



Meeting of the

# TOWER HAMLETS COUNCIL

---

Wednesday, 22 April 2009 at 7.30 p.m.

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## A G E N D A

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### VENUE

Council Chamber, 1<sup>st</sup> 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:

John S Williams, Service Head, Democratic Services  
Tel: 020 7364 4204, E-mail: [johns.williams@towerhamlets.gov.uk](mailto:johns.williams@towerhamlets.gov.uk)



Chief Executive's  
Directorate

Democratic Services  
Tower Hamlets Town Hall  
Mulberry Place  
5 Clove Crescent  
London E14 2BG

Tel       020 7364 4204  
Fax       020 7364 3232

[www.towerhamlets.gov.uk](http://www.towerhamlets.gov.uk)

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

You are summoned to attend a meeting of the Council of the London Borough of Tower Hamlets to be held in **THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, 1ST FLOOR, TOWN HALL, MULBERRY PLACE, 5 CLOVE CRESCENT, LONDON, E14 2BG** at **7.30 p.m.** on **WEDNESDAY, 22 APRIL 2009**

Martin Smith  
**Chief Executive**

# LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

## COUNCIL

WEDNESDAY, 22 APRIL 2009

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. See attached note from the Chief Executive.

### 3. MINUTES

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NUMBER**  
**3 - 42**

To confirm as a correct record of the proceedings the unrestricted minutes of the ordinary meeting of the Council held on 9<sup>th</sup> February 2009 and the Budget Council Meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> March 2009.

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

### 5. TO RECEIVE ANY DEPUTATIONS OR PETITIONS

**43 - 46**

The deputations and petitions received for presentation to the Council Meeting are set out in the attached agenda item 5.

### 6. TO RECEIVE WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

**47 - 48**

**(Maximum of 30 minutes allowed)**

The questions which have been received from members of the public are set out in agenda item 6.

### 7. TO RECEIVE QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

**49 - 56**

**(Maximum of 30 minutes allowed)**

The questions which have been received from Members of the Council are set out in agenda item 7.

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

**8 .1 Report of the Cabinet Meeting of 11th March 2009 57 - 170**

**Children and Young People's Plan 2009-2012**

The recommendations of the Cabinet together with the draft Children and Young People's Plan 2009-2012 are set out in the attached report.

**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. OTHER BUSINESS**

**10 .1 Programme of meetings 2009/10 171 - 174**

The draft programme of Council, Cabinet and other committee and panel meetings for 2009/10 is set out in the attached report.

**10 .2 Review of the Constitution 175 - 190**

The recommendations of the Constitution Working Party for amendments to the Council's Constitution, including the Scheme of Members' Allowances, arising from the annual review of the Constitution, are set out in the attached report.

**11. TO CONSIDER MOTIONS SUBMITTED BY MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL 191 - 204**

The motions submitted by Members of the Council for debate at this Council Meeting are set out in agenda item 11.

# Agenda Item 2

## DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS - NOTE FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

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

### Declaration of interests for Members

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS**

**MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL**

**HELD AT 7.30 P.M. ON MONDAY, 9 FEBRUARY 2009**

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

**Members Present:**

Councillor Helal Abbas	Councillor Denise Jones
Councillor Ohid Ahmed	Councillor Dr. Emma Jones
Councillor Rajib Ahmed	Councillor Azizur Rahman Khan
Councillor Rofique U Ahmed	Councillor Rania Khan
Councillor Anwara Ali	Councillor Shiria Khatun
Councillor Shahed Ali	Councillor Abdul Matin
Councillor M. Shahid Ali	Councillor Abjol Miah
Councillor Tim Archer	Councillor Fozol Miah
Councillor Abdul Asad	Councillor Harun Miah
Councillor Philip Briscoe	Councillor Tim O'Flaherty
Councillor Alibor Choudhury	Councillor Ahmed Adam Omer
Councillor Stephanie Eaton	Councillor Joshua Peck
Councillor Rupert Eckhardt	Councillor Lutfur Rahman
Councillor Marc Francis	Councillor M. Mamun Rashid
Councillor Peter Golds	Councillor Muhammad Abdullah Salique
Councillor Fazlul Haque	Councillor A A Sardar
Councillor Shafiqul Haque	Councillor Rachael Saunders
Councillor Carli Harper-Penman	Councillor David Snowdon
Councillor Clair Hawkins	Councillor Bill Turner
Councillor Alexander Heslop	Councillor Dulal Uddin
Councillor Shirley Houghton	Councillor Abdal Ullah
Councillor Sirajul Islam	Councillor Salim Ullah
Councillor Waiseul Islam	Councillor Motin Uz-Zaman

**The Mayor, Councillor Muhammad Abdullah Salique, in the Chair**

The meeting opened at 7.34 p.m.

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors Lutfu Begum, Ahmed Hussain, Ann Jackson, Mohammed Abdul Munim and Oliur Rahman and for lateness from Councillor Tim O'Flaherty.

**RESOLVED**

That the apologies for absence and lateness be noted.

## 2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors made declarations of interest in items included on the agenda as follows:

<b>Councillor</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>Type of interest</b>	<b>Reason</b>
Helal Abbas	5.1.1	Personal	Board Member of THCH as a Council representative.
Helal Abbas	5.1.3	Personal	Member of Spitalfields Housing Association.
Helal Abbas	11.1	Personal	Member of Council for Arab British Understanding
Helal Abbas	11.4	Personal	Holder of Council issued parking permit
Helal Abbas	11.5	Personal	Taxpayer and RSL Leaseholder
Helal Abbas	11.7	Personal	Member of Co-operative party
Helal Abbas	11.8	Personal	Member of THCH and RSL Leaseholder
Helal Abbas	11.12	Personal	Holder of Council issued parking permit
Ohid Ahmed	5.1.1	Personal	Board member of Tower Hamlets Homes
Ohid Ahmed	11.4 and 11.12	Personal	Holder of Council issued parking permit
Ohid Ahmed	11.5	Personal	Leaseholder
Ohid Ahmed	11.8	Personal	Board member of Tower Hamlets Homes and leaseholder
Rajib Ahmed	5.1.1	Personal	Council Tax payer
Rajib Ahmed	11.4 and 11.12	Personal	Holder of Council issued parking permit
Rajib Ahmed	11.5	Personal	Leaseholder
Rajib Ahmed	11.8	Personal	Leaseholder
Rofique Ahmed	5.1.1	Personal	Leaseholder on the Ocean Estate, Board member of Ocean Regeneration Trust and Council tax payer
Rofique Ahmed	11.4	Personal	Holder of Council issued parking permit
Rofique Ahmed	11.5	Personal	Council tax payer and leaseholder



Rofique Ahmed	11.8	Personal	Director of Ocean Regeneration Trust and leaseholder
Rofique Ahmed	11.9	Personal	Director of Ocean Regeneration Trust
Rofique Ahmed	11.12	Personal	Holder of Council issued parking permit
Mohammed Shahid Ali	5.1.1	Personal	Council tax payer
Mohammed Shahid Ali	11.4	Personal	Holder of Council issued parking permit
Anwara Ali	5.1.1	Personal	Council and business rate payer in the borough
Anwara Ali	11.4 and 11.12	Personal	Holder of Council-issued parking permit
Anwara Ali	11.5	Personal	Council and business rate payer in the borough
Anwara Ali	11.9	Personal	The Healthy Town initiative is part of my portfolio
Shahed Ali	5.2.1	Personal	Member of Development Committee at that time
Shahed Ali	11.4	Personal	Holder of Council parking permit
Abdul Asad	5.1.1	Personal	Council tax payer
Abdul Asad	11.4 & 11.12	Personal	Holder of Council issued parking permit
Abdul Asad	11.5	Personal	Leaseholder
Abdul Asad	11.7	Personal	Member of Co-operative Party
Alibor Choudhury	5.2.3	Personal	Ward Councillor
Alibor Choudhury	6.3	Personal	Member of Tower Hamlets CND
Fazlul Haque	11.4	Personal	Holder of Council issued parking permit
Fazlul Haque	11.5	Personal	Leaseholder
Fazlul Haque	11.8	Personal	Board member of Tower Hamlets Homes
Fazlul Haque	11.12	Personal	Holder of Council issued parking permit
Shafiqul Haque	5.1.1	Personal	Council tax payer and Council representative on Board of Tower Hamlets Homes
Shafiqul Haque	11.4	Personal	Holder of Council issued parking permit
Shafiqul Haque	11.5	Personal	Leaseholder
Shafiqul Haque	11.8	Personal	Leaseholder

Shafiqul Haque	11.12	Personal	Holder of Council issued parking permit
Carli Harper-Penman	5.1.1	Personal	Council tax payer
Carli Harper-Penman	11.4	Personal	Holder of Council issued parking permit
Carli Harper-Penman	11.5	Personal	Council tax payer
Carli Harper-Penman	11.6	Personal	I have a mortgaged property in the borough
Carli Harper-Penman	11.7	Personal	Member of the Co-operative party
Clair Hawkins	11.10	Personal	Member of UCU – one of the founder organisations of CALL
Alex Heslop	5.1.1	Personal	Council tax payer and Council representative on Board of Tower Hamlets Homes
Alex Heslop	11.1	Personal	I am a supporter of Labour Friends of Palestine, Palestine Solidarity Campaign and Council for the advancement of Arab British Understanding (CAABU).
Alex Heslop	11.4	Personal	Holder of Council issued parking permit
Alex Heslop	11.5	Personal	Leaseholder and Council tax payer
Alex Heslop	11.7	Personal	Member of the Co-operative party, Tower Hamlets Community Credit Union and Tower Hamlets Co-operative Development Agency
Alex Heslop	11.8	Personal	Leaseholder
Alex Heslop	11.12	Personal	Holder of Council issued parking permit
Shirley Houghton	5.2.2	Personal	Member of Barkantine Management Team
Sirajul Islam	5.1.1	Personal	Board member of Tower Hamlets Community Housing and Council tax payer
Sirajul Islam	11.1	Personal	TV licence holder and BSKyB customer
Sirajul Islam	11.5	Personal	Council tax payer

Sirajul Islam	11.8	Personal	Board member of Tower Hamlets Community Housing
Sirajul Islam	11.9	Personal	Member of LGA Regeneration and Transport Board
Sirjaul Islam	11.12	Personal	Holder of Council issued parking permit
Waiseul Islam	11.5	Personal	Council tax payer
Waiseul Islam	11.12	Personal	Holder of Council issued parking permit
Waiseul Islam	11.6	Personal	I have a mortgaged property in the borough
Ann Jackson	11.6	Personal	I have a mortgaged property in the borough
Denise Jones	11.8	Personal	Board Member of Tower Hamlets Homes
Denise Jones	11.12	Personal	Holder of Council issued parking permit
Denise Jones	5.1.1	Personal	Business ratepayer
Denise Jones	11.7	Personal	Member of TGWU union
Azizur R. Khan	11.8	Personal	Leaseholder
Rania Khan	5.2.3	Personal	I live on Devons Estate
Rania Khan	11.1	Personal	Supporter of Palestine Solidarity Campaign and of twinning with Jenin
Shiria Khatun	5.1.1	Personal	Council nominee for Poplar Harca and Council tax payer
Shiria Khatun	11.5	Personal	Council Tax payer
Shiria Khatun	11.8	Personal	Council nominee for Poplar Harca Board
Fozol Miah	11.4	Personal	Holder of Council issued parking permit
Harun Miah	11.8	Personal	Leaseholder
Lutfur Rahman	11.4	Personal	Holder of Council issued parking permit
Lutfur Rahman	11.6	Personal	Mortgaged property
Lutfur Rahman	11.12	Personal	Holder of Council issued parking permit
Muhammad Abdullah Salique	11.4	Personal	Holder of Council issued parking permit
Muhammad Abdullah Salique	11.6	Personal	Home owner
A. A. Sardar	5.1	Personal	Board member of Poplar Harca
A. A. Sardar	5.2	Personal	Ward member for Devons Estate
A. A. Sardar	11.4	Personal	Holder of Council issued parking permit

A. A. Sardar	11.8	Personal	Leaseholder
A. A. Sardar	11.12	Personal	Holder of Council issued parking permit
Rachael Saunders	5.1.1	Personal	Council tax payer
Rachael Saunders	5.2.1	Personal	Ward member for British Estate
Bill Turner	11.7	Personal	Member of the Co-operative Party
Abdal Ullah	5.2.3	Personal	Ward Councillor
Abdal Ullah	11.8	Personal	Leaseholder
Salim Ullah	11.8	Personal	Leaseholder
Motin Uz-Zaman	5.1.3	Personal	Close relative living in Latham House
Motin Uz-Zaman	5.2.1	Personal	Board member of East End Homes
Motin Uz-Zaman	11.4	Personal	Holder of Council issued parking permit
Motin Uz-Zaman	11.8	Personal	Leaseholder

### 3. MINUTES

Councillor Dr Anwara Ali said that she had declared a personal interest in agenda item 7.8 and asked that the minutes be amended.

#### RESOLVED

That subject to an amendment to record Councillor Dr. Anwara Ali's declaration of a personal interest in agenda item 7.8, the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> December 2008 be confirmed as a correct record of the proceedings and the Mayor be authorised to sign them accordingly.

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

#### (i) New Young Mayor and Deputy Mayors

Councillor Lutfur Rahman congratulated the new Young Mayor, Uma Akther on her election and welcomed Ms Akther and two of her Deputy Young Mayors Jamil Trofder and Alex Kuye to the Council meeting.

#### (ii) Exceptional weather

Councillor Lutfur Rahman congratulated staff who attended work despite the exceptionally adverse recent weather. He noted that the Council's services had responded to the conditions and continued to provide essential services for local residents.

## **5. TO RECEIVE ANY DEPUTATIONS OR PETITIONS**

### **DEPUTATIONS**

#### **5.1.1 Deputation re: the effect of the economic downturn on residents**

At the invitation of the Mayor, Ms. Claire Palmer addressed the meeting in support of the deputation. She re-iterated the points made in the printed agenda on the effect of the economic downturn on residents.

Ms. Palmer responded to questions from Members of the Council.

Councillor Joshua Peck, Lead Member for Resources and Performance responded to the matters raised by Ms. Palmer. The Council was required to set a balanced budget which meant balancing what it spent on services with its income, including the income it derives from Council Tax.

The Council was committed to ensuring that services for local people are capable of meeting local needs and also to setting a Council Tax that is affordable. Councillor Peck outlined a number of the Council's initiatives to support local residents across a range of service areas and stated that the authority would continue to work with local partners to ensure an effective and affordable respond to the economic situation.

### **RESOLVED**

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

#### **5.1.2 Deputation re: living standards on the Exmouth Estate**

At the invitation of the Mayor, Mr. Dave Coker addressed the meeting in support of the deputation concerning the decline of living standards on the Exmouth Estate since it had been transferred to Swan Housing.

Mr. Coker responded to questions from Members of the Council.

Councillor Marc Francis, Lead Member for Housing and Development responded to the matters raised by Mr. Coker. Councillor Francis stated that he had also visited the Exmouth Estate on four occasions and had noted the door entry systems, lighting that had been vandalised and the poor caretaking. He had met with Senior Officers at Swan Housing and as a result Swan had given a commitment to deal urgently with the caretaking issues and had revised the schedule of works for the door entry systems to be made fully operational.

In relation to the redevelopment of Brayford Square, Swan proposed that the existing shops and community interests would be relocated into new premises along the Commercial Road frontage. Residents across the estate would be

consulted on the redevelopment proposals in the coming months. Regarding compliance with the offer documents, the Council was satisfied that Swan's current proposals did not represent a departure but the position would be kept under review.

### **RESOLVED**

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

#### **5.1.3 Deputation re: Latham House**

On the invitation of the Mayor, Mr Aleyk Miah addressed the meeting in support of the deputation concerning Latham House.

Mr. Miah responded to questions by Members of the Council.

Councillor Marc Francis, Lead Member for Housing and Development responded to the matters raised by Mr. Miah and said that the Council had entered into a 15 year management agreement with Family Mosaic Housing in March 1996 and this included knock throughs to create additional family units. Those living in Latham House had been granted an Assured Shorthold Tenancy, which had only very limited security. The people who moved in originally were principally homeless or in severe housing need. Some of those had become overcrowded. The situation was unsatisfactory and a Project Team had been established to determine options and discuss management issues. Councillor Francis said that he would ensure that residents were kept informed.

### **RESOLVED**

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

### **PETITIONS**

#### **5.2.1 Petition re: Tesco Express Supermarket on Bow Road**

This petition was not heard as no representative of the petitioners was in attendance.

#### **5.2.2 Petition re: Island Homes**

At the invitation of the Mayor, Mr Terence Austin and Ms. Jenny Fisher addressed the meeting in support of the petition. They re-iterated the points raised in the written petition and called on the Council to investigate the actions of Island Homes and instigate mediation with a view to reinstating the

constitution of Island Homes as a local, responsive and resident-led association.

Mr. Austin and Ms. Fisher responded to questions from Members of the Council.

Councillor Marc Francis, Lead Member for Housing and Development responded to the matters raised in the petition. He said that Councillors shared the concerns of residents regarding One Housing Group's refusal to reinstate a resident majority board for Island Homes and regarding the fundamental changes made to service delivery. Councillor Francis had written to the Housing Minister to ask her to intervene and copies of the letter had been circulated. He had also met the Chief Executive of the new Tenant Services Authority, Mr Peter Marsh. A further meeting was arranged for the following day and Councillor Francis would continue to push for an early resolution to the issues raised.

### **RESOLVED**

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

#### **5.2.3 Petition re: anti-social behaviour on the Devons Road Estate**

At the invitation of the Mayor, Mr. Tazul Islam addressed the meeting in support of the petition concerning anti-social behaviour on the Devons Road Estate.

Mr. Islam responded to questions from Members of the Council.

Councillor Abdal Ullah, Lead Member for Cleaner, Safer, Greener responded to the matters raised in Mr. Islam's petition. The Council are committed to tackling anti-social behaviour and negotiations had taken place regarding additional police officers and neighbourhood enforcement officers to support and work alongside the safer neighbourhood teams. These new teams would be available from April. In addition, the authority had made significant investments in CCTV and Rainhill Way and Stroudley Walk had been identified as sites for CCTV systems subject to funding.

### **RESOLVED**

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

**6. TO RECEIVE WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC****6.1 Question from Mr. Philip Whittington to the Lead Member for Resources and Performance, Councillor Joshua Peck**

"I moved to the borough earlier this year and my housemate and I duly tried to establish a direct debit mandate with the Council for the payment of Council Tax. We later received a 'reminder' so I made arrangements to set up payments again. After a period where we heard nothing, we then received a summons to a magistrates' court for non-payment dated 9<sup>th</sup> July (which we received on 12<sup>th</sup>). When I came to the Town Hall on 14<sup>th</sup> July to explain the situation, the Council had my bank account details already (complete with a scanned copy of my signed debit mandate) in the first place but had neglected to set up the payment process. I would like to know:-

- a) How many people across the borough experienced this problem?
- b) How many of those people fitted any of the Council's definitions of 'vulnerable' or 'living in vulnerable circumstances' (whom we would expect to experience severe distress in this situation)?
- c) How many older people received summons to magistrates' courts due to this administrative error?
- d) What measures have been put in place to avoid innocent residents in future being intimidated by government (albeit unintentionally) in this way?"

**Response of the Lead Member:**

a) I apologise for the level of service that you received but it is not typical. Tower Hamlets' performance in this area is acknowledged nationally as good and instances where direct debit instructions are received but electronically filed without having first been processed are extremely rare to the point where the Service Head responsible personally recalls this case. As far as I am aware, this was the only instance of a complaint of this nature during this financial year. The completed form was received on 25th June just before the summons was issued on 9th July 2008. The summons was immediately cancelled and an apology sent to you.

b) none

c) none

d) The investigation revealed that the administrative error occurred as your form was received in the internal mail, and then incorrectly dealt with as if the work had been processed. A minor change to procedures has ensured no repetition.



**Summary of supplementary question from Mr. Whittington:**

I have seen correspondence from 2008, arising from a Member's Enquiry, to the effect that up to 60 people were in the same situation. I would assume that a proportion of these would be older or vulnerable people so in my view your responses to b) and c), and your assertion that my case was isolated is complacent. What measures do you have in place to avoid this happening again?

**Summary of Lead Member's response:**

I have not seen the Member's Enquiry you mention as these are confidential to the Member concerned. However I will be happy to look into this matter with the Service Head and take any action as necessary.

**6.2 Question from Ms. Johanna Kaschke to the Lead Member for Resources and Performance, Councillor Joshua Peck**

This question was not put at the meeting as Ms Kaschke was not present. A written response would be provided.

**6.3 Question from Mr. Len Aldis to the Leader of the Council, Councillor Lutfur Rahman**

"Will the Council agree to affiliate to the international organisation "Mayors for Peace", and have as its representative the Mayor of Tower Hamlets?

Information has been circulated to Councillors giving the aims and principles of this organisation that Tower Hamlets CND considers worthy of support from all peace loving people.

In December Mayors for Peace gained 99 new member cities bringing the total for 2008 to 515 and a grand total of 2,635 member cities in 134 countries.

We are also pleased that following his election as Mayor of London, Boris Johnson agreed to continue his support for Mayors for Peace."

**Response of the Leader of the Council:**

Thank you for bringing this important matter in front of Full Council.

The issue of nuclear proliferation is one that should be of great concern to us all.

We all know that stocks of nuclear weapons left over from the Cold War are enough to destroy the earth many times over.

And as more and more nations develop nuclear technology it is clear that the threat posed by these weapons is increasing.

I sympathise with your aims and the very noble aspirations of Mayors for Peace to combat not just for a world free of these awful weapons, but also from starvation, poverty, the plight of refugees, human rights abuses and environmental degradation.

I do not have the mandate to say yes to your proposal right here.

I am however for this matter to be brought to the majority group, and if they agree to proceed, to a future meeting of Full Council.

In the meantime I wish you and your organisation every success in your work.

**Summary of supplementary question from Mr. Aldis:**

I thank the Leader for his response. I take a positive message from his remarks and I hope that in due course Tower Hamlets will become the 52<sup>nd</sup> supporter of Mayors of Peace in the UK.

**Summary of Leader's response:**

Members have heard the case made by Mr Aldis and I will be pleased to bring a motion to a future meeting where Councillors will have the opportunity to express their views and vote on the matter.

**6.4 Question from Mr. Terry McGrenera to the Lead Member for Resources and Performance, Councillor Joshua Peck**

“Will any provision be made in the budget to encourage the introduction of the living wage in Tower Hamlets as announced in the Council's Employment Policy?”

**Response of the Lead Member:**

There is a provision of £260,000 within the budget for the introduction of London Living Wage to directly employed agency staff.

**Summary of supplementary question from Mr. McGrenera:**

Recent research suggests that many workers nationally are paid less than the minimum wage; and that low pay contributes to child poverty. How can more be done to enforce the minimum wage? In addition, are there any officers of this Council earning more than £100,000 a year, and in relation to one member of staff reported as receiving £240,000, will they receive a bonus?

**Summary of Lead Member's response:**

I agree with nearly all that you have said and our concerns about the damaging effects of low pay are exactly why we have taken the decisions we have on the London Living Wage. Workers should receive adequate pay whether employed by the Council or through an Agency. In relation to our senior staff pay rates these are in the public domain. The particular member of staff you refer to is no longer with the authority.

At this point (9.08 pm) the Mayor adjourned the meeting to allow some members of the public to leave the gallery.

The meeting resumed at 9.24 pm and the Service Head, Democratic Services informed Members that the revised projected end time for the meeting was now 10.50 p.m.

**7. TO RECEIVE QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL**

Councillor David Snowdon wished to raise a Point of Order under Rule 15.12 as he had not received a written response as agreed by Councillor Joshua Peck to matters raised at the previous Council meeting. Mr. John Williams, Service Head, Democratic Services, informed the meeting that this did not represent a Point of Order in relation to the current meeting. However, Councillor Peck said that an answer should be with Councillor Snowdon the following day.

**7.1 Question from Councillor Fazlul Haque to the Lead Member for Employment and Skills, Councillor Alibor Choudhury**

Can the Lead Member for Employment and Skills elaborate on the work being done to improve jobs and skills in the community?

**Response of the Lead Member:**

There are a range of activities available for residents to increase their employment skills, information on these can be found at each of the Community Hubs, at Ideas Stores, Tower Hamlets College or through the Skillsmatch service as well as local Jobcentre plus offices.

The Council is offering the following:

The Skillsmatch service which assists over 600 local residents into employment each year through a range of pre-employment training in areas such as construction, security, finance and administration and health. In addition the Single Point of Access service has been developed through the City Strategy and offers a partnership of activity taking Skillsmatch staff into each LAP area working with Community Hubs, Extended Schools Services, Children's Centres and RSL's.

The Employment Task Group offers representation from key stakeholders and provides additionality to mainstream services of JCP and LSC encouraging more employability activity in schools, with parents and with graduates as well as encouraging those furthest away from the labour market to take part in the range of activity on offer.

For young people there is a published list of activities available through Children's Services for NEET's and other young people keen to improve their skills and receive support into employment. There is also a range of support and advice available through parental and family engagement activity.

The Council will be considering a further range of support through its agreement on the allocation of the Working Neighbourhood Fund. This will offer funding to a range of providers, all seeking to offer additionality as well as signposting to current mainstream services. The total allocation is offered on the basis of helping in excess of 6,000 local residents into employment by 2011. The majority of the allocation is focussed on helping local residents secure sustainable employment through support, information, skills training and job brokerage and there is also an allocation for preventative work, helping young people make a more effective transition from education to employment and raising aspiration and skills for pupils. The allocation also includes funding for entry level ESOL.

The recently agreed Employment strategy identifies the key areas of work agreed by the Council and offers an action plan as well as 5 main objectives. These will be monitored and progress reported through the Prosperous Communities CPDG. Through the LAA process an action plan identifies the need to continue to work with JCP in helping as many residents as possible access sustainable employment. Through this current downturn in the economy the range of activities offered by the Government will be identified and explained in detail in the Employment Task Group newsletter. These include tax credits, help with mortgages, discretionary payments as well as general job brokerage.

Through the 5 borough partnership the Council is working to secure more devolution from the Government in respect of national welfare to work programmes. This will give the Council more influence over the commissioning of national programmes and ensure that they reflect the local needs.

**Summary of supplementary question from Councillor Fazlul Haque:**

One of the main problems we face is that young people are still hanging around with little to do. Can you assure me that the Council's strategies will make a real difference and impact, and tell me what actions are planned in Weavers Ward?

**Summary of Lead Member's response:**

The Community Hub is already in place in LAP 1 delivering services for 14-19 year olds. However I agree that there is more we can do to engage these young people and services will be tailored to reach all sections of our diverse community – including graduates as it is not always recognised that they also sometimes require assistance. I will look at all areas and do as much as I can.

**7.2 Question from Councillor Shirley Houghton to the Deputy Leader of the Council, Councillor Sirjaul Islam**

Will the Deputy Leader confirm that under the constitution it is a legal requirement for Council Members to be formally trained before taking part in and making decisions on the regulatory licensing and planning committees? Will the Deputy Leader explain the consequences to the Council if members take part and make decisions at regulatory committees who have not undertaken the required training?

**Response of the Deputy Leader of the Council:**

It is correct to say that the Constitution of the Council does contain two Codes of Conduct one in relation to licensing and one in relation to planning which confirm that Councillors who sit on both committees must undertake training before participating in a meeting. Because of the complexity of Planning Committee the training is more detailed and two sessions of training are required before sitting on the Committee with refresher training every 12 months. For Licensing Committee Members simply have to have attended a training session and this does not need to be taken annually but where a Member has been absent from the Committee for some time generally refresher training is given as a matter of good practice.

It is not possible to explain the consequences to the Council if Members do not take part in training prior to making a decision. This will depend on the facts of each case including the number of Members sitting on the particular decision making committee, the number who voted and whether the vote of a non trained Member would have made any difference. Then there would have to be further evidence regarding whether the Member who was untrained understood the facts and task without the training and was able to make the appropriate decision. Furthermore, if the decision was challenged in court then the court would decide whether the evidence on the facts put the decision at risk and finally whether it would be in the Public Interest to quash the decision.

The Committee Clerks keep a log of the training of Members and every effort is made to ensure that Members have the appropriate training.

**Summary of supplementary question from Councillor Shirley Houghton:**

I am confused because when I was put back on the Licensing Committee in December 2008 I was asked to sit and when I informed officers that I had not had training in 2008/09 they acknowledged that annual training should be undertaken before participation but stated that maybe I could sit anyway as I had prior experience. In addition I believe that two members did not receive training until some time into the current year but still served on Licensing Sub-Committees. However, Councillor Eckhardt could not sit on a Development Committee until he had received training. In 2007/08 two other members did not attend licensing training so did not attend any meetings during the year. Does the Lead Member agree they were not undertaking their public duty?

**Summary of Deputy Leader's response:**

I cannot comment on individual cases now but I will be happy to look into the points you have raised and respond after the meeting. As mentioned the detailed requirements are different for Licensing and Development Committees so the advice to Councillor Eckhardt was correct – a member may not serve on the Development Committee until he or she has undertaken the training.

**7.3 Question from Councillor Harun Miah to the Lead Member for Resources and Performance, Councillor Joshua Peck**

Would the Lead Member agree with me that we are facing a very severe recession and possibly a depression, that in these circumstances it would be madness to raise the Council Tax and council charges and that it would be far better if the Council Tax and charges were reduced, that we cannot afford to cut services or the workforce and that the incomes of the workforce must also not be cut and would he therefore also agree that the budget should be set within these parameters and that the relevant lead member and council officers should begin immediate negotiations with the Government to ensure any funding gap is met out of Government grant?

**Response by the Lead Member:**

The UK economy is now officially in recession. A depression is normally regarded as a sustained period of recession lasting many years and there is some way to go before the current situation could be described as such.

The Council is legally obliged to set a balanced budget and must be prudent and responsible in the way it uses public money. There is a balance to be struck between the need to maintain and improve services and setting a level of Council Tax that people can afford. It is also essential that the Council's budget plans are sustainable in the

medium to long term, which is why Tower Hamlets maintains a balanced medium term financial plan.

The Cabinet's budget for 2009/10 which will be considered by Overview & Scrutiny Committee on 10<sup>th</sup> February (tomorrow night) and by Cabinet on 11<sup>th</sup> (Wednesday) is designed to achieve better services in priority areas, investment in new capital schemes, while setting a sustainable balanced budget and a reasonable and realistic Council Tax. It is the intention for Tower Hamlets level of Council Tax to remain one of the lowest in London for 2009/10.

The Council has no plans to cut front line services to local people or to cut staff salaries. However it is important that we keep our spending under review and make sure that our services operate as efficiently as possible, and the Council does have proposals to deliver a further £11.6m in 2009/10 in budget reductions and efficiency savings.

The Council's finances are affected by the current recession, with less income from planning fees and land charges and reduced returns that originally expected from our investments. Despite this, Tower Hamlets prudent approach to budget setting over recent years has helped us to achieve improvements in services at low cost.

**Summary of supplementary question from Councillor Harun Miah:**

Peoples lives will be affected – residents need services and the Council Tax should not be raised. You need to find a balance. The Government has lowered the VAT rate and rich people should be taxed appropriately.

**Summary of Lead Member's response:**

Yes, legally the budget has to be balanced. Your proposals are unrealistic – cutting income and increasing expenditure in the way you suggest will lead in due course to severe cuts in services. In March all Members will have the opportunity to bring forward and debate proposals for the budget.

**7.4 Question from Councillor Stephanie Eaton to the Lead Member for Cleaner, Safer, Greener, Councillor Abdal Ullah**

Does the Lead Member agree with me that it is vital for the effectiveness of community policing that our Safer Neighbourhood Teams get to know local residents and have a detailed knowledge of the neighbourhood which they police?

**Response of the Lead Member:**

Getting to know local residents and the local area is a key component of citizens focused policing and the foundation of this is the Safer Neighbourhood Teams.

Tower Hamlets Safer Neighbourhood Teams (SNTs) have led the way nationally and been a key contributor to the consistent crime reductions in the Borough over the last 3 years. The Better Tower Hamlets Team model has enabled Safer Neighbourhood Teams not only to be locally based but to be co-located with other front line workers, enabling a coordinated multi-agency response tailored to the needs of the local area. Safer Neighbourhood Teams are key players in their wards, visiting schools and community centres and getting involved with residents' associations and Neighbourhood Watch schemes. They provide leaflets and newsletters to local people, informing them of how the police have responded to local concerns and providing practical advice on how to avoid being a victim of crime. Their areas of work are set as Public Set Priorities, by the community, at local ward panels.

**Summary of supplementary question from Councillor Stephanie Eaton:**

Will the Lead Member join me and others in the Chamber in welcoming Sir Paul Stephenson as the new Metropolitan Police Commissioner and making representations to him and to the Borough Commander on the excessive turnover of officers in the SNTs, especially senior officers? Tower Hamlets has a substantially higher turnover and this has a detrimental effect on the SNTs ability to get to know the community and the area.

**Summary of Lead Member's response:**

I had the pleasure of working with the current Commissioner and I have lodged my appreciation on the appointment of Sir Paul Stephenson. I am happy to join you in championing the SNTs and talking to the MPS both centrally and locally. The turnover is an issue but sometimes can be a positive thing. There are many individuals who join, enjoy the job, and then leave to commence a career in the Police force.

**7.5 Question from Councillor Ann Jackson to the Lead Member for Children's Services, Councillor Clair Hawkins**

Question 7.5 was not put as Councillor Ann Jackson was not present at the meeting. A written response would be provided.

**7.6 Question from Councillor Tim Archer to the Lead Member for Regeneration, Localisation and Community Partnerships, Councillor Ohid Ahmed**

Will the Lead Member for Housing provide an up to date report on the situation regarding Blackwall Reach and Robin Hood Gardens?

**Response of the Lead Member:**

The regeneration of Blackwall Reach was agreed by Cabinet in Spring 2008. After a high profile debate in the media, the Department for



Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) decided that the main Robin Hood Gardens buildings should NOT be listed. However the 20<sup>th</sup> Century Society, an architectural preservation group, requested a formal review of this decision, which is now being considered by the Secretary of State.

The redevelopment of the homes in Robin Hood Gardens is key to the present proposals for this area. The Council and its partner, the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) keenly await this decision and hope it will come in the next 2-3 months. The council has made submissions to support the original decision not to list.

If the buildings are not listed – assuming there is no further legal challenge - work will progress as planned to design the scheme in more detail, in full consultation with the local community, before seeking planning approval.

An RSL partner will be procured with HCA for the first new-build phase of the scheme (the “St Matthias” site) to develop new affordable homes for rent, and replacement homes for home owners, to enable the first phase of decants from the estate.

In the meantime a letter from the Lead Member for Housing has gone to residents explaining the position. A project shop is open part-time and decant survey work continues, in readiness for decant status to commence once the outcome of the listing issue is known. If the scheme proceeds tenants will have options to:--

- remain in the area, in a new home to be built by an RSL partner;
- remain a council tenant, in an alternative council home outside Blackwall Reach;
- apply for other RSL homes across Tower Hamlets

If however the buildings were to be listed, officers would report back to Cabinet on the severe impact this would have on the current scheme and would have to present options for a limited alternative project.

**Summary of supplementary question from Councillor Tim Archer:**

Can the Lead Member give an assurance that irrespective of what happens, the residents of Robin Hood Gardens will not be balloted on a transfer to an RSL but will stay with the Council; that leaseholders will be adequately compensated and that residents will get accommodation in the new development of comparable internal quality and size as they have now?

**Summary of Lead Member's response:**

Every resident will receive a suitable allocation. The Leader of the Council and myself have come from a meeting where ambitious plans were discussed, under which every resident will have a decent home.

In accordance with Rule 12.10 (expiry of time limit), questions 7.7 – 7.24 were not put. Written responses would be forwarded to the questioners.

**8. REPORTS FROM THE EXECUTIVE AND THE COUNCIL'S COMMITTEES****8.1 Annual Report of the Standards Committee 2007/08**

Mr Barry O'Connor, Independent Chair of the Standards Committee, presented the Committee's annual report, which had been tabled, and responded to questions from Members.

Councillors thanked Mr O'Connor for his presentation and for the valuable work that he and the other Independent Members carried out on the Committee.

Councillor Shirley Houghton sought further information on the recruitment process for Independent Members of the Standards Committee. The Service Head, Democratic Services undertook to forward details to Councillor Houghton.

Councillor Lutfur Rahman **MOVED** and Councillor Councillor Sirajul Islam **SECONDED** and it was

**RESOLVED**

That the Annual Report of the Standards Committee 2007/08 be received.

**9. TO RECEIVE REPORTS AND QUESTIONS ON JOINT ARRANGEMENTS AND EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS****9.1 Joint Arrangements**

There was no business under this heading to be considered.

**9.2 External Organisations**

There was no business under this heading to be considered.

**10. OTHER BUSINESS**

There was no business under this heading to be considered.

**11. TO CONSIDER MOTIONS SUBMITTED BY MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL****11.1 Motion submitted by Councillor Abjol Miah regarding support for the Palestinians in Gaza**

The motion as printed in the agenda was moved by Councillor Abjol Miah and seconded by Councillor Harun Miah.

A tabled amendment was moved by Councillor Lutfur Rahman and seconded by Councillor Ohid Ahmed. Following debate this amendment was put to the vote and was **agreed**.

The substantive motion as amended was then put to the vote and **agreed** and it was accordingly

**RESOLVED****This Council notes:**

That during the recent Israeli offensive against Gaza, more than 1300 Palestinians have been killed.

That over 400 of these are children and over 100 women.

That over 5500 people have been injured sufficiently seriously to be admitted to hospital.

That three Israeli civilians and 13 Israeli soldiers have been killed.

That many civilians on both sides have died since the breakdown of the peace process in 2000. (727 Israeli civilians and 2200 Palestinian civilians from 2000-2007 according to Israeli Human Rights Group B'Tselem as cited by OCHA).

That combined with the long-standing blockade of the Gaza Strip, the current hostilities have precipitated a massive humanitarian crisis.

That Israel ignored a UN call to ceasefire for over a week until its aims had been achieved.

That both sides have concluded separate ceasefires but that the underlying problems remain unresolved.

**This Council believes:**

That military action resulting in the death of civilians, whether as a result of deliberate targeting or "collateral damage" is incompatible with the values of a liberal democracy.

That Israel has used disproportionate and insufficiently discriminating force in the Gaza Strip.

That Israeli tactics, combined with the long-standing blockade of the Gaza Strip amount to the collective punishment of an entire population, in contravention of the Geneva Convention.

That Israeli aggression is unlikely to achieve its stated aims preventing rocket attacks and has demonstrably led to a rise in anti-Israeli sentiment across the world.

**This Council resolves:**

To condemn this Israeli incursion into Gaza

To call on the British Government to express that condemnation unequivocally and ask Ministers to:

- Condemn Israel's use of disproportionate and insufficiently discriminating military force
- Call on our government to pressure Israel to halt settlement on Palestinian land
- Call on each side to renounce violence and negotiate a settlement for a secure Israel and an economically and politically viable Palestinian state based on 1967 borders
- Consider sanctions against Israel if it refuses to engage in negotiation, just as the US and others have lent support to the de facto sanctions applied on Gaza and Hamas in the form of the Israeli blockade
- Write to the BBC and Sky TV condemning their refusal to air a DEC appeal for aid on behalf of the people of Gaza
- Halt arms exports.

To condemn rocket attacks by Hamas on civilian targets in Israel.

To condemn anti-Semitic attacks, graffiti and abuse within Tower Hamlets or anywhere else.

To support people in Gaza by exploring possibilities for friendship with organisations in the region who are committed to a just and lasting peace and encouraging local businesses to stock fair trade Palestinian products.

To ask youth workers and the Humanities Education Centre to engage with young people on the human rights issues at the heart of the Middle East conflict.

**11.2 Motion submitted by Councillor Tim Archer regarding waste incentives and bin taxes.**

Councillor Tim Archer **moved** and Councillor Peter Golds **seconded** the motion as printed in the agenda.

Councillor Tim Archer **moved** and Councillor Peter Golds **seconded** under Rule 14.1.10 that the question be now put.

The procedural motion was put to the meeting and was **defeated**.

The Mayor then closed the meeting in accordance with Rule 9 (duration of meeting). Motions 11.2 – 11.12 as listed below were not considered due to lack of time:-

**11.2 Motion submitted by Councillor Tim Archer regarding waste incentives and bin taxes****11.3 Motion submitted by Councillor Salim Ullah regarding condemning homophobia and prejudice****11.4 Motion submitted by Councillor Stephanie Eaton regarding eliminating excessive punishment for minor parking offences****11.5 Motion submitted by Councillor Harun Miah regarding freezing charges and taxes and maintaining services****11.6 Motion submitted by Councillor Peter Golds regarding the future of homeowners and the local economy in Tower Hamlets****11.7 Motion submitted by Councillor Alex Heslop regarding support for the co-operative and social enterprise sector****11.8 Motion submitted by Councillor Dulal Uddin regarding boosting Council Housing****11.9 Motion submitted by Councillor Lutfur Rahman regarding the Sustainable Communities Act****11.10 Motion submitted by Councillor Fozol Miah regarding support for Lifelong Learning****11.11 Motion submitted by Councillor Md. Mamun Rashid regarding the plight of Latham House**

**11.12 Motion submitted by Councillor Md. Abdul Munim regarding  
'parking tyranny'**

The meeting ended at 10.46 p.m.

Councillor Muhammad Abdullah Salique,  
Mayor

**LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS**

**MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL (BUDGET MEETING)**

**HELD AT 7.30 P.M. ON WEDNESDAY, 4 MARCH 2009**

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

**Members Present:**

Councillor Helal Abbas	Councillor Denise Jones
Councillor Ohid Ahmed	Councillor Dr. Emma Jones
Councillor Rofique U Ahmed	Councillor Azizur Rahman Khan
Councillor Anwara Ali	Councillor Rania Khan
Councillor Shahed Ali	Councillor Abdul Matin
Councillor M. Shahid Ali	Councillor Abjol Miah
Councillor Tim Archer	Councillor Fozol Miah
Councillor Abdul Asad	Councillor Harun Miah
Councillor Philip Briscoe	Councillor Tim O'Flaherty
Councillor Alibor Choudhury	Councillor Ahmed Adam Omer
Councillor Stephanie Eaton	Councillor Joshua Peck
Councillor Rupert Eckhardt	Councillor Lutfur Rahman
Councillor Marc Francis	Councillor Oliur Rahman
Councillor Peter Golds	Councillor M. Mamun Rashid
Councillor Fazlul Haque	Councillor Muhammad Abdullah Salique
Councillor Shafiqul Haque	Councillor A A Sardar
Councillor Carli Harper-Penman	Councillor Rachael Saunders
Councillor Clair Hawkins	Councillor David Snowdon
Councillor Alexander Heslop	Councillor Bill Turner
Councillor Shirley Houghton	Councillor Dulal Uddin
Councillor Ahmed Hussain	Councillor Abdal Ullah
Councillor Sirajul Islam	Councillor Salim Ullah
Councillor Waiseul Islam	Councillor Motin Uz-Zaman
Councillor Ann Jackson	

**The Mayor, Councillor Muhammad Abdullah Salique, in the Chair**

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors Rajib Ahmed, Lutfu Begum, Shiria Khatun and Mohammed Abdul Munim and for lateness from Councillors Fozol Miah and Motin Uz-Zaman.

**RESOLVED**

That the apologies for absence and lateness be noted.

## 2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors made declarations of interest in items included on the agenda as follows:

Councillor	Item	Type of interest	Reason
Ahmed Omer	6.1	Personal and Prejudicial	Deputy Mayor

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

### (i) New Corporate Director, Development and Renewal

Councillor Lutfur Rahman, Leader of the Council, welcomed Mr. Aman Dalvi, the new Corporate Director, Development and Renewal, to the Council and to his first Council meeting.

### (ii) CPA Assessment and Beacon Awards

Councillor Lutfur Rahman, Leader of the Council, said that he was proud to announce that the Council had once again achieved a four star CPA Assessment and the Audit Commission had judged that the Council was improving well. In addition Tower Hamlets had received two Beacon Awards for the Council's outstanding work in the positive engagement of older people and preventing child poverty. The Leader congratulated Members and staff for helping to achieve these results.

### (iii) Bethnal Green Tube Disaster Memorial Appeal

Councillor Lutfur Rahman, Leader of the Council, said that he had attended the memorial service at St John's Church for the 173 people who died in the 1943 Bethnal Green Air Raid Disaster, many of whom were women and children.

Last year, the then Mayor, Cllr Ann Jackson, raised over £30,000 for the Memorial Trust but the campaign remained short of its target. Over the past few days Councillor Joshua Peck had been working with council officers to identify potential sources of funding and Labour councillors had agreed unanimously to commit a sum of £100,000 to the campaign. A proposal to this effect would be brought forward to a future meeting and Councillors would also support the campaign in other ways, such as introducing local businesses and encouraging other public bodies and the National Lottery to play their part in ensuring this tragedy is never forgotten.



#### 4. TO RECEIVE ANY DEPUTATIONS OR PETITIONS

There were no deputations or petitions.

#### 5. BUDGET AND COUNCIL TAX 2009/10

##### 5.1 Report of the Cabinet Meeting of 11th February 2009

The Council considered the report of the Cabinet meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> February 2009 containing the proposals of the Executive for the Council's Budget and Council Tax for 2009/10.

Two amendments had been notified in advance in accordance with the Council Procedure Rules and these amendments, together in each case with officer comments, were circulated to the meeting in the pack of tabled documents.

**MOVED** by Councillor Joshua Peck and **SECONDED** by Councillor Lufur Rahman, that the recommendations contained in the 11<sup>th</sup> February 2009 report of the Cabinet be agreed.

**MOVED** as an amendment by Councillor Timothy Archer, **SECONDED** by Councillor David Snowdon, that the motion be amended as per the tabled motion from Councillor Archer (attached at Appendix A).

**MOVED** as a further amendment by Councillor Stephanie Eaton, **SECONDED** by Councillor Tim O'Flaherty, that the motion be amended as per the tabled motion from Councillor Eaton (attached at Appendix B).

Following debate, the amendment **MOVED** by Councillor Timothy Archer was first put to the meeting and was **DEFEATED**.

The amendment **MOVED** by Councillor Stephanie Eaton was then put to the meeting and was **DEFEATED**.

The original motion **MOVED** by Councillor Joshua Peck was then put to the meeting and it was

#### **RESOLVED**

##### 1. **General Fund Revenue Budget and Medium Term Financial Plan 2009/10 to 2011/12 (CAB 120/089, CAB 127/089)**

- a) To agree a total Budget Requirement for Tower Hamlets in 2009/10 of £297,926,000.
- b) To agree a Council Tax for Tower Hamlets in 2009/10 of £885.52 at Band D, as detailed in the table below:-

	2008/09	2009/10
	£	£
Adults Health & Wellbeing	90,166,427	89,547,000
Children's Services	90,298,089	96,795,000
Development and Renewal	16,030,500	17,702,000
Communities, Localities and Culture	72,391,081	74,499,000
Resources	11,183,807	15,904,000
Chief Executive's	11,497,412	10,871,000
Corporate/Capital	19,156,000	14,174,000
	<b>310,723,315</b>	<b>319,492,000</b>
Corporate Contingency	584,000	-
Local Public Service Agreement	(610,000)	(660,000)
Parking Control Account	(2,685,000)	(3,040,000)
Housing Choice Earmarked Reserve	1,978,000	-
Efficiency Reserve	689,000	689,000
Asset Management Reserve	500,000	-
Insurance Fund	500,000	500,000
Area Based Grant income	(17,381,316)	(19,055,000)
General Balances	1,200,000	0
	<b>295,498,000</b>	<b>297,926,000</b>
RSG	(27,493,996)	(42,909,651)
NNDR	(197,502,810)	(185,906,640)
	<b>70,501,194</b>	<b>69,109,709</b>
Collection Fund Surplus/Deficit	(1,505,000)	2,000,000
	<b>68,996,194</b>	<b>71,109,709</b>
Council Tax Base	79,705	80,303
<b>COUNCIL TAX AT BAND D</b>	<b>£865.64</b>	<b>£885.52</b>

Resulting in a Council Tax for all other band taxpayers, before any discounts, and excluding the GLA precept, as set out in the Table below:-

BAND	PROPERTY VALUE		RATIO TO BAND D	LBTH COUNCIL TAX FOR EACH BAND £
	FROM	TO		
A	0	40,000	$\frac{6}{9}$	£590.35
B	40,001	52,000	$\frac{7}{9}$	£688.74
C	52,001	68,000	$\frac{8}{9}$	£787.13
D	68,001	88,000	$\frac{9}{9}$	£885.52
E	88,001	120,000	$\frac{11}{9}$	£1,082.30
F	120,001	160,000	$\frac{13}{9}$	£1,279.08
G	160,001	320,000	$\frac{15}{9}$	£1,475.87
H	320,001	and over	$\frac{18}{9}$	£1,771.04

c) To agree that for the London Borough of Tower Hamlets in 2009/2010:-

(i) The Council Tax for Band D taxpayers, before any discounts, and including the GLA precept, shall be £1,195.34 as shown below: -.

	£ (Band D, No Discounts)
LBTH	885.52
GLA	309.82
Total	<u>1,195.34</u>

- (ii) The Council Tax for taxpayers in all other bands, before any discounts, and including the GLA precept, shall be as detailed in the table below: -

<b>BAND</b>	<b>PROPERTY VALUE</b>		<b>RATIO TO BAND D</b>	<b>LBTH</b> £	<b>GLA</b> £	<b>TOTAL</b> £
	<b>FROM</b>	<b>TO</b>				
A	0	40,000	$\frac{6}{9}$	£590.35	£206.55	£796.90
B	40,001	52,000	$\frac{7}{9}$	£688.74	£240.97	£929.71
C	52,001	68,000	$\frac{8}{9}$	£787.13	£275.40	£1,062.53
D	68,001	88,000	$\frac{9}{9}$	£885.52	£309.82	£1,195.34
E	88,001	120,000	$\frac{11}{9}$	£1,082.30	£378.67	£1,460.97
F	120,001	160,000	$\frac{13}{9}$	£1,279.08	£447.52	£1,726.60
G	160,001	320,000	$\frac{15}{9}$	£1,475.87	£516.37	£1,992.24
H	320,001	and over	$\frac{18}{9}$	£1,771.04	£619.64	£2,390.68

- d) To approve the statutory calculations of this Authority's total Budget requirement in 2009/2010, detailed in Appendix A to the motion, undertaken by the Chief Financial Officer in accordance with the requirements of Sections 32 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, and referred to in paragraphs 20.3-20.6 of the report 'General Fund Revenue Budget and Medium Term Financial Plan 2009/10 to 2011/12' (CAB 120/089).

## 2. Capital Programme 2009/10 to 2011/12 (CAB 121/089)

- (a) To approve the allocation of resources, provided by the Government and other funding bodies for specific purposes, to support Directorate Mainstream Capital Programmes, as set out in Appendix 2 to the report (CAB 121/089) and summarised in the table below:-

	£ million
Adults, Health & Wellbeing	0.387
Children's Services	17.730
Communities, Localities & Culture	2.456
Development & Renewal	43.417
<b>TOTAL</b>	63.990

- (b) To approve the formal inclusion of the Local Priority schemes for 2009/10 and later years previously agreed by the Cabinet, as set out at Appendix 4; and unavoidable and risk items set out at Appendix 5 of the report (CAB 121/089) in the Capital Programme.
- (c) To approve the additional proposals for the Local Priorities Capital Programme 2009/10 and capital forecasts for 2010/11 and 2011/12, as set out at Appendix 6 of the report (CAB 121/089)

### **3. 2009/10 Prudential Indicators (CAB 122/089)**

- a) To adopt the following Operational Boundaries for External Debt:-

Operational Boundaries for External Debt	
2009/10	£508.000 M
2010/11	£556.000 M
2011/12	£556.000 M

- b) To adopt the following Authorised Limits for External Debt:-

Authorised limits for External Debt	
2009/10	£528.000 M
2010/11	£576.000 M
2011/12	£626.000 M

- c) To note the following financial indicators, as required under the Prudential Borrowing Code:-

Financial Indicators	Actual 2007/08	Estimate 2008/09	Estimate 2009/10	Estimate 2010/11	Estimate 2011/12
Ration of financing costs to Net Revenue Stream	2.22%	2.50%	2.88%	3.06%	3.30%
Impact of Capital Investment Decisions on Annual Band D Council Tax	£ 20.13	£ 14.72	£ 16.11	£ 8.95	£ 11.64
Capital Expenditure (£million)	£ 61.932	£ 70.417	£ 91.194	£ 68.716	£ 49.993
Capital Financing Requirement (£million)	£ 458.419	£ 482.190	£ 508.371	£ 535.021	£ 562.930

#### 4. Treasury Management Strategy Statement, Minimum Revenue Provision Policy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy 2009/10 (CAB 123/089)

To adopt the Treasury Management Strategy Statement (at sections 4-9), the Annual Investment Strategy (at section 10) and the Minimum Revenue Provision Policy Statement (at section 11 as set out in the report 'Treasury Management Strategy Statement, Minimum Revenue Provision Policy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy 2009/10' (CAB 123/089).

## 6. OTHER BUSINESS

### 6.1 Scheme of Members' Allowances 2009/10

Councillor Lutfur Rahman **MOVED** and Councillor Joshua Peck **SECONDED** the recommendations as set out in the report.

The recommendations were put to the vote and were **agreed**. Accordingly it was

RESOLVED

1. That the Members' Allowances Scheme at Part 6 of the Constitution be agreed for 2009/10, subject to:-

(a) indexing of the amounts payable for the basic, special responsibility and dependants' carers' allowances as set out in paragraph 11 of the scheme; and

(b) An increase in the Special Responsibility Allowance in respect of the post of Deputy Mayor from £2,650 p.a. to £4,034 p.a., payable from

the implementation date of the current Members' Allowances Scheme, i.e. 21<sup>st</sup> May 2008.

2. That the London Borough of Tower Hamlets Members' Allowances Scheme 2009 be adopted as set out at Appendix 'A' to the report 'Scheme of Members' Allowances 2009/10'.

[Note: Councillor Ahmed Omer declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the above agenda item as the Deputy Mayor and left the meeting during consideration of the item.]

## **6.2 The Local Authorities (Functions and Responsibilities) Regulations: Local Area Agreements**

Councillor Ohid Ahmed **MOVED** and Councillor Lutfur Rahman **SECONDED** the recommendations as set out in the report.

The recommendations were put to the vote and were **agreed**. Accordingly it was

### **RESOLVED**

1. That the Authority's functions under sections 106, 110, 111 and 113 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007, including functions relating to the preparation, submission and modification of a Local Area Agreement, be the responsibility of the Council's Executive; and
2. That Part 3.2.2 of the Council's Constitution be amended accordingly.

The meeting ended at 9.15 pm

Councillor Muhammad Abdullah Salique,  
The Mayor

COUNCIL 4<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2009

## BUDGET REQUIREMENT &amp; COUNCIL TAX 2009/10

## CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2009/10

AGENDA ITEM 5.1 REPORT OF THE CABINET MEETING HELD ON  
11<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2009AMENDMENT PROPOSED BY: COUNCILLOR TIM ARCHER  
AMENDMENT SECONDED BY: COUNCILLOR DAVID SNOWDON

## This Council

1. Notes that in the current economic environment Councils across London are trying to minimise the impact of the recession on residents by keeping Council Tax rises as low as possible. As a result the London average increase is just 1.2% (London Councils figure). The proposed LBTH increase is 2.3%
2. That the London Mayor Boris Johnson has proposed a zero increase in the Mayor's precept this year, leading to an overall proposed increase for Tower Hamlets residents of 1.69%.
3. The concerns of the Home Secretary that crime rates will rise further as the country suffers its worst recession since the 1930s.
4. That there are some 23,000 people on the Tower Hamlets housing waiting list, a figure that is rising not falling.
5. Of the shared ownership homes that have been built in the borough since April 2006, some 523 homes remain empty and unsold (44%).
6. Notes the budget proposals recommended by the Cabinet and amends them as set out below.
7. That the following additional savings be implemented;

Budget	Description of saving	2009/10 budget saving implication (£)
East End Life	Discontinue publication of East End Life and request officers to negotiate with other local newspaper to provide pre-booked pages at lower cost.	673,000
Press Office	Reduce the size of the press office	278,852



	to the minimum level.	
Members' Allowances	Scrap the planned inflation rise and cut by 1%	26,985
Lead Members	Reduce the number of Cabinet Members from 10 to 9 by merging the roles of Lead Member for Housing & Development and lead Member for Regeneration, Localisation and Community Partnerships.	14,300
Deputy Mayor	Scrap the planned increase for the Deputy Mayor role	2,000
Senior Officers	Merge the roles of Chief Executive and Chief Finance Officer	215,000
Senior Officers	Half the number of Assistant Chief Executives.	195,000
Subscriptions	Cancel membership of the Local Government Association and the Local Government Information Unit.	67,000
Recycling	Scrap the recycling advertising campaign	20,000
Recruitment	Freeze recruitment and screen all vacancies Committee comprising the Chief Executive and Leader to reduce new recruitment by an expected 18 roles	540,000
Contractors and agency staff	All contractors and agency staff to take a 10% pay cut, except those on living wage.	500,000
Advertising	Reduce advertising budget by 20%	90,000
Communications	Scrap the 'In the news' press cuttings service	7,500
Travel costs	10% saving on all staff travel costs.	35,000
Conferences	End all attendance at conferences	167,000
Food costs	Discontinue the serving of food at Council meetings save for Civic functions	15,000
Administrative support	Delete the post of Leaders executive assistant	46,827
Administrative support	Delete the posts of the political advisors	76,742
Administrative support	Remove administrative support to Lead Members	93,452
Fines	As a result of investment in more Animal wardens and litter wardens, increase revenue generated from fines	10,000

Asset Management	Request officers to outsource asset management, with a view to containing the cost within existing budgets, removing the need for growth included in the Cabinet's budget.	300,000
<b>Total additional savings</b>		<b>3,373,658</b>

4. That the following additional growth be agreed;

Special Constables	Apply a 50% Council Tax discount for all Special Constables paying Council Tax in the Borough	44,000
Community Safety	Engage a further 17 Police Officers in addition to those announced, increasing the allocation to the equivalent of 2 per ward.	600,000
Wardens	Provide an additional 2 dog wardens, 2 park wardens and 2 litter wardens in the Borough	260,000
Use of Reserves	Provide in the budget for the loss of investment income as a result of using £5.5m in Reserves (see 5 below)	165,000
Recycling	Introduce a scheme to make pink recycling bags available at local shops	10,000
<b>Total additional growth</b>		<b>1,079,000</b>

5. That the Capital Programme be increased by £5.5m as follows;

<b>Scheme</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Amount 2009/10 £</b>
CCTV	Double the allocation for investment in CCTV to £1m.	500,000
Social Housing	Scheme to assist RSLs to bring intermediate housing into use as social rented housing.	5,000,000
		<b>5,500,000</b>

6. That, noting the advice of the Corporate Director, Resources, £5.5m be set aside from General Fund balances in 2009/10 to fund the proposed capital schemes above.
7. That in consequence of the above changes, the budget requirement for 2009/10 be amended to £295,632,000
8. The remaining amount £2,292,000 be used to reduce the proposed increase in Council Tax, so that the Council Tax for Tower Hamlets for 2009/10 is £856.95 at Band D, a decrease of 1%.

**COUNCIL MEETING 4<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2009****BUDGET REQUIREMENT AND COUNCIL TAX 2009/10  
CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2009/10****AGENDA ITEM 5.1: REPORT OF THE CABINET MEETING HELD ON  
11<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2009****AMENDMENT PROPOSED BY: COUNCILLOR STEPHANIE EATON  
AMENDMENT SECONDED BY: COUNCILLOR TIM O'FLAHERTY****1. This Council notes that:**

Liberal Democrats have identified the following priorities for the budget of the London Borough of Tower Hamlets in 2009/2010

- A. Reducing overcrowding
- B. Raising GCSE results (especially for looked after children)
- C. Reducing levels of unemployment
- D. Tackling crime and the fear of crime
- E. Reducing the generation of waste
- F. Tackling childhood obesity

Liberal Democrats have listened to residents and propose a 0% increase in Council tax with no reduction in services or financial reserves. This motion makes no amendment to the Cabinet proposals for the capital programme.

In relation to the Cabinet's proposals and our priorities:

- A. Liberal Democrats know that living in grossly overcrowded housing affects many people directly and indirectly, and we believe that the current level of overcrowding in Tower Hamlets is unacceptable. We welcome the substantial additional investment that this budget proposes to tackle this problem.
- B. Despite improvements we are still failing to meet our targets for GCSE results and increased resources in this area are needed and welcome. The results for looked after children are a concern, and we would ensure there is an increased focus on academic support for this small but vulnerable group of young people.
- C. Liberal Democrats have listened to residents' demands for a more visible police presence in public spaces and a faster and more reliable system of response to residents' calls – both emergency and non emergency. We consider that this requires more than the purchase of additional officers and more CCTV provision, welcome

though these are. Liberal Democrats believe that in order to reduce crime and fear of crime this Council should work with partners to increase informal and recreational contact between people of different ages. Reducing the fear of crime is not achieved just through having more police or CCTV cameras – it is achieved through the creation of communities where people know and trust each other and are not afraid of challenging inappropriate behaviour.

- D. Liberal Democrats believe that the Cabinet's priority of reducing levels of *youth* unemployment is unjustified, uneconomic and discriminatory. An unemployed person of any age deserves this Council's support as much as a young person entering the job market for the first time. Liberal Democrats would ensure that Council efforts to reduce unemployment are targeted at residents of all age groups.
- E. This Council is spending a great deal of time, effort and money in its efforts to raise levels of recycling. That is admirable and we support this continued effort. But recycling is not the best thing we can do to support the environment as recycling requires resources of transport and energy which contribute to global warming. It is much better to reduce the amount of waste that is generated in the first place. Liberal Democrats would re-direct this Council's attention towards making Tower Hamlets the London borough that produces the least amount of waste.
- F. Liberal Democrats recognise that there is ongoing work with partners in the NHS to address the crisis that we are facing with obesity. Through medium term financial planning we would investigate the opportunities for creating a healthier community by exercising controls on the licensing of fast food outlets, exploring the potential of providing free school meals for all secondary students, supporting parents who are obese to prevent their children from becoming obese, increasing natural activity (walking to shops, schools, etc.) and encouraging physical activity that is not competitive sport (e.g. dance and climbing).

## **2. This Council proposes:**

In addition to the proposals of the Cabinet;

- I. To provide funding for the Skillsmatch programme from the Working Neighbourhoods Fund contingency instead of from the Council's Budget Requirement, saving £428,000.
- II. Subject to a separate Council decision, to freeze all Members Allowances and to reduce all Special Responsibility Allowances by 50%, saving £156,000.

- III. To promote existing social enterprise organisations operating locally who facilitate the exchange, repair and re-use of electrical and other office equipment, household furniture and other items. To ask officers to investigate the feasibility of establishing a commercial and/or domestic re-use centre to reduce the amount of waste generated in the borough thus reducing the amount and cost of waste that is recycled or sent to landfill.

### **3. This Council proposes:**

In place of the proposals of the Cabinet;

- IV. To set the inflation amount for 2009/10 at £5.209m, representing a 2% inflationary increase on all budgets (except for Children's Services non-pay budgets which, at the Director of Children's Services recommendation, under savings proposal SAV/CS/03 (Running Costs) is already set at 0% for 2009/10).
- V. In consequence of the above, to set the Budget Requirement at £296,329,000 and the Council Tax at band D at £865.64 for 2009/10, with no increase in the Council Tax for 2008/09.



## **COUNCIL MEETING**

**WEDNESDAY 22<sup>nd</sup> APRIL 2009**

**DEPUTATIONS AND PETITIONS**

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 5**

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

### **SUMMARY**

1. The Council's constitution provides that a maximum of three deputations and three petitions are received at any meeting. These are taken in the order of receipt. This report sets out the deputations and petitions submitted by members of the public for presentation at Council on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2009.
2. The deadline for receipt of deputations and petitions for this meeting is noon on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> April. However, Members will note that the attached report already includes the maximum three deputations and three petitions for the meeting.
3. In each case the members of the deputation/petitioners may address the meeting for no more than five minutes. Members may then question the deputation/petitioners for a further five minutes. The relevant Lead Member or Chair of Committee may then respond to the deputation or petition for up to three minutes.
4. Any outstanding issues will be referred to the relevant Corporate Director for attention who will respond to those outstanding issues in writing within 28 days.
5. Members should confine their contributions to questions and answers and not make statements or attempt to debate.

## **5.1 DEPUTATIONS**

Three deputations have been received as set out below:-

### **5.1.1 Deputation from Mr John Budis, Tower Hamlets College UCU Branch Secretary and others in support of the motion regarding the Campaigning Alliance for Lifelong Learning:**

“We, the undersigned, wish to send a deputation to the council meeting to support the motion about the Campaigning Alliance for Lifelong Learning (see motion from Councillor Mamun Rashid at agenda item 11.15)

We feel very strongly about the existing and future threat to lifelong learning in the borough. Some of our ESOL students are being asked to pay on average £800 to attend English classes.”

### **5.1.2 Deputation from residents of Poplar and others objecting to the establishment of a Tesco Metro store in Poplar (see motion 11.13):**

“We, the undersigned, wished to object to the establishment of a Tesco’s Metro in Poplar. We believe this will adversely affect a lot of small businesses in the area. We also believe there are sufficient large chain stores operating in Tower Hamlets to meet the residents’ needs.”

### **5.1.3 Deputation from Mrs V Lashmar and others calling for lighting to be installed in Brickfield Gardens, E14 (see motion 11.5):**

“We, the undersigned, are concerned that there are no lights in our local park, Brickfield Gardens (on Copenhagen Place and Southwater Close) and about the level of crime and anti-social behaviour that goes on in our park after dark. We want lights installed in our park now.”

## **5.2 PETITIONS**

Three petitions have been received as set out below:-

### **5.2.1 Petition from Ms Nazel Hassan Onder and 47 parents regarding Arnhem Wharf Primary School:**

“We, the undersigned, say no to expanding Arnhem Wharf Primary School, say no to moving Arnhem Wharf Primary School bus stop, we want larger lunch hall, we want play equipment.”



**5.2.2 Petition from Mr Mike Costin, Chairman, Millwall RFC, and others regarding Millwall Park rugby pitch:**

“We, the undersigned, support Millwall Rugby Club’s campaign for Tower Hamlets Council to permit adult rugby games on the Millwall Park rugby pitch.”

**5.2.3 Petition from Mr Dave Coker and residents of Exmouth Estate regarding vandalism and the management of the estate:**

“We, the undersigned, wish to formally protest to the Tower Hamlets Council Swan Housing’s mismanagement of the Exmouth Estate.

While examples of this mismanagement are legion, the most socially disruptive pertains to Swan’s failure to responsibly combat vandalism on the Exmouth Estate.

Since Swan Housing assumed stewardship of the Exmouth Estate, there have been tens, if not hundreds of separate examples of vandalism on this property. In spite of repeated queries presented to Swan Housing since Q4 2008, they have refused to confirm how many - if any - of these incidents were reported to the Metropolitan Police.

Further, Swan Housing has refused to reply to reasonable queries from residents regarding buildings insurance; specifically how many of these incidents were claimed against during the same period.

Swan has refused to open an internal complaint into this matter, leaving us no alternative but to escalate to the Tower Hamlets Council.

We urgently need the Council to intercede on our behalf, and ensure:-

- 1) Swan Housing immediately answers these critical queries
- 2) Swan Housing communicates going forward in an appropriate manner with concerned leaseholders and tenants
- 3) Swan Housing immediately file any outstanding police reports regarding vandalism on the Exmouth Estate.

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**LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS**

**COUNCIL MEETING**

**WEDNESDAY 22<sup>nd</sup> APRIL 2009**

**QUESTIONS SUBMITTED BY  
MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 6**

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

## **SUMMARY**

1. Set out overleaf are the questions submitted by members of the public, for response by the appropriate Lead Member at the Council Meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2009.
2. The Council's Constitution provides a maximum 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. Supplementary questions and Members' responses to written and supplementary questions are each limited to two minutes.
4. Any question which cannot be dealt with during the thirty minutes allocated for public questions, either because of lack of time or because of non-attendance of the questioner or the Member to whom it was put, will be dealt with by way of a written answer.
5. Unless the 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

One question has been submitted as set out below:-

### **6.1 Question from Ms. Dinah Glover to the Lead Member for Culture, Councillor Rofique U. Ahmed:**

“The ‘Get Active’ scheme launched for LAP1 residents to use York Hall gym facilities funded by Government money allows any resident (16 -74 years) who is not currently a member of the Wellness gyms to pay a one off payment of £2.70 plus £1 per session.

Monthly membership of the gym is £27.95 (£335.40 pa). Under the ‘Get Active’ scheme you can use the gym 3 x 52 weeks of the year and the total cost is £158.70.

The Government money was meant to target people that are inactive. This scheme mainly subsidises anyone who was a member of a different gym or has recently moved into the area. Why was this money not targeted at inactive people who need the encouragement and secondly why allow a situation that current gym members have a double whammy of both paying more and subsidising their neighbours who may be wealthier than them?”

**LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS**

**COUNCIL MEETING**

**WEDNESDAY 22<sup>nd</sup> APRIL 2009**

**QUESTIONS SUBMITTED BY  
MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL**

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 7**

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

## **SUMMARY**

1. Set out overleaf are the questions submitted by Members of the Council for response by Members of the Executive at the Council meeting on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2009.
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 answered within this time will be dealt with by way of a written response. 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

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

**7.1 Question from Councillor Shiria Khatun to the Lead Member for Regeneration, Localisation and Community Partnerships, Councillor Ohid Ahmed**

Can the Lead Member please tell us how many people took part in the Council's participatory budget process?

**7.2 Question from Councillor Tim Archer to the Lead Member for Housing and Development, Councillor Marc Francis**

Can the Lead Member provide details of the current performance of Tower Hamlets Homes and the RSLs in plural in the Borough at managing void periods?

**7.3 Question from Councillor Abjol Miah to the Leader of the Council, Councillor Lutfur Rahman**

Would the Leader of the Council confirm that there has been a change of policy and enforcement strategy with regard to businesses operating in Brick Lane and the area adjacent to Brick Lane on the Bethnal Green Road, and would he confirm what these changes involve and would he agree with me that the Brick Lane area is a vibrant and economically vital part of Tower Hamlets and that the attempts to shut businesses earlier than they have been licensed to open, under planning laws, is likely to have a disastrous effect on businesses and may lead to closures and would he agree that the decision to require restaurants, bars and pubs to remove street furniture either completely or unless they pay exorbitant charges is again adversely affecting the atmosphere and business prospects in the area and would he agree that, although residents concerns must be taken into account, residents moving into Brick Lane and its immediate vicinity ought to be made aware that this area has a vibrant late night-life and would he also agree with me that it is a matter of concern that council officers, apparently seeking to clamp down on technical breaches of planning law, etc, have taken what business people in the area regard as an overly aggressive attitude that has caused considerable anger in the business community?

**7.4 Question from Councillor Tim O'Flaherty to the Lead Member for Cleaner, Safer, Greener, Councillor Abdal Ullah**

Can the Lead Member confirm that Bethnal Green is a safe place to walk, after the incident involving a Councillor in Derbyshire St, because Elected Members have the obligation of representing Ward matters whenever they occur, regardless of the time of day?

**7.5 Question from Councillor Rajib Ahmed to the Lead Member for Children's Services, Councillor Clair Hawkins**

Could the Lead Member provide us with figures that show how much it would cost to send looked-after children to boarding school rather than having the Council care for them?

**7.6 Question from Councillor Rupert Eckhardt to the Lead Member for Children's Services, Councillor Claire Hawkins**

In light of the recent planning meeting to allow a fried chicken outlet to be set up within 500m of 6 schools, a mixture of primary and secondary, can the Lead Member clarify the Council position on healthy eating and show how this is being translated into policies that are being implemented to improve the health of children of the Borough?

**7.7 Question from Councillor Fozol Miah to the Lead Member for Cleaner, Safer, Greener, Councillor Abdal Ullah**

Would the Lead Member join with me in expressing our condolences to the family of Ian Tomlinson who died at the G20 protests in the City of London on 1<sup>st</sup> April and would he agree with me that there should be a full criminal investigation into his death and would he also agree that policing tactics on these demonstrations which include the controversial policy of "kettling" should be subject to an urgent review and that "kettling" represents an unwarranted and unjustifiable abrogation of civil liberties by placing in temporary imprisonment lawful protestors and innocent passers-by alike and would he also agree that recent developments in the government's "Preventing Violent Extremism" policy which seem to be targeted on matters of ideology are again a potential attack on our civil liberties and likely to be counter-productive, as senior Muslim police officers have pointed out?

**7.8 Question from Councillor Stephanie Eaton to the Lead Member for Resources and Performance, Councillor Joshua Peck**

Could the Lead Member please comment on the recent internal audit finding of "nil assurance" for the Council's management of its Commercial Properties Portfolio?

**7.9 Question from Councillor Oliur Rahman to the Lead Member for Culture, Councillor Rofique Ahmed**

Could the Lead Member please outline the details of the free swimming initiative recently agreed by the Council?

**7.10 Question from Councillor Dr Emma Jones to the Lead Member for Resources and Performance, Councillor Joshua Peck**

Concerning the religious sisters who were previously housed at 13 Pierhead. The property is a grade 2 listed building and due to the extent of repairs required the sisters have had to leave. The Council were contacted about this issue 5 years ago, but repairs were not made. The sisters had done a lot of work for charities, including hospitals. As this situation could have been dealt with by the Council several years ago, what are the Council doing to ensure that the sisters can be re-housed as soon as possible and what is being done to ensure that this matter is given the highest attention that it deserves?

**7.11 Question from Councillor Dulal Uddin to the Leader of the Council, Councillor Lutfur Rahman**

Does the Leader of the Council share the widespread disquiet about the remuneration of senior council staff who have remuneration packages of well over £100,000 and that this is a matter of particular concern in Tower Hamlets where such a large minority of families are on a total household income of not more than £15,000 per year and when council staff are being offered a pay deal far below the Consumer Price Index which is the more relevant price index for those on lower incomes and that it is about time that a cap was placed on the total remuneration packages of senior staff in local government and an end put to the attempt to lure senior staff away from other councils by inflating their remuneration packages?

**7.12 Question from Councillor Azizur Rahman Khan to the Lead Member for Housing and Development, Councillor Marc Francis**

Could I be advised how many squatters are currently living on the Ocean Estate and what arrangements are being made to remove them safely, and what advice and support will be available to them to help them find alternative accommodation? What costs will be incurred by the Council in removing and rehousing these people?

**7.13 Question from Councillor Rania Khan to the Lead Member for Regeneration, Localisation and Community Partnerships, Councillor Ohid Ahmed**

At its last meeting, the Council passed a resolution that included provision to help Palestinian communities by encouraging the sale of free trade Palestinian goods like olive oil. Can the Lead Member let this chamber know how that is progressing?



**7.14 Question from Councillor Peter Golds to the Leader of the Council, Councillor Lutfur Rahman**

Will the Leader provide the dates and the subjects covered with regards to meetings between him and the current leader (Cllr Chris Roberts) and the immediate past leader of the London Borough of Greenwich?

**7.15 Question from Councillor Harun Miah to the Lead Member for Children's Services, Councillor Clair Hawkins**

Has the Lead Member seen the statement from Save the Children about the crisis of child poverty in Britain and is she aware of the decision by Save the Children to distribute aid to families in Britain for the first time alongside UK charity Family Action and is she also aware of the report by Oxfam which says that conditions are about to worsen significantly for the poorest one fifth of the population and does she agree with me that these reports from authoritative bodies are extremely worrying for Tower Hamlets where levels of poverty remain extremely high and the gap between rich and poor is one of the most dramatic in the country and was she aware that a march against youth unemployment with some 600 people on it came through Tower Hamlets on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April en route to protest at the G20 summit at the Excel building and does she agree that the government needs to be doing much more to mitigate the effects of this terrible recession on the poorest sections of society by raising benefits and cutting taxes on the lowest income families?

**7.16 Question from Councillor Abdul Matin to the Lead Member for Health and Wellbeing, Councillor Dr Anwara Ali**

How many people from the Black and Minority Ethnic parts of our community hold permanent posts in the top three tiers of the Adults Health and Wellbeing Directorate?

**7.17 Question from Councillor Ahmed Omer to the Lead Member for Children's Services, Councillor Clair Hawkins**

We have recently seen that our primary schools are performing better than ever. Could the Lead Member outline any forthcoming investment and improvement programmes that will help improve them even further?

**7.18 Question from Councillor Ahmed Hussain to the Lead Member for Health and Wellbeing, Councillor Dr Anwara Ali**

Can the Lead Member let us know why the Hawthorne Nursing Home has been closed for the last six months?

**7.19 Question from Councillor Mamun Rashid to the Leader of the Council, Councillor Lutfur Rahman**

Does the Leader of the Council share with me a profound concern that the proportion and the absolute numbers of long-term residents in this borough currently employed on the Olympic site is pitifully low and does he agree with me that much more needs to be done by the Olympic Development Agency and other bodies involved in the Olympics project to ensure that long-term residents of the five host boroughs, and above all Tower Hamlets with its chronically high levels of unemployment and under-employment to long-term residents are provided with the training to raise skills levels in order to compete fairly for these jobs and that a review is needed to ensure that there are no unfair employment practices creating formal and informal barriers against the recruitment of long-term residents of this borough and does he also agree that the policy of imposing contractual gagging orders on contractors on the Olympic site represents a danger to encouraging whistle blowing in the public interest, for example, over health and safety issues and that contractors and employees must be provided with the right to whistle blow if it is in the public interest?

**7.20 Question from Councillor Fazlul Haque to the Lead Member for Employment and Skills, Councillor Alibor Choudhury**

In the past year we have seen a considerable expansion of the Employment and Skills portfolio. Could the Lead Member please outline some of the key challenges for the coming year and the ways in which he plans to deal with them?

**7.21 Question from Councillor David Snowdon to the Deputy Leader of the Council, Councillor Sirajul Islam**

Could the Deputy Leader please comment on what steps are taken to ensure that consultation exercises undertaken by LBTH are representative of local residents?

**7.22 Question from Councillor Abdul Munim to the Lead Member for Children's Services, Councillor Clair Hawkins**

Would the Lead Member agree with me that, although the Council is to be congratulated for being slightly above average in placing children in secondary school according to preference, having over one quarter of children not achieve their first choice school and having over 150 children fail to secure any of their six preferences is still far too high and would she agree also that it is not acceptable for siblings who wish to go to the same school to be split up as, amongst other things, this can make things extremely difficult for parents, and would she also agree that are children are over-tested for SATS and that there is an excessive use of quantitative assessments by

Ofsted at the expense of qualitative assessments and that the policy of designating schools as “failing” and then closing them is counter-productive in the process of trying to ensure improving educational achievement for our children?

**7.23 Question from Councillor Philip Briscoe to the Leader of the Council, Councillor Lutfur Rahman**

What are the names and positions of Councillors in receipt of committee-specific special responsibility allowances for the municipal year 2008-2009, how much SRA have they received, and how many minutes have they sat in committee meetings during the year to fulfil those responsibilities?

**7.24 Question from Councillor Shirley Houghton to the Leader of the Council, Councillor Lutfur Rahman**

Please confirm the due date for the return of the last quarterly Register of Interests update from all Members and provide a full list of Members of this Council, detailing for each member, the date they last returned their updated Register of Interests form.

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## LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

### REPORT OF THE CABINET

11 MARCH 2009

To receive the report of the Cabinet at its meeting held on Wednesday **11 March 2009**.

The Members who attended our meeting were: -

Councillor Lutfur Rahman (Chair)	(Leader of the Council)
Councillor Sirajul Islam (Vice-Chair)	(Deputy Leader of the Council)
Councillor Ohid Ahmed	(Lead Member, Regeneration, Localisation and Community Partnerships)
Councillor Rofique U. Ahmed	(Lead Member, Culture and Leisure)
Councillor Anwara Ali	(Lead Member, Health and Wellbeing)
Councillor Alibor Choudhury	(Lead Member, Employment and Skills)
Councillor Marc Francis	(Lead Member, Housing and Development)
Councillor Clair Hawkins	(Lead Member, Children's Services)
Councillor Josh Peck	(Lead Member, Resources and Performance)
Councillor Abdal Ullah	(Lead Member, Cleaner, Safer, Greener)

Other Members present: -

Councillor Shahid Ali	
Councillor Abdul Asad	(Chair Overview and Scrutiny Committee)
Councillor Tim Archer	
Councillor Stephanie Eaton	(Leader Liberal Democrat Group and Scrutiny Lead Member: A Health Community)
Councillor Peter Golds	(Leader Conservative Group)
Councillor Fazlul Haque	

#### **1. Children and Young People's Plan 2009 -12 (CAB 130/089)**

The Cabinet considered a report (attached as Appendix A to this council report) which informed us that: -

- The Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) is an important element of the reforms underpinned by the Children Act 2004. On the basis of a statutory duty, all local authorities are required to produce a single, strategic, overarching plan for all services affecting children and young people every three years (to be reviewed each year in which the authority is not required to publish a plan). The CYPP supports more integrated and effective services to secure better outcomes for children. The last

Tower Hamlets three year CYPP was published in April 2006. We are therefore required to publish a new three-year plan in April this year.

- The CYPP is 'owned' by the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership Group (CYPSPG) which is Tower Hamlets Children's Trust Board. The CYPSPG is one of the five community plan delivery groups. Through developing and implementing the CYPP, CYPSPG focuses on all of the community plan priorities as they relate to children, young people and their families in Tower Hamlets. Expert theme groups which focus on developing the more detailed work around each of the Every Child Matters themes<sup>1</sup> report into the CYPSPG which is chaired by the Lead Member for Children's Services.
- The new CYPP is different to previous plans. It is shorter and more focussed on key priorities, outlining what will be done *differently* over the next three years to address these priorities. It has a more developed localisation section and has identified three new cross-cutting themes which run throughout the plan: tackling child poverty, engaging the community and supporting families. The new CYPP does not attempt to outline *everything* that will be done over the next 3 years. Instead, the final plan will be accompanied by detailed delivery plans for each Every Child Matter theme.

We considered and noted 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 Asad.

Our Corporate Director Children's Services, Mr Collins, at the request of the Chair in introducing the report before us briefly presented the report and summarised the salient points. In response to the comments tabled by the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, he advised that Priority 2 – Significantly Reduce Bullying would tackle all bullying, but that the specific issue of homophobic bullying would be worked into the detail of the plan. He also reported that a significant amount of work was being carried out in respect of engaging children and young people in the 2012 Olympics and Paralympics.

The Cabinet noted that the Council had recently been awarded the Beacon Award for preventing Child Poverty. Members welcomed the Plan and noted the importance of working constructively with the Council's Partners in tackling Child Poverty.

In response to Members questions, Mr Collins advised that the proposed change of the Directorate name to "Children, Schools and Families Directorate" reflected the name of the relevant government department. He also informed the Cabinet that the bullying

policies of all schools would be monitored closely. It was important that schools co-operate with the Council's Social Services.

We endorsed the Children and Young People's Plan 2009 -12, attached at Appendix 1 to the report (CAB 130/089) before us, and agreed that Council be recommended to approve the plan.

**We therefore recommend Council to: -**

- (i) Approve the Children and Young People's Plan 2009 -12, attached at Appendix 1 to the report **(CAB 130/089)**, **(Attached at Appendix A to this Council report)**; and
- (ii) Note the proposed name change of the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership Group (CYPSPG) to the Children and Families Trust. The new name is shorter and more relevant, reflecting the importance of the work undertaken with families. It is also more in keeping with the names of the other Community Plan Delivery Groups.

**Councillor Lutfur Rahman  
Chair of the Cabinet**

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

<b>Brief description of "background paper" number of holder</b>	<b>Tick if copy supplied</b>	<b>If not supplied, name and telephone</b>
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None

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## APPENDIX A

<b>Committee:</b> Cabinet	<b>Date:</b> 11 March 2009	<b>Classification:</b> Unrestricted	<b>Report No:</b>	<b>Agenda Item:</b>
<b>Report of:</b> Corporate Director of Children's Services  <b>Originating officer(s)</b>  Anthony Walters - Service Head, Strategy, Partnerships and Performance. Laura Murdoch – Strategy, Partnerships and Performance		Title: Children and Young People's Plan 2009-12  <b>Wards Affected: ALL</b>		

### 1. **SUMMARY**

- 1.1 This report presents the draft 3-year Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) 2009-12 which we are required to publish in April 2009. The draft plan can be found at [Appendix 1](#).
- 1.2 The CYPP falls under the Council's Budget and Policy Framework and the comments of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee will be tabled at the Cabinet meeting on 11 March 2009 for Members' consideration.

### 2. **RECOMMENDATIONS**

Cabinet is recommended to:-

- 2.1 Endorse the draft CYPP at Appendix 1 and recommend that full Council approve the plan subject to any appropriate amendments to reflect the views of Members;
- 2.2 Authorise the Corporate Director of Children's Services, after consultation with the Lead Member for Children's Services, to make appropriate amendments to the CYPP in advance of consideration by Full Council;
- 2.3 Agree the proposed change of name from 'Children's Service's Directorate' to 'Children, Schools and Families Directorate' as set out in para 4.6.

### 3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) is an important element of the reforms underpinned by the Children Act 2004. On the basis of a statutory duty, all local authorities are required to produce a single, strategic, overarching plan for all services affecting children and young people every three years (to be reviewed each year in which the authority is not required to publish a plan). The CYPP supports more integrated and effective services to secure better outcomes for children. The last Tower Hamlets three year CYPP was published in April 2006. We are therefore required to publish a new three-year plan in April this year.
- 3.2 The CYPP is 'owned' by the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership Group (CYPSPG) which is Tower Hamlets Children's Trust Board. The CYPSPG is one of the five community plan delivery groups. Through developing and implementing the CYPP, CYPSPG focuses on all of the community plan priorities as they relate to children, young people and their families in Tower Hamlets. Expert theme groups which focus on developing the more detailed work around each of the Every Child Matters themes<sup>1</sup> report into the CYPSPG which is chaired by the Lead Member for Children's Services.
- 3.3 The new CYPP is different to previous plans. It is shorter and more focused on key priorities, outlining what will be done *differently* over the next three years to address these priorities. It has a more developed localisation section and has identified three new cross-cutting themes which run throughout the plan: tackling child poverty, engaging the community and supporting families. The new CYPP does not attempt to outline *everything* that will be done over the next 3 years. Instead, the final plan will be accompanied by detailed delivery plans for each Every Child Matter theme.
- 3.4 The CYPP falls under the Council's Budget and Policy Framework and the comments of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee will be tabled at the Cabinet meeting for Members' consideration. **Cabinet is required by the Council's Constitution to take account of the views of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, before submitting recommendations to Full Council.** The CYPP will be considered by full Council in April. A full process timeline can be found at [Appendix 2](#).

### 4. THE NEW THREE YEAR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S PLAN

- 4.1 This strategic three-year Children and Young People's plan does not attempt to cover all the activity going on in Children's Services. External validation of

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<sup>1</sup> Be Healthy; Stay Safe; Enjoy and Achieve; Make a Positive Contribution; Achieve Economic Wellbeing as well as Excellent Children's Services

performance has given the directorate confidence in the core elements of its approach and this plan focuses on the key issues where it hasn't yet made the impact that children and young people deserve.

- 4.2 To help measure progress, performance indicators have been identified for each of the themed sections. Targets for these indicators will be determined prior to publication, using the latest available performance data.

#### *Developing the plan*

- 4.3 To develop the plan a needs analysis was carried out alongside an extensive consultation. The consultation was carried out with children, young people and their families as well as those who deliver services for children. The consultation fulfilled all statutory requirements as set out in The Children and Young People's Plan (England) Regulations 2005. The needs analysis and consultation have informed the cross-cutting themes, the theme specific priorities and local priorities, as well as the 'what we'll do differently' sections of this plan.
- 4.4 An emphasis was placed on involving local residents from the start, ensuring they were given an opportunity to shape the CYPP for the next three years. In October 2008 a 'Tag Wagon' was commissioned – a van installed with multimedia equipment - and used to carry out innovative workshops, designed to find out what people think about a range of issues that affect them in the borough. The Tag Wagon travelled around the borough visiting Children's Centres, schools, youth projects, markets and Idea Stores to gather views from children, young people and families. From this consultation, a 'Tag Map' has been created, documenting the views of residents, highlighting what local needs and issues are. Through an online blog, local residents and practitioners were also able to comment on the draft plan. As with previous versions of the CYPP, we have illustrated some of the comments made during the consultation and how we are responding to them in the plan itself. A full consultation report will also be published alongside the new CYPP, a draft of which can be found at [Appendix 3](#).

#### *Delivering the plan*

- 4.5 The plan will be delivered through the Local Strategic Partnership. The Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership Group (CYPSPG) is the Community Plan Delivery Group which is accountable for delivering the CYPP and monitors and reviews progress made on a regular basis, taking action where necessary. The CYPSPG also has members from the LAPs to ensure progress against local priorities for children, young people and their families as well as the borough wide priorities. A progress review against the priorities and activities outlined in this plan will be published on an annual basis.

### *Launching the plan*

- 4.6 The new CYPP will be published at the end of April 2009. The plan will be published online and will be interactive. However we will also produce a small number of hard copies. We are planning a high profile media launch of the plan at the end of April which will involve all of our key partners.
- 4.7 As part of the launch it has been proposed that we change the name of 'Children's Services' Directorate to 'Children, Schools and Families' Directorate to reflect the important work we do, not only with children and young people, but also their families. The proposed change in name will reflect locally the change in name of the national government Department to the Department of Children, Schools and Families (DCSF).

## **5. COMMENTS OF THE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER**

- 5.1 The CYPP is concerned with planning and directing the resources allocated through the budget process to the Council's priorities in relation to these services, and providing targets against which the use of resources can be assessed. Thus it contributes to achieving value for money for the use of these resources.
- 5.2 At this stage, there is no identified impact on Children's Services revenue or capital budgets arising from this plan. As indicated by the Medium Term Financial Plan considered by the Cabinet at its meeting on 11th February, the CYPP coincides with a period of tightening resources and greater financial risk for the authority. Any additional resource requirements to achieve the agreed priorities will be identified through the budget process and will need to be contained within existing budgets.
- 5.3 The costs associated with the consultation and publication of the CYPP will be contained within existing budgets.

## **6. CONCURRENT REPORT OF THE ASSISTANT CHIEF EXECUTIVE (LEGAL)**

- 6.1 Cabinet is requested to recommend the draft Children and Young People's Plan ("CYPP") at Appendix 1 of the report to Full Council.
- 6.2 Pursuant to section 17 of the Children Act 2004 and the Children and Young People's Plan (England) Regulations 2005 the Council is required, as a children's services authority, to prepare and publish a plan setting out the Council's strategy for discharging its functions in relation to children and relevant young persons.

- 6.3 In accordance with the Council's Constitution, the CYPP is part of the policy framework and falls to be approved by Full Council.
- 6.4 The regulations require the Children and Young People's Plan to set out the following matters:
- a. Improvements which the Council intends to make during the plan period to the well-being of children and young people;
  - b. The Council's vision for children and young people;
  - c. An assessment of needs in relation to the outcomes;
  - d. Priorities and key actions planned to achieve the improvements;
  - e. A statement of how resources will be deployed to achieve the outcomes;
  - f. An explanation of how the plan relates to arrangements for performance management and review of services;
  - g. The arrangements for co-operation under the duty to co-operate and with other partners;
  - h. An explanation of how the CYPP is consistent with the strategic plans of local partners.
- 6.5 Alongside the statutory duties and the plan, new non-statutory CYPP guidance for local authorities was published in January 2009. This guidance brings together a check list of the 2005 and 2007 CYPP regulations and sets out the necessary steps a Local Authority must take in preparing, consulting, reviewing and publishing their CYPP. It also provides guidance on the scope, content and delivery of the CYPP.
- 6.6 The preparation of the CYPP as set out in the report fulfills the statutory requirements and it is open to Cabinet to recommend approval by Full Council.

## **7. ONE TOWER HAMLETS CONSIDERATIONS**

### *Reduce inequalities*

- 7.1 The CYPP specifically addresses the needs of vulnerable and disadvantaged groups. It also explicitly articulates how we plan to tackle high levels of child poverty. The Council's policies and functions that underpin the delivery of this plan are subjected to equality impact assessments looking at the six equality strands (Age, Disability, Ethnicity, Gender, Faith and Sexual Orientation). In addition every new policy or function arising from this plan will be equality impact assessed.

### *Ensure strong community cohesion*

- 7.2 One of the three overarching themes of the plan is "engaging with the community" and it explicitly articulates how we are going to better meet the needs of our diverse community as a whole over the next three years. A specific

priority around promoting community cohesion can be found in the 'Make a Positive Contribution' section of the plan.

*Strengthen community leadership*

7.3 An extensive consultation about what the CYPP should include has ensured a high level of community involvement in developing the plan. In terms of implementation, the plan also has a more developed localisation section which focuses on tackling local priorities within the paired Local Area Partnerships (LAPs).

**8. SUSTAINABLE ACTION FOR A GREENER ENVIRONMENT**

8.1 In the plan there is a commitment to "build environmentally sustainable buildings, re-using existing buildings wherever possible". The plan also highlights sustainability as being part of a broader more engaging curriculum (see the 'Enjoy and Achieve' section of the plan).

**9. RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS**

9.1 We have a statutory duty to publish a CYPP every three years. The last three-year CYPP we published was in April 2006 and therefore there is a risk if the plan is not agreed that we will fall short of legal requirements.

**10. EFFICIENCY STATEMENT**

Through clearer prioritisation in the new CYPP, we can better align resources against the delivery of priorities therefore maximising their impact

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

Brief description of "back ground papers"	Name and telephone number of holder and address where open to inspection.
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NONE

**11. APPENDICES**

Appendix 1 – Draft Children and Young People’s Plan 2009-12

Appendix 2 – Process timeline for developing the new Children and Young People’s Plan 2009-12

Appendix 3 – Draft CYPP Consultation report

tackling child poverty; engaging the community; supporting families

**THE THREE YEAR STRATEGIC CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S  
PLAN (2009-12)**

DRAFT

**[On the inside sleeve we will have a list of all the partners on our Children’s Trust Board who have jointly developed this plan and who will jointly deliver it over the next three years]**

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## 1. Introduction

The landscape has changed significantly since we produced the first Tower Hamlets Children and Young People's plan in 2006. East London is preparing to host the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games and new national and local priorities have emerged. In Tower Hamlets, our young population has grown and diversified.

Significantly, the Tower Hamlets Community Plan 2020 has recently been published. It explains how we plan to improve the quality of life for our residents over the next decade. The Community Plan features a number of priorities including those related to children, young people and their families in Tower Hamlets. This new Children and Young People's Plan sets out *how* we will deliver these priorities over the next three years.

With our partners, we have already achieved a great deal. Our 11 year olds are consistently achieving higher results than the national average in English and Maths and our GCSE results continue to close the gap with national averages. We have significantly reduced the number of young people not in education, employment or training (NEET). And by developing 21 Children's Centres across the borough, we have ensured that young families can easily access a range of services from one place in their local community.

As a result of this activity and much more, in 2008 we were rated 'outstanding' by the Joint Area Review (JAR). This large multi-agency inspection, led by Ofsted, examined in detail our services as they are experienced by children, young people and their families. We also achieved national Beacon Awards for school improvement, reducing re-offending and, most recently, for our work to prevent and tackle child poverty.

However, we have a fierce ambition to do more for our children, young people and their families. Despite massive change and improvement, Tower Hamlets remains a place of inequality for too many. We have the highest rate of economic growth nationally and yet we remain the fourth most deprived borough in the country. Poverty is a major issue for us with half of our children currently living in households in receipt of benefits.

Our community is culturally very rich and we celebrate this fact. Over 78% of our young people are from Black and Minority Ethnic backgrounds. 59% of our young people are Bangladeshi, 21% are White and 9% are Black<sup>1</sup>, including a significant and growing Somali community. We recognise that with this cultural diversity comes the need to engage more effectively with all of our communities about problems and solutions if we are to effect real, long-term change for the better. Families, including lone parent families, are the biggest single influence on children and young people's lives, giving us a big opportunity here in Tower Hamlets. In Tower Hamlets, more so than in any

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<sup>1</sup> Our young population are also from Indian, Pakistani, Chinese and other backgrounds but in smaller numbers. Data taken from the Greater London Authority's 'Round Ethnic Group Projections' using projected 2009 data.

tackling child poverty; engaging the community; supporting families

other borough, the majority of our children and young people grow up in two parent and/or extended family households.

In this context we have identified three cross-cutting themes which run throughout this Children and Young People's Plan:

- Tackling child poverty;
- Engaging with the community;
- Supporting families.

The following sections set out our top priorities in each of the Every Child Matters areas<sup>2</sup> and what we'll do *differently* to address them over the next three years. The cross-cutting themes can be easily identified where the colour of the text corresponds with the colours above.

This plan does not attempt to outline *everything* that will be done over the next three years. External validation of our performance coupled with self-evaluation and hard data has given us confidence in the core elements of our approach and what we're already doing. This plan focuses on the key issues on which we haven't yet made the impact that our children and young people deserve.

Detailed delivery plans for each Every Child Matters theme along with a full consultation report and needs analysis can be found at **[add weblink]**.

**[All statistics in this document to be updated and checked for accuracy prior to publication in May 2009]**

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<sup>2</sup> Be Healthy; Stay Safe; Enjoy and Achieve; Make a Positive Contribution; Achieve Economic Wellbeing as well as Excellent Children's Services

## 2. Be Healthy

### **Our vision**

*'We want our children and young people to be healthy in body and mind.'*

This means investing in effective and culturally-appropriate health services for all children, young people and their families, especially those from more vulnerable groups. Early identification and intervention will also form an important part of our service delivery.

### **The story so far**

We have experienced significant successes over the last three years in supporting children and young people to be healthy, across a range of different activities. These include:

- Improvements in maternity services. In 2007/8 62.2% of women booked their first appointment within the first 12 weeks of their pregnancy, compared with 49.7% in 2006/7. The Family Nurse Partnership, a project providing intensive maternity support to vulnerable young women, has also been successfully piloted.
- Additional investment means that we have eight more health visitor and school nurse posts since 2006.
- Improved health services for the most vulnerable children and young people. This is evidenced by an increase of almost 3% of Looked After Children having annual health checks, an 86% rise from 2005/6 to 2007/8 in young people accessing our integrated drug treatment service, and the establishment of a full-time health advisor for students in Pupil Referral Units.

But there are still areas where improvements can be made and new challenges met:

- Slowing down the rise in childhood obesity is one of the most significant public health challenges facing Tower Hamlets.
- Increasing immunisation rates – despite a significant increase over the last three years, coverage in Tower Hamlets is still below the national target of 90%.
- Support for children with disabilities needs to be improved, bringing together different services and agencies more effectively, and delivering greater personalisation in the way we deliver services.

## Turning the vision into a reality

The following are our top five 'Be Healthy' priorities and what we'll do *differently* over the next three years.

### **PRIORITY 1: Slow down and reverse the long-term rise in obesity amongst children and young people.**

Childhood obesity levels in Tower Hamlets are too high. In 2007/8 obesity rates for children in Reception Year were the fifth highest in the country.

Tower Hamlets has successfully secured funding to become one of nine designated 'Healthy Towns', piloting innovative approaches to tackling the wider environmental and social causes of obesity. We believe that being part of the national 'Healthy Towns' initiative over the next three years will provide a fantastic opportunity for tackling obesity in the borough. Through 'Healthy Towns' we will:

- Provide increased opportunities for regular physical activity including walking, cycling, active play, leisure, sport and dance, through 'Healthy Schools' and community initiatives.
- Increase the availability of healthier food choices in Children's Centres, schools, leisure and community centres, shops, cafes, restaurants and take-aways through incentive and award schemes and explore the possibility of limiting the locations at which fast-food outlets can open.
- Build health into existing and new parenting programmes to boost skills, knowledge and confidence and influence home environments.
- Expand and build on our targeted and specialist provision to support children and families with identified weight management needs, including a new early intervention service for families where one or both parents is overweight or obese.

### **PRIORITY 2: Support the health needs of young people by ensuring they are able to access effective support, information and advice in appropriate settings**

Young people tell us that where and how they access health services is important to them. There are also changing demands. For example, Tower Hamlets is seeing an increase in problem drinking amongst young people. We will:

- Identify, at an early stage, hidden pockets of drug and alcohol misuse in different communities educating target groups of young people in school as well as their parents.
- Prevent young people from taking up smoking by enforcing the law on underage sales of cigarettes and extending peer-led approaches to smoking prevention.

tackling child poverty; engaging the community; supporting families

- Radically redesign existing services in community sexual health clinics, integrating sexually transmitted infection management and contraceptive provision into a walk-in one-stop shop with extended opening hours.
- **Implement an innovative new project, ASPIRE, offering individual support to the most vulnerable young women, at highest risk of becoming pregnant.**
- Employ a Young People's Alcohol Health Improvement Officer to equip teachers and youth workers with knowledge and skills needed to deliver alcohol awareness messages to young people.

**PRIORITY 3: Better support parents and families in giving children the best, healthiest, start in life**

Early intervention and parental engagement have been shown to be crucial to improving health, as well as economic and social outcomes, for both parents and their children. We will:

- **Strengthen and improve our maternity services by working with targeted community groups to provide tailored outreach support and improve user engagement.**
- **Extend intensive pre and post pregnancy support for vulnerable mothers, based on the work of the Family Nurse Partnership, to at least 50 more families and conduct national research into the outcomes of the programme for families.**
- Identify children who have not been immunised and develop systems to ensure that all children who miss their immunisations are followed up, alongside targeted campaigns to raise awareness of the importance of immunisation amongst parents in communities with the lowest uptake, drawing on the evidence of which approaches have been effective elsewhere.
- Expand the breastfeeding support team based in Children's Centres to include weaning support.
- Strengthen child health promotion in accordance with the new Child Health Strategy, published in February 2009 by the Department of Health and the Department for Children, Schools and Families.

**PRIORITY 4: Improve access to care for children and young people with disabilities through a coordinated, multi-agency approach**

A recent government review highlighted this as an area in which Tower Hamlets could make improvements. We will:

- **Expand the hours that the Children's Community Nursing Team operate, moving towards a 7-day service.**
- **Increase short-break provision for children and families.**
- **Establish a group for parents and children with complex health needs in order to increase parents' confidence and reduce isolation.**
- Increase access to coordinated, multi-agency support for all disabled children with ongoing health needs, focusing on those who have less

severe problems and therefore fall outside of the Integrated Service for Disabled Children.

- Improve services related to the transition between children’s and adult health and social services.

**PRIORITY 5: Support children and young people to be mentally and emotionally healthy**

This has been highlighted by young people as their top health priority and we know that we need to improve access to mental health services for children and young people. We will:

- Deliver services in more accessible settings within the community such as Children’s Centres, schools and GP surgeries.
- Target provision at specific groups who have a history of not accessing mental health services – for example, teenage boys.
- Review the existing provision of services to support emotional health and wellbeing, to inform and shape the service, in line with the recommendations outlined in the national CAHMS review published in 2008.

**Measuring progress**

The following are the key indicators and targets we will use to help us measure progress over the next three years:

Indicator	2008/9 (baseline)	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12
NI 56: Obesity among primary school age children in Year 6	23%	23.6%	23.7%	23.8%
NI 112: Under 18 conception rate	-20.8	-53	-55	-55
Immunisation rate in the first two years of life (Diphtheria, Tetanus and Polio)	80	86	90	95

**A detailed delivery plan for Be Healthy can be found at [add weblink]**



### 3. Stay Safe

#### **Our vision**

*'We want our children and young people to grow up free from harm, fear and prejudice.'*

This means ensuring that children and young people are effectively safeguarded from the risk of harm and neglect, reducing the involvement of young people in crime, both as victim and perpetrator, and protecting young people from bullying and harassment.

#### **The story so far**

During the last three years we have strengthened safeguarding arrangements for children in Tower Hamlets, for example:

- Raised awareness about domestic violence within our communities has led to an increase of 80% in domestic violence referrals to Children's Social Care over the last two years (Sept 2006-Oct 2008).
- We have invested additional resources in our frontline professionals and developed common training arrangements to ensure safeguarding is everyone's business.
- In Tower Hamlets, 75% of young people reported that they feel safe in the local area, 85% feel safe going to and from school, 71% feel safe on public transport, 85% feel safe in school and 95% feel safe at home<sup>3</sup>. In all cases these figures are either equal to, or above the national average.

Building on these successes we recognise that there are areas we need to address over the next three years which include the following:

- We know there are a lot of young carers in Tower Hamlets and we are concerned that relatively few of them are accessing support services.
- Although we have made real progress in increasing the reporting and tackling of youth on youth crime, community safety remains a significant concern for children, young people and their families in Tower Hamlets.
- We have done a lot to tackle bullying in the borough but we know that it still happens and remains a major concern for our children, young people and their families.

#### **Turning the vision into a reality**

The following are our top five Stay Safe priorities and what we'll do *differently* over the next three years.

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<sup>3</sup> Data taken from the Tell-Us Survey, 2007

**PRIORITY 1: Protect children and young people from harm and support them to feel safe and confident in their area and beyond**

We need to ensure that all of our children and young people are protected from harm, both at home and out and about in the borough. Community safety remains a significant concern for our children and young people so we need to do more. We also need to ensure that young people foster independence and that perceptions of 'unsafe areas' are challenged. We will:

- Implement integrated pathways to secure earlier referral to appropriate intervention for children at risk.
- Increase the visibility of police and enforcement teams, creating an environment that feels safer, particularly in crime and anti-social behaviour hotspots.
- Strengthen the role of schools in identifying and supporting children and young people at risk of harming themselves.
- Extend the Choice and Opportunity On-Line (COO-L) card and free Oyster card scheme, encouraging young people to travel within and outside of the borough.
- Develop and implement an E-Strategy which will put in place safeguarding measures to protect children and young people from the potential dangers of the digital world.
- Implement ContactPoint, a shared database which will provide a quick way for professionals working with children to find out who else is working with the same child.

**PRIORITY 2: Significantly reduce bullying**

We've done a lot to reduce bullying in Tower Hamlets and offer support to those who have been the victims of bullying. However, it remains a real concern for too many of our children and young people and we need to do more. We will:

- Evaluate the impact of the anti-bullying helpline pilot, due to conclude in May 2009, to inform how to take it forward.
- Support those schools with inadequate anti-bullying policies and practice to ensure that all schools reach the standard set by Tower Hamlets.
- Run the electronic bullying survey in all secondary schools and half of primary schools to ensure that pupil opinions are incorporated into plans to tackle bullying.

**PRIORITY 3: Protect children and young people from the risk of sexual exploitation**

Although this only affects a small group of children and young people in the borough, it's an extremely important issue that needs to be tackled quickly and effectively. We will:



- Act on the research into the potential risk of sexual exploitation of children and young people in Tower Hamlets.
- Lead a coordinated multi-agency response to improve the protection of the children and young people at risk, recognising the crucial role that schools have to play in this.
- Act on the consultation that has taken place with local faith communities to inform the multi-agency response and support strategies.

**PRIORITY 4: Support parents and families to provide a safe environment where children and young people thrive and achieve their full potential**

Prevention is better than cure. In order for prevention to be more successful in Tower Hamlets we need to do more work to put those families who are at risk at the centre of service planning and delivery. We will:

- Implement our Young Carers Strategy, to be published in 2009, ensuring that young carers in the borough are accessing the services they need.
- Deliver more targeted support to the most vulnerable families – those with children who are not accessing the opportunities available to them, particularly those at risk of offending - putting the family at the centre of service planning and delivery.
- Roll out the Baby Family Intervention Programme, a pre-birth intervention and support service for families in need, implementing lessons learned during the pilot to ensure its improvement and link into the Family Nurse Partnership.

**PRIORITY 5: Ensure that looked after children live in stable environments**

In Tower Hamlets, at the end of March 2008, 63% of looked after children had been in their current placement for at least two years. This is below the national average of 66% and we need to make improvements. We will:

- Roll out the fostering training programme to Children's Services staff and foster carers. The training helps foster families to manage challenging behaviour thus improving the stability of placements.
- Expand the role of the new Placement Stability Worker to monitor placement plans for all children and young people at risk of placement breakdown.
- Respond to what young people in care have told us they need and make sure they have more face-to-face contact with their social workers.

### Measuring progress

The following are the key indicators and targets we will use to help us measure progress over the next three years:

Indicator	2008/9 (baseline)	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12
NI 69: Children who have experienced bullying	40.8%	39.1%	37.4%	35.7%
NI 62: Stability of placement of LAC - number of placements	9.91% (07/08)	10.75%	10.25%	9.5%
NI 63: Stability of placement of LAC – length of placement	60.75%	64.75%	68.75%	72.75%
Percentage of young people indicating in the Tell-Us Survey that they feel very safe or quite safe	80%	81.7%	83.4%	85%

**A detailed delivery plan for Stay Safe can be found at [add weblink]**

## Enjoy and Achieve

### **Our vision**

*'We want our children, young people and their families to grow up enjoying life, feeling proud of where they live and what they have achieved.'*

This means raising aspirations as well as investing in high-quality provision for children, young people and their families so they are supported to excel, providing first class schools and settings for our children and young people and an excellent range of learning, leisure, play and cultural opportunities for families.

### **The story so far**

Over the last three years we have realised many successes in supporting our children and young people to enjoy and achieve in Tower Hamlets, for example:

- In 2008, 41% of young people in Tower Hamlets achieved five A\*-C grade GCSEs including English and Maths compared to 34% in 2006.
- Since April 2006, the numbers of students learning a musical instrument has risen by over 1,000%.
- We have seen a 48% reduction in the number of permanent exclusions from school since 2006, coupled with an improvement in behaviour as evidenced by judgments made by Ofsted inspectors.

However, we always strive to do better and areas we have identified for further improvement include the following:

- Although our children and young people continue to achieve better results year on year, we need to maintain a sharp focus on supporting all of our children and young people to achieve their potential - in particular from birth to five years, and 16 years and above, where our results remain below the national average despite significant improvements.
- Our children and young people are accessing more sporting, cultural, play and leisure activities than ever before. However, we still need to improve access to these activities, especially for children from low income families and those with learning difficulties and disabilities. We also need to make the offer more family-focused.
- Although the take-up of our parental engagement agenda has been very good, we need to strengthen our work with whole families - particularly families with teenagers - the age at which families have told us they need the most support.

### **Turning the vision into a reality**

The following are our top five Enjoy and Achieve priorities and what we'll do *differently* over the next three years.

**PRIORITY 1: Develop a broader, more creative and engaging curriculum which will inspire our children and young people**

A curriculum that captures the imagination of our children and young people will raise their aspirations, develop a wide range of skills and enable them to fulfil their potential. We need to drive forward work on making the curriculum more creative and engaging. We will:

- Develop creative and interactive curricular resources linked to sport and the Olympic and Paralympic Games.
- **Develop a cultural offer for all children, young people and their families which is reflected in the curriculum, maximising the opportunities Tower Hamlets will have as part of the national Find Your Talent programme.**
- Maximise the opportunities brought by Building Schools for the Future, Primary Strategy for Change and greater extended services in schools; providing different learning environments, addressing sustainability issues, and embedding ICT throughout the curriculum.

**PRIORITY 2: Ensure that all of our children and young people have high aspirations and a positive attitude to learning**

We need to consistently ensure that all of our children and young people have different avenues for learning at their fingertips, whatever the subject matter, so they have the confidence to learn. We will:

- Raise the aspirations of teachers, pupils and their parents by further developing and embedding personalised learning, making sure that all schools are using assessment for learning effectively.
- Use evidence-based research to develop innovative practice, ensuring all students see themselves as leading their own learning, and supporting others to learn.
- **Address the needs of newly identified vulnerable groups (for example young carers, Somali children, children whose families are in temporary accommodation and young people leaving home) and address their specific needs using cross-agency expertise and mentoring opportunities.**

**PRIORITY 3: Accelerate the achievement and progress of all our children and young people**

We need to retain our rigorous focus on standards and ensure that all of our children and young people are making sufficient progress during each phase of their education. We will:

- Make sure that all of our schools and services are assessing pupils' progress effectively, from the start of the early years foundation stage through to beyond 16; the information from which will feed into a smarter, borough-wide data system on pupils' progress and attainment.

tackling child poverty; engaging the community; supporting families

- Identify the lowest achieving 20% of pupils, target evidence-based intervention and extended school support appropriately, and rigorously track each pupil's progress.
- Develop the speaking and listening skills of pupils to drive literacy attainment (particularly in writing) at all key stages.

**PRIORITY 4: Better support children and young people at key points of change in their lives**

We know that with the right support vulnerable children and young people can deal positively with key transition points in their lives to achieve their potential – we need to ensure that the right support is provided every time. We will:

- Use ICT to continuously support children and young people through key transition stages, to ensure that information and support does not “get lost” along the way
- Adopt more creative approaches to exploring transition issues using the mediums of sport; art; drama; music; peer support etc, paying particular attention to children with additional needs.
- Develop specific transition programmes to support the move from primary to secondary school and into compulsory post-16 education, addressing universal, targeted and specialist needs.

**PRIORITY 5: Provide a learning, play and cultural offer for families**

We need to provide more opportunities for families to enjoy and achieve together. We will:

- Expand parental engagement and learning programmes in secondary schools to enable parents and carers to develop their skills and learn with their children.
- Provide incentives for families with young children to engage with their local Children's Centre and become involved in activities that support their child's development.
- Secure access to a rich cultural offer for families through the Find Your Talent programme.
- Provide more opportunities for play through the Play Strategy and Fair Play Pathfinder Programme.

**Measuring progress**

The following are the key indicators and targets we will use to help us measure progress over the next three years:

Indicator	2008/9 (baseline)	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12
NI 76: Reduction in the number of schools where fewer	21 (provisional data)	1	1	Target to be confirmed

than 65% of pupils achieve level 4 or above in both English and maths at Key Stage 2.				
NI 78: Reduction in the number of schools where fewer than 30% of pupils achieve 5 or more A*-C grades at GCSE and equivalent including GCSEs in English and maths.	2	0	0	0
NI 72: Achievement of at least 78 points across the Early Years Foundation Stage with at least 6 in each of the scales in Personal Social and Emotional Development and Communication, Language and Literacy	38.9*	45.3	46	Targets are only set for 1 year by schools and DCSF
NI 93: Proportion of pupils progressing by two levels in English at Key Stage 2	87.9*	92	93	Targets are only set for 1 year by schools and DCSF
NI 94: Proportion of pupils progressing by two levels in Maths at Key Stage 2	79.2*	85	88	Targets are only set for 1 year by schools and DCSF

\*2007-8 figure – 2008-9 figure to be inserted

**A detailed delivery plan for Enjoy and Achieve can be found at [add weblink]**

## 5. Make a Positive Contribution

### **Our vision**

*'We want our children and young people to grow up understanding differences, confident and courageous about the future, able and willing to make a positive contribution to a strong and cohesive community.'*

This means engaging young people in constructive and law-abiding activities, and actively involving children, young people and their families from all walks of life in decision making.

### **The Story so far**

Over the last three years we have realised many successes in supporting our children and young people to make a positive contribution in Tower Hamlets, for example:

- Record numbers of young people have become active in local democracy – 6,385 young people voted for the young mayor this year, an increase of almost 50% on the previous year's voting figures.
- Volunteering opportunities have increased by 400 in the last year, far exceeding the target of 200. We also secured the Investing in Volunteers Award, and the National Youth Agency Quality Mark.
- The number of young people engaged in positive activities for young people almost doubled during 2007/8, from 1,807 to 2,605. We also continued our community cohesion programmes, developed 'no place for hate' crime workshops, and co-organised a number of youth events with the East London Mosque.

However, we always strive to do better and areas we have identified for further improvement include the following:

- We need to promote a safe, cohesive community for all our residents, continuing to reduce the number of first-time entrants to the Youth Justice System.
- Increase the numbers of young people making decisions in their community, taking responsibility for their local surroundings.
- Ensure that the Olympic and Paralympic Games become an opportunity for young people within the borough, increasing sports activity, volunteering, and pride in a sense of place.

### **Turning the vision into a reality**

The following are our top five 'Make a Positive Contribution' priorities and what we'll do *differently* over the next three years.



**PRIORITY 1: Extend children and young people's influence in decision making**

We need to build on the success of the young mayor programme, promoting deeper engagement of young people with service planning and delivery, and securing the involvement of younger children, and disadvantaged groups. We will:

- Strengthen the voice of young people by hosting a Young Advocate in Children's Services, directly electing young people to Local Area Partnerships and ensuring representation from school councils on partnership forums.
- Use the skills of parents and carers to develop services, and build upon the launch of the 'Family Voice' initiative, utilising parents and young people as peer mentors.
- Embed the Every Disabled Child Matters Local Authorities Charter so that disabled children and young people are involved in service design.

**PRIORITY 2: Increase community cohesion among our children, young people and their families**

Tower Hamlets benefits from a diverse population and we will strive to continue to our work in securing cohesion in the community. We will do this by building and strengthening links between different community groups, promoting interaction between children and families from different backgrounds, and challenging the small minority who encourage division or extremism. We will:

- Extend youth service provision across the borough, giving providers clear targets for engaging young people from all of our communities.
- Develop citizenship classes and good quality benchmarks for mother-tongue after-school classes, helping children and young people to understand and be proud of the country they live in.
- Address questions of cohesion within the curriculum and the school environment.
- Provide training on how to settle individual and group conflict across the borough, with schools, Tower Hamlets College, police, the council's youth service and the Youth Offending Team.
- Identify disaffected young people on the edges of crime and work with their families and schools to re-engage them with the community.

**PRIORITY 3: Extend the range of positive activities available outside school hours, and ensure all children and young people have access to them**

We already have very good take-up of positive activities, especially youth clubs and outdoor activities, but we want to broaden the offer and ensure that all young people have access to them, regardless of their background. We will:



- Invest in young people who are gifted and talented in sport as part of the Olympic and Paralympic Games.
- Run the 'Safe Place to Be' project, offering positive activities to target 11 to 14 year olds, who have been identified as vulnerable by their school or who have working parents. This project will offer activities during term time and for nine weeks of the holiday period in each year from 2009 until 2011.
- Offer five hours of cultural activity every week to all children and young people in the borough through the Find Your Talent programme.
- Improve and extend 28 playgrounds in the borough for 8 to 13 year olds and offer more positive activities for babies and children under three years and their families.

**PRIORITY 4: Effectively target support and information, advice and guidance for children and young people**

Young people live increasingly complex lives and need access to reliable information, support and advice about critical decisions they will have to make. To deliver this, we will:

- Implement the recommendations of the London Youth Resettlement Pledge, ensuring young people leaving custody are equipped with the information they need in advance, and are given proper support on their return to the borough.
- Offer bespoke packages of information, guidance and support for teenage parents.
- Support the children and families of offenders, in and out of school, offering appropriate welfare support including access to family learning, life-skills training and peer mentoring. This will reduce further alienation and encourage positive engagement.

**PRIORITY 5: Increase the quality, quantity and diversity of volunteering opportunities and inspire children and young people to take action in their community**

Over the next three years plans for the Olympic and Paralympic Games mean that we must increase our numbers of volunteers, to ensure that the borough is fully engaged in what will be a huge, international celebration on our doorstep. We will:

- Deliver the new cross-agency volunteering strategy, ensuring that we all work to common principles and share training and support mechanisms, so that safe and structured volunteering opportunities are maximised.
- Engage young people in full-time volunteering opportunities within the local authority, offering them training at Level 2, as appropriate to their placements, helping them into jobs when they leave.
- Double the numbers of young people trained to volunteer on the Youth Opportunities Panel.

tackling child poverty; engaging the community; supporting families

- Train Olympic ambassadors, to raise aspirations for young people and encourage participation in every aspect of the games.

### Measuring progress

The following are the key indicators and targets we will use to help us measure progress over the next three years:

Indicator	2008/9 (baseline)	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12
NI 110: Young people's participation in positive activities	70.3%	75%	80%	85%
NI 19: Rate of proven re-offending by young offenders	Mid-April 09	113	108	Target will be set once baseline data received
NI 46: Young offenders' access to suitable accommodation	93.4% (07/08)	95%	95%	95%

**A detailed delivery plan for Make a Positive Contribution can be found at [add weblink]**

## 6. Achieve Economic Wellbeing

### **Our vision**

*'We want our children and young people to have the skills and opportunities to embark on fulfilling careers and contribute to prosperous communities.'*

This means creating more employment, education and training opportunities for our young people and ensuring they access and benefit from the global markets on our doorstep. This is more important than ever in the current economic climate. The Olympic and Paralympic Games, Thames Gateway and continued growth of the Canary Wharf Estate generate unprecedented opportunities for Tower Hamlets. As a borough we also host cutting-edge creative industries and are an established centre for culture and tourism.

### **The story so far**

There have been some real successes over the last three years in supporting our children and young people to achieve economic wellbeing, for example:

- Over that last three years we have reduced the number of young people who are not in education, employment or training from 10.9% in 2006/7 to 6.7% in 2008/9 through early intervention and targeted approaches. Part of this success is due to our work in targeting vulnerable groups such as care leavers and young offenders.
- We have significantly improved the number of young people achieving Level 2 qualifications by the age of 19, narrowing our gap from the national average.
- We have increased by 100% the number of young people aged up to 25 who have been helped into paid employment through Skillsmatch recruitment and work placement programmes.

Looking ahead to the next three years, we have identified the following as areas for improvement:

- We need to tackle high levels of child poverty and intergenerational worklessness in our families.
- Although more of our young people than ever are going onto higher education, we are committed to increasing this further and to ensuring that more young people from low income backgrounds access these opportunities.
- We want our young people to secure higher A-Level grades. At the same time, we also want to build other routes to higher education or career success.

### **Turning the vision into a reality**

The following are our top five Achieve Economic Wellbeing priorities and what we'll do *differently* over the next three years.

### **PRIORITY 1: Improve young people's employment-related skills, linking in to local and regional labour market opportunities**

We want to make sure there are clear and secure steps from learning into work. Many local employers are keen to support our young people and we want to make the most of their contribution, particularly on opportunities such as the Olympic and Paralympic Games. We will:

- Put in place career progression routes for young people linking with local education and work-based training providers.
- Roll out the 'Passport to Employability' project across the borough so that the majority of schools are participating by 2012.
- Provide targeted learning programmes for every significant group of 14 to 18 year old learners at risk of being NEET, including increased work experience opportunities for those leaving care.

### **PRIORITY 2: Enhance the choice of learning options for 16 year olds**

Every pupil who joined our secondary schools in 2008 will be planning to stay in learning to the age of 18. While they stay in education we want every person to have a learning option that they find relevant, engaging and in line with their personal needs. We will:

- Make sure every young person has the best impartial guidance so they are able to choose the option that is best for them. This guidance will be available in different forms including drop-in sessions, roadshows and online.
- Provide programmes that combine classroom learning with practical, real-life experience in workplaces. These programmes will be linked to all 14 Diploma lines for which there will be clear progression paths.
- Develop a comprehensive apprenticeship scheme in the public sector and launch an additional 600 apprenticeships through public, community and voluntary partners.
- Implement the new reforms for 14 to 19 year olds, entitling them to choose between the four new learning routes: general, Diplomas, apprenticeships and foundation programmes.

### **PRIORITY 3: Improve the quality of learning and student attainment**

Tower Hamlets has seen impressive improvements in attainment at age 16 but we need to see more young people achieve at age 19. We are also concerned about young people who drop out of post-16 programmes or fail to make the grades they need to progress after 16. We will:

- Share and implement best practice on how to raise qualification levels by age 19 while narrowing the attainment gap for those from lower income households.
- Ensure that all schools, colleges and work-based learning providers are supporting all learners to achieve the best they can, and evidence that they are adding value.

- Further involve our university partners in preparing more young people for higher education and support a third of young people into university at age 18, creating formal links between schools and higher education institutes.

**PRIORITY 4: Support specific vulnerable groups such as looked after children, young carers, young people who have spent time in the youth justice system and young people with disabilities, to achieve economic wellbeing**

We know that some of our young people face individual challenges in moving on to fulfilling and independent adult lives. Some young people have particular difficulties and need extra support. We will:

- Deliver the best possible foundation programmes designed to provide early steps on the ladder to success.
- Track vulnerable learners and provide the timely support they need.
- Offer flexible programmes that are relevant and engaging for those who need a different way of learning.
- Prioritise the needs of these vulnerable children and young people to ensure they receive appropriate levels of advice and support about education, employment and training options.

**PRIORITY 5: Break the worklessness cycle amongst our families**

We know that young people from workless families can find it especially hard to present themselves successfully to employers. Many young people in Tower Hamlets need to have the chance to experience the workplace for themselves and receive advice from those already in work. We will:

- Publish and deliver a borough-wide child poverty strategy and action plan.
- Deliver programmes that ensure young people from workless families understand and can meet the demands of the workplace.
- Offer structured support opportunities for parents and carers to gain employment, including access to childcare.
- Remove financial barriers to employment for families in temporary accommodation.

## Measuring progress

The following are the key indicators and targets we will use to help us measure progress over the next three years:

Indicator	2008-9 (baseline)	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12
NI 79: Achievement of level 2 qualification by age 19	Baseline available mid-May	69.5%	71.8%	Waiting for 08/09 baseline figure to set targets
NI 80: Achievement of level 3 qualification by age 19	Baseline available mid-May	43%	46%	Waiting for 08/09 baseline figure to set targets
NI 116: Proportion of children in poverty	Baseline available mid-May	43.5%	41.9%	Waiting for 08/09 baseline figure to set targets
NI 117: Number of 16-18 year olds who are not in education, employment or training	6.7%	6.25%	6%	Compulsory education extended to 18 - target not required
NI 106: Number of young people from low income backgrounds progressing to higher education	Baseline data TBC	Targets to be set based on baseline data	Targets to be set based on baseline data	Targets to be set based on baseline data
NI 118: Take up of formal childcare by low-income working families	7% (2004/5)  2008/9 baseline due July 2009	9%	10%	Waiting for 08/09 baseline figure to set targets

**A detailed delivery plan for Achieve Economic Wellbeing can be found at [\[add weblink\]](#)**

## 7. Excellent Children's Services

### **Our vision**

*'We want all our children, young people and their families to receive excellent services informed by their views, which are easy to access, targeted at needs, and delivered locally to make a difference to their lives'.*

This means engaging children, young people and their families in shaping services which meet local needs and further developing a high-quality, flexible and joined up children's workforce to deliver these services.

### **The story so far**

Over the last three years we have had many successes in delivering excellent children's services in Tower Hamlets, for example

- We have successfully undergone a major structure change, integrating education and children's social care into Children's Services, ensuring a more joined-up and family-centred approach to developing and delivering services.
- We have undertaken consultation to produce the Children's Workforce Development Strategy, now published and shared by all partners. We have also produced the first brochure listing all centrally-organised training and development opportunities for children's workforce across the council, and its partners.
- We have developed 21 Children's Centres, recognising the impact of integrated, cross-agency working to support young families.

However, we always strive to do better and areas we have identified for further improvement include the following:

- Although the integrated Common Assessment Framework (CAF) was successfully launched and we have good evidence of its impact, we now need to ensure that all professionals are consistently using it as the assessment of choice.
- Over the last three years we have implemented a consultation and engagement strategy, incorporating service users' views into how we shape services. However, we now need to develop more creative ways to engage and communicate with children, young people and their families to find out what they want.
- We need to find ways to manage and share information, research and data more effectively with partners to better target and inform the services offered.

### **Turning the vision into a reality**

The following are our top five Excellent Children's Services priorities and what we'll do *differently* over the next three years.



**PRIORITY 1: Recruit, develop and maintain a skilled, flexible and diverse workforce, making Tower Hamlets the borough of choice for employees**

The staff we employ within Children's Services are our most important asset and retaining that talent is one of our top priorities. We will:

- Establish a staff talent pool (based on a skills audit) so that peoples' skills are recognised and used flexibly across organisations and during joint succession planning.
- Undertake a review to establish which professionals are not using the Common Assessment Framework (CAF) so this can be addressed and develop a Family Common Assessment Framework.
- **Run a targeted recruitment campaign to attract members of our under-represented ethnic communities with the appropriate skills, to apply for vacancies in Children's Services.**

**PRIORITY 2: Improve information technology and data analysis tools across Children's Services**

In the twenty-first century we recognise the need to update and make full use of our Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) systems across the Tower Hamlets Partnership to deliver world-class services. We will:

- Deliver a smarter, borough-wide information system on pupils' progress and attainment, building on existing systems.
- Increase the use of mobile technology to ensure that services are delivered where they are needed, and the workforce is able to work flexibly.
- **Provide world-class ICT equipment to all of our schools through the Building Schools for the Future Programme.**
- Investigate the potential to join up existing systems to provide more efficient and coordinated services.
- Establish a joint workforce database which logs skills, training opportunities, vacancies and informs joint succession planning.

**PRIORITY 3: Plan and deliver major capital programmes and manage existing assets for maximum community benefit**

Over the next three years we will be rebuilding or refurbishing all of our secondary schools and many of our primary schools through the Building Schools for the Future (secondary schools) and Primary Strategy for Change (primary schools) national programmes. These are the largest capital programmes that schools have seen for over 20 years and will impact positively on the whole community. We will:

- Rebuild or refurbish all of the secondary schools in the borough and many of our primary schools through Building Schools for the Future and Primary Strategy for Change, **ensuring that wider community facilities are factored into the plans wherever possible.**



- Build on the existing extended schools programme in secondary schools by extending the opening hours, the services provided and the range of locations from which services are offered. Other community locations will include Children's Centres and primary schools to better meet the needs of families.
- Build environmentally sustainable buildings, re-using existing buildings wherever possible.
- Consult more widely and more innovatively with local communities about what they want out of new building projects in their locality and show how consultation responses have informed subsequent plans.

**PRIORITY 4: Ensure the services we commission and deliver are integrated, of a high quality, and give value for money**

Resources are limited and we constantly need to ensure that we are maximising their impact and robustly ensuring value for money. We will:

- Strive to personalise services, empowering people to determine how money allocated to them is spent, building on 'direct payment'.
- Establish common quality criteria and monitoring and evaluation methods, in line with the World Class Commissioning Standard, to be used when jointly commissioning any services for children, young people and their families.
- Implement better financial modelling, linking money spent and its impact.
- Develop and implement a consistent approach across the partnership to needs analysis and provision mapping to help us identify which services we need to provide and how we should provide them.

**PRIORITY 5: Continue to improve Children's Services in Tower Hamlets through better communication and creatively responding to user views**

Effective, two-way communication with children, young people and their families is critical if we are to deliver effective services. We need to be more innovative in thinking about how we communicate and with whom, making sure we capture everyone's views. We will:

- Consistently ask a wide range of users what they think of the services provided, offering feedback incentives for those who would not normally offer their opinion.
- Communicate with children, young people and their families in more engaging and innovative ways using opportunities provided by the Olympic and Paralympic Games and the Find Your Talent programme.
- Gather retrospective user views from those who were 'failed' by Children's Services to try and better understand why, and adapt service provision accordingly (for example asking: 'what might have made you stay on at school?' etc.)
- Provide residents with more feedback on our response to consultations, for example: 'you told us x and as a result we did y'

## Measuring progress

The following are the key indicators and targets we will use to help us measure progress over the next three years:

Indicator	2008/9 (baseline)	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12
Number of new Common Assessment Frameworks (CAFs) completed each year	540 (April 08 to present date)	900	900	900
Sickness absence of Children's Services staff	7.69	7	6.5*	Target to be set
Percentage of the top 5% earners who are from Black and Minority Ethnic groups	15.68	22*	27*	Target to be set

\* These are council targets and are not specific to Children's Services.

**A detailed delivery plan for Excellent Children's Services can be found at [add weblink]**

## Local priorities

We realise that to achieve precision in targeting services to the needs of young people, children and their families we must achieve greater local differentiation in what we offer and how we deliver it. This map of the borough shows the Local Area Partnership (LAP) areas. It highlights some of the key characteristics of each LAP and outlines a local priority for each particular area as well as how we are going to tackle it.

**[The following information will be presented on a centre spread map of Tower Hamlets in the final version]**

### LAPs 1 and 2

*Bethnal Green North, Mile End and Globe Town, Weavers Spitalfields and Banglatown, Bethnal Green South*

Key characteristics of LAPs 1 and 2:

- LAPs 1 and 2 have some of the highest levels of children under five with untreated tooth decay, both in Tower Hamlets and London, indicative of poor health amongst our young people.
- Instances of childhood obesity are also high in this part of the borough, particularly in LAP 2.
- With 29 schools and a Pupil Referral Unit, LAPs 1 and 2 have the largest volume of schools in the borough.

**LOCAL PRIORITY: Promote healthier lifestyles amongst children and young people, utilising local facilities and assets**

In order to lead a healthy, active life, our young people need access to local facilities, and encouragement to use them regularly. We will:

- Ensure there is good access for local young people to leisure facilities, including discounted prices and dedicated provisions for girls.
- Develop Out of School Learning Hours Learning (OoSHL) Programmes that encourage schools to work together in promoting healthier lifestyles opening up unique resources on specific school sites.
- Employ health trainers to communicate and promote what's on offer locally for young people (for example: smoking cessation workshops etc.) especially through schools and the Wessex Sixth Form.

### LAPs 3 and 4

*St. Dunstan's and Stepney Green, Whitechapel, St. Katharine's and Wapping, Shadwell*

Key characteristics of LAPs 3 and 4:

- LAP 3 has the highest population of young people in the borough with 25% of the residents aged 15 or under.
- LAP 3 is home to the most recorded number of young people who are not in education, training or employment (NEET).

- Shadwell in LAP 4 has some of the highest levels of overcrowding in households in the borough while St Katharine's and Wapping has some of the lowest levels.
- The area has more families with three or more children than other parts of the borough.

**LOCAL PRIORITY: Increase the variety and quality of activities at youth clubs, making sure that diverse groups of young people are engaged**

High levels of overcrowding in this part of the borough mean that young people lack their own space at home. Young people have told us they would like the local youth clubs to be open for longer, to attract young people from all communities and to offer a more varied menu of activities with better facilities for music, sports and learning activities. We will:

- Invest in the Haileybury Youth Centre so there are more after-school, weekend and holiday activities, providing children and young people with a safe and fun place to be.
- Invest in new facilities for the Redcoats and Wapping youth groups.
- Improve coordination of the different youth activities available by creating a provider network.
- Develop activities for girls and young women as well as opportunities for young people from different ethnic backgrounds to participate in joint activities.
- Extend and improve outdoor play facilities, creating new parks and open spaces such as in Braham Street in Aldgate.

**LAPs 5 and 6**

*Bow East, Bow West*

*Mile End East, Bromley-by-Bow*

Key characteristics of LAPs 5 and 6:

- LAP 5 and 6's population is expected to expand from 49,000 currently to 71,000 by 2021.
- 27% of residents in LAP 6 are aged 15 or under, one of the largest populations of young people in the borough, but a low participation rates in youth and community activities and facilities.
- These LAPs border Fish Island and the Olympics site, bringing regeneration and the potential for positive change, as well as likely increases in population.

**LOCAL PRIORITY: Establish additional youth services, particularly in the west of LAP 5, the British Street Estate, Mile End and the Eleanor Street Travellers' Site**

There is a perception of poor youth service provision in LAPs 5 and 6 and an identified lack of provision in the aforementioned locations. We will:

- Deliver targeted joint events and activities to engage more girls, bring young people from different ethnic backgrounds together and begin to address territorial and intergenerational concerns.
- Identify and support voluntary groups operating in the area to build their capacity, particularly in LAP 5.
- Improve coordination of the different youth activities available by creating a provider network.
- Establish a School Promoters scheme with the three secondary schools in LAPs 5 and 6, encouraging students to promote what's on offer.

### **LAPs 7 and 8**

*East India and Lansbury, Limehouse  
Blackwall and Cubitt Town, Millwall*

Key characteristics of LAPs 7 and 8:

- LAP 7 has some of the highest levels of worklessness and child poverty in the borough.
- LAP 8 contains very mixed residential areas with affluent and deprived areas co-existing very closely together.
- LAP 7 and 8's population is expected to expand from 58,000 currently to 111,000 by 2021.

### **LOCAL PRIORITY: Tackle the cause and effect of child poverty with a particular focus on LAP 7**

Living in poverty is a reality for many of our children and young people in this part of the borough. They and their families often have low aspirations in terms of educational attainment and employment. We will:

- Support local parents and carers in developing the skills and confidence necessary to make the most of local employment opportunities.
- Signpost parents and carers to affordable and practical local childcare opportunities so that childcare is not a barrier to employment.
- Mitigate the effects of child poverty by supporting schools to develop a more varied menu of learning, sporting and cultural opportunities to take place outside of school hours.
- Deliver more volunteering programmes placing young people in community organisations and businesses.

## 9. Monitoring Progress

The Children and Young People's Plan is owned by the Children and Families Trust which is Tower Hamlets' Children's Trust Board.

The Children and Families Trust is a local partnership which brings together the organisations responsible for services for children, young people and their families in Tower Hamlets. All of the organisations in the partnership share a commitment to improving children's lives in the borough. More information can be found at:

[http://www.onetowerhamlets.net/governance/delivery\\_groups/children\\_and\\_young\\_people.aspx](http://www.onetowerhamlets.net/governance/delivery_groups/children_and_young_people.aspx)

The Children and Families Trust is accountable for delivering the Children and Young People's Plan, monitoring and reviewing progress made on a regular basis, and taking action where necessary. The Trust also has members from the LAPs to ensure progress against local priorities for children, young people and their families as well as the borough wide priorities.

A progress review against the priorities and activities outlined in this plan will be published on an annual basis so that we can let all stakeholders know how we're doing. These will be published on **[add weblink]**

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## 10. Glossary

Building Schools for the Future (BSF)	BSF is a national programme of investment in rebuilding or renewing every secondary school in England.
Children and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS)	CAMHS promote the mental health and psychological wellbeing of children and young people by providing high quality, multidisciplinary mental health services to all children and young people with mental health problems and disorders.
Children's Centre	A multi-agency centre offering integrated early learning, childcare and a wide range of health and family support to children under five and their families.
Children's Trust	Children's Trusts are local area partnership arrangements that bring together key agencies delivering services for children, young people and their families. Tower Hamlets' Children's Trust is called the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership Group (CYPSPG).
Common Framework Assessment (CAF)	The CAF for children and young people is a standardised approach to conducting an assessment of a child's additional needs. The CAF has been designed to help practitioners assess needs at an earlier stage and work with families, alongside other practitioners and agencies to meet those needs.
Community Plan	Launched in January 2009 this is the overarching strategic plan which all members of the Tower Hamlets Partnership are working towards.
ContactPoint	ContactPoint is a shared database which will provide a quick way for people working with children to find out who else is working with the same child
COO-L Card	The Tower Hamlets COO-L (Choice and Opportunities On-Line) Scheme aims to increase young people's participation in positive activities by giving them £40 per month which they can spend on leisure and cultural activities advertised on the COO-L website.
Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)	EYFS is the national framework which sets the standards of learning, development and care for children from birth to five.
Every Child Matters (ECM)	ECM is the programme that sets out the Government's aim for every child, whatever their background or circumstances, so that all children are supported to be healthy; stay safe; enjoy and achieve; make a positive contribution; and achieve economic wellbeing. The Every Disabled Child Matters programme sits alongside this.
Extended School	This is a school that is open to pupils, families and the wider community during the normal school day



	and beyond at weekends and during school holidays. Extended schools provide a core offer of services including childcare in primary schools, parenting support and a range of additional activities.
Family Intervention Project	Family Intervention Projects have developed from the government's antisocial behaviour strategy, to improve the behaviour of challenging families and reduce their impact on their community. They bring stability to families' lives, prevent homelessness and improve opportunities for children and young people.
Family Nurse Partnership	The Family Nurse Partnership (FNP) is a pilot project that offers, nurse-led home visiting for vulnerable, first time, young parents. FNP nurses visit parents from early pregnancy until the child is two years old, building a close, supportive relationship with the whole family and guiding parents to adopt healthier lifestyles, improve their parenting skills, and become self-sufficient.
Find Your Talent	Find Your Talent is a government programme which will trial different ways of giving all young people aged up to the age of 19 access to a broad range of creative and cultural activity for up to five hours a week in and out of school. Tower Hamlets is one of just ten areas around the country selected to take part in the programme.
Foundation Programmes	The foundation learning tier (FLT) is a part of the wider 14–19 and vocational qualifications reform programme. It aims to improve the skills of learners working below level 2, aged 14 and over, through developing high-quality credit-based qualifications at Entry level and level 1 in the Qualifications. Through personalised learning programmes based on progression pathways, the FLT reform will increase learners' participation, achievement and progression.
Healthy Towns	Healthy Towns is a new government initiative through which nine local authorities (including Tower Hamlets) will trial innovate ways of encouraging communities to be more physically active and make healthy food choices.
Joint Area Review (JAR)	A large, multi-disciplinary inspection of Children's Services, led by Ofsted. It examines how services are contributing to the wellbeing of children and young people in terms of the five Every Child Matters outcomes.
Key Stage	The National Curriculum is organised around four key stages. The key stages are broken down as follows: Key Stage 1: pupils aged 5 to 7 (year groups 1 and 2) Key Stage 2: pupils aged 7 to 11 (year groups 3 to 6)



	<p>Key Stage 3: pupils aged 11 to14 (year groups 7 to 9)</p> <p>Key Stage 4: pupils aged 14 to16 (year groups 10 and 11).</p>
Local Area Agreement (LAA)	The LAA is a framework for addressing local priorities in Tower Hamlets, and is designed to accelerate the delivery of improved outcomes in areas which really matter to local people. The Tower Hamlets Partnership agreed an LAA with central government to run from June 2008 to March 2001.
Local Area Partnership (LAP)	The borough has been divided into eight LAP area based on local wards. LAPs are a key strand of the Tower Hamlets Partnership and provide a platform through which local residents can have their say on the improvements in their local area and can influence how changes are carried out.
Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB)	Members of LSCBs include local authorities, health bodies and the police. The boards exist to ensure that all members are coordinated and effective in their work to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.
NEET	NEET young people who those who are not in education, employment or training.
Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills (Ofsted)	Ofsted is a non-ministerial government department accountable to Parliament. It now brings together the wide experience of four formerly separate inspectorates and inspects and regulates care for children and young people, as well as education and training for learners of all ages.
Passport to Employability	The Passport to Employability programme seeks to improve the future prospects of 14-19 learners. It offers a personal package that starts with an individual assessment of need and ends with a nationally recognised employability qualification.
Play Pathfinder	Play Pathfinders are local authorities which have been successful in securing additional funding from the government to build and upgrade facilities for play in the local area. Tower Hamlets is a Play Pathfinder.
Primary Strategy for Change	This capital programme will support local authorities in renewing at least half of all primary and primary-age special schools by 2022-23. Started in April 2008, the programme will invest a total of £1.9 billion over three years.
Special Educational Needs (SEN)	A child is defined as having special educational needs if he or she has a learning difficulty that needs special provision. A learning difficulty means that the child has significantly greater difficulty in learning than most children of the same age.

Tell-Us Survey	The Tell-Us Survey is a national web-based survey involving children and young people across a sample of schools and age groups. It asks children and young people their views on their local area, with questions based around the five Every Child Matters outcomes.
World Class Commissioning	The World Class Commissioning programme has been introduced by the Department of Health to deliver a more strategic and long-term approach to commissioning services, with a clear focus on the delivery of improved health outcomes.

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tackling child poverty; engaging the community; supporting families

## ANNEX A

### Resourcing the Children and Young People's Plan

[This section will include an analysis of total spending by all partners and how it is divided amongst each of the six themes]

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Appendix 2

The process for developing the new three year CYPP - timeline

September		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Facilitated needs analysis sessions take place at each of the scheduled theme group meetings (facilitated by a member of the project group)</li> <li>• Process and expectations around length and format to be outlined to DMT at their residential away day</li> <li>• CYPP project board to undertake a desk top analysis of what priorities might be based on data/ evidence base</li> </ul>
October	<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);"><b>Consultation</b> to take place on the 5 priorities and associated actions for each ECM theme as identified through the needs analyses</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>6 October</u> – update <b>CYPSPG</b> on process and timeline</li> </ul> <p><u>13 October</u> – one hour slot at <b>DMT</b> with theme group Chairs to discuss:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• outputs from the theme groups’ needs analysis exercises (i.e. 5 big priorities and associated story on what we’ll do differently)</li> <li>• any overlaps</li> <li>• cross cutting themes that should feature (e.g. child poverty)</li> <li>• proposed final format of the new CYPP</li> </ul>
November		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Further theme group meetings to take place to finalise 5 big priorities and associated actions</li> <li>• CYPP project board member linked to theme groups to do first draft of relevant ECM themed section(s) of the plan</li> <li>• CYPP project board to draft/ commission drafting of other sections of the plan</li> <li>• Completed first draft for circulation required <b>by <u>Friday 21 November.</u></b></li> </ul>
December		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>8 December</u> – draft CYPP goes to <b>DMT</b> with theme group Chairs for discussion (paper required <u>by 1 December</u>).</li> <li>• <u>8 December</u> – <b>CYPSPG</b> discussion of 5 priorities for each ECM theme and associated story on what we’ll do differently as identified through the needs analyses</li> <li>• Secure a session with Cllr Clair Hawkins to talk through the draft CYPP</li> <li>• <u>19 December</u> - draft CYPP submitted for LAB in January and circulated to CYPSPG for discussion at meeting in February as well as</li> </ul>

January 2009	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>6 January</u> – draft CYPP being discussed at <b>Partnership Executive Group</b></li> <li>• <u>7 January</u> - draft CYPP goes to <b>Leaders Advisory Board (LAB)</b> for discussion on 7 January (draft plan and covering paper to be submitted <u>by 19 December</u>)</li> <li>• <u>20 January</u> – draft reports for Cabinet and O&amp;S Committee due</li> </ul>
February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>2 February</u> - draft CYPP discussed at <b>CYPSPG</b></li> <li>• CYPP re-drafted to take on board comments coming back from consultation (consultation closes on <u>31<sup>st</sup> January 2009</u>), CYPSPG, LAB and key partners/stakeholders</li> <li>• <u>23 February</u> – final reports for Cabinet and O&amp;S Committee due</li> </ul>
March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>10 March</u> – CYPP goes to <b>Overview and Scrutiny Committee</b></li> <li>• <u>11 March</u> - CYPP goes to <b>Cabinet</b> for discussion/sign off and any subsequent amendments made (draft report due 20 January, final report due 23 February)</li> </ul>
April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>6 April</u> – report due for Council</li> <li>• <u>22 April</u> - final version of CYPP goes to <b>full Council</b> for sign off (report due 6 April)</li> </ul>

		key partners and stakeholders for comment
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Following formal sign off, CYPP published on website</li><li>• Some hard copies ordered and placed in libraries etc</li></ul>
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# A Very **Bold** Consultation

## Children and Young People's Plan

November – December 2008

bold creative<sup>\*</sup>



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## AIMS OF THE CONSULTATION

The key focus of the Children and Young People's Plan is to create a consistent and strategic approach in developing services for children, young people and families that are well accessed across the borough.

The local authority commissioned Bold Creative - a local social and youth innovation agency based in Tower Hamlets - to undertake an extensive series of high profile, creative consultation activities between September 2008 to January 2009, with children, young people and parents across the borough. The core aims of the consultation were to engage with stakeholders and help Tower Hamlets ratify the priorities of the draft Children and Young People's Plan in advance of its launch in 2009.

The objectives of the consultation as a qualitative report would be to help inform the local authority in the subsequent implementation of the initiative, in that it would:

- Create an engaging consultation schedule, reflective of differing stakeholders and practitioners
- Ratify the Children and Young People's Plan in advance of implementation
- Raise the profile of the Children and Young People's Plan through a diverse and innovative consultation process.
- Gain and increase participation from key stakeholders to ensure they have the chance to shape and influence the plan
- Ensure that children, young people and their families have the opportunity to shape and influence the priorities of the Children and Young People's Plan
- Provide impartial summary of findings according to each Every Child Matters theme to include:

Be healthy  
Stay safe  
Enjoy and achieve  
Make a positive contribution  
Achieve economic well being  
Excellent children's services

## 10 CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S PLAN – A SUMMARY OF PRIORITY THEMES

Detailed here are the key themes and priorities of the Children and Young People's Plan, against which we have undertaken this consultation:

### BE HEALTHY

- Slow down and reverse the long term rise in obesity amongst Children and Young People
- Support the health needs of young people by ensuring they are able to access effective support, information and advice in appropriate settings
- Support parents and families in giving children the best, healthiest, start in life

Improve access to integrated care for children with disabilities  
Support children and young people to become mentally and emotionally healthy

### STAY SAFE

- Ensure that children and young people are protected from harm and feel safe in their area and beyond
- Significantly reduce bullying
- Protect young people from harm through sexual exploitation
- Support parents and families to provide a safe environment where children and young people can thrive and achieve their full potential
- Ensure that looked after children live in safe and stable environments

### ENJOY AND ACHIEVE

- Develop a broader, more creative and engaging curriculum which will inspire our children and young people
- Ensure that all of our children and young people have the skills of "learning to learn" and have a positive attitude to learning
- Accelerate the achievement and progress of all our children and young people

- Better support children and young people at key transition points in their lives
- Better support whole families to enjoy and achieve together

### ACHIEVE ECONOMIC WELLBEING

- Harness local and regional labour market opportunities and improve young people's employment related skills
- Enhance the learning and training offer post-16
- Improve the quality of delivery and student outcomes
- Target specific vulnerable groups
- Break family worklessness cycle amongst our families

### MAKE A POSITIVE CONTRIBUTION

- Extend children and young people's influence in decision-making
- Implement the recommendations of the Commission into the Public Safety of young people and so increase community cohesion, diversion and inclusion
- Promote a more integrated range of positive activities that support children and young people's development
- Embed the coherent delivery of information, advice and guidance
- Increase the quality, quantity and diversity of volunteering opportunities and inspire children and young people to take action in their community

### EXCELLENT CHILDREN'S SERVICES

- Jointly develop, maintain and retain a skilled and diverse Children's workforce with our partners
- Improve information technology and data analysis tools across Children's Services
- Plan and deliver major capital programmes for maximum community benefit.
- Be a market leader in terms of the services we commission and deliver, ensuring value for money
- Continue to improve Children's Services through better communication and creatively responding to user views

# 03: WHAT WE DID: CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE



## WHAT WE ASKED

The Children and Young People's Plan is a comprehensive and detailed document, detailing many aspects relating to growing up in Tower Hamlets. As this part of the consultation was aimed at groups that included children, the principle challenge was distilling the main themes down into an appropriate format.

The nature of the consultation depended on the ability to have a series of short (10 minute) conversations, often with children as young as 8 years old.

It was crucial, therefore, to ensure that our approach was relaxed, informal and fun!

The Plan's six main themes became:

"If you were in charge of Tower Hamlets for the day...

- How would you help your friends and family stay healthy?
- How could you help your community stay safe?
- How could you help your friends achieve their goals?
- How could you help young people make more contribution to their community?

- How could you help your family and friends find more opportunities in the borough?
- How could you help make Tower Hamlets a better place for young people and families to live in?"

By approaching the content in this way, we helped participants to ground a large and daunting subject in their own reality. They are in charge of the borough – what would they do?

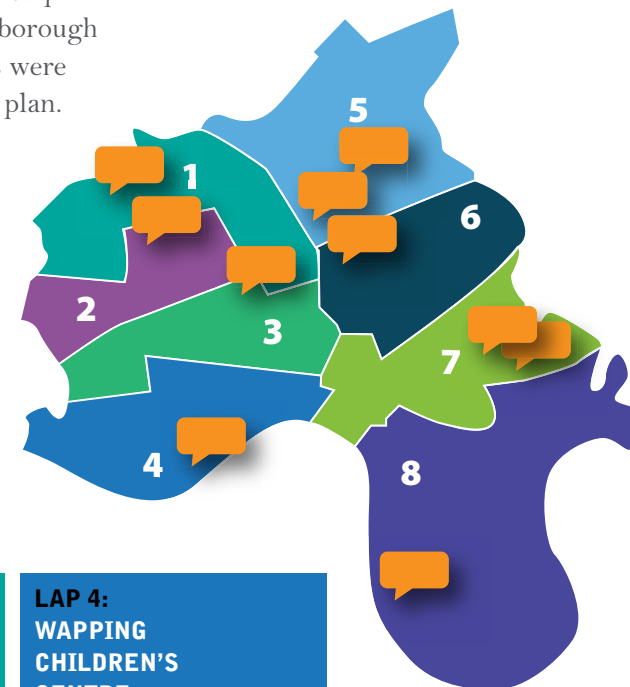
This resulted in open and passionate responses in younger and older participants, playing on the 'I could do it better' idea that many hold.





## WHO WE ASKED

Consultation took place in each of the Local Area Partnership (LAPs) areas around the borough to ensure that local views were considered as part of the plan.



<p><b>LAP 1:</b> COLUMBIA ROAD PRIMARY SCHOOL</p>	<p><b>LAP 4:</b> WAPPING CHILDREN'S CENTRE</p>	
<p><b>LAP 2:</b> COLLINGWOOD CHILDREN'S CENTRE</p>	<p><b>LAP 5:</b> CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE + ROMAN ROAD MARKET</p>	<p><b>LAP 7:</b> CHRISP STREET MARKET + POPLAR BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB</p>
<p><b>LAP 3:</b> WHITECHAPEL MARKET</p>	<p><b>LAP 6:</b> BROMLEY BY BOW CHILDREN'S CENTRE</p>	<p><b>LAP 8:</b> ARNHAM WHARF PRIMARY SCHOOL</p>

A series of innovative consultation techniques were used to ensure we made maximum impact in the borough.

We gave residents the opportunity to be part of a consultation process that gave them more than a questionnaire to fill in and other more traditional methods that may have limitations in their reach.

# TAGMAP

Tagmap, a digital online mapping tool is a successful established element of Bold Creative’s community consultations used as a key element of this consultation.

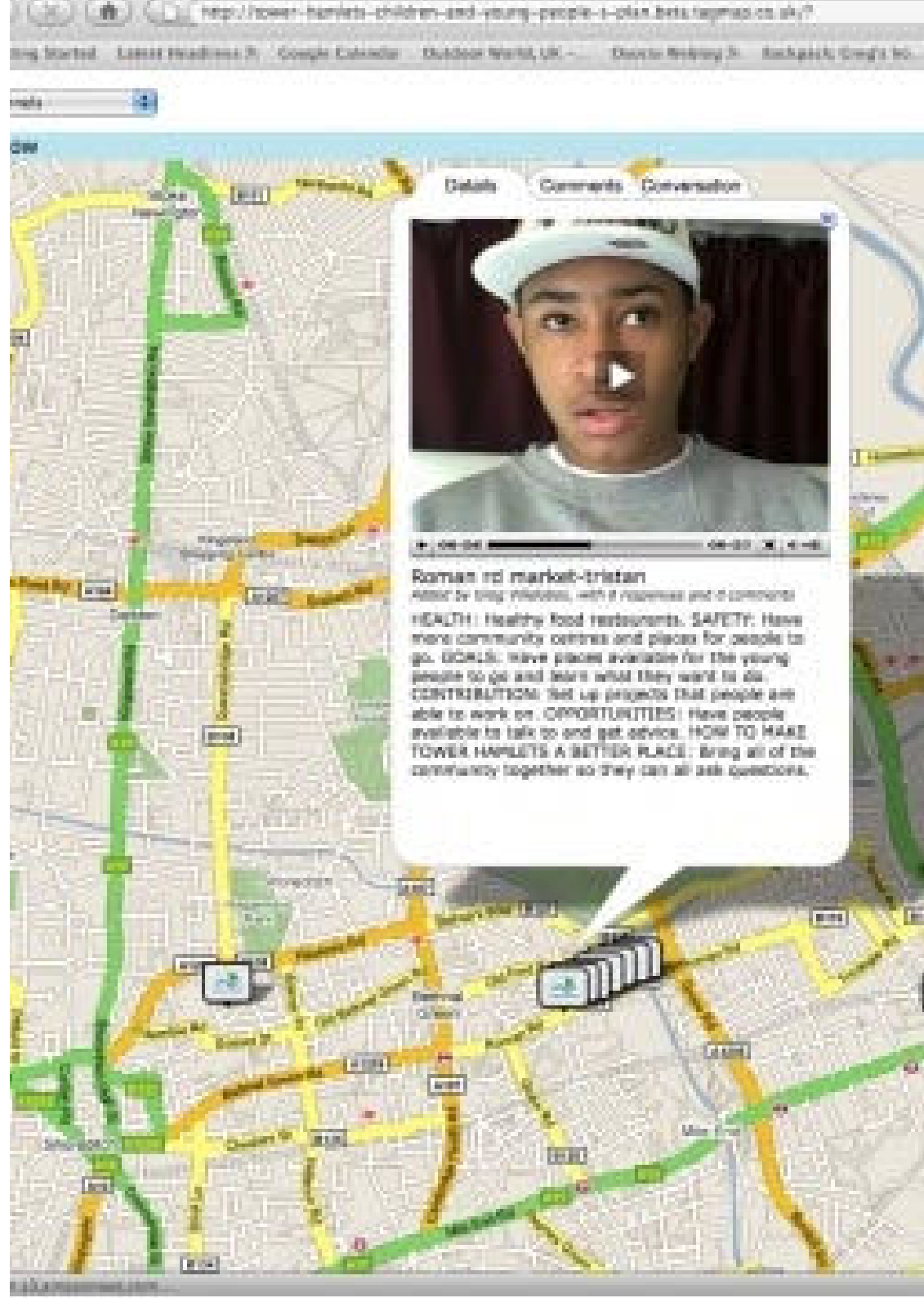
Developed over several years, it allows users to become citizen journalists for their community, making films and placing them on a map. The application gives young people a voice, allows a community to present itself on line to connect them to the decision makers in local authority and central government.

For the Children and Young People’s Plan consultation, we have been able to use the technology to present the views and ideas of young people and their parents across the borough. The online map allows users to navigate through Tower Hamlets, easily viewing the particular areas where the consultation activities took place and experience the multitude of answers to questions such as ‘how would you help your community stay safe?’

In order to get content for the map, we had to get out into the community and start engaging children, young people and their parents in the consultation!

Using different methods of online and offline consultation, Tagmap and Tagwagon workshops respectively, we embarked on an intensive six weeks of opinion gathering.

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# TAGWAGON WORKSHOPS

One of the aims of the consultation was to provide young people and their parents with an opportunity to contribute to a conversation about the key themes of the Children and Young People's Plan - 'conversation' being the key.

The challenge was providing a platform for young people to join the discussion in way that was fun, accessible and focused on the aims of the project.

Bold was tasked with engaging groups around the borough, from primary schools to harder to reach groups such as those in the care system.

Enter the Tagwagon: Originally a 1963 Volkswagen Camper Van, the wagon, is a new and exciting form of innovative community consultation and now a proud member of the Bold consultation team.

Painted on the exterior with blackboard paint and kitted out on the inside with video cameras and monitors, the Tagwagon immediately grabs young people's imagination and acts as a 'pied piper' in capturing either their scrawled or filmed opinions.

Designed to accommodate the opinions of larger groups, we took the wagon on a strategic tour of institutions around the borough.

Its appeal was immediate.

Parking up in a series of school playgrounds for instance, it didn't take long for every panel to be covered in all manner of ideas and opinions from young people of all ages in regard to the six key themes of the Children and Young People's Plan.

Working with the consultation team, young people were guided through a series of easy to understand questions written on the panels. Each person responded with a stick of chalk, humour and ingenuity.



As the wagon slowly filled up with ideas on the outside, the inside played host to in depth conversations with members of the Tower Hamlets community invited to enter the Big Brother esque 'diary room'.

As a form of 'stealth learning' and entertainment it has been invaluable in encouraging young people to discuss aspects of life in Tower Hamlets, giving insights into areas that need attention in the future.

Those interviewed in the 'diary room' had their conversations recorded and added to the growing map of opinions on the Tagmap platform.



# TAGMAP WORKSHOPS

We hosted workshops aimed at those young people with learning difficulties and disabilities which provided a more subtle and flexible complementary approach to the consultation.

In these instances, we adapted the Tagwagon technique to Tagmap workshops - essentially taking the core element of the 'diary room' and simply using one or two Bold team members to sit with young people and their parents in environments they were more comfortable with.

This low key, sensitive approach resulted in conversations that were relaxed and equally insightful.

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# 04: WHAT WE DID: PARTNER AND FRONT- LINE CONSULTATION

An essential part of the consultation was to ensure all partners and practitioners were fully involved and had the opportunity to input in a manner that would incentivise their participation.

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Dealing with stakeholders who all have busy days with agenda full diaries posed problems in itself, so it was essential any communication was clear, simple and easy to understand – stand out and accessible in both its design and format.

We tried to be sensitive to the needs of our stakeholders to capture as many opinions as possible at a time and manner that would suit & maximise their participation.

## WHAT WE ASKED

01: Initially we asked about the priorities identified under each theme:

Do you think that the priorities are right?

What do you think we should be doing differently?

Of the five priorities, what is your top priority?

02: Then we requested the following information about the plan as a whole:

Do you agree with the three cross cutting themes as outlined in the introduction?

If not what do you think that they should be?

Are the cross cutting theme visible enough throughout the plan?

Does the colour coding work?

How meaningful would this be to a member of the public?

Are we using too much jargon?

If we are, can you suggest an alternative wording?

Are the big projects/pathfinders we're involved in over the next three years sufficiently referenced?

Where is there overlap/duplication?

What's missing?

Are there any sections that we can get rid of?

Is the work of the organisation adequately captured in the plan?

Questions were wide ranging and labelled in a way that each participant could easily indicate their personal preference.

**CYPSPG**

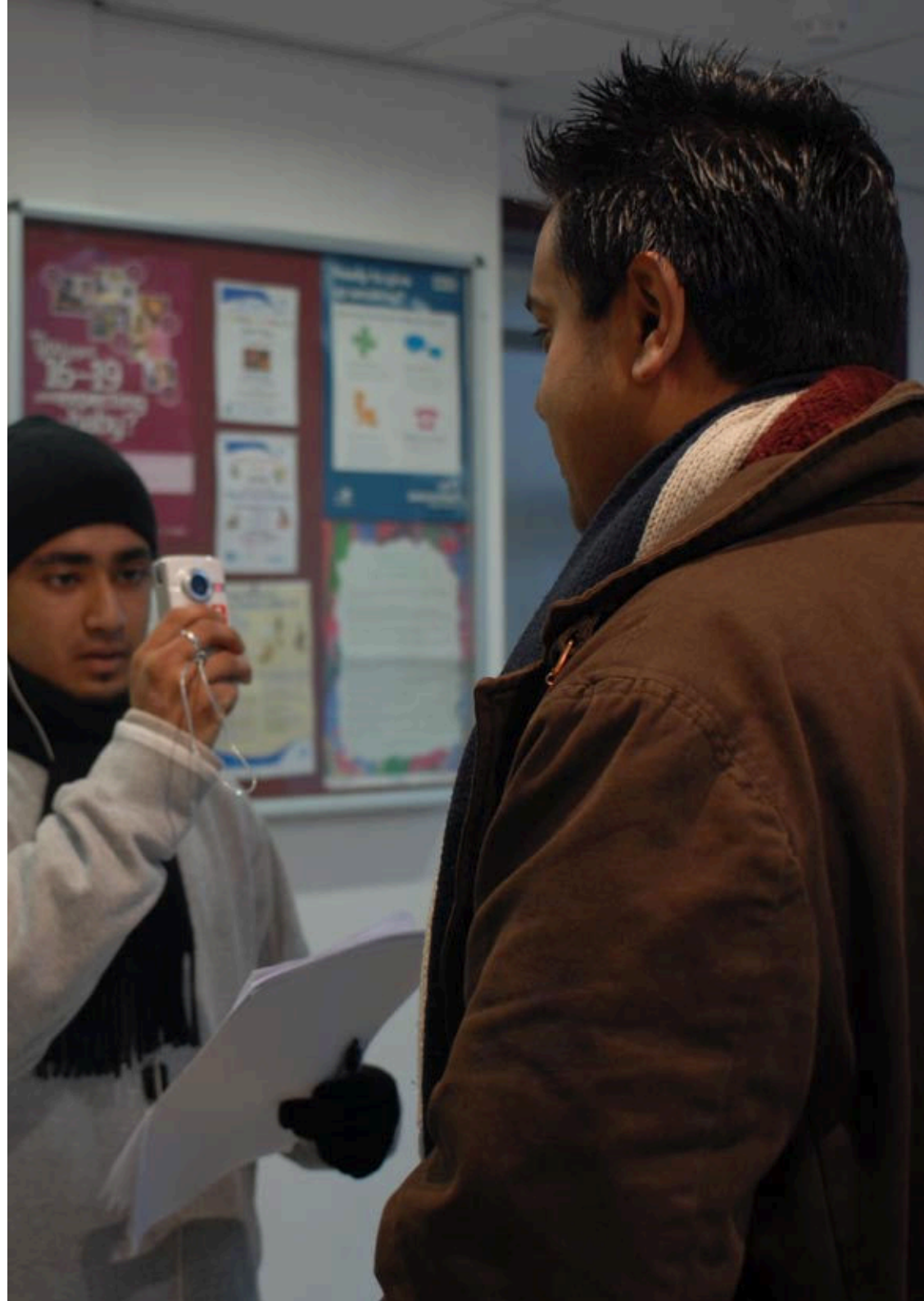
Children and Young People’s Strategic Partnership Group includes all organisations responsible for delivering children’s services so this was a priority network to target.

The CYPSPG is chaired by the lead member and includes the Corporate Director of Children’s Services, Chief Executive of TH PCT as well as young people and includes representation from the:

- Police,
- LSC,
- Housing,
- Schools
- Voluntary sector.

Outside of this umbrella network, across the local area we also targeted:

- Lead teachers
- Children’s Services staff
- GPs and Dentists
- Local safeguarding Children’s Board (LSCB)
- The School Organisation Committee
- Local Area Partnerships
- Diocesan





26 **HOW WE ASKED**

It's a challenge to get people to participate in what while important can be a dull long winded series of questions.

Trying to tackle any inertia to consultation and fearing 'consultation burnout' from previous extensive discussions, we wanted to find a way to engage with partners that would fully reflect changing technology and the methodologies that people of all ages are increasingly engaging in on a day to day basis. A method used as part of their working lives and easy to engage with when that individual had a moment to break off – a way to make consultation as 'fun' as possible in essence.

While easy to reference we developed and designed a 'blog' mechanic for partners to input into. Used across all manner of digital and social platforms & networks, this format proved to be a great success.

We believe the use of a standardised blog will prove to be a new leading form what can become eventual best practice in similar consultations, such was its access in this instance.

Designed with best use of consultation imagery and 'wordpress' technology' this easy to navigate blog site was distributed via email to all priority partners and a hard copy format distributed where email or online access was not possible. Simple and fun to use programming was used to create gameshow style voting mechanics to support voting on differing priorities.

In total almost 3,000 responses were recorded which for a consultation of this type is unprecedented in its reach especially when considering time, resources and scope of the consultation.

The captured data has been extensive and is concluded later within this report.

Those not comfortable with blogging were given the whole plan to be able to comment and email.

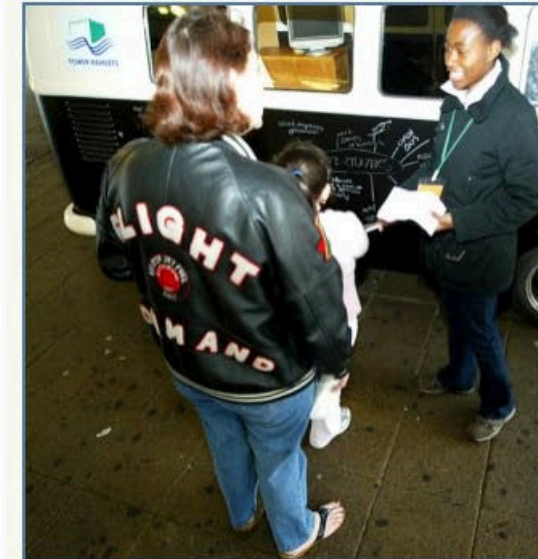


## Children's and Young People's Strategic Plan 2009 - 2012

Home About the plan How have we been consulting  
Stay Safe Enjoy and Achieve Make a Positive Contr  
Achieve Economic Wellbeing Excellent Children's Serv

## Welcome to our Blog!

December 2, 2008



Our Children and Young People's Plan 2009 -2012 is an integr agenda for our services going forward. We want to ensure th people, families and those practitioners delivering children's s much as possible.

This blog has been created to gather your views about our di want to hear your comments - good or bad - about our prior for the future. You can view films from our residents to find service and how we should be moving forward.

If you have any queries about this blog or the consultation

# 05: WHAT WE FOUND OUT

# IF YOU WERE MAYOR FOR THE DAY...

Page 121



# HEALTHY

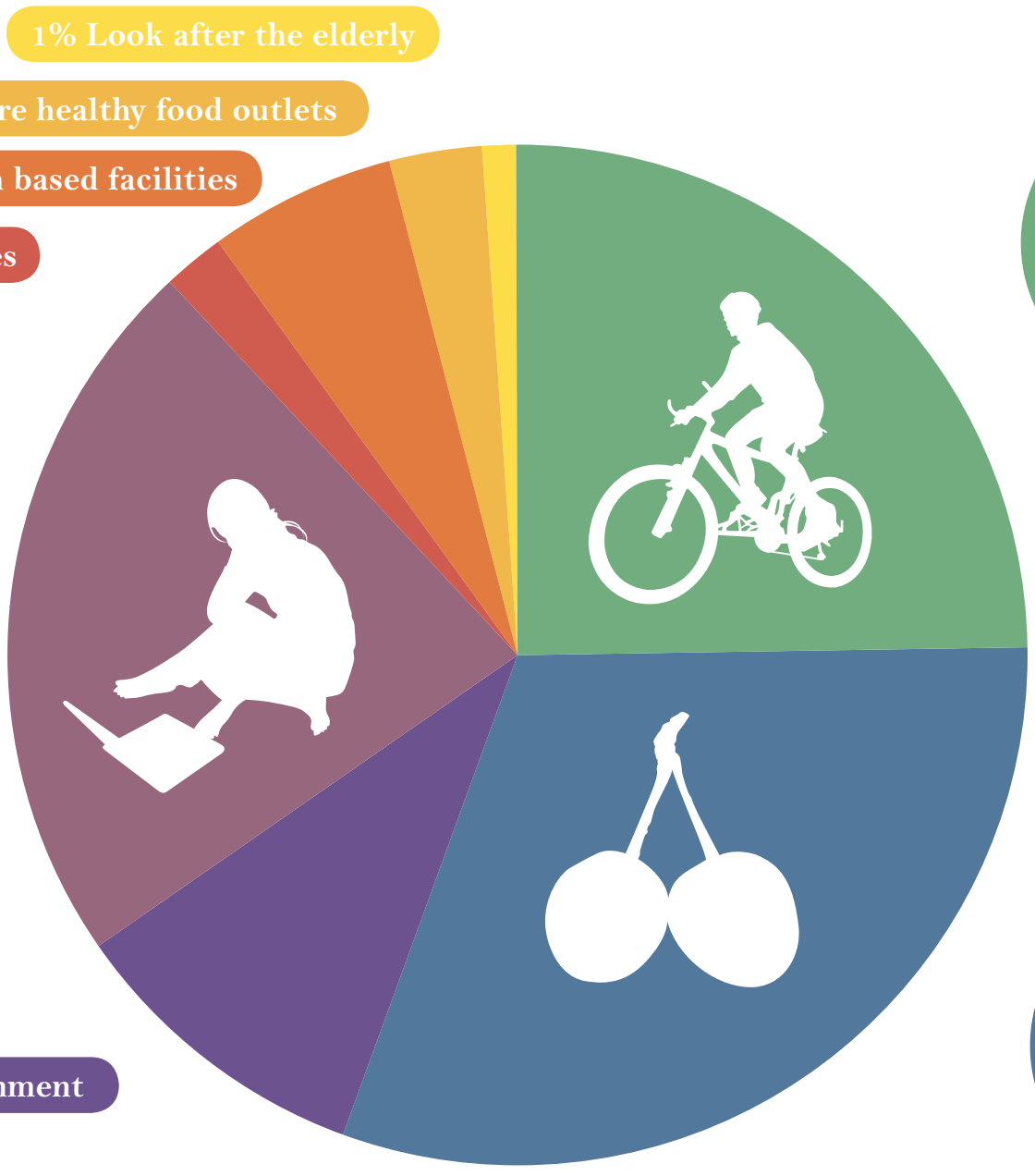
**01**

How would you help your family  
and friends stay healthy?

# PRIORITIES

- 
1. Slow down and reverse the long term rise in obesity amongst Children and Young People
- 
2. Support the health needs of young people by ensuring they are able to access effective support, information and advice in appropriate settings
- 
3. Support parents and families in giving children the best, healthiest, start in life
- 
4. Improve access to integrated care for children with disabilities
- 
5. Support children and young people to become mentally and emotionally healthy





**25%**  
Exercise more

**23%**  
Improve information

**31%**  
Improve Diet

Total number of people asked 84



“Have bike competitions, healthy eating sessions and more cycle lanes”

“Make people aware of facilities, healthy eating, sexual awareness - anything young people need to know to stay healthy”

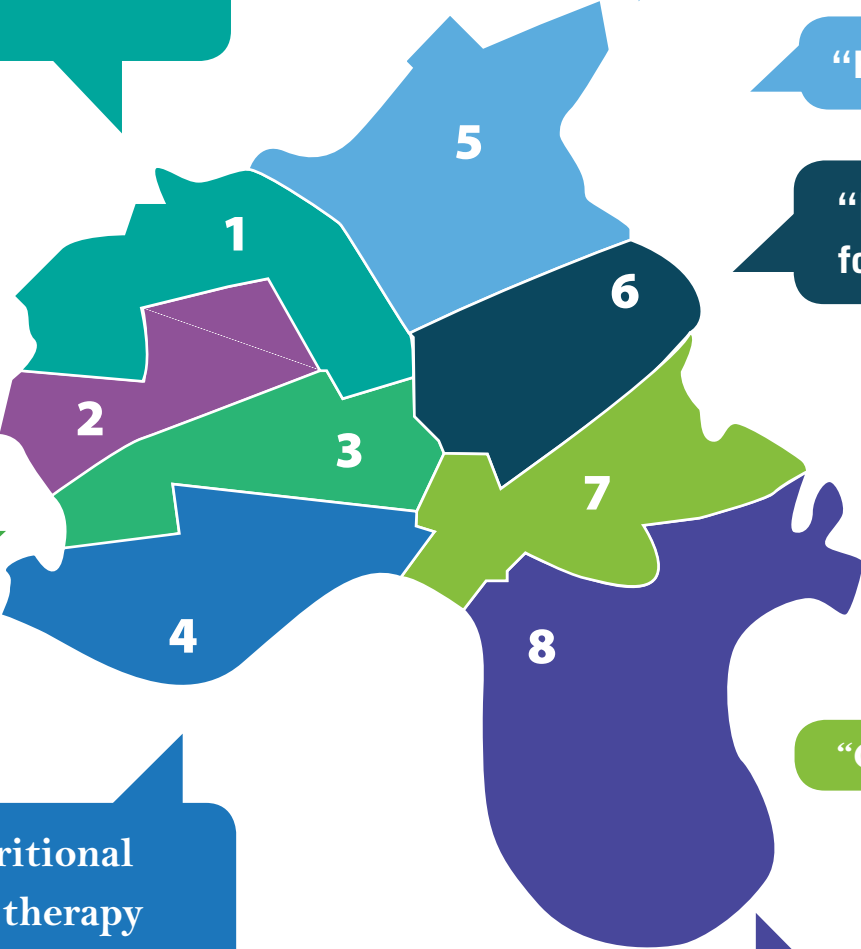
“Have less junk food shops”

“Keep people aware of how to stay healthy”

“Better diets and more fresh food for sale from ethnic grocers”

“HEALTHY SCHOOL MEALS, SELL HEALTHY FOOD CHEAPER AND HAVE MORE SPORTING ACTIVITIES”

“SPEND LESS TIME IN THE PUB AND COOK A BIT MORE INSTEAD”



“Provide good nutritional advice, alternative therapy and more accessible services”

“Get people out of the house more”

“Make sure they buy vegetables and fruits and salads. Schools should serve healthy food, have a chart with every one's favourite fruit”

## Vision

We want our children and young people to grow up healthy in body and mind

### Priorities

- |  | Poll |
|--|------|
| 1 Slow down and reverse the long-term rise in obesity amongst children and young people.   | 31%  |
| 2 Support the health needs of young people by ensuring they are able to access effective support, information and advice in appropriate settings | 0%   |
| 3 Better support parents and families in giving children the best, healthiest, start in life   | 15%  |
| 4 Improve access to care for children with disabilities through a coordinated, multi-agency approach   | 15%  |
| 5 Support children and young people to be mentally and emotionally healthy   | 38%  |

## BLOG COMMENTS

### POST 1

Obesity is a real issue in Tower Hamlets and should definitely be a priority

### POST 2

1. Children living in temporary accommodation/refuges  
We need a systematic policy of support and particularly immunisation for these children with responsible health visitors regularly assessing all new entrants to these accommodations

It is notable that the cases of measles in Tower Hamlets were often in these places containing vulnerable mobile children

2. Children of recent immigrants  
We need better and more rapid assessment of immunisation or other health needs of these children and policy for this which is at present lacking to ensure they are in school/nursery and receiving all necessary support

There is also a question of BCG status for these children and mantoux testing that is currently unclear

Policies for immunisation where previous records are absent should be addressed urgently

### POST 3

I think priority 1 is the most important, especially the point about targetting those children where at least one parent is overweight or obese.

### POST 4

I think this is an excellent improvement regarding consultation and listening to the voices of Children and young people. I suggest within Priority 1 we explicitly include widening the strategies for access to a wide range of sports/physical activity including dance. Priority 3 we consider access to and information @ genetic counselling.

**POST 5**

The plan needs to reflect the fact that we jointly deliver services with Health. More activity-based extended services could be helpful and signposting to services that are free for low-income families.

**POST 6**

Substance misuse (drugs) is often hidden in the community, whilst alcohol is a bigger problem. Partnership with community groups and outreach is needed to identify hidden groups. Children's Centres are doing a really good job supporting families. Not all families use CCs so other access points (e.g. CIS) need to be more widely known. For children with disabilities, there are plans to commission personal care services on a direct payment basis.

**POST 7**

The general view around this was that the Council is not doing enough to discourage fast food outlets opening outside schools. Fast food outlets should not be within 300 meters of a school and more should be done to promote healthy options within them.

Some of the objectives in Priority 2 (Support the health needs of young people by ensuring they are able to access effective support, information and advice in appropriate settings) have direct links to Stay Safe and this should be made clear.

**POST 8**

The general view around this was that the Council is not doing enough to discourage fast food outlets opening outside schools. Fast food outlets should not be within 300 meters of a school and more should be done to promote healthy options within them.

Some of the objectives in Priority 2 (Support the health needs of young people by ensuring they are able to access effective support, information and advice in appropriate settings) have direct links to Stay Safe and this should be made clear.

# SAFE

**02** How could you help your community stay safe?



1% Improve communication through media

1% Improve housing security

7% Improve communication within community

17%  
More for young people to do

27%  
More police

1% More Firemen

5% More CCTV

5% Improve education

1% Improve bicycle lanes

17%  
Combat anti social behaviour / crime

18%  
Improve built environment



“Get rid of fireworks and knives and have more police”

“More police on the street”

“BUILD MORE COMMUNITIES AND HELP PEOPLE GET TO KNOW EACH OTHER”



“Keep the community in touch”

“Stop drug dealers in the area and have youth clubs in the area”

“Install more CCTV cameras”

“More police officers at the underground tunnels near Tesco’s”

“Improve the street lighting”

“More projects and activites in school teaching you how to be safe”

“Try and get young people that crime isn’t really nice and make them aware of the consequences and let them know how it affects the community”



## Vision

We want our children and young people to grow up free from harm, fear and prejudice

### Priorities

### Poll

- |  |     |
|--|-----|
| 1 Ensure that children and young people are protected from harm and feel safe and confident in their area and beyond                 | 40% |
| 2 Significantly reduce bullying  | 20% |
| 3 Protect young people from the risk of sexual exploitation  | 0%  |
| 4 Support parents and families to provide a safe environment where children and young people thrive and achieve their full potential | 40% |
| 5 Ensure that looked after children live in stable environments  | 0%  |

## BLOG COMMENTS

### POST 1

Obesit Priority 4 about support for families at risk hits the nail on the head for me. Early (i.e. pre-birth) intervention combined with a persistent whole family approach will be really powerful in addressing intergenerational disadvantage.

### POST 2

I would like to see an approach that breaks down the belief by some young people that carrying a weapon is acceptable. I do not think we really understand what mental processes allow a young offender to actually stab another human being with a knife. Regardless of all the social deprivation issues there is something being missed that allows humanity to act in this way when the physical act of stabbing someone is normally an anathema to the average person. Knife crime reduction should be high on our list of priorities. In particular the Education authority has a key role to play in developing a robust pan-borough weapon strategy in conjunction with partners.

### POST 3

A group of Children's Services staff discussed the Stay Safe section today and felt the vision was succinct, precise and to the point.

The priorities seem to accurately reflect what needs to be done. However within the priorities we think there needs to be some attention to drug use by young people as well as overcrowded housing and its effects on families.

We felt that to be meaningful to the Public the plan needs to be more concise and wondered whether families would really be interested in the statistics quoted?

There was also a feeling that some of the statistics quoted from the 'TellUs' survey, which show respondents from Tower Hamlets feeling safer than in other boroughs, did not reflect some of the feedback our front line services receive. Many young people say that they are scared to travel outside their locality within the borough because of territorial violence.



**POST 4**

Priority 1, Point 2: Having worked on ContactPoint for over a year now, I am not sure if implementing ContactPoint completely matches this Priority. I know that one of the reasons for the national database is to safeguard children. However, the outcomes and the benefits of using the system will be more encompassing because ContactPoint is more than a safeguarding tool.

In my own opinion, once ContactPoint gets implemented, if practitioners do not communicate with one another, then the whole reason for having this national system will be put at risk. Therefore, the main outcome of ContactPoint is that holistic support can be provided at universal, targeted and specialist levels for children 0-18 under the ECM Programme. This will in turn lead to better service experiences for children, young people and their families.

**POST 5**

There should be more targeted support for younger Bengali girls at risk of sexual exploitation. Domestic Violence needs to be highlighted for the risks it can present to young people's safety and emotional welfare. Work with perpetrators should be considered a priority. Under priority 5, "offer more administrative support to social workers" would be better placed in a service plan rather than a strategic one.

**POST 6**

The format needs to change as it is too wordy, make it shorter clear labelling and layout.

Milestones to be more specific, relevant, locating it in teams and sectors.

Priority 4 and 5 could be put together (Support parents and families to provide a safe environment where children and young people thrive and achieve their full potential and Ensure that looked after children live in stable environments)

We feel that there are some areas missing such as issues around community cohesion, equalities, crime reduction, anti-social behaviour, youth and youth crime, territorialism, street crime and robbery (although we recognise some of this is picked up in Making a Positive Contribution)

**POST 7**

**PRIORITY 3:** Protect young people from the risk of sexual exploitation  
Research the extent to which there is a potential risk of sexual exploitation among young people in Tower Hamlets.

Don't we already know this?

**POST 8**

Responses to the questions at the front of the consultation document – particularly related to Staying Safe:

1. Do you agree with the three cross-cutting themes as outlined in the introduction? If not, what do you think they should be?

The themes are not clearly related to the priorities and need to use a different method to highlight themes and to be DDA compliant

2. Are the cross-cutting themes visible enough throughout the plan? Does the colour coding work?

The cross cutting themes are visible however need to be DDA compliant (colour coding may not be).

3. How meaningful would this be to the man on the street? Are we using too much jargon? If we are, can you suggest alternative wording?

The format needs to change as it is too wordy, make it shorter clear labelling and layout.

4. Are the big projects/pathfinders we're involved in over the next three years sufficiently referenced?

Milestones to be more specific, relevant, locating it in teams and sectors.

5. Where is the overlap/duplication?

Priority 4 and 5 could be put together (Support parents and families to provide a safe environment where children and young people thrive and achieve their full potential and Ensure that looked after children live in stable environments)

6. What's missing?

Community cohesion, equalities, crime reduction, anti-social behaviour, youth and youth crime, territorialism, street crime and robbery (although we recognise some of this is picked up in Making a Positive Contribution)

7. Are there any sections we can get rid of???

8. Is the work of your organisation adequately captured in the plan?

No, Youth and Community Services is not represented; however some of these themes will feature in the YCS Team Plan.

PRIORITY 3: Protect young people from the risk of sexual exploitation

Research the extent to which there is a potential risk of sexual exploitation among young people in Tower Hamlets.

Don't we already know this?

# ACHIEVE

**03** How could you help your friends  
achieve their goals?

# PRIORITIES

- 
1. Develop a broader, more creative and engaging curriculum which will inspire our children and young people

---

  2. Ensure that all of our children and young people have the skills of “learning to learn” and have a positive attitude to learning

---

  3. Accelerate the achievement and progress of all our children and young people

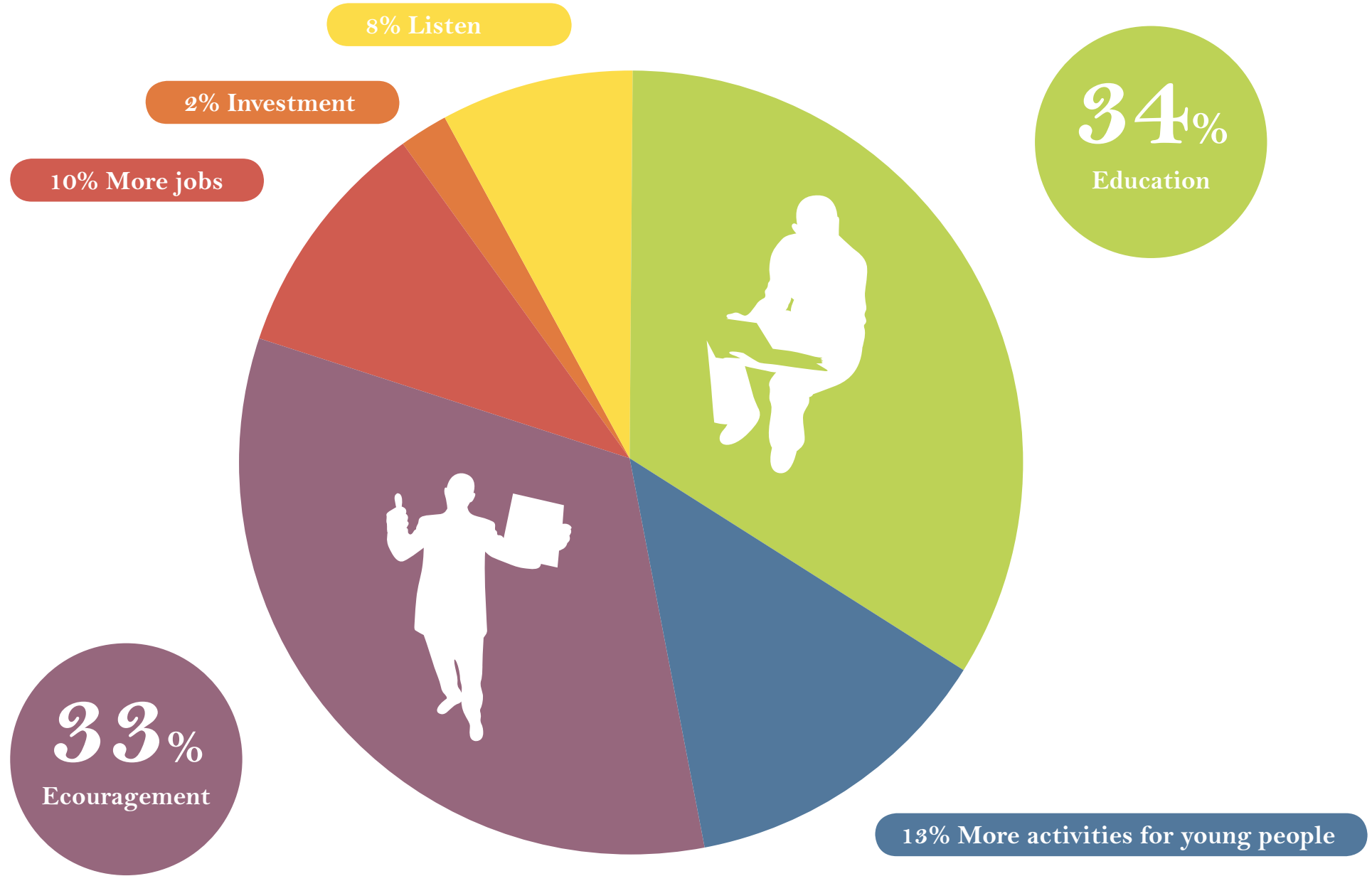
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  4. Better support children and young people at key transition points in their lives

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  5. Better support whole families to enjoy and achieve together



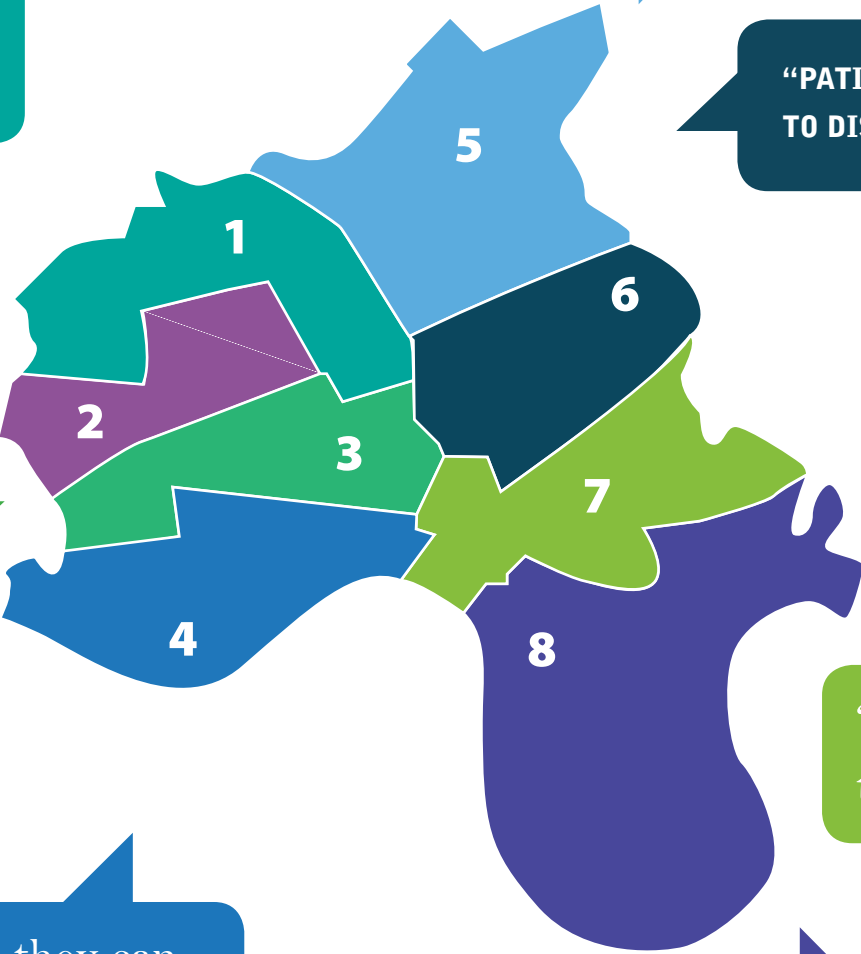


“GIVE THEM INSPIRATION” - MOHAMED

“Listen to them, then stress the importance of working hard”

“Study harder and concentrate on work”

“PATIENCE AND GIVE EXTRA TRAINING TO DISADVANTAGED TEENS”



“Voluntary work”

“SUPPORT THEM AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE AND MAKE THEM AWARE OF LOCAL SERVICES”

“Try and get them to write what the obstacles are and how to get over them”

“Get high grades by going to college and university”

“Mentoring schemes so they can meet older people and be inspired”

“Work hard and go to university”

## Vision

**We want our children, young people and their families to grow up enjoying life, feeling proud of where they live and what they have achieved**

### Priorities

- 1 Develop a broader, more creative and engaging curriculum which will inspire our children and young people
- 2 Ensure that all of our children and young people have high aspirations and a positive attitude to learning
- 3 Accelerate the achievement and progress of all our children and young people
- 4 Better support children and young people at key points of change in their lives
- 5 Provide a learning, play and cultural offer for families

### Poll

22%

22%

22%

33%

0%

## BLOG COMMENTS

### POST 1

Following the Children's Services staff meeting our group discussed this priority and had the following points to make

1. Priority 1 - The terminology 'Find your Talent' we felt needs to be explained as parents need to understand that it is not a gifted and talented programme it is for all children
2. Priority 3 - we felt that the 'develop oracy skills to drive literacy attainment (particularly in writing) at all key stages' needed to be re-written in the light of teaching and learning pedagogy and recent research that recognises the importance of 'developing children's talk' to enable learning and raise attainment in all areas. So that children have academic registers of language which in turn will lead to improvements in attainment across the curriculum (and writing).

### POST 2

This plan looks really good and the way the comments are being captured is innovative.

Just some points to consider:

Social disadvantage and how it affects attainment

Parental aspiration and involvement in CYP education and how this affects progress and attainment

Partnership with parents at all levels

Working with SEN and disabled children and parents to improve outcomes

### POST 3

"Better support children and young people at key points of change in their lives"

I support priority 4 for the reasons given in the plan.

The question is: how is the support for "children and young people at key points of change in their lives" going to be delivered?

e.g. is it something for the Social Worker to identify face to face / explore at a LAC or Child / Young Person's Review or is there a different, better or



complementary approach? For example could identification be done through questionnaire? Recently the Emotional Health Questionnaire to 260 Tower Hamlets looked after children (LAC) was well received with a return rate of approx 66%. The questionnaire was designed to identify LAC children having emotional difficulties and who would benefit from specialist assessment and support.

#### POST 4

The Vision statement ought to emphasise the aim to ‘maximise’ the achievement of Children and Young People.

The use of some terms above that are recognised to the professionals involved may not be plain english for more public publication...

e.g. the “cultural offer”, “oracy”, a “common learning platform”, the “parental engagement agenda”, the “family cultural offer” and “pathfinder”.

In the consultation presentation at DMT briefing 19/01/09 the handout for consultation on Enjoy & Achieve had a “Story so far” that identified maintaining a sharp focus on 16-19 ageband in supporting young people to achieve their potential. The same source also identified a potentially conflicting need to make the ‘offer’ more family focused. Marketing the ‘offer’ to 16-19 and making it also more-family focused may require two distinct marketing methods for the same services.

The final (or all) version(s) of the document ought to promote the services they refer to by having the web path to Internet site for the Tower Hamlets Families Information Service Directory of Services (and similar including partners) with the path shown in full so that printed versions and online versions alike signpost readers to the services available and other useful links could also be included if they have been referenced (e.g. ‘Find your Talent’, Primary Strategy for Change, Building Schools for Future, Play Strategy and Pathfinder).

#### POST 5

Priority 2 Target newly identified vulnerable groups (e.g. young carers, Somali children, homeless children) and address their specific needs using cross agency expertise and mentoring opportunities

Comment not sure about the term “newly ” identified or ” vulnerable” but would also add travellers children and young people to the identified groups in the borough that experience social exclusion and need their specific needs addressed using cross agency expertise

#### POST 6

PRIORITY 2: Ensure that all of our children and young people have high aspirations and a positive attitude to learning

- Target newly identified vulnerable groups (e.g. young carers, Somali children, homeless children) and address their specific needs using cross agency expertise and mentoring opportunities

Rather than say we will target new it should say target all vulnerable young people.

#### POST 7

Enjoy and Achieve Priority 2 p14 – replace “homeless children” with “children whose families live in temporary accommodation and young people leaving home”

#### POST 8

PRIORITY 2: Ensure that all of our children and young people have high aspirations and a positive attitude to learning

- Target newly identified vulnerable groups (e.g. young carers, Somali children, homeless children) and address their specific needs using cross agency expertise and mentoring opportunities

Rather than say we will target new it should say target all vulnerable young people.



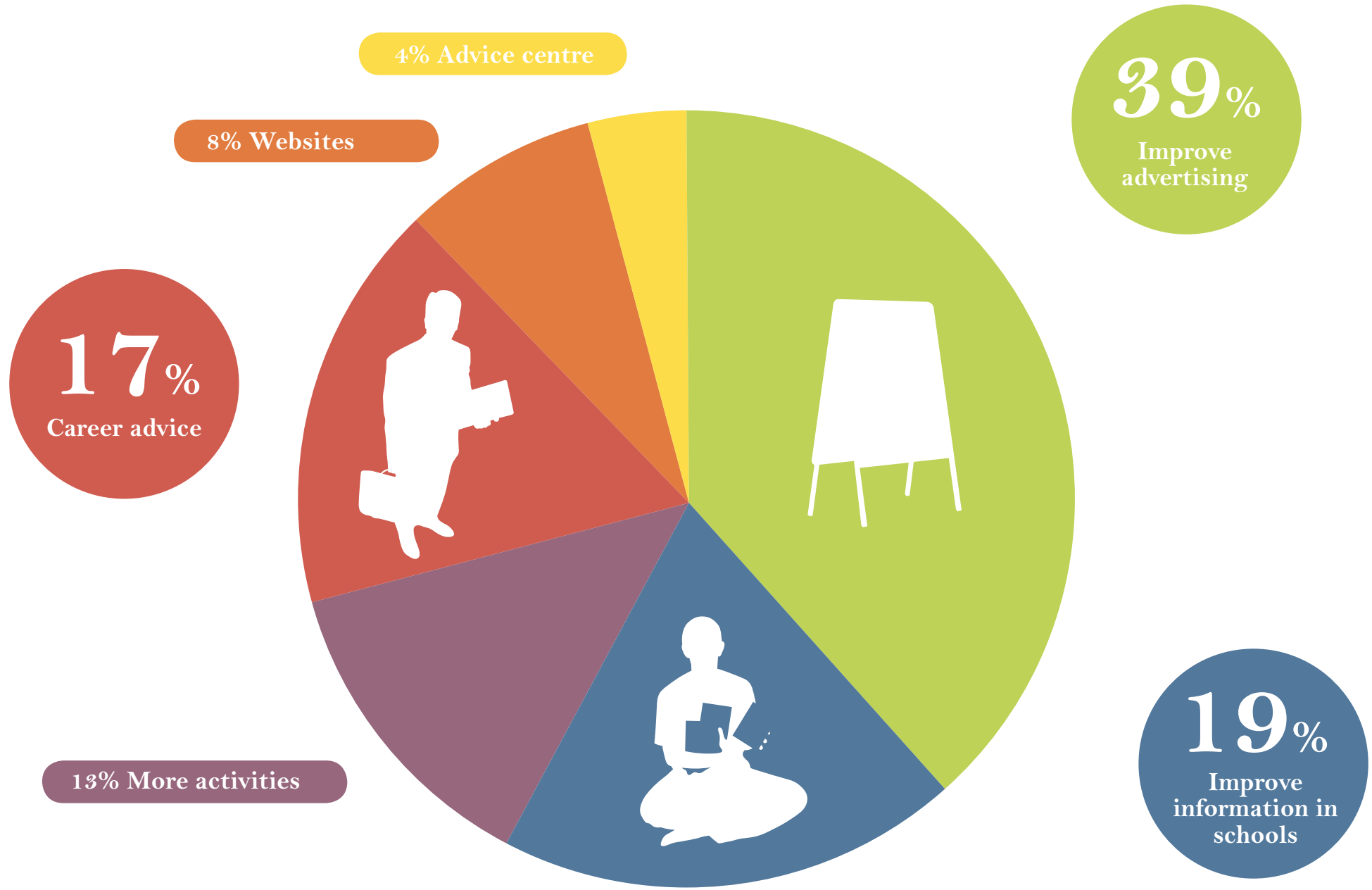
# OPPORTUNITIES

- 04** How could you help your friends and community find more opportunities in the borough?

# PRIORITIES

- 
1. Harness local and regional labour market opportunities and improve young people's employment related skills
- 
2. Enhance the learning and training offer post – 16
- 
3. Improve the quality of delivery and student outcomes
- 
4. Target specific vulnerable groups
- 
5. Break family worklessness cycle amongst our families





Total number of people asked 84

“More information on what is going on in the borough”

“GIVE THEM SUPPORT FROM LOCAL BUSINESSES”

“Youth retreats”

“Advertise what jobs are available”

“More adverts and posters”

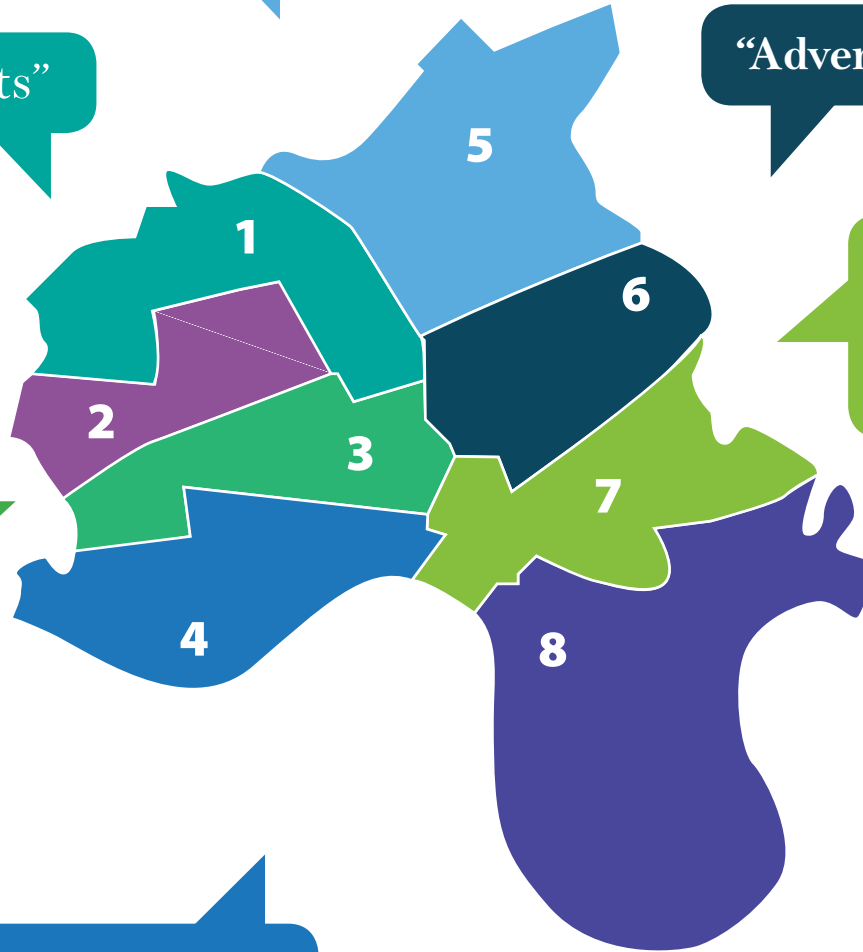
“Try to find out what’s available to them and explain how it could benefit them in the future”

WRITE TO PEOPLE AT HOME RATHER THAN IN THE NEWSPAPERS AS IT WILL REACH A WIDER AUDIENCE

“Websites to let young people know where the youth clubs are”

“Sign posting; all services should be well advertised”

“Send out leaflets and tell teachers about it”



## Vision

**We want our children and young people to have the skills and opportunities to embark on fulfilling careers and contribute to prosperous communities**

### Priorities

### Poll

- |   |     |
|---|-----|
| 1 Improve young people's employment related skills linking in to local and regional labour market opportunities | 0%  |
| 2 Enhance the choice of learning options for 16 year olds   | 20% |
| 3 Improve the quality of learning and student outcomes  | 20% |
| 4 Target specific vulnerable groups such as looked after children and young carers                              | 40% |
| 5 Break the worklessness cycle amongst our families   | 20% |

## BLOG COMMENTS

### POST 1

More investment is needed in the choices for 16+. Currently those with few GCSE don't have a wide variety of options. Apprenticeship programmes are limited and those that are available do not meet the needs of young people due to lack of funding or lack of staffing resources. More long term project development and programmes need to be developed so that courses and training have a link to direct employment and progression monitoring. Careers and Advice services/Connexions need to do more to target those young people falling through the net and delivering services from where it really matters - the community venues.

### POST 2

With Canary Wharf on the doorstep of young people across Tower Hamlets, we should be encouraging them to access it for job opportunities and see it as something accessible. Ideally, every young person in the borough should be offered a work experience placement in Canary Wharf while they are at school. I could have done my work experience with family but decided to try something new in London and this increased my confidence, took me out of my comfort zone and actually helped me to secure a holiday job from one of my placements. The vast majority of the Canary Wharf workforce live outside the borough and I think this is a shame.

### POST 3

Whilst I think that all of the things in here are very worth while this section feels a bit generic to me. There is very little in here about the specific advantages that Tower Hamlets has over other places. The Olympics and the Creative Industries are both referenced up front in the vision but the actions don't really seem to carry this forward. All of this is also quite inward looking - I'd love to see somewhere in this section a reference to the fact that Tower Hamlets, because of its fantastic diversity, is really well placed to connect to some huge emerging markets overseas.

### POST 4

On the subject of what employers want, initiatives to teach young people how to write an acceptable job application would be a start. Some recent examples

78 that I have seen were dire.

Also I agree with James that we're being quite inward looking - make some more links with 'Enjoy and Achieve' and get Tower Hamlets residents looking beyond the borough. Ambition and imagination are still important.

## POST 5

PRIORITY 1: We should be providing targeted learning programmes for each significant group of 14-18 learners at risk of being NEET including an increase work experience opportunities for those leaving care.

How will one maintain the motivation of young people and ensure that they take up work experience opportunities?

PRIORITY 2: Who will be that designated agencies that you will be working with? (re: apprenticeships)

PRIORITY 3: This too vague, what is the definition of a poorer home? This priority needs to be part of supporting families, whilst the aim to raise the qualification level is a good target, does it take into consideration the triangle of home v school v Street and the connection in qualification.

PRIORITY 4: This priority is continuous in all our work.  
Deliver the best possible foundation programmes designed to provide early steps on the ladder to success

The entry level qualifications are sometimes a barrier for young people preventing access to foundation programmes.

Track vulnerable learners and provide the timely support they need  
This must take into consideration the home life situation re; overcrowding.

PRIORITY 5 :Publish and deliver a borough-wide child poverty strategy and action plan. Who will see the borough-wide poverty strategy, is it the actual people that need to know i.e. families?

## POST 6

AEW Priority 4 p23 – add as a bullet: “work in closer partnership with adults health and social care services to support families where a parent has a disability or chronic illness and develop a more person centred transition from childhood to adulthood for young people with disabilities

## POST 7

AEW Priority 5 p23 – add as a bullet: “develop a better understanding of the links between housing situations and employment, and help families in temporary accommodation overcome specific financial barriers to employment”

## POST 8

PRIORITY 1: Improve young people's employment related skills linking in to local and regional labour market opportunities

•Provide targeted learning programmes for each significant group of 14-18 learners at risk of being NEET including an increase work experience opportunities for those leaving care.

How will one maintain the motivation of young people and ensure that they take up work experience opportunities?

PRIORITY 2: Enhance the choice of learning options for 16 year olds.

Who will be that designated agencies that you will be working with? (re: apprenticeships)

PRIORITY 3: Improve the quality of learning and student outcomes

This too vague, what is the definition of a poorer home? This priority needs to be part of supporting families, whilst the aim to raise the qualification level is a good target, does it take into consideration the triangle of home v school v Street and the connection in qualification.

PRIORITY 4: Target specific vulnerable groups such as looked after children and young carers

This priority is continuous in all our work.

- Deliver the best possible foundation programmes designed to provide early steps on the ladder to success

The entry level qualifications are sometimes a barrier for young people preventing access to foundation programmes.

- Track vulnerable learners and provide the timely support they need

This must take into consideration the home life situation re; overcrowding.

PRIORITY 5: Break the worklessness cycle amongst our families

- Publish and deliver a borough-wide child poverty strategy and action plan.

Who will see the borough-wide poverty strategy, is it the actual people that need to know i.e. families?

# CONTRIBUTION

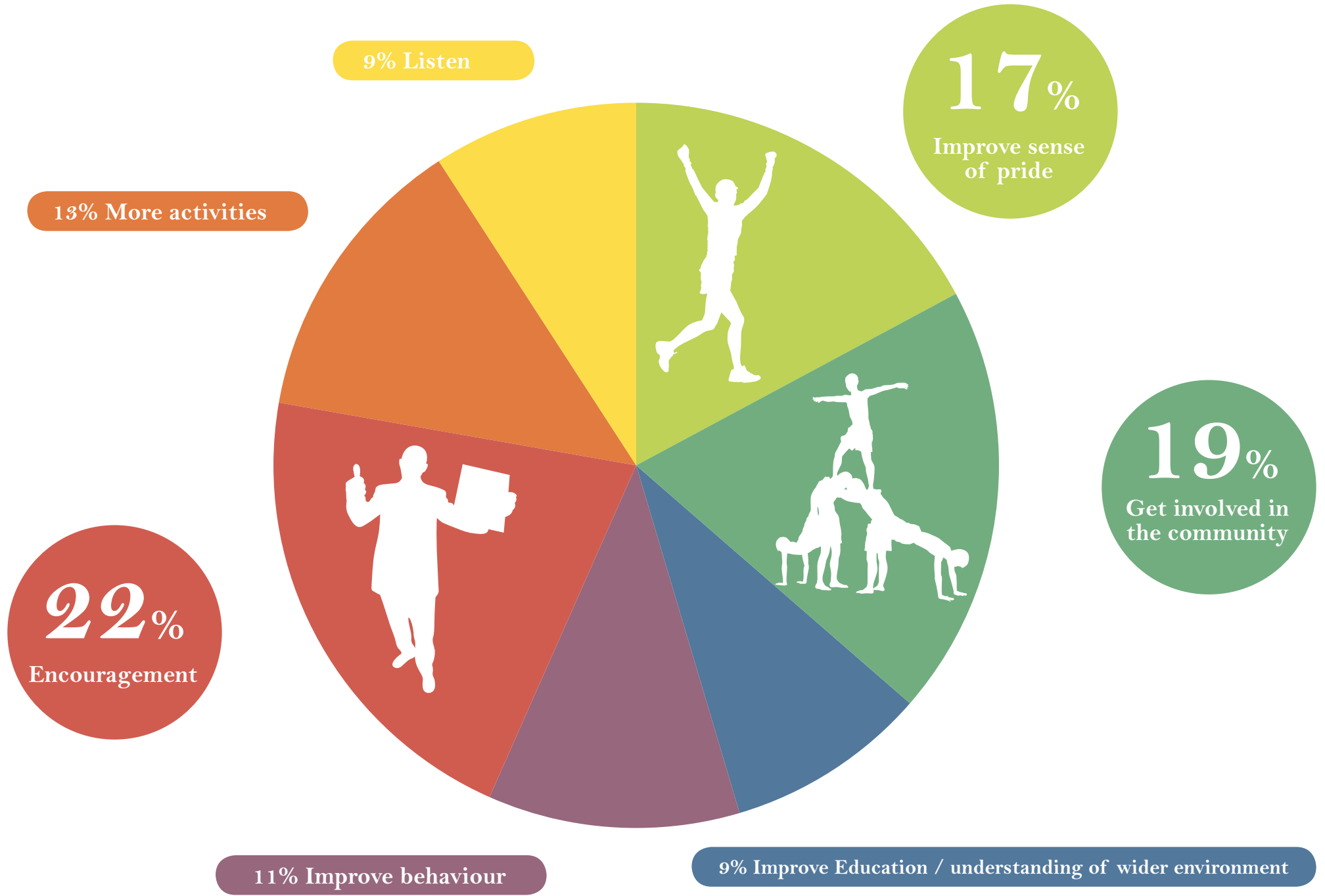
**05** How could you help young people make more positive contribution to their community?



# PRIORITIES

1. Extend children and young people's influence in decision-making
2. Implement the recommendations of the Commission into the Public Safety of young people and so increase community cohesion, diversion and inclusion
3. Promote a more integrated range of positive activities that support children and young people's development
4. Embed the coherent delivery of information, advice and guidance
5. Increase the quality, quantity and diversity of volunteering opportunities and inspire children and young people to take action in their community





Total number of people asked 84

“HELP THEM LOVE THEIR COMMUNITY AND THEY WILL CONTRIBUTE”

“Show them inspirational role models that relate to what they want to do”

“Allow children to spend more time with their parents”

“Involve them in decision making in the community”

“Build their self esteem”

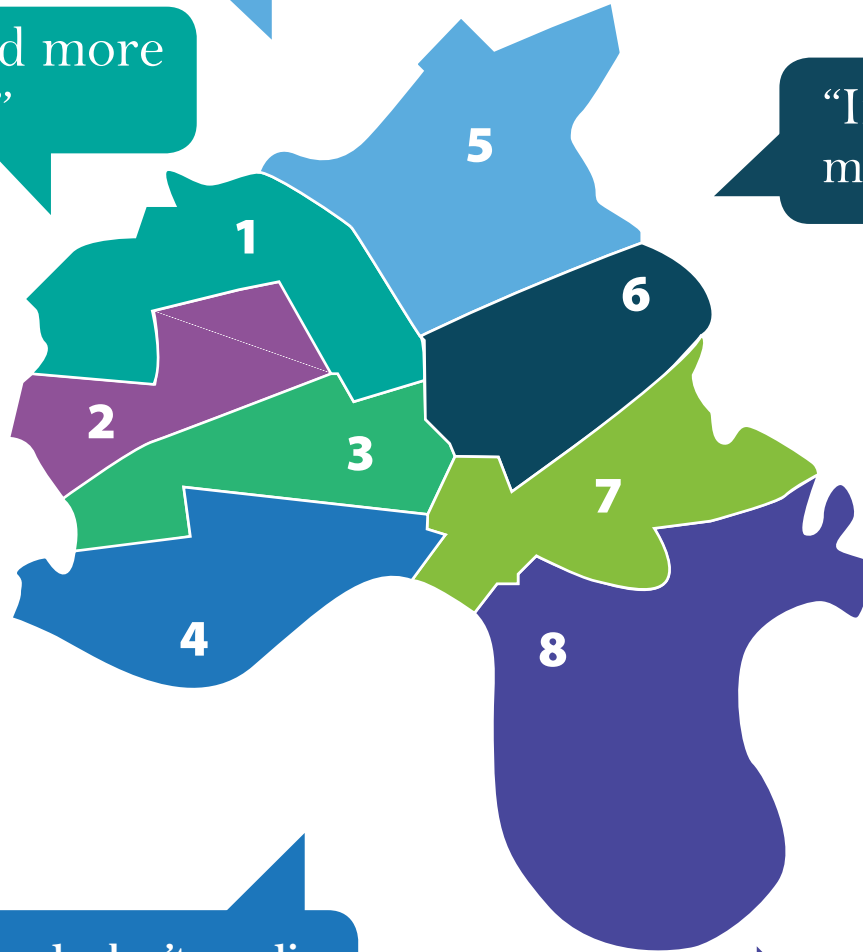
“MAKE THEM AWARE OF THE DAMAGE THEY DO WHEN THEY MAKE TROUBLE”

“Get them involved in volunteer work that can make them feel part of the community”

“Encourage people to have a positive attitude”

“Make sure local people don’t pay lip service to young people and actually listen to what they have to say”

“Have a day when young people go out into Tower Hamlets and clean the community up”



## Vision

**We want our children and young people to grow up understanding differences, confident and courageous about the future, able and willing to make a positive contribution to a strong cohesive society in one Tower Hamlets**

### Priorities

### Poll

- |  |     |
|--|-----|
| 1 Extend children and young people's influence in decision making  | 17% |
| 2 Increase community cohesion among our children, young people and their families  | 50% |
| 3 Extend the range of positive activities available outside school hours, and ensure all children and young people have access                       | 17% |
| 4 Effectively target support and information, advice and guidance for children and young people  | 0%  |
| 5 Increase the quality, quantity and diversity of volunteering opportunities and inspire children and young people to take action in their community | 17% |

### POST 1

It is disappointing to see that priority 1 once again only has participation of children aged 11 and above. The Children's Society has been delivering high quality participation work with children under the age of 11 in Tower Hamlets for many years and believes that it is very important to support younger children to have a voice and influence decision making as well.

### POST 2

Youth centres Colleges and schools must play a bigger and more proactive role in helping young people to understand what community cohesion is. We must have platforms created to enable young people and families to express their concerns on matters that break down community cohesion such as the Israel and Gaza war. Each LAP should have a lead youth worker, teacher, police officer and LAP officer promoting good community cohesion work and what is not working so well. We need to involve faith groups more to engage with families and parents not just using PVE agenda but discussing the issues universally to promote harmony and inter-cultural dialogue.

### POST 3

Youth centres Colleges and schools must play a bigger and more proactive role in helping young people to understand what community cohesion is. We must have platforms created to enable young people and families to express their concerns on matters that break down community cohesion such as the Israel and Gaza war. Each LAP should have a lead youth worker, teacher, police officer and LAP officer promoting good community cohesion work and what is not working so well. We need to involve faith groups more to engage with families and parents not just using PVE agenda but discussing the issues universally to promote harmony and inter-cultural dialogue.

### POST 4

For me what is missing is how the community as a whole supports young people and children, not just their families, or public services. How do we challenge the media profile which is often anti-youth and leads to fear amongst adults, so that they are less prepared to help young people, or put resources into their needs. Families are important to children and young



Magic Me plays a part in this, promoting positive intergenerational interaction and dialogue, and learning between young and older people.

I think this agenda, which is being promoted by central government, could be within the Stay Safe, Enjoy and Achieve, or making a Positive Contribution. For instance it is important that young people volunteering, on the Olympics, or otherwise, do so alongside adult volunteers, to promote intergenerational solidarity and understanding, and so that they can all learn from one another's experience and points of view. The work of community centres, faith groups, voluntary organisations promoting intergenerational work is not included and is key to ensuring positive views of young people. This could be noted specifically within Making a Positive Contribution Priority 2 about building community cohesion.

#### POST 5

I think it's really good to see such a strong emphasis on positive activities but I think we need to be a bit stronger on ensuring that these really lead to positive outcomes for young people. Too often this term is used as a "catch-all" for any type of activity when all of the research I've seen (Feinstein et al) shows that it's properly structured activities that have the most benefits.

#### POST 6

The more I work with and speak with young people, the more I realise that we need to celebrate our successes and achievements.

Schemes such as young advocates / champions/ representatives need to have more press coverage to inspire and motivate other young people of all ages. Young people should be out there helping to raise expectations and increase awareness of all the exciting things on offer in Tower Hamlets.

My top two would be:

1. More investment into targetted marketing and branding of Children's Services - enabling better information sharing between all stakeholders.
2. More full time volunteering opportunities (and staff support) to motivate and inspire others to do the same.

#### POST 7

In my opinion, one of the core priorities for any society, that truly desires to have unity within their realm should be ensuring people are given a sense of belonging from a very young age. It will serve futile, if such practices are not embraced. This way of thinking should also be accompanied by the assurance that people are encouraged to engage with local people in their communities. In essence, these are the people they live side by side with, whether they be neighbours, friends or colleagues. Priority 2 pleasantly embraces these ideals by encouraging the young people of Tower Hamlets to pursue community cohesion and harmony with one another. This will be achieved by creating, building upon and maintaining relationships. These relationships should, by all means supercede the boundaries that have for too long, divided people in particular young people, and in this instance the young people Tower Hamlets. I am pleasantly suprised to see that Priority 2 also educates yound people in some of the basic aspects of the legal system!

#### POST 8

The priority to increase community cohesion among our children, young people and their families is comprehensive in its overall aim. However, in the specific objectives, while children and young people are included throughout, there is no mention of the importance of the parental role in ensuring that these targets are met. Within the Parental Engagement team, we offer a parenting programme, Strengthening Families Strengthening Communities, that specifically identifies community cohesion as one of the key themes in the effort to combat isolation and division amongst young people growing up in the borough. Another positive move has been the establishment of the Universal Parent Support service. This looks at linking services across the local authority to ensure a cohesive approach to engaging parents in taking an active role in both their children's well-being and the well-being of the local community they grow up in and ultimately contribute to.

#### POST 9

In the Story So Far section bullet point one about the Young Mayor – we should include the figures for January 2009 – 6365 young people voted in the elections, this was 46% of the electorate and almost a 50% increase on the previous year.

94 In the areas for improvement section bullet point 2 (Increase the numbers of young people making decisions in their community, taking responsibility for their environment) this should probably say ‘increase the numbers and diversity of young people...’

PRIORITY 5: Increase the quality, quantity and diversity of volunteering opportunities and inspire children and young people to take action in their community

- Double the numbers of young people trained to volunteer on the Youth Opportunities Panel

This should read ‘increase the numbers’ rather than double them.

**POST 10**

In the Story So Far section bullet point one about the Young Mayor – we should include the figures for January 2009 – 6365 young people voted in the elections, this was 46% of the electorate and almost a 50% increase on the previous year.

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In the areas for improvement section bullet point 2 (Increase the numbers of young people making decisions in their community, taking responsibility for their environment) this should probably say ‘increase the numbers and diversity of young people...’

PRIORITY 5: Increase the quality, quantity and diversity of volunteering opportunities and inspire children and young people to take action in their community

- Double the numbers of young people trained to volunteer on the Youth Opportunities Panel

This should read ‘increase the numbers’ rather than double them.

# BETTER

**06** How could you make Tower Hamlets a better place for young people and families to live in?

# PRIORITIES

---

1. Jointly develop, maintain and retain a skilled and diverse Children's workforce with our partners

---

2. Improve information technology and data analysis tools across Children's Services

---

3. Plan and deliver major capital programmes for maximum community benefit

---

4. Be a market leader in terms of the services we commission and deliver, ensuring value for money

---

5. Continue to improve Children's Services through better communication and creatively responding to user views





1% Improve health provision

2% Investment in schools

1% More family activities

3% Talk to young people

1% More recycling

7% Improve parks

7% Community involvement

7% More youth clubs

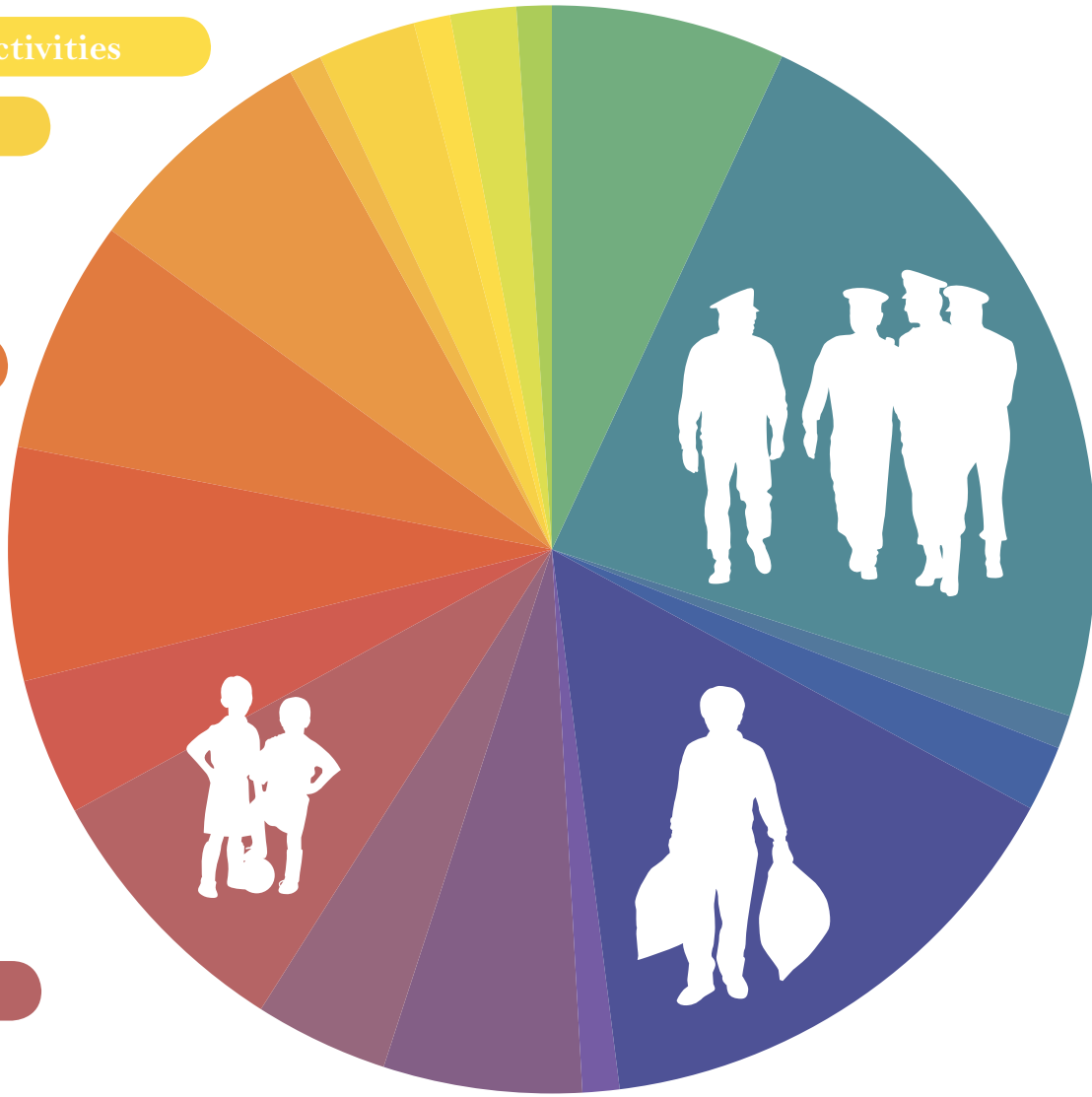
4% More education opportunities

8% More sporting facilities

4% More entertainment

6% Improve housing

7% Improve the built environment



23%  
Reduce Crime

1% Less drinking

2% Less smoking

15%  
Make it cleaner

1% Stop bullying

“Climbing frames in playgrounds and more things to do in the parks”

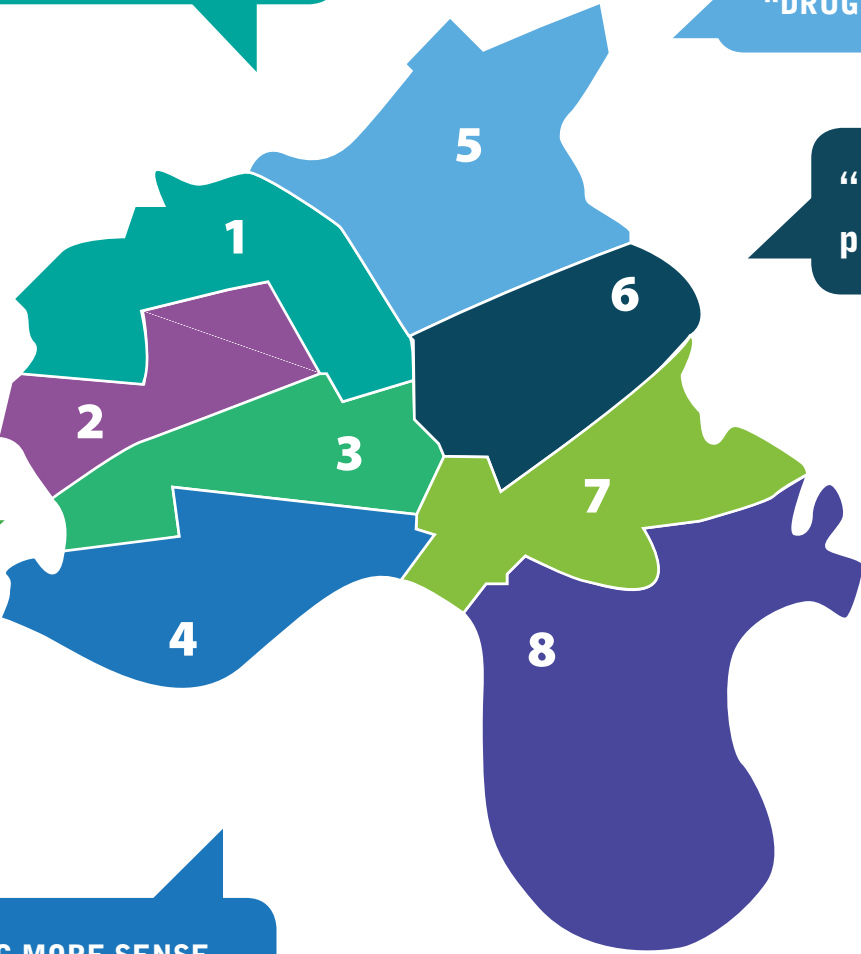
“Listen to young people”

“DRUGS AND CRIME NEED TO BE DEALT WITH”

“Work in partnership with everyone involved in the community”

“Find the route cause of teenagers problems, and fix them”

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“People need to be more involved in the community. Increase their interest and enthusiasm to do something for the community”

“Stop building blocks of flats and start building houses”

“Clean up the area and make it attractive”

“WORK ON CREATING MORE SENSE OF COMMUNITY, MAKE PEOPLE FEEL LIKE THEY BELONG”

“PUNISH TROUBLE MAKERS AND DO MORE TO STOP BULLYING”

## Vision

**We want all our children, young people and their families to receive excellent services informed by their views, which are easy to access, targeted at needs, and delivered locally to make a difference to their lives'**

### Priorities

### Poll

- |   |            |
|---|------------|
| 1 Recruit, develop and maintain a skilled, flexible and diverse workforce, making Tower Hamlets the borough of choice for employees | <b>38%</b> |
| 2 Improve information technology and data analysis tools across Children's Services   | <b>38%</b> |
| 3 Plan and deliver major capital programmes and manage existing assets for maximum community benefit                                | <b>13%</b> |
| 4 Ensure the services we commission and deliver are of high quality and give value for money  | <b>0%</b>  |
| 5 Continue to improve Children's Services in Tower Hamlets through better communication and creatively responding to user views     | <b>13%</b> |

## BLOG COMMENTS

### POST 1

Tower Hamlets is slowly getting to a level where the community feel that the workforce reflect the community. We need to identify more opportunities for our young people where by they can get jobs in LBTH, Canary Wharf and the city all opposite the borough. More support is needed to support local graduates who are looking for jobs. Need to look at frameworks which allowed people to develop within the borough workforce and not learn and have to go to other boroughs due to lack of opportunity and development.

### POST 2

Vision Statement

Too generalised a term. What measurement / feedback is being put in place? Needs to have something tangible - How will the difference be seen?

### POST 3

Priority 1 - Bullet point 3 (blue)  
too include training and development

Priority 5

Effectively rather Creatively responding to user views sounds less ambiguous

# COLUMBIA ROAD PRIMARY SCHOOL

TOTAL NUMBER OF PEOPLE INTERVIEWED 20  
AGE RANGE (YRS) 8 – 9

LAP 1



## HEALTH

Exercise more	25%
<b>Improve Diet</b>	<b>38%</b>
Improve environment	31%
Improve information	0%
Cheaper health activities	0%
Improve health based facilities	6%
More healthy food outlets	0%
Look after the elderly	0%

## SAFETY

More police	19%
More CCTV	0%
Improve bicycle lanes	0%
Improve built environment	25%
<b>Combat anti social behaviour / crime</b>	<b>44%</b>
Improve education	0%
More Firemen	0%
More for young people to do	12%
Improve communication within community	0%
Improve communication through media	0%
Improve housing security	0%

## ENJOY AND ACHIEVE

<b>Education</b>	<b>75%</b>
More activities for young people	0%
Encouragement	0%
More jobs	25%
Investment	0%
Listen	0%

## FIND OPPORTUNITIES

Improve advertising	25%
Improve information in schools	0%
More activities	25%
<b>Career advice</b>	<b>50%</b>
Websites	0%
Advice centre	0%

## MAKE A POSITIVE CONTRIBUTION

Improve sense of pride	33%
Get involved in the community	0%
Improve Education/understanding of wider environment	0%
<b>Improve behaviour</b>	<b>67%</b>
Encouragement	0%
More activities	0%
Listen	0%

## MAKE TOWER HAMLETS A BETTER PLACE

Improve the built environment	11%
Reduce Crime	11%
Less drinking	0%
Less smoking	6%
Make it cleaner	17%
Stop bullying	0%
Improve housing	0%
More entertainment	11%
More sporting facilities	11%
More education opportunities	0%
More youth clubs	6%
Community involvement	0%
<b>Improve parks</b>	<b>22%</b>
More recycling	5%
Talk to young people	0%
More family activities	0%
Investment in schools	0%
Improve health provision	0%

# COLLINGWOOD CHILDREN'S CENTRE

LAP 2



TOTAL NUMBER OF PEOPLE INTERVIEWED 5  
AGE RANGE (YRS) 30 – 40

## HEALTH

Exercise more	29%
Improve Diet	29%
Improve environment	0%
<b>Improve information</b>	<b>42%</b>
Cheaper health activities	0%
Improve health based facilities	0%
More healthy food outlets	0%
Look after the elderly	0%

## SAFETY

More police	13%
More CCTV	0%
Improve bicycle lanes	0%
Improve built environment	0%
Combat anti social behaviour / crime	13%
Improve education	0%
More Firemen	0%
<b>More for young people to do</b>	<b>37%</b>
<b>Improve communication within community</b>	<b>37%</b>
Improve communication through media	0%
Improve housing security	0%

## ENJOY AND ACHIEVE

Education	0%
More activities for young people	33%
Encouragement	33%
<b>More jobs</b>	<b>34%</b>
Investment	0%
Listen	0%

## FIND OPPORTUNITIES

<b>Improve advertising</b>	<b>60%</b>
Improve information in schools	40%
More activities	16%
Career advice	0%
Websites	0%
Advice centre	0%

## MAKE A POSITIVE CONTRIBUTION

Improve sense of pride	0%
Get involved in the community	20%
Improve Education/understanding of wider environment	0%
Improve behaviour	0%
<b>Encouragement</b>	<b>60%</b>
More activities	20%
Listen	0%

## MAKE TOWER HAMLETS A BETTER PLACE

Improve the built environment	17%
Reduce Crime	0%
Less drinking	0%
Less smoking	0%
<b>Make it cleaner</b>	<b>66%</b>
Stop bullying	0%
Improve housing	0%
More entertainment	0%
More sporting facilities	0%
More education opportunities	0%
More youth clubs	0%
Community involvement	17%
Improve parks	0%
More recycling	0%
Talk to young people	0%
More family activities	0%
Investment in schools	0%
Improve health provision	0%

# WHITECHAPEL MARKET

TOTAL NUMBER OF PEOPLE INTERVIEWED 10  
AGE RANGE (YRS) 14 – 65

LAP 3



## HEALTH

<b>Exercise more</b>	<b>18%</b>
<b>Improve Diet</b>	<b>18%</b>
Improve environment	11%
<b>Improve information</b>	<b>18%</b>
Cheaper health activities	12%
<b>Improve health based facilities</b>	<b>18%</b>
More healthy food outlets	0%
Look after the elderly	5%

## SAFETY

<b>More police</b>	<b>28%</b>
More CCTV	18%
Improve bicycle lanes	0%
Improve built environment	18%
Combat anti social behaviour / crime	18%
Improve education	0%
More Firemen	0%
More for young people to do	9%
Improve communication within community	0%
Improve communication through media	0%
Improve housing security	9%

## ENJOY AND ACHIEVE

Education	20%
More activities for young people	0%
<b>Encouragement</b>	<b>60%</b>
More jobs	10%
Investment	0%
Listen	10%

## FIND OPPORTUNITIES

<b>Improve advertising</b>	<b>43%</b>
Improve information in schools	0%
More activities	14%
Career advice	0%
Websites	29%
Advice centre	14%

## MAKE A POSITIVE CONTRIBUTION

Improve sense of pride	20%
Get involved in the community	0%
<b>Improve Education/understanding of wider environment</b>	<b>40%</b>
Improve behaviour	0%
Encouragement	10%
More activities	30%
Listen	0%

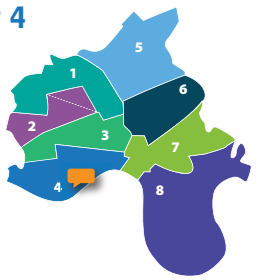
## MAKE TOWER HAMLETS A BETTER PLACE

Improve the built environment	0%
<b>Reduce Crime</b>	<b>43%</b>
Less drinking	0%
Less smoking	0%
Make it cleaner	25%
Stop bullying	0%
Improve housing	0%
More entertainment	0%
More sporting facilities	0%
More education opportunities	8%
More youth clubs	0%
Community involvement	8%
Improve parks	8%
More recycling	0%
Talk to young people	0%
More family activities	0%
Investment in schools	8%
Improve health provision	0%

# WAPPING CHILDREN'S CENTRE

TOTAL NUMBER OF PEOPLE INTERVIEWED 5  
AGE RANGE (YRS) 28 – 35

LAP 4



## HEALTH

<b>Exercise more</b>	<b>33%</b>
Improve Diet	17%
Improve environment	0%
Improve information	17%
Cheaper health activities	0%
<b>Improve health based facilities</b>	<b>33%</b>
More healthy food outlets	0%
Look after the elderly	0%

## SAFETY

<b>More police</b>	<b>45%</b>
More CCTV	0%
Improve bicycle lanes	0%
Improve built environment	33%
Combat anti social behaviour / crime	0%
Improve education	0%
More Firemen	0%
More for young people to do	22%
Improve communication within community	0%
Improve communication through media	0%
Improve housing security	0%

## ENJOY AND ACHIEVE

<b>Education</b>	<b>33%</b>
More activities for young people	16%
Encouragement	17%
More jobs	17%
Investment	0%
Listen	17%

## FIND OPPORTUNITIES

<b>Improve advertising</b>	<b>50%</b>
Improve information in schools	0%
More activities	25%
Career advice	0%
Websites	25%
Advice centre	0%

## MAKE A POSITIVE CONTRIBUTION

Improve sense of pride	0%
Get involved in the community	25%
Improve Education/understanding of wider environment	0%
Improve behaviour	0%
Encouragement	0%
<b>More activities</b>	<b>50%</b>
Listen	25%

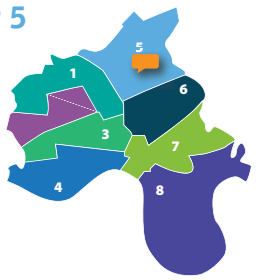
## MAKE TOWER HAMLETS A BETTER PLACE

Improve the built environment	0%
Reduce Crime	16%
Less drinking	0%
Less smoking	0%
Make it cleaner	0%
Stop bullying	0%
Improve housing	0%
More entertainment	0%
More sporting facilities	0%
More education opportunities	0%
More youth clubs	0%
<b>Community involvement</b>	<b>34%</b>
Improve parks	16%
More recycling	0%
Talk to young people	0%
More family activities	0%
Investment in schools	17%
Improve health provision	17%

# CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

TOTAL NUMBER OF PEOPLE INTERVIEWED 9  
AGE RANGE (YRS) 17 – 21

LAP 5



## HEALTH

Exercise more	12%
Improve Diet	33%
Improve environment	0%
<b>Improve information</b>	<b>55%</b>
Cheaper health activities	0%
Improve health based facilities	0%
More healthy food outlets	0%
Look after the elderly	0%

## SAFETY

<b>More police</b>	<b>30%</b>
More CCTV	0%
Improve bicycle lanes	0%
Improve built environment	0%
Combat anti social behaviour / crime	7%
Improve education	21%
More Firemen	0%
More for young people to do	21%
Improve communication within community	14%
Improve communication through media	7%
Improve housing security	0%

## ENJOY AND ACHIEVE

Education	23%
More activities for young people	0%
<b>Encouragement</b>	<b>54%</b>
More jobs	0%
Investment	0%
Listen	23%

## FIND OPPORTUNITIES

Improve advertising	27%
Improve information in schools	18%
More activities	0%
<b>Career advice</b>	<b>46%</b>
Websites	9%
Advice centre	0%

## MAKE A POSITIVE CONTRIBUTION

Improve sense of pride	0%
Get involved in the community	0%
Improve Education/understanding of wider environment	0%
Improve behaviour	0%
<b>Encouragement</b>	<b>50%</b>
More activities	40%
Listen	10%

## MAKE TOWER HAMLETS A BETTER PLACE

Improve the built environment	7%
Reduce Crime	20%
Less drinking	0%
Less smoking	0%
Make it cleaner	0%
Stop bullying	0%
Improve housing	13%
More entertainment	6%
More sporting facilities	6%
More education opportunities	7%
<b>More youth clubs</b>	<b>20%</b>
Community involvement	7%
Improve parks	0%
More recycling	0%
Talk to young people	13%
More family activities	0%
Investment in schools	0%
Improve health provision	0%

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# ROMAN ROAD MARKET

TOTAL NUMBER OF PEOPLE INTERVIEWED 8  
AGE RANGE (YRS) 10 – 60

LAP 5



## HEALTH

Exercise more	25%
<b>Improve Diet</b>	<b>38%</b>
Improve environment	0%
Improve information	0%
Cheaper health activities	0%
Improve health based facilities	0%
More healthy food outlets	37%
Look after the elderly	0%

## SAFETY

<b>More police</b>	<b>45%</b>
More CCTV	11%
Improve bicycle lanes	0%
Improve built environment	0%
Combat anti social behaviour / crime	22%
Improve education	0%
More Firemen	0%
More for young people to do	11%
Improve communication within community	11%
Improve communication through media	0%
Improve housing security	0%

## ENJOY AND ACHIEVE

Education	17%
<b>More activities for young people</b>	<b>33%</b>
<b>Encouragement</b>	<b>33%</b>
More jobs	17%
Investment	0%
Listen	0%

## FIND OPPORTUNITIES

<b>Improve advertising</b>	<b>25%</b>
<b>Improve information in schools</b>	<b>25%</b>
More activities	0%
<b>Career advice</b>	<b>25%</b>
Websites	0%
<b>Advice centre</b>	<b>25%</b>

## MAKE A POSITIVE CONTRIBUTION

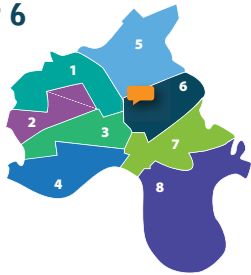
<b>Improve sense of pride</b>	<b>50%</b>
<b>Get involved in the community</b>	<b>50%</b>
Improve Education/understanding of wider environment	20%
Improve behaviour	20%
Encouragement	0%
More activities	0%
Listen	0%

## MAKE TOWER HAMLETS A BETTER PLACE

Improve the built environment	0%
<b>Reduce Crime</b>	<b>30%</b>
Less drinking	0%
Less smoking	0%
Make it cleaner	14%
Stop bullying	0%
Improve housing	14%
More entertainment	0%
More sporting facilities	0%
More education opportunities	0%
More youth clubs	0%
Community involvement	14%
Improve parks	0%
More recycling	0%
Talk to young people	14%
More family activities	14%
Investment in schools	0%
Improve health provision	0%

# BROMLEY BY BOW CHILDREN'S CENTRE

LAP 6



TOTAL NUMBER OF PEOPLE INTERVIEWED 5  
AGE RANGE (YRS) 30 – 40

## HEALTH

<b>Exercise more</b>	<b>50%</b>
<b>Improve Diet</b>	<b>50%</b>
Improve environment	0%
Improve information	0%
Cheaper health activities	0%
Improve health based facilities	0%
More healthy food outlets	0%
Look after the elderly	0%

## SAFETY

<b>More police</b>	<b>44%</b>
More CCTV	0%
Improve bicycle lanes	0%
Improve built environment	14%
Combat anti social behaviour / crime	14%
Improve education	0%
More Firemen	0%
More for young people to do	28%
Improve communication within community	0%
Improve communication through media	0%
Improve housing security	0%

## ENJOY AND ACHIEVE

Education	25%
<b>More activities for young people</b>	<b>50%</b>
Encouragement	25%
More jobs	0%
Investment	0%
Listen	0%

## FIND OPPORTUNITIES

<b>Improve advertising</b>	<b>100%</b>
Improve information in schools	0%
More activities	0%
Career advice	0%
Websites	0%
Advice centre	0%

## MAKE A POSITIVE CONTRIBUTION

Improve sense of pride	33%
<b>Get involved in the community</b>	<b>67%</b>
Improve Education/understanding of wider environment	0%
Improve behaviour	0%
Encouragement	0%
More activities	0%
Listen	0%

## MAKE TOWER HAMLETS A BETTER PLACE

Improve the built environment	0%
Reduce Crime	0%
Less drinking	0%
Less smoking	0%
Make it cleaner	0%
Stop bullying	0%
Improve housing	0%
More entertainment	0%
More sporting facilities	0%
More education opportunities	0%
More youth clubs	0%
Community involvement	0%
Improve parks	0%
More recycling	0%
Talk to young people	0%
More family activities	0%
Investment in schools	0%
Improve health provision	0%

# CRISP STREET MARKET

TOTAL NUMBER OF PEOPLE INTERVIEWED 6  
AGE RANGE (YRS) 8 – 28

LAP 7



## HEALTH

<b>Exercise more</b>	<b>50%</b>
Improve Diet	25%
Improve environment	0%
Improve information	25%
Cheaper health activities	0%
Improve health based facilities	0%
More healthy food outlets	0%
Look after the elderly	0%

## SAFETY

<b>More police</b>	<b>25%</b>
More CCTV	0%
Improve bicycle lanes	0%
<b>Improve built environment</b>	<b>25%</b>
Combat anti social behaviour / crime	0%
<b>Improve education</b>	<b>25%</b>
More Firemen	0%
More for young people to do	0%
<b>Improve communication within community</b>	<b>25%</b>
Improve communication through media	0%
Improve housing security	0%

## ENJOY AND ACHIEVE

<b>Education</b>	<b>50%</b>
More activities for young people	0%
Encouragement	25%
More jobs	25%
Investment	0%
Listen	0%

## FIND OPPORTUNITIES

Improve advertising	25%
<b>Improve information in schools</b>	<b>50%</b>
More activities	0%
Career advice	25%
Websites	0%
Advice centre	0%

## MAKE A POSITIVE CONTRIBUTION

Improve sense of pride	33%
<b>Get involved in the community</b>	<b>34%</b>
Improve Education/understanding of wider environment	0%
Improve behaviour	0%
Encouragement	33%
More activities	0%
Listen	0%

## MAKE TOWER HAMLETS A BETTER PLACE

Improve the built environment	0%
Reduce Crime	0%
Less drinking	0%
Less smoking	0%
Make it cleaner	25%
Stop bullying	0%
Improve housing	0%
More entertainment	0%
More sporting facilities	0%
More education opportunities	25%
<b>More youth clubs</b>	<b>50%</b>
Community involvement	0%
Improve parks	0%
More recycling	0%
Talk to young people	0%
More family activities	0%
Investment in schools	0%
Improve health provision	0%

# POPLAR BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB

TOTAL NUMBER OF PEOPLE INTERVIEWED 8  
AGE RANGE (YRS) 11 – 15

LAP 7



## HEALTH

Exercise more	28%
Improve Diet	28%
Improve environment	0%
<b>Improve information</b>	<b>44%</b>
Cheaper health activities	0%
Improve health based facilities	0%
More healthy food outlets	0%
Look after the elderly	0%

## SAFETY

<b>More police</b>	<b>34%</b>
More CCTV	11%
Improve bicycle lanes	0%
Improve built environment	22%
Combat anti social behaviour / crime	11%
Improve education	0%
More Firemen	0%
More for young people to do	22%
Improve communication within community	0%
Improve communication through media	0%
Improve housing security	0%

## ENJOY AND ACHIEVE

<b>Education</b>	<b>43%</b>
<b>More activities for young people</b>	<b>43%</b>
Encouragement	14%
More jobs	0%
Investment	0%
Listen	0%

## FIND OPPORTUNITIES

<b>Improve advertising</b>	<b>50%</b>
Improve information in schools	0%
<b>More activities</b>	<b>50%</b>
Career advice	0%
Websites	0%
Advice centre	0%

## MAKE A POSITIVE CONTRIBUTION

Improve sense of pride	0%
Get involved in the community	0%
Improve Education/understanding of wider environment	0%
<b>Improve behaviour</b>	<b>75%</b>
Encouragement	25%
More activities	0%
Listen	0%

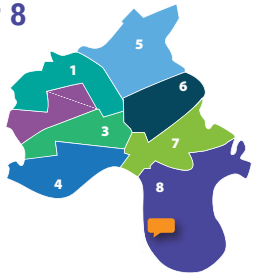
## MAKE TOWER HAMLETS A BETTER PLACE

Improve the built environment	8%
<b>Reduce Crime</b>	<b>34%</b>
Less drinking	0%
Less smoking	0%
Make it cleaner	0%
Stop bullying	0%
Improve housing	8%
More entertainment	8%
<b>More sporting facilities</b>	<b>34%</b>
More education opportunities	8%
More youth clubs	0%
Community involvement	0%
Improve parks	0%
More recycling	0%
Talk to young people	0%
More family activities	0%
Investment in schools	0%
Improve health provision	0%

# ARNHAM WHARF PRIMARY SCHOOL

TOTAL NUMBER OF PEOPLE INTERVIEWED 8  
AGE RANGE (YRS) 9 – 11

LAP 8



## HEALTH

Exercise more	22%
<b>Improve Diet</b>	<b>45%</b>
Improve environment	33%
Improve information	0%
Cheaper health activities	0%
Improve health based facilities	0%
More healthy food outlets	0%
Look after the elderly	0%

## SAFETY

More police	0%
More CCTV	11%
Improve bicycle lanes	11%
<b>Improve built environment</b>	<b>45%</b>
Combat anti social behaviour / crime	11%
Improve education	11%
More Firemen	11%
More for young people to do	0%
Improve communication within community	0%
Improve communication through media	0%
Improve housing security	0%

## ENJOY AND ACHIEVE

<b>Education</b>	<b>100%</b>
More activities for young people	0%
Encouragement	0%
More jobs	0%
Investment	0%
Listen	0%

## FIND OPPORTUNITIES

Improve advertising	34%
<b>Improve information in schools</b>	<b>50%</b>
More activities	16%
Career advice	0%
Websites	0%
Advice centre	0%

## MAKE A POSITIVE CONTRIBUTION

Improve sense of pride	20%
<b>Get involved in the community</b>	<b>40%</b>
Improve Education/understanding of wider environment	20%
Improve behaviour	20%
Encouragement	0%
More activities	0%
Listen	0%

## MAKE TOWER HAMLETS A BETTER PLACE

Improve the built environment	11%
<b>Reduce Crime</b>	<b>34%</b>
Less drinking	11%
Less smoking	11%
Make it cleaner	11%
Stop bullying	11%
Improve housing	11%
More entertainment	0%
More sporting facilities	0%
More education opportunities	0%
More youth clubs	0%
Community involvement	0%
Improve parks	0%
More recycling	0%
Talk to young people	0%
More family activities	0%
Investment in schools	0%
Improve health provision	0%

# 08: FOR MORE INFORMATION

For more information, or to download a full copy of the Children and Young People's Plan, please visit:

**LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS**

**COUNCIL MEETING**

**WEDNESDAY 22<sup>nd</sup> APRIL 2009**

**PROGRAMME OF MEETINGS 2009/10**

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

**1. Summary**

- 1.1 This report requests the Council to agree the programme of Council, Committee and other meetings for the forthcoming municipal year.

**2. Recommendation**

- 2.1 The Council is **recommended** to approve the proposed programme of meetings for the municipal year 2009/10 as set out in the appendix to the report.

**3. Background**

- 3.1 Attached as an appendix to this report is the draft programme of meetings for the Council, Cabinet, main committees and panels for the municipal year 2009/10.
- 3.2 The draft programme broadly follows the pattern established in previous years in terms of frequency of meetings, start times and meeting days for the various committees, adapted to address any issues that have arisen during the year and taking into account officer advice on service requirements.
- 3.3 Key points to note in relation to 2009/10 include:-
- Council Meetings have been scheduled taking into account the timetable for Budget and Policy Framework items. There is no longer a requirement to produce a Best Value Performance Plan before 30<sup>th</sup> June so the early summer Council meeting has been moved back to 15<sup>th</sup> July (the last full week of the school term) to reduce the gap to the October meeting and achieve a more even distribution of meetings through the year.
  - The Budget Council Meeting is programmed for 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2010. As in the current year, an additional Council Meeting is scheduled (in late January) to conduct 'ordinary' business.

- As far as possible meetings are avoided during the school summer holidays and the major political party conferences.
- Ramadan falls from approximately 22<sup>nd</sup> August to 21<sup>st</sup> September 2009. Meetings during Ramadan are minimised and where they are necessary a 5.30 p.m. start time is proposed to enable them to end before Iftar.
- The notice of election for the 2010 Borough Elections will be published on 29<sup>th</sup> March. No full Council meeting has been scheduled after this date and other meetings are kept to a minimum.
- Appeals Committee is now programmed to meet on a monthly basis, but reflecting the continuing high number of hearings, the Licensing Sub-Committee has been scheduled fortnightly and meetings are split between Tuesdays and Thursdays to address Member availability. This Sub-Committee, along with the Development and Strategic Development Committees, will continue to meet during August to avoid delay to the regulatory work of the authority.
- The Pensions Committee has agreed that Investment Panel meetings will be held immediately before the Committee to facilitate Member attendance.

#### **4. Observations of the Chief Financial Officer**

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

#### **5. Concurrent Report of the Assistant Chief Executive (Legal)**

5.1 There are no specific legal implications arising out of this report.

#### **6. Implications for One Tower Hamlets**

6.1 Whilst drawing up this schedule of meetings, consideration has been given where possible to avoiding school holidays, known religious holidays and other important dates.

#### **7. Anti-Poverty Implications**

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

#### **8. Risk Management Implications**

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

#### **9. Strategic Action for a Greener Environment**

9.1 No implications arising from this report.

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#### **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.	



# APPENDIX A - DRAFT PROGRAMME OF MEETINGS FOR THE 2009/2010 MUNICIPAL YEAR

	USUAL MEETING DAY	MAY '09	JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY
COUNCIL	WEDNESDAY (7.30pm)	20 (Annual meeting)		15			14		9	27		3 (Budget), 24		26 (Annual meeting)
CABINET	WEDNESDAY (5.30 pm)	6	10	1, 29		2	7	4	2	13	10	10	7	
OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	TUESDAY (7.00pm)	5	9, 30	28		1 (5.30 pm)	6	3	1	12	9	9	6	
HEALTH SCRUTINY PANEL	TUESDAY (6.30pm)		16	21			20			26		23		
STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE	THURSDAY (7.30pm)	14	25	30		24		5	17	28		11	22	
DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE	WEDNESDAY (7.30pm)		3	8	5	2 (5.30 pm), 30	28	25		6	4 (Thur)	3, 31	28	
LICENSING COMMITTEE	TUESDAY (7.30pm)		2			29			15			23		
LICENSING SUB COMMITTEE	TUESDAY OR THURSDAY (6.30pm)	14	16	2, 14, 30	11, 27	8, 24	8, 20	5, 17	1, 17	14, 26	11, 23	11, 25	6, 22	

	USUAL MEETING DAY	MAY '09	JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY
STANDARDS COMMITTEE	TUESDAY (7.30pm)			14			20			19			13	
APPEALS COMMITTEE	MONDAY (7.00pm)	11	1	6	3	7 (5.30 pm)	5	2	7	11	8	8	12	
GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE	WEDNESDAY (7.30pm)		17			30			16			16 (Tues)		
AUDIT COMMITTEE	TUESDAY (7.30pm)		29 (Mon)			29			15			30		
HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE	WEDNESDAY (6.30pm)	13		22			21			20		17		
PENSIONS COMMITTEE	THURSDAY (7.30pm)		11		13			19			17 (Wed)			
INVESTMENT PANEL	THURSDAY (5.30pm)		11		13			19			17 (Wed)			
GRANTS PANEL	THURSDAY (6.30pm)		11				15					18, 25		

**NOTES:**

- BUDGET & COUNCIL TAX SETTING: Statutory deadline 11<sup>th</sup> March. Date of meeting set to enable receipt of GLA precept information.
- ELECTIONS: European Parliament: Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> June 2009  
Borough elections: Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> May 2010 (Notice of election: 29<sup>th</sup> March 2010)
- EASTER 2010: Good Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2010, Easter Monday 5<sup>th</sup> April 2010.
- RAMADAN provisional dates: 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2009 to 21<sup>st</sup> September 2009
- EID-UL-ADHA provisional date: 27<sup>th</sup> November 2009, ASHURA: 27<sup>th</sup> December 2009

## LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

### COUNCIL MEETING

WEDNESDAY 22<sup>nd</sup> APRIL 2009

### REVIEW OF THE CONSTITUTION

### REPORT OF THE ASSISTANT CHIEF EXECUTIVE

#### 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Council's Constitution is a working tool and is reviewed annually to ensure it is up to date in terms of legislation and to maintain best practice in efficient and accountable decision making, scrutiny and ethical standards.
- 1.2 During the past year officers have continued to monitor the operation of the Constitution and researched good practice elsewhere. Some proposed amendments have been identified as a result of this work. The respective political groups have also suggested issues which have been considered, along with the officer proposals, by the cross-party Constitution Working Party at its meetings in February and March 2009. This report sets out the recommendations of the Working Party for amendments to Tower Hamlets' Constitution to take effect from the forthcoming Annual Council Meeting.
- 1.3 Following relatively major reviews in 2006/07 and 2007/08, the current proposals focus on refining the existing provisions and updating, correcting and clarifying aspects of the Constitution where necessary. However, there are a number of proposals that the Council will wish to give particular consideration to and these are identified in the following paragraphs.

#### 2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That amendments be agreed to the Council's Constitution, including the Scheme of Members' Allowances, as set out in the schedule at Appendix A to this report, to take effect from the Annual Council Meeting on 20 May 2009.
- 2.2 That the Assistant Chief Executive (Legal Services) be authorised to make detailed drafting changes to the Constitution as necessary to put into effect the agreed amendments.

#### 3. PROPOSALS

- 3.1 The schedule at Appendix A sets out in full the amendments proposed by the Constitution Working Party and in each case the part of the Constitution affected, the rationale behind the proposal and any further relevant information. The proposals are listed in the order in which they occur in the Constitution, not

in order of importance. A number of the more significant issues for consideration by the Council are set out below with additional detail where required:-

### **Pensions Committee**

- 3.2 The Government has issued guidance on the governance arrangements for Local Authority pension funds. Councils are required to report on the extent of compliance with best practice and to justify non-compliance. There are four basic principles against which practice is judged as follows:-
1. The management of the administration of benefits and strategic management of fund assets clearly rests with the main committee established by the appointing council;
  2. That representatives of participating LGPS employers, admitted bodies (other employers who have chosen to join the scheme) and scheme members (including pensioner and deferred members) are members of either the main committee or a secondary committee established to underpin its work;
  3. That where a secondary committee or panel has been established, the structure ensures effective communication across both levels; and
  4. That where a secondary committee or panel has been established, at least one seat on the main committee is allocated for a member from the secondary committee or panel.
- 3.3 The Council's current arrangements, under which the Pensions Committee is supported by the Investment Panel (an advisory body including the members of the Pensions Committee, an independent professional Chair, independent financial adviser and two trade union observers) comply with the above principles, except in relation to the participation of non Councillors on the Committee and the status of trade union observers on the Investment Panel.
- 3.4 The Working Party therefore recommends that the status of the two union representatives on the Investment Panel be changed from observer to member; that one admitted body be offered membership of the Investment Panel; and that one admitted body and one trade union representative be invited to join the Pensions Committee, initially on a non-voting basis.
- 3.5 The Working Party further proposes that consideration be given to increasing the membership of the Pensions Committee from 7 to 9 Councillors to ensure that the proportionality arrangements are not distorted; and that, notwithstanding the changes to the Investment Panel to reflect its technical advisory role, all members of the Pensions Committee should continue to be invited to attend its meetings.

### **Audit Committee**

- 3.6 The Audit Commission accords great importance to local authorities having effective and efficient audit arrangements at Member level and the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) has issued best practice guidance in this regard.

- 3.7 The Commission advises that there should be an Audit Committee independent of the executive function, with terms of reference consistent with CIPFA's guidance. The Committee should provide effective challenge across the council and independent assurance on the risk management framework and associated internal control environment to members and the public, and should be able to demonstrate the impact of its work.
- 3.8 The Council has established a cross-party, non-executive Audit Committee that is able to discharge these functions. The Working Party now recommends that in line with the CIPFA guidance, the Committee should not be chaired by an Executive Member. The Working Party considered further guidance that the Audit Committee should also be chaired independently of Overview and Scrutiny but felt that no such stipulation should be included in the Constitution.

### **The Council Meeting**

- 3.9 The arrangements for Ordinary Council Meetings were reviewed in 2007/08 and in general have worked well. The current review makes a number of new proposals for adjustments to the procedure rules including:

- **Members' Questions** – The Working Party felt that the order of Members' Questions on the Council agenda, and the distribution of questions actually asked at the meeting, should better reflect the proportionality of the Council and enable more effective questioning. It is therefore proposed that the Mayor should take questions alternately from the administration and opposition sides of the chamber, with the 'opposition' slots drawn in turn from the minority groups, starting with the largest opposition group.

In addition in order to make efficient use of the time available and increase the number of questions taken at the meeting, a time limit of one minute each should be applied to verbal questions, supplementary questions and responses. The overall time limit for Members' Questions should remain at 30 minutes, with Mayor's discretion to vary the order where necessary to ensure that each political group has the opportunity to put at least one question within that time.

- **Motions** – The Working Party was concerned that proper notice of motions should be given wherever possible and therefore recommended that the mover of an 'urgent' motion should be required to specify the reason for urgency. In addition to promote effective debate and the fair allocation of speeches, guidance should be drafted to assist the Mayor in determining the order of speakers, including provision where appropriate to alternate speakers for and against and to take into account ward councillors' concerns and any nominations made by a political group.
- **Petitions and deputations** – The Constitution currently provides for a maximum of three petitions and three deputations at any meeting. The arrangements for presenting these items are very similar but a petition may be about any matter that affects the borough, whereas a deputation must relate to something on the agenda for decision at that particular meeting.

On occasion there are more than three requests for petitions, with the result that one or more have to be refused, despite the fact that there may be 'vacant' deputation slots at the same meeting. It is therefore recommended that in these circumstances there should be provision for more than three petitions or more than three deputations to be heard, up to a maximum of six items in total.

The Working Party also proposes that for the efficient conduct of business, the time limits for these items should be amended to three minutes to present the petition/deputation (currently five), a further three minutes for questions from Members (currently five) and finally three minutes for the Lead Member's response. To enhance transparency the written responses to petitions and deputations made by Corporate Directors after the meeting should be published, either in the minutes or otherwise.

### **Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules**

- 3.10 The 'Councillor Call for Action' (CCfA) provisions in the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 are operational from 1 April 2009. Work continues to develop the detail of how CCfA will operate at Tower Hamlets alongside other elements of the empowerment agenda in the 'Communities in Control' White Paper. In the meantime, minor amendments are required formally to incorporate CCfA into the existing Overview and Scrutiny rules.

### **Contracts Procedure Rules**

- 3.11 Part 4.7 of the Constitution will need to be updated to reflect agreed changes to the procurement procedures that reflect best practice, clarify the rules and financial limits for approving contracts and require all departments to keep a register of contracts.

## **4. MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES**

- 4.1 Part 6 of the Constitution contains the Members' Allowances Scheme which provides for a basic allowance paid to all members, Special Responsibility Allowances (SRAs) for specified member roles, a child/dependent carer's allowance and an attendance allowance for voting co-opted members of the Standards and Overview & Scrutiny Committees. The Council meeting on 4 March 2009 adopted the Members' Allowances Scheme for 2009/10.
- 4.2 Further to cross-party discussions at the Constitution Working Party, a number of changes are now recommended to the Scheme as set out below. In considering changes to the Scheme, the Council must have regard to (but is not obliged to adopt) the recommendations of an Independent Remuneration Panel. Tower Hamlets and many other London boroughs use the Independent Panel established by London Councils which reported most recently in December 2006. For each of the proposals below, information is included on the Panel's recommendations and on practice at other authorities where known.

### **Committee Chairs – Special Responsibility Allowances (SRAs)**

- 4.3 The Working Party has reviewed the SRAs paid for a range of committee chair posts with the aim of ensuring that the allowances reflect the varying demands and responsibilities of the roles and to address anomalies between posts.
- 4.4 In relation to the Chair of **Development/Strategic Development Committee** the Working Party felt the demands of this role were onerous when compared to some other non-executive roles, and recommended that the SRA payable should be increased from the standard committee chair rate (£8,291) to the same as the Chair of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee (£11,162) (NB: all sums quoted are those payable from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2008 following the recent settlement of the local government pay claim with effect from that date).
- 4.5 Currently the Chairs of the Audit, Human Resources and Pensions Committees do not receive SRAs. The Working Party felt that this anomaly was not justified, particularly given the growing importance of these roles.
- 4.6 The **Audit Committee** was established in 2007 as a cross-party committee in accordance with Audit Commission best practice guidance, and has a key and developing role to ensure the Council's audit controls and assurance. The Chair of the **Human Resources Committee** is involved in the development of key Council policies in this area and may be nominated by the Leader to serve as a member or observer on each of the Appointment Sub-Committees to appoint to the most senior posts in the organisation. The remit, membership and growing profile of the **Pensions Committee** is the subject of separate recommendations in this report. The Chair will play a key role in implementing these and at the meetings of the revised Investment Panel.
- 4.7 The Working Party therefore considers that the Chair of each of these committees should receive an SRA and this should be set in the first instance at a slightly lower rate (£6,069) than that payable to the Chairs of other established non-executive committees.
- 4.8 Officer research shows that the SRAs paid to committee chairs vary widely between authorities. For example the post of Chair of Planning attracts SRAs ranging from £3,142 to £18,178 while the allowance payable to the Chair of Overview & Scrutiny varies from £4,603 to £32,146. Tower Hamlets' rates therefore continue to be in the median range. The most recent report of the Independent Panel on the Remuneration of Councillors in London (2006) recommends that a Chair of a main committee should attract a 'Band Two' SRA of between 40% and 60% of the Panel's recommended remuneration for a Council Leader (which this authority has not adopted) or £14,418 to £26,609. The Working Party's proposals would keep Tower Hamlets' allowances well below these recommended levels.

### **Opposition group leaders**

- 4.9 Currently the Scheme provides an SRA of £7,521 to be paid to the Leader of a group with more than 6 Councillors; and an SRA of £4,069 to the Leader of a

- group with up to 6 Councillors (subject to that group having at least 10% of the Council).
- 4.10 In almost all boroughs an allowance is paid to the Leader of each political group although the amounts vary according to local circumstances. The Independent Panel recommended a 'Band Two' SRA of up to £26,609 for the Leader of a principal opposition group and a 'Band One' allowance of up to £8,323 for the Leader of a second or smaller opposition group.
- 4.11 Tower Hamlets' allowances are generally lower than those proposed by the Panel and it is not recommended that these figures be adopted. However the Working Party did consider that the SRAs should reflect more adequately the demands of the roles and their importance in promoting effective debate and representation. It is therefore recommended that the SRA for the Leader of a larger opposition group (>6 Councillors) should increase to the same level as the Chair of Overview & Scrutiny (£11,162) and that for the Leader of a smaller opposition group (up to 6 Councillors, subject to the 10% threshold) to the same as a committee chair (lower band, i.e. £6,069).

#### **Representatives on outside bodies**

- 4.12 The Working Party looked at the range of roles that Members may be required to carry out and considered whether there was a need for any additional SRAs in respect of priority areas not adequately covered currently or for the Council nominee(s) to any outside bodies.
- 4.13 In relation to the Lee Valley Regional Park Authority, the Working Party felt that in view of the onerous nature of the role and the importance of that authority's work, particularly in terms of the Olympics planning and legacy, an SRA (at the lowest level of payment in the current scheme, i.e. £4,145) should be paid to the Council's representative on the Authority.
- 4.14 The Independent Panel recommends that authorities should consider paying a 'Band Two' SRA (between £14,418 and £26,609) to the Council's representative on a key outside body. As previously stated, Tower Hamlets' has consistently adopted allowances that are lower than those recommended by the Panel and this is continued in the current proposal.

#### **Olympics Ambassador**

- 4.15 The Working Party also considered whether there was a need to strengthen the support available to Lead Members in relation to any priority policy area(s). The successful delivery of the Olympic and Paralympic Games 2012, including the achievement of the maximum legacy benefits from the games, is crucial to the prosperity and quality of life for the borough in the coming years. This area of work cuts across a number of Cabinet portfolios and it is proposed that a Member should be identified to work closely with the relevant Cabinet Members and to act as an Olympics Ambassador for the borough in the run-up to 2012. This post would not itself be a member of the Executive and it is proposed that an SRA should be paid equivalent to a committee chair (lower band, i.e. £6,069).



- 4.16 A number of other boroughs appoint Councillors to support one or more Cabinet Members in key areas of their portfolios. Post titles such as Executive or Cabinet Assistants, Junior Cabinet Members or Deputies are used and SRAs vary from £2,000 to £10,522 p.a.. The Independent Panel in 2006 recommended that a 'Cabinet Assistant' post should attract a 'Band 1' SRA of up to £8,323.

### **SRAs – general**

- 4.17 The Independent Panel does recommend that the number of Councillors receiving an SRA should not exceed 50% of the total. The current proposals would bring to 30 the total number of posts attracting an SRA and therefore if each of these posts was filled by a different Councillor the figure for Tower Hamlets would be 58.8%.
- 4.18 The 50% figure is not a statutory limit but a recommendation from the Independent Panel and the Council is not bound by it. Officer research has found that at least one-third of London Boroughs now exceed the recommended figure. The Council will wish to consider the Panel's recommendations in the context of the need to ensure adequate Member capacity for the areas of work identified. Members will note that no Councillor may receive more than one SRA so it is possible that even with the proposed changes, the number of Members receiving such an allowance could remain at 50%, for example if one or more Councillors were to be appointed to two positions.

## **5. MATTERS FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION**

- 5.1 A number of other issues were discussed by the Working Party but are not the subject of proposals now as further work is still required. These include:
- **Legislative developments** and the wider empowerment agenda set out in the Local Government & Public Involvement in Health Act 2007, the White Paper 'Communities in Control' and associated legislation. The Working Party noted that further proposals would come forward in due course following Government guidance, including clarification of Members' rights to propose issues for scrutiny, changes to Executive Arrangements and a range of other measures.
  - **Development Procedure Rules** – these procedures are under review to reflect best practice in the consideration of planning proposals and Member and public involvement in the process. One minor amendment is proposed at this stage as in the attached schedule and the procedures will be subject to consideration by the Development Committee before further proposals are brought forward.
  - **Codes of Conduct** – last year the Government consulted on proposals to revise the model code of conduct for local authority members and introduce a model code for employees. In due course the Council will consider the Government's further proposals in this regard.

**6. COMMENTS OF THE CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER**

- 6.1 This report proposes amendments to the Constitution as detailed in the appendix. The total cost of introducing four new Special Responsibility Allowances and increasing certain others is estimated at £36,933 p.a. This represents an increase in the total cost of the Members' Allowances Scheme. In the current year this can be accommodated within the existing total budget for Members' Allowances and Members' Pension contributions.

**7. CONCURRENT REPORT OF THE ASSISTANT CHIEF EXECUTIVE (LEGAL SERVICES)**

- 7.1 The comments of the Assistant Chief Executive (Legal Services) have been incorporated into the body of this report.

**CONSTITUTION WORKING PARTY FEBRUARY/MARCH 2009: RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE COUNCIL**

**SCHEDULE OF PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION**

<b>Subject</b>	<b>Constitution part/page</b>	<b>Proposed change</b>	<b>Rationale/comments</b>
<b>Standards Committee</b>	(Article 9, page 26 and Part 5.1, page 192.)	Minor changes to Article 9 and the preamble to the Members' Code of Conduct, regarding complaints about Member conduct.  Update to clarify the number of Councillors on the Committee – i.e. 2 Majority Group and 1 from each of the other Groups (currently 5 Councillors)	To reflect the new arrangements for local assessment of complaints.  Clarification following changes to political composition.
<b>Local Strategic Partnership and LAPs</b>	(Article 10, pages 29 and 30)	Update Community Plan themes (10.01) and amend Partnership composition and functions (10.02)	To reflect revised themes and new Partnership governance arrangements
<b>Delegations to Chief Officers</b>	(Part 3, pages 42 to 102)	Update to Corporate Directors' management delegations at part 3.8 and corrections as required to statutory delegations for officers in Part 3.	Correction/update as identified by Assistant Chief Executive (Legal Services).
<b>Local Area Agreement (LAA)</b>	(Part 3.2.2, page 75)	To allocate functions in respect of LAAs at sections 106, 110, 111 & 113 of Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 to the Executive.	To enable Cabinet to sign off the Local Area Agreement <b>NB agreed by Council 4<sup>th</sup> March 2009</b>
<b>Filling of positions on committees, panels, outside bodies etc</b>	(Part 3.3.6, page 82)	Delegation to the Asst. Chief Executive to make or amend an appointment to a position on a committee, panel or outside body in accordance with the nomination by a political group, where the position has previously been allocated by the Council to that group.  That a nomination received by the Assistant Chief Executive in accordance with the above provision after 5.00 p.m. on any day will take effect no earlier than 9.00 a.m. on the next working day.	Clarification (wording currently refers to 'casual vacancy') and to avoid Extraordinary Council or GP Committee meetings.  Clarification and to avoid confusion out of office hours.

Subject	Constitution part/page	Proposed change	Rationale/comments
<b>Pensions Committee</b>	(Part 3.3.10, page 85)	<p>To review the membership and other arrangements for the Pensions Committee and Investment Panel:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• That the status of the two union representatives on the Investment Panel be changed from observer to member.</li> <li>• That one of the Admitted Bodies be offered membership of the Investment Panel</li> <li>• That one Admitted Body and one Trade Union representative be invited to join the Pensions Committee on a non-voting basis initially</li> <li>• That consideration be given to increasing the Councillor membership of the Pensions Committee from 7 to 9 Councillors to ensure that the proportionality arrangements are not distorted; and</li> <li>• That the composition of the Investment Panel be revised to reflect its technical advisory role but that all members of the Pensions Committee should continue to be invited to attend the Investment Panel, not just the Chair or nominee (although there should be an expectation that the Chair/Vice-Chair would attend).</li> </ul>	Pursuant to statutory guidance, November 2008.
<b>Audit Committee</b>	(Part 3.3.11, page 86)	That the Audit Committee should not be chaired by an Executive Member.	<p>Pursuant to CIPFA best practice guidance.</p> <p>Note: The Working Party considered further guidance that the Audit Committee should also be chaired independently of Overview and Scrutiny but felt that no such stipulation should be included in the Constitution.</p>
<b>King George's Field Charity Board</b>	(Part 3.3.12, page 87)	No recommendation	The Working Party noted that further consideration of the constitutional position and governance arrangements will take place at the King George's Field Charity Board meeting in April 2009.

Subject	Constitution part/page	Proposed change	Rationale/comments
<b>Appointment of Members to Committees etc</b>	(Part 4.1, page 105)	No recommendation	The Working Party noted the advice of the Assistant Chief Executive (Legal Services) that there is no provision to override the proportionality regulations, even where committee places remain vacant for an extended period or a political group does not take up its allocated positions. Those positions therefore cannot be withdrawn or allocated to another group to enable the effective conduct of business.
<b>Number and programme of Council Meetings</b>	(Part 4.1, page 105)	No recommendation for change to the Constitution. Draft calendar of meetings 2009/10 endorsed.	The Working Party noted (i) that in 2010/11 and future years there would be a period in September, after the end of Ramadan and the school holidays and before the party conference season, during which a Council Meeting could be scheduled; and (ii) that the overall number of Council meetings could be considered further in future reviews.
<b>Ordinary Council Meeting agenda</b>	(Part 4.1, page 106)	Add 'if any' at end of rule 2.1.10; and remove 'and' at end of 2.1.11	Clarification and correction of typographical error.
<b>Budget Council Meeting</b>	(Part 4.1, page 106)	<p>Tidying-up amendments to Budget Council Procedure Rules:-</p> <p>(1) Para 2A.7 Add at start '<i>Once the proposals of the Executive have been moved and seconded the Leaders of each of the other political groups ....</i>' (then as existing)</p> <p>(2) Para 2A.10 – Third sentence to be amended to read '<i>Subject to Rules 2A.11 and 2A.12 below, a Member may speak only once during the debate and in the course of his/her speech may address the proposals of the Executive and/or any amendment(s) that may be moved.</i>' (NB typo currently in third line 'of'.)</p>	Clarification following application of the new rules at the Budget Meetings 2008 and 2009.

Subject	Constitution part/page	Proposed change	Rationale/comments
		(3) Para 2A.13 First sentence to be corrected as follows:- 'The Council will then vote on any amendments that have <i>been</i> moved and <i>seconded</i> and not withdrawn, in the order in which they were moved.'	
<b>Council Meeting – Members Questions</b>	(Part 4.1, page 114)	<p>That Members' Questions should be taken alternately from the administration and opposition sides, with the 'opposition' slots drawn in turn from the minority groups, starting with the largest opposition group.</p> <p>That a time limit of 1 minute be applied to initial and supplementary questions and responses.</p> <p>That the overall time limit for Members' Questions remain at 30 minutes, subject to at least one member of each political group having the opportunity to put a question, and that the Mayor has discretion to vary the order above to ensure this is the case.</p>	<p>So that distribution of questions put at the meeting reflects more accurately the proportionality of the Council and to enable more effective questioning.</p> <p>Efficient use of time/to increase the number of questions taken at the meeting.</p> <p>Note: The Working Party considered a further suggestion that there should be a separate provision for written questions where only a written answer is required but did not recommend that this be adopted.</p>
<b>Council Meeting – Motions</b>	(Part 4.1, page 116)	<p>That the mover of an 'urgent' motion should be required to specify the reason for urgency.</p> <p>That guidance be drafted to assist the Mayor in determining the order of speakers, including provision where appropriate to alternate speakers for and against, and taking into account ward Councillors' interests and any nominations made by a political group.</p>	<p>To ensure proper notice is given wherever possible and urgency provision is not misused.</p> <p>To assist in fair allocation of speeches and effective debate.</p>

Subject	Constitution part/page	Proposed change	Rationale/comments
<b>Council Meeting – Order of Business</b>	(Part 4.1, page 117)	No recommendation	Note: A proposal to restrict the use of procedural motions to change the order of business under CPR 14.1.3, e.g. by requiring more than a simple majority vote, was not supported by the Working Party.
<b>Council Meeting – Petitions and Deputations</b>	(Part 4.1, pages 123 to 126)	<p>That the written responses to petitions and deputations made by Corporate Directors after the meeting be published, either in the minutes or otherwise.</p> <p>That there be provision for more than 3 petitions or 3 deputations to be heard, up to a maximum of 6 petitions/deputation in total.</p> <p>That the time limits for consideration of petitions and deputations be amended to allow a maximum of 3 minutes to present the petition/deputation, a further 3 minutes for questions from Members and finally 3 minutes for the Lead Member's response.</p>	<p>To enhance transparency</p> <p>To increase flexibility and enable more public participation.</p> <p>More efficient conduct of the meeting.</p> <p>Note (1): In relation to questions from Members to the petitioners/deputation, the Working Party noted that the Mayor may invite a number of questions together in order to enable more to be dealt with, although it was important that this should not overload or confuse the respondent.</p> <p>Note (2): The Working Party also considered whether deputations should continue to be allowed on matters that appear on the agenda for the meeting only in a motion submitted by a Councillor. After discussion the Working Party agreed that there was not currently a need to change the rules in this regard.</p>

Subject	Constitution part/page	Proposed change	Rationale/comments
<b>Overview &amp; Scrutiny Procedure Rules</b>	(Part 4.5, pages 159 and 162)	Minor amendments including (1) an addendum to paragraph (i) of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee's terms of reference to refer to the scrutiny provisions of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 Act; and (2) a note under the 'work programme' section of the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules referring to the right of a Councillor to place items on the agenda and the Committee's duty to give reasons if the item is not pursued.	To enable the introduction of the 'Councillor Call for Action' provisions from 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2009  The Working Party noted that the detailed procedures relating to how the Councillor Call for Action would operate at Tower Hamlets would be subject to further discussion and development in due course.
<b>Contracts Procedure Rules</b>	(Part 4.7, page 173)	Paragraphs 2, 3, 5 and 8 - change references to "Procurement Manual" to "Procurement Procedures"  Paragraph 7 - change to: "The contracting strategy and/or award of any contract for goods or services with an estimated value exceeding £250,000, and any contract for capital works with an estimated value exceeding £5,000,000, shall be approved by the Cabinet in accordance with the Procurement Procedures. Contracts for goods or services with an estimated value of less than £250,000 and contracts for capital works with an estimated value of less than £5,000,000 shall be approved by the relevant Chief Officer, in accordance with the Procurement Procedures."  Paragraph 9 – delete and replace with “ ..... Chief Officers must ensure a register of contracts is kept within the Department for all contracts.”	To reflect agreed changes to the Procedure Procedures proposed by Head of Procurement.
<b>Development Committee</b>	(Part 4.8, page 175 & Part 5.2, page 205)	Amendment to clarify that where more than three Members register to speak on an application and the agenda is lengthy, the Chair may exercise discretion to	The Working Party noted that the Development Procedure Rules will be further reviewed in due course and the Constitution updated accordingly.



Subject	Constitution part/page	Proposed change	Rationale/comments
		limit the number of speakers or the time for each speaker; and to give preference to ward Members.	
<b>Training for Councillors</b>	(Parts 5.2 and 5.3, pages 218 & 223)	Amendment to clarify that training for Members of regulatory committees must be undertaken annually but that only a refresher session is required if a Member is re-appointed.	Clarification
<b>Member/Officer Protocol</b>	(Part 5.4, pages 244 and 248)	Update information on 'Requests by Members - Procedures' and 'Members' Services and Members' Enquiries'  Update information on 'Use of Council Resources' to include guidance on Members providing references.	For consistency with Members' Enquiries best practice guide  To incorporate the guidance to be issued by the Standards Committee.
<b>Members' Allowances</b>	(Part 6, page 268)	That the Deputy Mayor's Allowance be increased to £4,145 p.a.* , payable from 21 <sup>st</sup> May 2008.  That the SRA payable to the Chair of Development/Strategic Development Committee be increased to the same level as the Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Committee (currently £11,162*)  That an SRA of £6,069* be paid to the Chairs of the Audit Committee, Human Resources Committee and Pensions Committee.  That the SRAs payable to opposition group leaders be increased as follows:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Leader of a group with more than 6 Councillors - increase to the same level as the Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Committee (currently £11,162*);</li> <li>• Leader of a group with up to 6 councillors (subject</li> </ul>	Pursuant to revisions made last year to the Mayor's Allowance. <b>NB agreed by Council 4<sup>th</sup> March 2009</b>  To reflect the demands and responsibilities of the role  To address the anomaly of those positions not currently attracting an allowance and to reflect the responsibility of the posts and the growing role of the committees.  To reflect more adequately the importance and demands of the roles

Subject	Constitution part/page	Proposed change	Rationale/comments
		<p>to having at least 10% of the Council) - increase to the same level as a committee chair (lower band) i.e. £6,069*</p> <p>That an SRA of £4,145* be payable to the Council's representative on the Lee Valley Regional Park Authority.</p> <p>That a post of 'Olympics Ambassador' be established, with an SRA equivalent to a committee chair (lower band) of £6,069* p.a..</p> <p>(NB * all sums quoted have been adjusted to reflect the Local Government pay settlement with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2008, which has now been finalised.)</p>	<p>In view of the onerous nature of the appointment and the importance of the organisation's work, particularly in terms of the Olympics planning and legacy.</p> <p>To provide support and capacity to Lead Members on the preparations for the Olympics and to contribute to the work of the five borough joint committee, reflecting the importance of this area of work.</p>
<b>General</b>	(Throughout)	Update titles of Cabinet Portfolios (inc Article 7.05), Committees, departments (inc Part 7) and management posts (inc Article 12) as necessary.	To reflect the current titles and structures.
<b>Legislative developments/ Community empowerment</b>	(To be confirmed)	<p>In relation to the Councillor Call for Action provisions, see 'Overview &amp; Scrutiny Procedure Rules' above.</p> <p>No further specific recommendations at this stage</p>	<p>In relation to the wider empowerment agenda, as set out in the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007, the White Paper 'Communities in Control' and associated legislation, the Working Party noted that further proposals would come forward in due course following Government guidance, including further changes to the Scrutiny Procedure Rules to clarify Members' rights to propose issues for scrutiny and a range of other measures.</p>

**LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS**

**COUNCIL MEETING**

**WEDNESDAY 22<sup>nd</sup> APRIL 2009**

**MOTIONS SUBMITTED BY  
MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL**

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 11**

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

## **SUMMARY**

1. Fifteen motions have been submitted by Members of the Council under Council Procedure Rule 13 for the Council meeting on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2009.
2. In accordance with the protocol agreed by the Council on 21<sup>st</sup> May 2008, the order in which the motions are listed is by turns, one from each group, continuing in rotation until all motions submitted are included. The rotation starts with any group(s) not reached at the previous meeting.
3. Motions must be about matters for which the Council has a responsibility or which affect the Borough. A motion may not be moved which is substantially the same as a motion which has been put at a meeting of the Council in the previous six months unless notice of motion is given signed by at least twenty Members.
4. There is no specific duration set for this agenda item and consideration of the attached motions may continue until the time limit for the meeting is reached. The guillotine procedure at Council Procedure Rule 9.2 does not apply to motions on notice and any of the attached motions which have not been put to the vote when the time limit for the meeting is reached will be deemed to have fallen. A motion which is not put to the vote at the current meeting may be resubmitted for the next meeting but is not automatically carried forward.

## **MOTIONS**

Set out overleaf are the motions that have been submitted.

## **11.1 Motion submitted by Councillor Tim Archer regarding local bin taxes/Waste Incentive Pilot Schemes**

**Proposed: Councillor Tim Archer**

**Seconded: Councillor Peter Golds**

This Council notes that:

1. The Government is moving ahead with plans to introduce new local bin taxes, through so-called 'waste incentive pilot schemes', which will subsequently be rolled out to two in three homes according to Whitehall estimates.
2. Even the Government's own optimistic Impact Assessment admits that the poorest families will pay £72.31 a year more, and the Treasury has stated the new 'waste incentives' are officially classified as a tax.
3. Bin taxes will lead to a surge in fly-tipping and backyard burning, and in the Republic of Ireland, bin taxes have led to 4 in 10 households now burning their rubbish, and such burning of now causes 73% of all dioxin emissions.
4. The Government is not properly compensating local authorities for the new burdens imposed through landfill taxes and the Landfill Allowance Trading Scheme, increasing pressure on council tax.

This Council resolves to:

1. Oppose Government plans for new bin taxes.
2. Write to the Secretary of State for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs rejecting the Government's invitation to participate in these new charges for the collection of household waste.
3. Call on the Secretary of State to ensure local authorities are properly compensated for new burdens imposed by central government, instead of introducing new taxes.

## **11.2 Motion submitted by Councillor Lutfur Rahman regarding Bethnal Green Tube Disaster Memorial**

**Proposed: Councillor Lutfur Rahman**

**Seconded: Councillor Joshua Peck**

This Council notes that:

- 3<sup>rd</sup> March marks the 66<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Bethnal Green Tube disaster;
- 173 East Enders died in this tragic wartime accident, the vast majority of them women and children;
- That news of this tragedy was withheld from the British Public to protect morale, and it is still little known today outside Bethnal Green
- The Bethnal Green Tube Disaster Memorial Trust has been founded to campaign for a fitting memorial to those who lost their lives that day;
- Planning permission has now been granted for the erection of this memorial;
- Former Mayor, Cllr Ann Jackson, raised over £30,000 towards the Trust's campaign fund during her year in office;
- Despite this, the Trust remains a long way short of its £650,000 target and is struggling to secure Lottery Funding.

This Council believes that;

- Alf Morris and the other members of the Steering Committee have done the East End a great service by highlighting the tragedy and establishing the Bethnal Green Tube Disaster memorial Trust
- the time has now come for Tower Hamlets Council to make its proper contribution towards this memorial.

This Council therefore resolves:

- That a sum of £100,000 should be committed to the Bethnal Green Tube Disaster Memorial Trust by LB Tower Hamlets;
- To support the work of the Memorial Trust by helping it seek donations from local businesses and residents;
- To encourage all current and future councillors to play their part in ensuring that this tragedy is never forgotten.
- In the first instance to look at section 106 money and then to consider other options if required.

### **11.3 Motion submitted by Councillor Stephanie Eaton regarding future provision of a Multi-Faith Burial Ground**

**Proposed: Councillor Stephanie Eaton**

**Seconded: Councillor Azizur Rahman Khan**

This Council notes:

1. All Councils are required to produce a Local Development Framework and in Tower Hamlets that will comprise a series of Development Plan Documents including a Core Strategy and a Site Allocations document.
2. Tower Hamlets Council has recently undertaken consultation on the second phase of the Local Development Framework - Core Strategy. The consultation document 'Core Strategy - Options and Alternatives for Places' looked at how growth and change will affect the different places in Tower Hamlets.
3. The places plan for LAPs 5 and 6 identifies as one of the long term objectives (5-15 years) the plan "to regenerate the Bow Common Gasworks site as a place for family housing "

This Council further notes:

1. The longstanding wishes of local people for a new multi-faith burial facility in the Borough
2. The difficulty of finding suitable sites for a multi-faith burial facility in the Borough

This Council proposes:

1. That the Local Development Framework Core Strategy sets out clear criteria for identifying appropriate locations for a future multi-faith burial facility
2. That the Local Development Framework Core Strategy does not identify the Bow Common Gasworks site solely as a place for family housing
3. That the Site Allocations Development Plan Document explores all appropriate options for a future multi-faith burial facility within the borough for example Bow Common Gasworks.

#### **11.4 Motion submitted by Councillor Abjol Miah regarding control over sex encounter venues**

**Proposed: Councillor Abjol Miah**

**Seconded: Councillor Harun Miah**

1) This Council notes

a) the rapid growth of lap dancing clubs in the wake of changes to licensing legislation in 2003 which allow lap dancing clubs to set up on the basis of a premises licence, which is the same licence as applies to cafes and restaurants

b) that the government has attempted to address this problem by including in Clause 25 of the Policing and Crime bill currently going through parliament which creates a new licensing category of “sex encounter venues”

c) that Clause 25 of the Policing and Crime Bill makes the licensing provisions for “sex encounter venues” optional on councils and also includes a frequency-based exemption.

d) that Tower Hamlets residents do not want Tower Hamlets to be a dumping ground for “sex encounter venues” for City slickers, especially as the Corporation of the City of London prevents such clubs from opening in the City of London.

2) This Council deplores the growth of lap dancing clubs which are degrading to women

3) This Council congratulates the Fawcett Society and the campaigning group OBJECT which have engaged in an effective campaign to bring about the legislative changes currently going through parliament.

4) This Council regrets, alongside many other councils, MPs from all parties and the Fawcett Society and OBJECT, that the government has made the new provisions for licensing lap dancing clubs optional for councils and that a frequency-based exemption has been included and that these two provisions will undermine the effectiveness of the changes included in the Policing and Crime Bill to licence “sex encounter venues”.

5) This Council urges the Government to remove optionality and frequency based exemptions from the licencing of “sex encounter venues” in order to ensure there is much stricter control over lap dancing venues in future.

### **11.5 Motion submitted by Councillor Peter Golds regarding lighting in Brickfield Gardens**

**Proposed: Councillor Peter Golds**

**Seconded: Councillor Tim Archer**

This Council notes the shocking levels of anti-social behaviour, drinking, drug taking and unsavoury activities taking place in the bushes, in Brickfield Gardens, Limehouse.

This Council notes that improved street lighting is the most effective deterrent to preventing crime and anti-social behaviour.

This Council therefore resolves to install lighting in Brickfield Gardens to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour and return the park to the law abiding residents.

### **11.6 Motion submitted by Councillor Marc Francis regarding Strangers into Citizens campaign**

**Proposed: Councillor Marc Francis**

**Seconded: Councillor Lutfur Rahman**

This Council notes:

That the government is committed to tightening UK border controls and introducing new monitoring and assessment systems into the immigration process;

That the Home Office estimates that there are currently around 500,000 irregular migrants living and working in Britain, around 400,000 of them in London;

The contribution of irregular migrants to the national and regional economy;

That in the current economic crisis, irregular migrants are more vulnerable than ever to exploitation and abuse;

That the “strangers into citizens” campaign, orchestrated by London Citizens, has cross-party support from Councils, MPs and both the current and former Mayors of London.

This Council resolves:

To publicly support London Citizen’s “Strangers into Citizens” campaign for the one-off regularization of long-term irregular migrants;

To encourage other Local Authorities to do so;

To urge the Government to adopt the Strangers into Citizens proposal for an earned right of residence subject to and in accordance with the tests applied to other migrants.



## **11.7 Motion submitted by Councillor Tim O’Flaherty regarding eliminating excessive punishment for minor parking offences**

**Proposed: Councillor Tim O’Flaherty**

**Seconded: Councillor Stephanie Eaton**

This Council notes:

1. That parking controls are necessary to ensure the availability of parking for entitled residents and their visitors, business people, traders and others;
2. That parking management and the promotion of public transport is essential to control traffic flow, avoid climate change and improve air quality;
3. That many residents value the use of a car, and that vehicle use is often essential for e.g. businesses, families, and to enable people with disabilities to participate in all aspects of community life;

This Council believes:

1. That breaches of parking regulations should be enforced fairly and rigorously;
2. That the penalty charge for a breach of a parking regulations is a necessary deterrent to ensure parking space is available to those who need it and are entitled to use it;
3. That where a vehicle is parked dangerously, or in a disabled bay or other area that blocks access for a particular purpose, immediate action to remove a vehicle is necessary and reasonable;
4. That the punishment for a breach of a non-serious parking offence (one that attracts a lower penalty charge notice) initially should be a penalty charge notice and no other action;
5. That where a lower penalty charge notice has been issued but a vehicle is parked safely, immediate action should not be taken to clamp that vehicle or remove that vehicle to the pound;
6. That where a lower penalty charge notice has been issued but the vehicle is parked safely, there should be a minimum period of 6 hours between the issue of the penalty charge notice and any clamping of the vehicle or the removal of a vehicle parked safely to enable the owner of that vehicle to remove the vehicle to a location where it is not in breach of any parking regulations;
7. That where a safely parked vehicle is in breach of a minor parking regulation the rapid removal of the vehicle to the pound and the costs and inconvenience incurred by the owner of the vehicle amounts to disproportionate ‘punishment’.

This Council directs:

1. Officers to undertake a review of the parking enforcement policy and engage in consultation with residents with the intention of eliminating cases where a

minor breach of a parking regulation (which currently would attract a penalty charge notice £120 reduced to £60 if paid within 14 days) results in a payment by the resident of this £60 penalty charge plus £200 fee for release of the vehicle from the pound;

2. Officers to provide a report to Cabinet by June 2009 which recommends measures to eliminate disproportionate and excessive 'punishment' in relation to penalties for parking offences.

### **11.8 Motion submitted by Councillor Harun Miah regarding market charges and parking**

**Proposed: Councillor Harun Miah**

**Seconded: Councillor Mamun Rashid**

1) This Council notes:

a) that we are facing a very severe recession which may even become a depression

b) that the recession is badly affecting trade in Tower Hamlets historic markets

c) that Tower Hamlets historic markets provide employment and income for many people in Tower Hamlets and a vital and cheap source of products to Tower Hamlets residents

d) that recent rises in charges for market stalls are adversely impacting on traders facing falling sales in the wake of the recession

e) that vital consumers both resident in Tower Hamlets and coming into Tower Hamlets from other boroughs are being discouraged from using our historic markets through a lack of parking, high parking charges and a draconian regime of parking control including penalty notices and tow-aways.

2) This Council requests Council officers to:

a) draw up an emergency plan to assist traders in difficulty with their stall charges including investigating the possibility of rent reductions and holidays.

b) draw up plans to make parking free for longer in the vicinity of markets and explore the possibility of making more parking spaces available, at least on a temporary basis, at the times that markets are trading.

## **11.9 Motion submitted by Councillor Ahmed Hussain regarding local pharmacies throughout the borough**

**Proposed: Councillor Ahmed Hussain**

**Seconded: Councillor Peter Golds**

The Council notes that:

- Within the health strategy the local pharmacies play a crucial part in our lives;
- The pharmacies have always been a business enterprise and have had to come up with their own money to serve us;
- Without their vital role we would not have been able to survive as well as we are today. They play a significant role especially to those who cannot afford the cost of medicine;
- In the current climate a lot of the pharmacies are going out of business most owners have had to re-mortgage their homes to stay in the business to serve us.
- The current PCT and government strategy do not have a vision to help them stay on course. They have to bid for their business and compete with European and American companies such as Atoss Origin.

The Council agrees that:

- The pharmacies have a vital role in the community;
- They provide a substantial service to those who cannot afford prescribed medicine;
- They clearly fit into the "One Tower Hamlets" strategy;
- It is vital to help our residents that are in the business within this economical climate;
- We would need to protect the local employees that are engaged in these pharmacies

We call upon the Council and those responsible to:

- Help the local pharmacist to stay in business;
- Engage with the PCT to see how we can keep the current pharmacies in business and protect the local employees;
- Ensure that we do not get companies like Atoss Origin, which has proven to be a disaster so far

### **11.10 Motion submitted by Councillor Alex Heslop regarding support for the co-operative and social enterprise sector**

**Proposed: Councillor Alex Heslop**

**Seconded: Councillor Denise Jones**

This Council recognises that there is a diverse and healthy co-operative sector in Tower Hamlets with a combined turnover of approximately £50 million and also appreciates the important role that co-operatives and other social enterprises can play in community and economic regeneration initiatives. Although there are many successful co-operative enterprises operating in Tower Hamlets such as Tower Hamlets Community Credit Union, Tower Hamlets CDA and Greenwich Leisure (effectively a workers co-op), as well as several food co-ops and housing co-operatives, there is not a single Council officer with a specific remit or indeed expertise for working with the co-operative & social enterprise sectors.

This Council resolves to do the following:

- Allocate responsibility for supporting the co-operative & social enterprise sectors to the Lead Member for Regeneration as well as a designated Council officer who will promote and support new mutual models for the provision of community services, including housing, pre-school childcare, residential and home care, recycling and leisure. Made possible through service reviews, externalising, or re-contracting services and procurement procedures.
- Organise an annual event to celebrate International Co-operatives Day in partnership with the local Co-operative Movement; this could also involve the Tower Hamlets Partnership and its Creating and Sharing Prosperity Community Plan Action Group.
- Develop procurement strategies that make a direct link between the Community Plan and other strategic objectives and contract specifications ensuring that community benefits can be fully integrated into the procurement process.
- Work with the Co-operative Sector and London Development Agency to improve access to finance and support for socially and mutually owned businesses.
- Work with staff and unions on a partnership basis in the creation of new cooperative services

### **11.11 Motion submitted by Councillor Fozol Miah regarding Bow Gurdwara fire**

**Proposed: Councillor Fozol Miah**

**Seconded: Councillor Abjol Miah**

This Council notes

a) the terrible fire which destroyed the Gurdwara Sikh Sangat, Harley Grove, Bow on 16<sup>th</sup> March 2009

b) the anguish, upset and anger this has caused in the Sikh community

c) the efforts of Council officers to ensure that facilities are found for the members of the Gurdwara to continue their worship

d) that the Police are giving the investigation of the causes of the fire and the identification of any perpetrator a very high priority

e) that the concerns for and sympathy with the Bow Gurdwara members and the Sikh Community extends across people of all faiths and none in Tower Hamlets

This Council urges

a) anyone who knows anything about the fire to contact the police and to co-operate fully in their investigation

b) the police and other authorities including the Council to continue to give this issue a very high priority and to provide all the help and support they can to the members of the Bow Gurdwara

This Council expresses the utmost sympathy and solidarity with the members of the Gurdwara Sikh Sangat and the wider Sikh community for this terrible fire which has destroyed a holy place revered across all faith communities and residents of Tower Hamlets.

### **11.12 Motion submitted by Councillor Sirajul Islam regarding condemning homophobia and prejudice**

**Proposed: Councillor Sirajul Islam**

**Seconded: Councillor Lutfur Rahman**

This Council:

Condemns the recent attack on a man in Shoreditch, which the police are treating as homophobic;

Recognises that homophobia is a major issue in Tower Hamlets, as in the rest of London and the UK;

Recognises that other prejudices and hatred can lead to violence and intimidation;

Restates its opposition to prejudice, and its commitment to campaigning for equality, specifically to campaigning for equality for groups that often suffer discrimination, such as women, ethnic minorities, disabled people and lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people;

Supports legislation passed by the Labour government prohibiting religious hatred, and continues to assert the importance of respecting the beliefs of those of all faiths and none.

This Council resolves to:

Adopt a zero tolerance approach to all forms of hate crime.

Encourage the Local MPs and GLA member to work with the Council to compile information on crimes that relate to prejudice and discrimination, such as:

- hate crimes that relate to all equality strands including age - violence, name calling, insults, threats of attack and other hate crimes;
- other crimes that relate to discrimination and inequality, such as domestic violence;

Encourage the Local MPs and GLA member to work with the Council to gather information on evidence of discrimination that does not relate to crime, such as pay gaps promulgated by local employers, or evidence of harassment, name calling or other such incidents that may not be reported to the police but are still important in understanding issues around discrimination and prejudice;

Ensure that all Council funded bodies uphold the values of tolerance and mutual respect amongst our whole community, including respecting different values and ways of life;

Review work going on locally that addresses discrimination and community cohesion, and to use the public sector equality duties to ensure that all public bodies are fully delivering on their obligations and help these organisations to develop and implement equality policies if they have not already done so.

Campaign to raise awareness of the issue of hate crime, in particular homophobic hate crime.

### **11.13 Motion submitted by Councillor Dulal Uddin regarding proliferation of Tescos**

**Proposed: Councillor Dulal Uddin**  
**Seconded: Councillor Abdul Munim**

This Council notes:

- a) the proliferation of Tescos Metro and Express stores across Tower Hamlets
- b) the concerns of many small, local businesses that their businesses will be adversely affected by the opening of more Tescos stores
- c) the concerns of residents about the dominant position Tescos is assuming across Tower Hamlets and the loss of choice that this may entail

This Council demands that strategic planning in Tower Hamlets takes account of the concerns of small and local businesses about their businesses being adversely affected and also of the dominant, near monopoly position Tescos is developing in Tower Hamlets

### **11.14 Motion submitted by Councillor Abdul Munim regarding housing crisis**

**Proposed: Councillor Abdul Munim**  
**Seconded: Councillor Dulal Uddin**

This Council notes:

- a) residents of Council housing in Tower Hamlets have been conned into transferring to Housing Associations with promises of better services, investment, etc.
- b) the widespread dissatisfaction with the performance of Housing Associations by the residents of these Housing associations
- c) the severe financial difficulties a number of Housing Associations are now in as a result of the economic crisis
- d) the concerns residents have about developments which may lead to significant blight to their environment and to other services in the area such as schooling

This Council welcomes the decision by the Council to abandon any further attempts to transfer Council housing stock to Housing Associations

This Council believes

- a) there needs to be a crash Council house building programme, not only to address the problems of the 23,000 people on the Council's waiting list, the massive overcrowding in Tower Hamlets and the poor condition of some housing, but also to

boost the construction industry which is in meltdown and to boost the economy more generally

b) a programme of 100% Council home building would both address the crisis and address the problems of blight produced by over-development

This Council calls on the Government

a) to bring the Council housing stock that has been transferred to housing associations back into Council ownership

b) resumes the process of direct investment in Council housing, particularly here in Tower Hamlets, where a fraction of the taxpayers money thrown at the banks will resolve much of the housing crisis in Tower Hamlets and beyond.

### **11.15 Motion submitted by Councillor Mamun Rashid regarding support for Lifelong Learning**

**Proposed: Councillor Mamun Rashid**

**Seconded: Councillor Abjol Miah**

This Council notes the Early Day Motion number 533 Alliance for Lifelong Learning introduced by Labour MP Gordon Marsden in the House of Commons, which now has the support of 183 MPs, which says:

“That this House welcomes the launch of the Campaigning Alliance for Lifelong Learning (CALL) in September 2008; shares its concern that over 1.4 million places have been lost in the last two years in English adult education due to cuts and fee rises; notes that over 150 organisations are CALL supporters; believes that particularly at this time of recession, affordable access to the life-changing opportunities provided by education is the hallmark of a civilised society; considers that adult learning needs to be simultaneously expanded, resourced and promoted alongside work-based skills training in the Children, Skills and Learning Bill; and calls for immediate action to ensure a full range of learning opportunities for adults to adjust the Personal and Community Development Learning budget to increase with inflation, and redirect any underspend on the Train to Gain programme to meet individual learner demand.”

This Council believes that the principles being promoted by CALL are very important for the residents of Tower Hamlets and their lifelong learning opportunities and supports their campaign wholeheartedly.