering provision in partnership with Children's Services Social Care division, and this resource will include provision for transfer of young people from police station custody suites to Local Authority Accommodation under the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 (PACE).

A draft review of the remand management scheme is to be presented to magistrates by June 2007

The National Standards for bail supervision have been met, and the percentage of custodial remands has decreased from the 2005/06 level of 51.2% which means we achieve an amber rating. A more moderate increase in the percentage of custodial sentences (8.8% from 7.3%) means that we have not met the target, but also score amber. We delivered on the actions against this target in last years plan, specifically the court good practice group is established, communication and training with magistrates has been enhanced and sessions on custodial remands and sentences have been held.. Caseworkers have continued to use "Pathways" and "Teentalk", and progress has been made in embedding "Pathways" group-work into practice. In 2006/07 we aimed to provide more effective alternatives to remand for sentencers, specifically by reviewing and refining the Bail Support scheme in order to target the service at the most vulnerable young people;

establishing remand fostering provision in the borough; and agreeing a protocol between the YOT and Children's Services on young people remanded to Local Authority accommodation. YOT managers will also review all cases where a custodial sentence is imposed to improve the YOT's recommendations of non- custodial options. All this work is ongoing for 2007/8. We plan to a more proactive approach to communicating with sentencers to ensure that they are aware of all alternatives to custody and their effectiveness, and that we are addressing their concerns about using those alternatives.

Data: Proportion of Secure Remands against all Remands (excl. conditional and unconditional remands)

	06/07 ¾ Year Actual	06/07 ¾ Year Actual %	06/07 Target %	07/08 Target %
Secure Remands	40	44.44%	30%	30%

Data: Proportion of Custodial Sentences against all sentences

	06/07 ¾ Year Actual	06/07 ¾ Year Actual %	06/07 Target %	07/08 Target %
Custodial Sentences	38	8.68%	5%	5%

ENSURE THE SWIFT ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

Overview

Performance in respect of Pre-Sentence reports for the PYO group improved significantly to 87.91% of reports delivered within National Standards timescales, compared to 76.19% in the same period in the previous year. Reports for the general population showed an increase from 81.31% to 88.14% when comparing the two periods, and PSRs increased from 62.5% to 82.5% of reports delivered within National Standards timescales..

Although the performance in delivering timely pre-sentence reports does not yet achieve the target, improvement noted in last years Plan has continued, with overall performance rising from 76% to 87.91%. The underperformance on PYO reports was reported as a real concern in last years plan, and as the young people in the Persistent Offender category are notoriously more difficult to engage than those in the general population of offenders this improvement is worthy of note.

The Court Team Manager is actively engaged in the multi agency (Police, Court, CPS, YOT) “Tracker meeting” which focuses on improved performance towards achieving the target, and the Head of Youth Offending Services attends the Borough Criminal Justice Group.

Actions in last years Plan including training in report writing and involvement in magistrates’ training have been implemented, a new gate-keeping form for monitoring the standards and consistency of reports was introduced and benchmarking with high performing YOT’s in respect of this measure including Croydon, Islington, and Kensington & Chelsea YOTs. Lessons have been absorbed into practice

A new Breach Procedure was agreed with Thames Youth Court. for a maximum 10 day wait for listing from application and 24 hrs for PYO’s arrested on breach. The YOT introduced a new admin procedure to ensure delivery and monitor efficacy.

In 2006/07 the YOT will continue to ensure its regular representation at the Borough Criminal Justice group in order to better engage the Criminal Justice System agencies in meeting youth crime objectives, including the swift administration of justice.

The YOT management group will focus on Persistent Young Offenders, checking the Pre-Sentence Report (PSR) performance.

Data: 90% of Pre-Sentence reports for PYOs are submitted within 10 days, and 90% of Pre-Sentence reports for general population are submitted within 15 days.

KPI: 06/07 actual and % against target	06/07 ¾ Year Actual	06/07 ¾ Year Actual %	06/07 Target %	07/08 Target %
Pre-Sentence Reports for PYOs within target	28	87.50%	90%	90%
Pre-Sentence Reports for general population within target	52	88.14%	90%	90%

KPI: 06/07 actual and % against target	06/07 ³/₄ Year Actual	06/07 ³/₄ Year Actual %	06/07 Target %	07/08 Target %
All Pre-Sentence Reports within target	80	87.91%	90%	90%

ENFORCEMENT AND ENABLING COMPLIANCE

Overview : An audit of compliance and enforcement will be held in January 2007.

This was to be a new theme and KPI for 2006/07. However, guidance from the YJB on the requirements for YOTs was received late in 2006. Operational YOT managers are currently working on the implementation on the guidance, and a review will be undertaken before April 2007.

Data for 2005/6 revealed a high number of young people among our caseload who unacceptably failed to comply with the requirements of their order, with the National Standards Audit indicating a breach level of 88%. Upon analysis of the data, it was clear that caseworkers were not always seeking the approval of Operational Team Managers to deviate from National Standards in deciding not to breach orders, which is a requirement of National Standards. Action has been taken to ensure that correct procedure is followed.

We aim to improve our performance relating to compliance, including the timeliness of breach action. However, breach rates for ISSP (above) at 23% indicate that a robust approach towards enforcement is already built into practice for the group of offenders most vulnerable to custodial sentences. In 2006 a letter was received by the Head of Youth Offending Services from a District Judge sitting at Thames Youth Court commending the teams integrity in providing information to the Courts, and indicating that he felt confident in accepting our proposals to the court for community penalties as a result.

We have reviewed arrangements with the Courts for breach matters to be listed as a priority in the light of the National Enforcement Delivery Board's measures and implemented recommendations arising from the analysis of breaches undertaken as part of the race audit, in order to address potential discriminatory practice in respect of race.

Through the Prevent and Deter initiative, we have engaged the resources of Safer Neighbourhood Police teams to provide additional enforcement and surveillance for persistent offenders, and all young people on ISSP's and ASBO's are referred to the local teams in order to support enforcement.

Feedback from the SNT's to YOT case-managers, and monitoring of performance in that respect, is to be established in 2007 and will be reported to the YOT Management Board.

ENSURE EFFECTIVE AND RIGOROUS ASSESSMENT

Overview

All areas are on target for green indicators apart from “Initial Training plans” which however, maintained performance in the third quarter of the reporting period compared to that achieved in the second quarter of this year, despite a significant increase in the number of DTO sentences.

Asset completion rates show that all targets have been met.

We have demonstrated continuous improvement in our performance against this KPI since 2004, resulting this year in green indicators for all five KPI's, and 100% performance in three. The quality of ASSET Reviews and Initial Supervisory Plans has improved and is monitored regularly; the Risk Management process, including the maintenance of a Risk Register, has also been implemented. In addition any Asset- triggered “Risk of Serious Harm” assessment is flagged up with the Team Manager for consideration of a risk management meeting.

While we have not achieved the 100% target in relation to Initial Training Plans (the DTO KPI in the performance table above), there has been a significant improvement from the 61.9% performance in 2004/05. and although the 72.7 % figure represents slippage from last years 77.4% achievement; this must be set against the enormous strain on the custodial regime, well documented elsewhere in this plan, and the resultant inability to facilitate our performance in holding initial planning meetings in secure establishments.. We are nonetheless able to demonstrate a constant improvement in this area since 2002.

Our agreement of protocols with the secure estate for drawing up initial training plans within National Standards will hopefully further improve our performance in 2007/08, but there is clearly a risk to this prediction, which is beyond our control.

Plans to extend group work programmes and the use of evidence based practice work with young people (see Delivery Plan above for reducing re-offending) will improve the effectiveness of interventions. The YOT will continue to monitor and report on a quarterly basis the ASSET completion rate to the YOT Management Board. We are also working to align the YOT ASSET process with the ‘Common Assessment Framework’ and to adopt the ‘Lead Professional’ approach, which will improve the overall quality and holistic characteristics of assessments across different agencies.

The EPQA Substance Mis-use improvement plan is ongoing even though our rating was the highest possible, at 3.

The Asset completion rate is monitored by Operational Managers via regular supervision with case- workers.

Data: Ensure that 100% of assessments for community disposals are completed at both assessment and closure stages.

Community Disposals	06/07 ¾ Year Actual	06/07 ¾ Year Actual %	06/07 Target %	07/08 Target %	EPQA: 03 rating	EPQA: 05 result
Start Asset Completed	248	97.64%	95%	95%	2	3 (to be confirmed)
Closing Asset Completed	229	97.45%	95%	95%		

Data: Ensure that 100% of assessments for custodial sentences are completed at both transfer and closure stages.

Custodial Sentences	06/07 ¾ Year Actual	06/07 ¾ Year Actual %	06/07 Target %	07/08 Target %	EPQA: 03 rating	EPQA: 05 result
Start Asset Completed	38	100%	95%	95%		
Transfer Asset Completed	24	100%	95%	95%		
Closing Asset Completed	21	100%	95%	95%		

Data: Ensure that all initial training plans are drawn up within 10 working days of sentences being passed.

	06/07 ¾ Year Actual	06/07 ¾ Year Actual %	06/07 Target %	07/08 Target %	EPQA: 03 rating	EPQA: 05 result
Initial Training Plans Completed within target	24	72.73%	95%	95%		

SUPPORT YOUNG PEOPLE ENGAGING IN EDUCATION TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT

Overview

This is a revised KPI with a more precise measurement of the amount of ETE accessed by a young person. The measure applies weighting to the number of school age children, so the figure quoted in the table can vary from the actual numbers of young people accessing ETE. The figures quoted are for the first nine months of 2006/7. The number of interventions ending in the period was 242, of which 33 young people were attending the PRU at conclusion.

Performance against the KPI target (to increase the proportion of young offenders who are in education, training or employment at the end of their order) has shown a dip, however it is expected that the inclusion of the YOT into integrated Children's Services will guarantee improvement in this position. Full time education for offenders at the PRU has already been agreed, and provision is in place

Progress has been made against all the actions contained in last years Youth Justice Plan. The protocol between the YOT and schools is in place, however both PSR authors and Referral Order Panellists report difficulties in obtaining information from Schools regarding attendance and performance on individuals in the short timescales allowed for Court or Panel sittings, and this is to be improved.

A new programme for offenders in custody longer than a week along the lines of New Start is to be planned and costed, involving assertive outreach to custodial establishments, for ETE, mentoring, and housing support services.

The EPQA Improvement plan is in place and subject to ongoing monitoring, negotiations are in place to provide YOT specific Positive Activities for Young People (PAYP) and summer University courses. The second roll out of the NRF funded TH College "Step up" course is underway, providing potential additional pre- E2E support for 16+ young people.

Work is ongoing with LEAP Confronting Conflict, LEA, the Children's Fund and Schools to develop Tower Hamlets Restorative Justice in Schools programme. Also ongoing in respect of Key Skills 4 is work with schools to extend their provision to YOT, and to access facilities through NEET Working Group meetings, i.e. new Princes Trust and 3rd Dimension Music programme.

In 2006/07 it was proposed to focus on the over 16s' training and employment through improved partnerships with Connexions, the Learning and Skills Council and New Start, an additional part time Connexions worker has been provided. We also aim to provide a Connexions PA for every young person on the Prevent and Deter list. The provision and funding of dyslexia support services to the YOT has been reviewed and clarified by the Education Authority, young people are increasingly referred to "New Start" to access the "Dyspel" service. A literacy support programme is also available via the GAP project, and Shannon Trust peer support materials are available to the advocates from ISSP and mentors from the RAP scheme.

Appraisals of YOT seconded staff, including education secondees, are now undertaken jointly between the YOT and parent agency. Training in relation to ETE and YJB Inset motivational interviews has been provided for staff to support them to deal with disaffected young people. We shall also ensure that there is a range of good training providers.

The YOT Connexions worker has strong links with New Start, and they meet on a monthly basis to discuss referrals, there are also strong links with LSC training providers. The YOT Education Worker attends various meetings that focus on skills development training. A further Connexions worker is now seconded part time to YOT, though not all young people on the Prevent and Deter list receive the service, and this position must be improved.

Performance against KPI

	06/07 ¾ Year Actual (Adjusted for weighting)	06/07 ¾ Year Actual %	06/07 Target %	07/08 Target %	EPQA: 03 rating	EPQA: 05 result
Offenders in ETE	172.5	71.28%	90%	90%	1	3

SUPPORT ACCESS TO APPROPRIATE ACCOMMODATION

Overview:

In the first two quarters of the 2006/07 year, the YOT achieved the target to place 95% of young people in appropriate accommodation at the conclusion of their orders. However, in the third quarter only 89.77% of young people were accommodated appropriately. As a result the three quarter year accumulated figure was 94.55%, and the target was narrowly missed.

Performance against the KPI has improved in relation to numbers of young people in appropriate accommodation, from 88% in 2004/05 to 92% in 2005-6, and our performance now meets the new 95%% target.

Access to two places in a hostel commissioned via the housing departments “Supporting people” strategy was established in the past year, and provides an invaluable local resource. The support needs of those placed has been reviewed, and negotiations are underway to increase the YOT allocation of two beds

Plans are in place for the provision of remand fostering, and interim spot purchase arrangements are in place, and this resource will include provision for transfer of young people from police station custody suites to Local Authority Accommodation under the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 (PACE).

The YOT has access to the YJB pilot London wide Intensive fostering service. A protocol is to be finalised between the YOT and Children’s Services on young people remanded into Local Authority accommodation. The role of the YOT accommodation officer will be developed to increase the range of accommodation resources available to the team and the YOT will work closely with key accommodation providers to offer consistent support to young people offered placements.

A meeting with HPU and YOT accommodation Officer was held to discuss the pledge to abolish Bed and Breakfast placements for young offenders. Further discussion is scheduled. The YOT is to explore the possibility of commissioning 'Broad Options' by Access to Resources Team/HPU as brokers of supported lodgings remand placements.

Performance against KPI

A named accommodation officer is in place	06/07 ¾ Year Actual	06/07 ¾ Year Actual %	06/07 Target %	07/08 Target %
Young people in suitable accommodation	243	94.55%	95%	95%

SUPPORT ACCESS TO MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

Overview

There was one acute case in the first nine months of 2006/07; typically there might be only one or two such cases in a whole year. The number of Non-Acute cases (33) compares to 30 in same period in 2005/06, and 39 in total for the whole of 2005/06.

Performance against the KPI is consistently strong with referrals for both acute and non acute cases achieving a 100% performance against a target of 95% of cases referred within timescales. In 2007/08 we shall continue to work with CAMHS to maintain this excellent performance in relation to timescales for assessment.

Training in mental health awareness has been delivered by the YOT Forensic Adolescent Community Psychiatric nurse and the senior nurse in CAMHS. A rolling programme will commence in 2007. The CAMHS Foundation course is also available.

The YOT nurse maintains links with specialist forensic services to ensure a breadth of mental health resources are available to YOT service users, and will deliver training within the CAMHS service to ensure continued ease of take-up of CAMHS services for YOT clients.

CAMHS are to develop a system of recording YOT mental health practitioners work.

The YOT nurse provides specialist risk assessments to the Court to ensure clients' needs are understood and supported at the point of sentencing.

A service level agreement with the Mental Health Trust is in place, including cover in the absence of the YOT mental health nurse and arrangements for YISP referrals to CAMHS.

The EPQA process highlighted areas for qualitative improvement and the improvement plan had been implemented ahead of schedule Health are currently reviewing procedures in order that appraisals of the YOT seconded health workers will be undertaken jointly between the YOT and health in 2007/08.

The Primary Care Trust has identified resources to scope and deliver primary health screening to YOT service users, with the aim of improving access to and take-up of primary health care by that group.

Performance against KPI

Refer to CAHMS for assessment: within 5 working days for acute cases; within 15 working days for non-acute cases

	06/07 ³ / ₄ Year Actual	06/07 ³ / ₄ Year Actual %	06/07 Target %	07/08 Target %
Acute cases	1	100%	95%	95%
Non-acute cases	33	100%	95%	95%

SUPPORT ACCESS TO SUBSTANCE MISUSE SERVICES

Overview: including review of the past year, performance against KPIs and highlights of plans for the coming year:

The number of young people screened for substance misuse was 259 compared to 220 in the same period in 2005/06 and is the highest number of young people ever screened by the YOT in a nine monthly period. The 64 young people who, as a result of screening by the YOT, were identified as requiring Tier 2, 3, or 4 treatment is also historically the highest number of such young people in a nine monthly period since April 2005.

Targets in relation to this performance measure continue to be broadly met, and this area of work has benefited from the resources for direct work with young people with substance misuse problems under the Resettlement and Aftercare Programme (RAP). The Borough wide young people's substance misuse service (delivered by "Lifeline") went operational at the end of 2005 and a link worker is based in the YOT two days per week. In 2007/08 we shall continue to develop and maintain strong links between the YOT and this service and embed practice arising from working with this new provider.

RAP volunteer mentor training, is established, with mentors available and deployed.

Family group conferences have not taken place as expected and this aspect of RAP provision has been reviewed although the provision of the service in future has not yet been decided.

Although there have only been a small number of cases where named accommodation has not been available to young people on release from custody we aim to eradicate this problem altogether.

Engaging support programmes are being developed in partnership with Connexions and Lifeline. Good arrangements are in place for referral to Tier 3 and 4 services via Lifeline and CAMHS. Training for YOT staff to implement the new Borough Tier 2 Initial Assessment tool is complete, and actions for improving ASSET completions (see Assessment Delivery Plan above) have helped achieve 100% screening for substance misuse in 2006/07.

We shall ensure that all young people with tier 3 or 4 substance misuse needs are referred to RAP.

Establish and maintain strong links between the YOT and the newly established Life Line young person's substance misuse service

A wizard is regularly run on the YOT database to ensure that all eligible and suitable young people have been referred.

Performance against KPI

	06/07 ¾ Year Actual	06/07 ¾ Year Actual %	06/07 Target %	07/08 Target %
Screening (number of start Assets completed)	254	98.11%	95% (not KPI)	95%
Specialist Assessment within 5 days	63	100%	90%	90%
Early Access to Intervention within 10 days	63	98.44%	90%	90%

SUPPORT RESETTLEMENT INTO THE COMMUNITY

Overview

Ensuring effective assessment through the custodial sentence, in order that needs can be met in a dynamic way, is key to delivering on this objective. Performance against the completion rates for assessment (via Asset) of those in custody was strong, with 100% completion achieved for all stages. Although performance against Detention and Training Order (DTO) Planning KPI improved from 61% in 2004-5 to 74% in 2005/6, slippage to 72.7% in the current period remains short of the 100% target

The EPQA improvement plan is largely focussed on creating more formal arrangements with custodial establishments in order to ensure effective sentence planning. YOT workers have, on the whole, maintained regular contact with the young people on DTO, while in the YOI and in the community within the National Standard time frames.

RAP volunteer mentors, supporting young offenders returning to the community, are now in place and others are currently undergoing training.

Actions for the coming year aim to strengthen this area of work by improving the application of the RAP screening arrangements, developing RAP activities and implementing multi-agency exit strategies for those young people on the Prevent and Deter list.

The YOT self assessment for this Effective Practice Quality Assurance was level 3, the highest grade, this is expected to receive YJB approval following their visit in October 2006

We have implemented YJB National Guidance for RAP schemes

We screen all young people in custody for suitability for RAP services

The RAP coordinator regularly runs a wizard on the database to identify any eligible young people for RAP both in or out of custody.

We continually develop RAP activities to maintain engagement of young people on the scheme.

The activities programme was rolled out this year including cooking, music, photography and, first aid.

We are developing an exit strategy for every young person on the Prevent and Deter list, a protocol has been submitted for group approval

RAP is to be re-structured this year, and it is likely that all mentoring/advocate work will be brought in house, thus bringing to an end our temporary contract with YAP UK and BLYDA for this work

Performance against KPI

EPQA: 05 rating	2	EPQA: 07 target	<u>3</u>
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PROVIDE EFFECTIVE RESTORATIVE JUSTICE SERVICES

Overview

The 129 victims who were offered the opportunity to engage in restorative justice processes represent the highest number of victims contacted by the YOT in one nine month period since April 2004, and this increased number reflects a steady growth in performance against this measure spanning several years. Although in percentage terms the target was achieved, the number of victims satisfied with the restorative justice services received is, in the first nine months of the year, numerically low, which reflects the difficulty of engaging victims in restorative justice work, and corresponds closely with previous performance for this measure over recent years.

Work to engage victims has been developed with the appointment of a Restorative Justice co-ordinator, and performance against the KPI has improved to 97.73%, surpassing the 75% target. The proportion of victims who did engage and who were satisfied was 100% against the target of 75%.

The RJ forum has met regularly throughout the year, YOT police officers are delivering restorative Final Warnings and a strategy for the use of RJ in anti-social behaviour work has been implemented. New community reparation schemes are created each year, and we aim to link the work that young offenders undertake to local community safety priorities through the Safer Neighbourhood Teams.

Although monitoring systems are in place for contacting victims and assessing their needs, further work is to be done in providing them information in respect of offenders' progress through the youth justice system. Additional resources for victim support to vulnerable victims and witnesses are to be provided.

We have implemented and monitored the restorative justice improvement plan.

Linking reparation activities to community priorities through closer work with the safer neighbourhoods teams is ongoing

We ensure community reparation schemes are engaging and appropriate for young people The RJ Coordinator continues to identify new reparation schemes, the latest being with Marner Primary School garden.

The RJ Coordinator needs to undertake more face- to- face victim-offender mediation, although this is improving and depends largely upon our ability to motivate and engage victims. Work continues with Tower Hamlets Victim Support and case- workers to further build on this area.

We are endeavouring to link community reparation to the offender's local area but this remains a longer- term target.

Increased publicity of schemes is intended. The Re-Cycle project is to feature in the local newspaper.

Of the current 13 Safer Schools Police Officers. 10 are trained in using RJ techniques. The remaining three await training as and when central courses become available. 37 Safer Neighbourhood Team officers and ASBCU staff were trained in RJ, including one officer from each SNT. Many RJ conferences have taken place, including one involving 4 year ten boys from St Paul's Way school for robbery.

Police COP Leadership programme -3 courses have been completed, 3 are yet to run in January, February and March 2007. They include young people on ASBO's and ABC's

Data: Ensure that 75% of victims of youth crime are offered the opportunity to participate in a restorative process; and that 75% of victims who participate are satisfied with the restorative process.

	06/07 ¼ Year Actual	06/07 ¼ Year Actual %	06/07 Target %	07/08 Target %	EPQA: 04 rating	EPQA: 05 result
Victims offered opportunity	129	97.73%	75%	75%		
Victims satisfied	9	100%	75%	75%		

SUPPORT PARENTING INTERVENTIONS

Overview

The first indicator measures parenting programmes that are linked to YOT interventions that ended in the first nine months of 2006/07. A lack of referrals in the second half of 2005/06 resulted in poor performance against the indicator. The second indicator measures the satisfaction of parents with parenting programmes that were completed in the first six months of 2006/07. The lack of completions in the period indicates the difficulties of delivering this service to the intended client group.

In 2005/6 the EPQA improvement plan was implemented and the highest rating achieved, along with the KPI target of 10%. As a consequence a new local target has been set of 15% for this year, to reflect the priority given to this work by the Tower Hamlets Partnership. The capacity on parenting was flagged through the Inspection as a risk factor in relation to introducing a more systematic referral system for parenting support. Accordingly, we used the YJB Prevention grant to build capacity in this area, specifically providing 25 additional parenting interventions by funding an additional Family Support worker to join the Coram Family Team at the Mary Hughes Centre, costing £42,835 (25.4% of total grant). This will help meet growing demand for parent support from the work of the YISP in dealing with young people subject to ABCs, reprimand cases referred by YOT Police to the YISP, and YOT assessments of ASB cases. Parenting assessments will also be triggered by the Prevent and Deter Tactical Group.

The increased provision will be prioritised for those young people in the stages of early intervention by anti social behaviour, preventative and youth justice services, though more Parenting Orders are expected to be generated via YOT proposals to the Court, and referrals are being closely monitored, with weekly reports to the Director of Children's Services and Head of Youth and Community Learning Practitioner training in respect of parental assessments has taken place.

A borough wide parenting strategy is to be established in conjunction with children's services in the coming year which will ensure a seamless service from universal support to crisis intervention.

YOT workers are required to assess all parents at ASSET stage and offer voluntary interventions or recommend parenting orders if necessary

A seconded parenting worker from Coram Family is now based in the YOT 3 days per week from January 2007. This person will boost parenting referrals by the following means;

Attend team meetings

Meet with all staff individually to discuss cases with regards any parenting issues/possible referrals and support staff in completing the referral form.

Become familiarised with court processes and attend on occasions.

Meet with parent/carers at the YOT office or discuss the programme with them over the phone

Attend police Final Warnings

Collate a parenting pack to be sent to parent/carers

Organise and deliver a taster session of the parenting programme model 'Strengthening families strengthening Communities'.

Devise an information leaflet to be included in the letter to be sent to all parents of young people coming to notice for Anti-Social Behaviour

Children's services and YISP are exploring interventions with the siblings of offenders

We have investigated why family group conferences were not being completed and future provision for this work is to be agreed.

Performance against KPI

	06/07 ¾ Year Actual	06/07 ¾ Year Actual %	06/07 Target %	07/08 Target %	EPQA: 04 rating	EPQA: 05 result
Number of Interventions	4	1.56%	10%	10%	3	3
Satisfaction of participants	30	100%	75%	75%		

ENSURE EQUAL TREATMENT REGARDLESS OF RACE

Overview:

A detailed analysis of the issues raised by the Audit was commissioned by the YOT, and delivered in 2006. The sub group will devise an action plan to address the issues by the submission of this document.

As a result of the race audit conducted as part of the 2005/6 Youth Justice Plan, a multi agency race audit strategy group was established to explore in more detail the issues where there is disproportionate representation of some ethnic groups within the Youth Justice System, and to propose actions to reduce the imbalance. The group includes the Police, Sentencers, the Crown Prosecution Service, the Clerk to Thames Youth Court and YOT staff.

The race audit was run for 1st October 2003 to 30th Sept 2004, we have re run the data for the previous and subsequent years to explore whether issues that were raised for different ethnic groups were consistent over the period; this has resulted in us removing inconsistent issues from our priority list.

The group has prioritised the remaining issues arising from the audit, and created actions to address them for the YOT only to undertake.

The group will continue to meet to consider other agency actions to assist the YOT in meeting the target.

We will implement and monitor the action plan arising from the completed race audit through the established multi-agency race audit strategy group

A detailed report has been commissioned and completed on issues arising from the audit. Consideration of the report by the YOT MB sub group has been delayed, but will take place in 2007, and be reported back to the Management Board.

The YOT will devise a strategy for BME engagement in its work to engage improved community consultation and engagement

A CEN representative is now part of the YOT MB

APPENDIX B

Youth Justice Plan 2007/08 – Submission Timetable

Date	Group	Activity	Notes
8 th January 2007	Overview and Scrutiny	Submission of finalised report 'under covering letter'	Democratic Services to provide covering letter
23 rd January 2007	Cabinet	Submission of finalised report	This needs to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Financial comments, requested 5 days before submission, from Alan Finch (Corporate Finance) and / or Kate Bingham (Children's Services Finance) ▪ Legal comments, requested 2 days before from Isabella Freeman, cc Dee Burnett and Graham White
6 th February 2007	Overview and Scrutiny	Consideration of finalised report	Appropriate rep to be there?
7 th February 2007	Cabinet	Consideration of finalised report	Appropriate rep needs to be there
28 th February 2007	Council	Consideration of finalised report	Appropriate rep needs to be there

Notes:

- The Youth Justice Plan falls under the Council's Budget and Policy Framework and therefore needs to follow the process below
- Submission time for all reports is 5pm on the date mentioned
- Once the dates have been agreed, there are pro-formas that need to be filled in for each of the groups so that they know they are coming. The contacts for these are:
 - Afazul Hoque – Overview and Scrutiny
 - Daniel Hudson – CMT
 - Angus Taylor - LAB and Cabinet

APPENDIX C

Inspection recommendation	Action to date
1. Strengthened performance management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Quarterly performance reporting to YOT Management Board ▪ YOT Management Board made formally accountable to LS CPAG ▪ Strategic vision for the YOT agreed by Management Board
2. Staff appraisal system put in place, appraisals of seconded staff done jointly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Completed with the exception of ▪ Health (reviewing procedures)
3. Quality of Asset, Reviews and Initial Supervisory Plans Improved	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Completed and ongoing monitoring
4. Risk of harm assessments conducted on relevant cases and reviewed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Completed and ongoing for new cases
5. Risk register put in place for risk concern and risk aware cases	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Risk register in place
6. Actions from Race Equality Impact Assessment regularly reviewed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Race audit action group established with partners
7. Individual and group interventions continue to be developed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Group-work programme established
8. Victim and restorative justice work developed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Restorative Justice improvement Plan in place. Quarterly meetings to monitor

Inspection recommendation	Action to date
9. Community Punishment and Rehabilitation Orders protocol developed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ No longer necessary as community reparation schemes have sufficient capacity.
10. Contact maintained between seconded probation staff and their substantive service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Not applicable as Probation no longer seconds a member of staff to the YOT.
11. Police pass information on final warnings and children and young people committing crime promptly to the YOT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Arrangements in place ▪ Police Officers seconded to YOT administer final warnings;
12. Increased support for the dyslexia worker is given by Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The provision and funding of dyslexia support services to the YOT has been reviewed and clarified by the Education Authority.

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AGENDA ITEM 11.1

LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

COUNCIL MEETING

WEDNESDAY 28th FEBRUARY 2007

REVIEW OF THE CONSTITUTION

REPORT OF THE ASSISTANT CHIEF EXECUTIVE (LEGAL)

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 At its meeting on 1st March 2006, the Council approved a revised constitution. The Constitution is a working tool of the Council and as such is reviewed annually to ensure it is kept up to date both in terms of new legislation and best practice.
- 1.2 During the past municipal year, officers have continued to examine best practice elsewhere and are now proposing a number of further changes. In addition, the opportunity is being taken to make some textual corrections that were not picked up previously and also to clarify some aspects of the constitution in order to achieve consistency throughout the document. These proposals have been considered by members of the Constitution Working Party which was a cross party member body. Whilst agreement was not achieved in all areas the majority of the Working Party supported the changes as proposed in this report.

2. PROPOSALS

- 2.1 An analysis of the average time taken on various aspects of the agenda carried out by the Interim Service Head, Democratic Services (appendix 1) shows that there is not enough time to conclude Council business. In order to address this, one of the key changes proposed this year is to develop a 'package' of changes to give the Council more time to debate motions. Key to this is to reduce the maximum length of speeches to three minutes (except for the proposer/opposer of a motion who have four minutes). Also the business of the meeting has been rescheduled so that the public interface continues at the beginning with petitions/deputations and questions, this is followed by business items a new 'guillotine' procedure for urgent agenda items (except motions) should the meeting run out of time, then the meeting continues with motions which will no longer have a time limit. If the early items are dealt with efficiently, there will be increased time for discussion of motions at the end of the meeting.

- 2.2 The proposed amendments to the Constitution can be divided into three sections:

Minor textual amendments: some spelling and grammar errors and amendments to reflect current terminology.

Clarifications: these amendments are proposed in order to give the Constitution greater clarity and consistency.

Changes generated by new regulations

Improvements: These are minor changes to address points raised by Members and officers during the year.

A schedule of changes is set out in Appendix 2. The tracked changes version showing amendments is on the website.

3. **Members Allowances**

Part 6 of the Constitution contains the scheme of members' allowances which provides for a basic allowance payable to all members, special responsibility allowances for specified member roles, carers allowance and attendance allowance for voting co-opted members of the Standards and Overview and Scrutiny Committees. Under the relevant legislation, the Council is required to agree a scheme each year before the beginning of the financial year to which it relates and in doing so must have regard to the recommendations of the Council's Independent Remuneration panel. Tower Hamlets in common with many London boroughs uses the Panel established by London Councils whose latest report is available on the website. There is no requirement to adopt the recommendations of an independent panel. The current rates of special responsibility allowance are significantly below those recommended by the independent panel but no changes are proposed in this report since the Council's scheme was reviewed fundamentally relatively recently. This has resulted in allowances for Tower Hamlets being at around the median for London.

The Cabinet at its meeting on 7th February 2007 recommended that the inflation indexation provision in paragraph 11 should not apply in 2007/08. Basic and special responsibility allowances would therefore remain at their current levels. However, in recognition of the increased responsibilities of the Standards Committee for local determination it is proposed that the attendance allowance for co-opted members should increase to £117 per attendance, (this will apply to co-opted members on Overview and Scrutiny Committee) the independent chair receive an allowance of £240 per attendance and that the cap on the number of claims be removed. This is consistent with the independent panel's views.

The independent panel's report has been placed on the website and a notice has been published in East End Life.

4. **Recommendations**

The Council is invited to determine the following matters:-

- 4.1 the proposed revisions to the Constitution set out in Appendix 2;
- 4.2 that in accord with the statutory instrument (SI 1021/2003) the current scheme of member allowances ("the Scheme") in part 6 of the Constitution is agreed for 2007/08 with no changes to member allowances set for 2006/7 save for the changes to the co-optees allowance set out in and that in paragraph 11 of the Scheme there shall be no indexation of the allowances in 2007/08

5. **Comments of the Chief Finance Officer**

- 5.1 This report proposes amendments to the Constitution as detailed in the appendix to this report. The costs of increasing the co-optees allowances will be met from within budgets.

6. **Comments of the Chief Legal Officer**

- 6.1 Legal comments have been incorporated within the body of the report.

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Appendix 1

COUNCIL AGENDA (with indicative timings; assuming maximum number of petitions & deputations and maximum question time)	
1. Apologies for absence [1 minute]	1 minute
2. Declarations of interest [2 minutes]	3 minutes
3. Minutes [2 minutes]	5 minutes
4. Mayor's announcements [up to 5 minutes]	10 minutes
5. Petitions and Deputations	
<i>(i) petitions</i> (maximum 3 petitions; 5 minutes per petitioner, 5 minutes for members' questions, 3 minutes for lead member) [39 minutes]	49 minutes
<i>(ii) deputations</i> (maximum 3 deputations; 5 minutes per deputation, 5 minutes for members' questions, 3 minutes for lead member) [39 minutes]	88 minutes
6. Questions from the public [maximum 30 minutes]	118 minutes
7. Questions from members [maximum 30 minutes]	148 minutes
8. Reports from the Executive and the Council's Committees [say 30 minutes]	178 minutes
9. Reports from Joint Organisations [usually 1 minute]	179 minutes
10. Motions from Members [30 minutes; debate on 1 motion only]	209 minutes
11. Reports [say 20 minutes]	229 minutes
Maximum time allowed under Rule 9 is 3 hours (180 minutes) + ½ hour extension (30 minutes) to give 210 minutes permitted time	

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CHANGES TO BE MADE TO THE CONSTITUTION – WORKING PARTY 7 FEBRUARY 2007

PART 2 - ARTICLES

- Article - 4 - Amend to remove setting the Council Tax base from budget Definition as Council tax base is approved in Cabinet and the Budget is confirmed with the recommended Council tax base included.
- Article - 7.04 - The Leader will allocate portfolios - insert by “the leader” in line 2.
- Article - 7.05 - Portfolio Titles need updating – add paragraph “the above may be subject to change from time to time and will be updated by the Monitoring Officer as soon as reasonably practicably when so advised by the Leader”.
- Article 9.03 - Standards will deal with additional functions:-
- Standards Committee functions -
 - Receive whistleblowing reports
 - Receive reports on Audit investigations
 - Receive reports on complaints
 - Review the Corporate Governance framework
 - Report annually on its work to Council

PART 3

SECTION	AMENDMENT	RATIONALE/ COMMENT
Part 3 New introduction	The whole of 3.1 and 3.2 revised and updated	Clarification for the public on the separation powers between Council functions and Cabinet functions under the legislation.
Part 3 3.4.2	Add separate grants appeals panel	Grants appeals panel is a subcommittee of Cabinet
Part 3.8 Officer Delegations Land transactions	Small acquisitions and sales up to £250,000 in value are delegated to Directors.	Often small pieces of land adjacent to housing is sold to occupiers or other small acquisitions and disposals to facilitate operations.

PART 3

SECTION	AMENDMENT	RATIONALE/ COMMENT
Part 3.3.4 and 3.3.5	Changes to function Development Committee and Strategic Development Committee	Minor changes to terms of reference to deal with more than 20 representations relating to a Directors refusal to grant the application and other minor changes.
Part 3.3 Council bodies – 3.3.6	Delete Olympics – Development Committee	Olympic Development Committee no longer required ODA considers its own applications.
Part 3.7.1	Typo insert “an” officer.	

CHANGES TO BE MADE TO THE CONSTITUTION

PART 4

SECTION	AMENDMENT	RATIONALE/COMMENT
Part 4.1 Rule 1.1.1.11	Add words. 'In an election year the schedule of meetings may be reviewed at the annual general meeting if it has been already agreed at Council prior to the first meeting in May.'	To allow flexibility for a new council
Part 4.1 Rule 2.1 – Ordinary Council meetings Order of business	The order of business has been changed to move 'other business' before motions	If motions are at the end of the meeting the time limit on motions can be removed under the revised order. The business of council should be concluded before motions.
Part 4.1. Rule 2.1.8	Delete	Under the revised order of business the business of the Council should be concluded before motions and a guillotine will apply if necessary see rule 9 below
Part 4.1 Rule 3.1 and 3.2	Add "or Committee" meetings after Council Add words to 3.1.4 "or relevant Committee" after Council in line one	Need to put in writing the power to call extraordinary meeting of other committees.

CHANGES TO BE MADE TO THE CONSTITUTION

PART 4

SECTION	AMENDMENT	RATIONALE/COMMENT
Part 4.1 Rule 6.2 Reports	Add reference to addendum reports	Practice permitted under s.100B (4) Local Government Act 1972 (added for clarity to public)
Part 4.1. Rule 8.1	“In the case of Licensing sub committee being inquorate after 15 minutes the Legal Adviser to that Committee has delegated authority to agree to an extension of time of up to 30 minutes to proceed”	IF licensing inquorate within 15 minutes need to extend time to 30 minutes because sitting in quasi judicial role would inconvenience parties to return on another date and add costs as many are represented by solicitors.
Part 4.1 Rule 9	Duration of meeting: “If the business of a council meeting has not been concluded after it has sat for three hours (or 3 ½ hours if a resolution to extend the meeting for no more than half an hour has been agreed) when the member speaking has concluded their speech the Mayor will draw the attention of the meeting to this rule. If a matter is being debated the debate shall immediately be concluded as if the motion, “That the question be now put” had been moved and carried. Any matters (other than motions on notice) on the agenda that have not been dealt with by the end of the meeting shall be deemed formally moved and seconded together with amendments notified in writing to the Head of Democratic Services by 12 noon on the day of the meeting. They will be put to the meeting	All business on agenda except motions will be dealt with now so there will be no need to move items up the agenda. This will save time but incase there are agenda items that must be dealt with a guillotine procedure is necessary

	<p>without any further discussion. A recorded vote under rule 17.4 will be taken if called for on matters dealt with under the guillotine. During the process in this rule the only matters which may be raised are points of order or personal explanations by members. When all matters have been dealt with, the Mayor will declare the meeting closed. Any motions on notice under Rule 13 not dealt with before the guillotine comes into operation shall be deemed to have fallen.</p> <p>In the case of the Licensing Committee or Licensing Sub-Committee and Development Committee and Strategic Development Committee an extension may be for no more than one hour, or also in respect of those two Committees only, to conclude the item/application under consideration, provided that no meeting of those two Committees may extend beyond 11.30 pm in any event"</p>	
<p>Part 4.1 Rule 10.1 – Cancellation of meeting</p>	<p>Wording to be amended delete "normal" and put in "consult" with all groups</p>	

CHANGES TO BE MADE TO THE CONSTITUTION

PART 4

SECTION	AMENDMENT	RATIONALE/COMMENT
Part 4 Rule 14.1	Delete time limit on motions	If motion are at end of agenda until close of meeting no limit necessary
Part 4 Rule 14.1 – Motions and amendments without notice.	Add 'subject to rule 15.2'	For clarity of members understanding before voting. motions and amendments to motions will be provided to the Mayor in writing if not on agenda or distributed prior to meeting. If not on agenda or distributed prior to meeting the Head of Democratic Services will read them out to the Council prior to any debate commencing
Part 4.1 Rule 14.1.16	Insert Delete 14.1.16 replace with new 14.1.16 “not to hear a Member further because of misconduct” (as set out in 24.2 below) 14.1.17 “to require the Member to leave the meeting for continued improper behaviour” (as set out in 24.3 below)	Members conduct is set out in paragraph 24. the amendments proposed reflect paragraphs 24.2 and 24.3 and for the purposes of clarity only.
Part 4.1 Rules of Debate	Length of speech to be reduced from 5 minutes to 3 minutes except for proposer and opposer on Motions who have 4 minutes	To allow more members to speak
Part 4.1 Rules 19.2 and 20.1 Deputations/Petitions	Change seven days to three clear days	Council Cabinet and Committee agendas are published five days before the meeting so no deputations /petitions allowed unless procedural rules suspended at the meeting. This will give individuals an opportunity to bring Petitions/Deputations to those committees about items on their agenda.

<p>Part 4.1 Procedural Rules Rules 19.1-20.1 Petitions/Deputations</p>	<p>Add words to Petitions and Deputations paragraphs 19.1:</p> <p>“Where the matter relates to planning or licensing and there is a current application pending then the petition will be referred to the planning committee or licensing committee to be heard at the time of consideration of the application”</p> <p>paragraph 20.1</p>	<p>planning or licensing matters need to be treated differently prior to applications being decided otherwise all members hearing the application will be unable to sit because the matter has been discussed before.</p>
<p>Part 4.1 Deputations Rule 20.1</p>	<p>“Where the matter relates to planning or licensing and there is a current application pending then the deputation will be referred to the planning committee or licensing committee to be heard at the time of consideration of the application”</p> <p>Amend wording – Deputations must relate to item on agenda</p>	<p>It is important for the public that a distinction is made between Petitions and Deputations</p>
<p>Part 4.3 Budget & Policy Framework Rules 2.1.3 p.134</p>	<p>Need to shorten to 10 working days consultation with Scrutiny to enable policy documents to go to Cabinet and Council in as short a time as possible.</p>	<p>The period of 20 working days is too long with new policies from Government being received which need to be dealt with by Cabinet first then Council.</p>
<p>Part 4.8 Officer Appointment Rules – para 5 and 6</p>	<p>Delete reference in 5.6 to Director of Resources</p>	<p>This is a change due to new structure Director of Resources not in Chief Executives Directorate</p>
<p>Part 4 New 4.7 Development Committee procedure rules</p>	<p>Insert new Procedure rules to reflect the practice of development and Strategic Development Committees adopted procedures.</p>	<p>It is necessary to have well defined and published procedural rules for these committees in order to ensure their quasi-judicial function is carried out appropriately.</p>

CHANGES TO BE MADE TO THE CONSTITUTION

PART 5

SECTION	AMENDMENT	RATIONALE
Part 5.1 Code of Conduct Para 4.3.2	Amend (2) to read "those functions do not relate solely to the Members dwelling	Change need to be consistent with Member/ Officer Protocol 7.4
5.2 Planning Code	Replace planning code of conduct in its entirety with amended version.	New Planning Code of clarify procedures and practice and new protocol
5.5 Employee Code	Updating of Employee Code of Conduct – see amendments on website	Changes necessary to update employee code of conduct
Part 6 Members Allowances Paragraph 15	Cooptees Allowance (a) To increase allowance to £117 per meeting for non Council Member independents. (b) Add wording in respect of the Chair of Standards to double the allowance to follow the independent review panel allowance £240 for additional responsibility. (c) Remove cap of £400.	The Independent Remuneration Panel of London Councils has recommended increases for coopted members of the Standards Board and Overview and Scrutiny Committee who are only paid <u>per</u> meeting with a cap of £400. Since the Standards Board are referring complaints against Councillors for 'local determination' the monitoring officer arranges investigations and hearings so there is more work and responsibility for cooptees. Therefore the cap should be removed.
Part 7	Add new structure	The chair of Standards was recommended to receive a higher amount for additional responsibility. Changes due to restructure

LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS
COUNCIL MEETING
WEDNESDAY 28TH FEBRUARY 2007
MEETINGS PROGRAMME 2007/08
AGENDA ITEM NO. 11.3
REPORT OF INTERIM HEAD OF DEMOCRATIC
RENEWAL & ENGAGEMENT

Summary

1. This report requests the Council to agree a programme of meetings for the municipal year 2007/08.

Recommendation

2. The Council is **recommended** to approve the proposed programme of meetings for the municipal year 2007/08 as set out in the appendix to the report.

Background

3. Attached in the Appendix is a draft of the programme of meetings for Council/Cabinet/main committees and panels for the municipal year 2007/08.
4. The 2007/08 programme has been prepared largely on the basis of the current year's programme, noting the following specific points:-
 - Cabinet continues to meet at 5.30pm;
 - an additional council meeting to be held on 23rd April 2008 is proposed following discussion in the Constitutional Working Party;

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT, 2000 (SECTION 97)

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

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

- the September 2007 council meeting is proposed for Tuesday 11th to avoid the start of Ramadan;
- a council meeting to be held in November rather than December 2007;
- In view of the need to hear appeals against the outcome of disciplinary hearings and grievances within a certain period, and the difficulty of organising meetings on an ad hoc basis, meetings of the Appeals Committee have now been made fortnightly. Similarly, prospective dates for Licensing Sub have been included to minimise the work of setting up ad hoc meetings;
- Ramadan is approximately 13th September to 13th October. This year, meetings continued during Ramadan, with the start time of one or two of them altered;
- King George's Fields Charity Board will be convened on an ad hoc basis;
- Development Committee will meet slightly less frequently on a four week cycle but Strategic Development Committee will meet more often on a six week cycle;
- As last year, once the Council agrees the attached schedule of meetings for 2007/08, the dates can only be changed with the agreement of the Chief Executive and the Leader. This is to ensure that the public, Members and officers are not unduly inconvenienced with unforeseen changes.

Observations of the Chief Financial Officer

5. There are no specific financial comments arising out of this report.

Concurrent Report of the Assistant Chief Executive (Legal)

6. There are no immediate legal implications arising out of this report.

Equal Opportunity Considerations

7. Whilst drawing up this schedule of meetings, consideration has been taken in avoiding school holiday dates and known dates of religious holidays and other important dates.

Anti-Poverty Implications

8. There are no anti-poverty implications arising from the proposals in this report.

Risk Management Implications

9. The Council needs to have in place a programme of meetings to ensure effective and efficient decision-making arrangements.

Safer Action for a Greener Environment

10. No implications arising from this report.

MEETINGS PROGRAMME FOR THE 2007/08 MUNICIPAL YEAR

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	USUAL MEETING DAY	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY
COUNCIL	WEDNESDAY	16*	20			11 (Tues day)		28			27^		23	21*
CABINET	WEDNESDAY 5.30 pm		6	4	1	5	3	7	5	9	6	5	2	7
OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	TUESDAY		5	3, 31		4	2	6	4	8	5	4	1	6
HEALTH SCRUTINY PANEL	TUESDAY		19			18			18			18		
STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE	THURSDAY	10	21		9	20		8	20	31		13	17	29
DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE	(4 week cycle) WEDNESDAY 7.30 pm	23	29	25	22	26	24	21	19	16	13	12	9	7
LICENSING SUB COMMITTEE	THURSDAY (may also meet on other days)		7, 21	12, 26	9, 23	13, 27	11, 25	8, 22	6,	10, 24,	7, 21	6, 20	10, 24	8, 22
LICENSING COMMITTEE	TUESDAY		12			10 (Monday)			11			11		
STANDARDS COMMITTEE	TUESDAY		26				16			15			15	
GRANTS PANEL	THURSDAY (save 11.12.07)		14				11		6, 11			13		

	USUAL MEETING DAY	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY
APPEALS COMMITTEE	MONDAY		4, 18	2, 16, 30	6, 20	3, 17	1, 15, 29	5, 19	3, 17	7, 21	4, 18	3, 17	21	
GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE	WEDNESDAY		13				31				13			
PENSION AND ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE	THURSDAY		28						13			27		
INVESTMENT PANEL (1)	THURSDAY (HOUR BEFORE PAC)		28						13			27		
AUDIT PANEL (2)	WEDNESDAY 6.30 pm			18		26				30		12		
HUMAN RESOURCES	WEDNESDAY			11		12		21		23		19		

* ANNUAL MEETING

^ BUDGET & COUNCIL TAX SETTING MEETING – to be set by 11th March 2008. Date may need to be changed to allow receipt of GLA precept information.

1. Investment Panel meetings to move to the evening and take place for one hour before Pensions and Accounts Committee (as per wishes of Members)

2. Audit Panel dates confirmed with the Audit Commission

Start of Ramadan provisionally 13th September – End of Ramadan 13th October 2007 (depends on the sighting of the moon)

Good Friday 21st March 2008

Easter Monday 24th March 2008

GLA Mayor and Assembly elections: Thursday 1st May 2008

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