

Meeting of the

TOWER HAMLETS COUNCIL

Wednesday, 17 January 2018 at 7.00 p.m.

A G E N D A

VENUE

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

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Directorate of Governance

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

You are summoned to attend a meeting of the Council of the London Borough of Tower Hamlets to be held in **THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, 1ST FLOOR, TOWN HALL, MULBERRY PLACE, 5 CLOVE CRESCENT, LONDON, E14 2BG** at **7.00 p.m.** on **WEDNESDAY, 17 JANUARY 2018**

Will Tuckley
Chief Executive

Public Information

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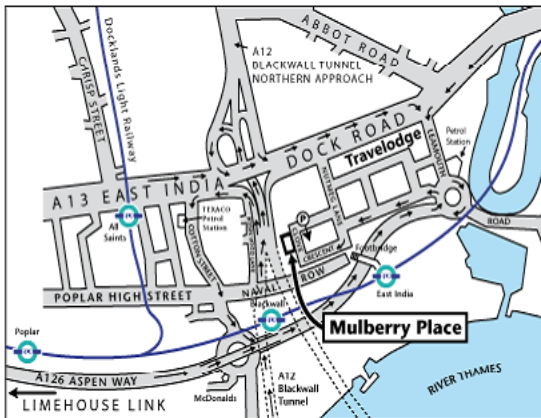
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LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

COUNCIL

WEDNESDAY, 17 JANUARY 2018

7.00 p.m.

PAGE NUMBER

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

To receive any apologies for absence.

**2. DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY
INTERESTS**

7 - 10

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 Monitoring Officer.

3. MINUTES

11 - 58

To confirm as a correct record of the proceedings the unrestricted minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council held on 22 November 2017.

**4. TO RECEIVE ANNOUNCEMENTS (IF ANY) FROM THE
SPEAKER OF THE COUNCIL OR THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

5. TO RECEIVE PETITIONS

59 - 62

The Council Procedure Rules provide for a maximum of four petitions to be presented for discussion at an Ordinary Meeting of the Council.

6. MAYOR'S REPORT

The Council's Constitution provides for the Elected Mayor to give a report at each Ordinary Council Meeting.

A maximum of six minutes is allowed for the Elected Mayor's report, following which the Speaker of the Council will invite the respective political group leaders to respond for up to two minutes each if they wish.

7.	ADMINISTRATION MOTION DEBATE	63 - 66
	To debate a Motion submitted by the Administration in accordance with Rules 11 and 13 of the Council's Constitution. The debate will last for a maximum of 30 minutes.	
8.	OPPOSITION MOTION DEBATE	67 - 70
	To debate a Motion submitted by one of the Opposition Groups in accordance with Rules 11 and 13 of the Council's Constitution. The debate will last for a maximum of 30 minutes.	
9.	TO RECEIVE WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL	71 - 76
	The questions which have been received from Councillors to be put at this Council meeting are set out in the attached report. A maximum period of 30 minutes is allocated to this agenda item.	
10.	REPORTS FROM THE EXECUTIVE AND THE COUNCIL'S COMMITTEES	
10 .1	Report of Cabinet: Community Safety Partnership Plan 2017-2021	77 - 110
	To consider a report on the Community Safety Partnership Plan 2017-2021. This plan was forwarded to Council for consideration by the Mayor in Cabinet on 31 October 2017.	
11.	OTHER BUSINESS	
11 .1	Localism Act 2011 - Appointment of Second Independent Person	111 - 114
	To consider the report of the Corporate Director, Governance and Monitoring Officer proposing the appointment of a second Independent Person.	
11 .2	Review of proportionality and allocation of places on committees and panels of the Council 2017/18	115 - 120
	To consider the report of the Corporate Director, Governance and Monitoring Officer reviewing the Council's proportionality rules and allocation of places on Committees and Panels of the Council.	
12.	TO CONSIDER MOTIONS SUBMITTED BY MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL	121 - 154
	The motions submitted by Councillors for debate at this meeting are set out in the attached report.	

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DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS - NOTE FROM THE MONITORING OFFICER

This note is for guidance only. For further details please consult the Members' Code of Conduct at Part 5.1 of the Council's Constitution.

Please note that the question of whether a Member has an interest in any matter, and whether or not that interest is a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest, is for that Member to decide. Advice is available from officers as listed below but they cannot make the decision for the Member. If in doubt as to the nature of an interest it is advisable to seek advice **prior** to attending a meeting.

Interests and Disclosable Pecuniary Interests (DPIs)

You have an interest in any business of the authority where that business relates to or is likely to affect any of the persons, bodies or matters listed in section 4.1 (a) of the Code of Conduct; and might reasonably be regarded as affecting the well-being or financial position of yourself, a member of your family or a person with whom you have a close association, to a greater extent than the majority of other council tax payers, ratepayers or inhabitants of the ward affected.

You must notify the Monitoring Officer in writing of any such interest, for inclusion in the Register of Members' Interests which is available for public inspection and on the Council's Website.

Once you have recorded an interest in the Register, you are not then required to declare that interest at each meeting where the business is discussed, unless the interest is a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest (DPI).

A DPI is defined in Regulations as a pecuniary interest of any of the descriptions listed at **Appendix A** overleaf. Please note that a Member's DPIs include his/her own relevant interests and also those of his/her spouse or civil partner; or a person with whom the Member is living as husband and wife; or a person with whom the Member is living as if they were civil partners; if the Member is aware that that other person has the interest.

Effect of a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest on participation at meetings

Where you have a DPI in any business of the Council you must, unless you have obtained a dispensation from the authority's Monitoring Officer following consideration by the Dispensations Sub-Committee of the Standards Advisory Committee:-

- not seek to improperly influence a decision about that business; and
- not exercise executive functions in relation to that business.

If you are present at a meeting where that business is discussed, you must:-

- Disclose to the meeting the existence and nature of the interest at the start of the meeting or when the interest becomes apparent, if later; and
- Leave the room (including any public viewing area) for the duration of consideration and decision on the item and not seek to influence the debate or decision

When declaring a DPI, Members should specify the nature of the interest and the agenda item to which the interest relates. This procedure is designed to assist the public's understanding of the meeting and to enable a full record to be made in the minutes of the meeting.

Where you have a DPI in any business of the authority which is not included in the Member's register of interests and you attend a meeting of the authority at which the business is considered, in addition to disclosing the interest to that meeting, you must also within 28 days notify the Monitoring Officer of the interest for inclusion in the Register.

Further advice

For further advice please contact:-

Asmat Hussain, Corporate Director, Governance and Monitoring Officer, 020 7364 4800

APPENDIX A: Definition of a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest

(Relevant Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012, Reg 2 and Schedule)

Subject	Prescribed description
Employment, office, trade, profession or vacation	Any employment, office, trade, profession or vocation carried on for profit or gain.
Sponsorship	<p>Any payment or provision of any other financial benefit (other than from the relevant authority) made or provided within the relevant period in respect of any expenses incurred by the Member in carrying out duties as a member, or towards the election expenses of the Member.</p> <p>This includes any payment or financial benefit from a trade union within the meaning of the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992.</p>
Contracts	<p>Any contract which is made between the relevant person (or a body in which the relevant person has a beneficial interest) and the relevant authority—</p> <p>(a) under which goods or services are to be provided or works are to be executed; and</p> <p>(b) which has not been fully discharged.</p>
Land	Any beneficial interest in land which is within the area of the relevant authority.
Licences	Any licence (alone or jointly with others) to occupy land in the area of the relevant authority for a month or longer.
Corporate tenancies	<p>Any tenancy where (to the Member's knowledge)—</p> <p>(a) the landlord is the relevant authority; and</p> <p>(b) the tenant is a body in which the relevant person has a beneficial interest.</p>
Securities	<p>Any beneficial interest in securities of a body where—</p> <p>(a) that body (to the Member's knowledge) has a place of business or land in the area of the relevant authority; and</p> <p>(b) either—</p> <p>(i) the total nominal value of the securities exceeds £25,000 or one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that body; or</p> <p>(ii) if the share capital of that body is of more than one class, the total nominal value of the shares of any one class in which the relevant person has a beneficial interest exceeds one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that class.</p>

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LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL

HELD AT 7.00 P.M. ON WEDNESDAY, 22 NOVEMBER 2017

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

Members Present:

Mayor John Biggs	Councillor Clare Harrison
Councillor Khaless Uddin Ahmed	Councillor Danny Hassell
Councillor Rajib Ahmed	Councillor Sirajul Islam
Councillor Shafi Ahmed	Councillor Denise Jones
Councillor Suluk Ahmed	Councillor Aminur Khan
Councillor Ohid Ahmed	Councillor Rabina Khan
Councillor Sabina Akhtar	Councillor Shiria Khatun
Councillor Mahbub Alam	Councillor Abjol Miah
Councillor Shah Alam	Councillor Ayas Miah
Councillor Amina Ali	Councillor Harun Miah
Councillor Abdul Asad	Councillor Md. Maium Miah
Councillor Craig Aston	Councillor Abdul Mukit MBE
Councillor Asma Begum	Councillor Muhammad Ansar Mustaqim
Councillor Rachel Blake	Councillor Joshua Peck
Councillor Chris Chapman	Councillor John Pierce
Councillor Dave Chesterton	Councillor Oliur Rahman
Councillor Andrew Cregan	Councillor Gulam Robbani
Councillor David Edgar	Councillor Candida Ronald
Councillor Marc Francis	Councillor Rachael Saunders
Councillor Amy Whitelock Gibbs	Councillor Helal Uddin
Councillor Peter Golds	Councillor Andrew Wood
Councillor Shafiqul Haque	

The Speaker of the Council, Councillor Sabina Akhtar in the Chair

During the meeting, the Council agreed to vary the order of business. To aid clarity, the Minutes are presented in the order that the items originally appeared on the agenda. The order the business was taken in at the meeting was as follows:

- Item 1 - Apologies for absence.
- Item 2 – Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests.
- Item 3 – Minutes.
- Item 4 – Announcements.
- Item 5.1 – 5.2 – Petitions.
- Item 12.15 - Motion regarding Westferry Printworks Secondary School
- Item 5.3 – Petitions.
- Item 6 – Public Questions.

- Item 7 – Mayor’s Report.
- Item 13.1 Urgent Motion regarding the Autumn Budget 2017 and Fire Safety measures.
- Item 8 – Members Questions.
- Item 12.4 - Motion regarding Operation Lynemouth.
- Item 12.8 - Motion regarding the future of Old Ford Housing Association.
- Item 9 – Reports from the Executive and the Council’s Committees.
- Item 9.1 - Report following an Individual Mayoral Decision - Acquisition of Affordable Homes
- Item 9.2 - Report of the General Purposes Committee - Constitution Review – Council Procedure Rules.
- Item 9.3 Report of the General Purposes Committee - Constitution Review – Member/Officer Relations’ Protocol.
- Item 9.4 Report of the Audit Committee - Treasury Management Mid-Year Report 2017/18.
- Item 10 – Reports and Questions on Joint Arrangements/External Organisations.
- Item 11 – Other Business.
- Item 11.1 - Review of proportionality and allocation of places on committees and panels of the Council 2017/18

The Speaker of the Council brought the Council up to date with some of her activities since the previous Council meeting. She reported that in September Tower Hamlets hosted ‘London in Bloom’ for the first time, for its 50th Anniversary receiving excellent feedback and also winning awards.

The Speaker had also attended a number of events including: the Costermongers’ Harvest Festival and parade bringing together all London Borough Civic Heads, the British Bangladesh Fashion Week event, the London Mayors’ Association Annual Civic Service and also the launch of ‘Hate Crime Awareness Week’ in London.

She was also pleased to announce that she had welcomed a Chinese Task Group and the crew of a French Ship that visited the Borough’s docks and had also participated in Citizenship Ceremonies, many community events and celebrations.

The Speaker had enjoyed meeting local schoolchildren in the Town Hall as part of Local Democracy Week, visited local schools, her charities and had attended award ceremonies, celebrating the achievements of young people. In addition, the Speaker had attended the launch of the Poppy Appeal, undertaken fundraising for the appeal and had represented the Council at remembrance events

Turning to future events, the Speaker reminded the Council that her Charity Ball would take place on Monday 4th December 2017. She invited all to attend and if they were not able to, to make a donation. The Speaker reported that she would also be hosting a Squadron Air Cadets Awards Ceremony and

be attending the Civic Awards, Charity Dinners, the International Women's Day Afternoon Tea and the Civic Service.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of:

- Councillor Mohammed Mufti Miah
- Councillor Gulam Kibria Choudhury

Apologies for lateness were received on behalf of Councillors Rachael Saunders, Amina Ali, Rabina Khan, Shafi Ahmed, Ayas Miah, Joshua Peck, and Rachel Blake.

2. DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS

Councillor Shafi Ahmed declared a personal interest in Agenda Item 5.3 Petition regarding Zebra Crossing at Henriques Street, E1 as a Governor at Harry Gosling Primary School.

Councillor Denise Jones declared a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in Agenda item 8.2, a Member Question relating to the Council Tax reduction scheme as she was self employed.

Councillor Mahbub Alam declared a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in Agenda item 8.2, a Member Question relating to the Council Tax reduction scheme as he worked for a car hire company. He also declared a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in Agenda Items 12.17, Motion regarding housing in Tower Hamlets and 12.18 Motion regarding Fire Safety in Tower Hamlets for Residents (which were not considered) as a housing tenant.

Councillor Sirajul Islam declared a personal interest in Agenda item 12.8 Motion regarding the future of Old Ford Housing Association as he was a Council tenant.

Councillor Rajib Ahmed declared a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in Agenda Item 12.17 Motion regarding housing in Tower Hamlets as a leaseholder of property.

Councillor Dave Chesterton declared a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in Agenda Item 12.17 Motion regarding housing in Tower Hamlets as a landlord of property in the borough.

Councillor Khales Uddin Ahmed declared a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in Agenda Item 12.17 Motion regarding housing in Tower Hamlets as a leaseholder of property in the borough.

Councillor Helal Uddin declared a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in Agenda Item 12.17 Motion regarding housing in Tower Hamlets as he and his wife were leaseholders of property in the borough. He also declared a personal

interest in this item as his employer had a working relationship with Poplar HARCA.

Councillor David Edgar declared a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in Agenda Item 12.17, Motion regarding housing in Tower Hamlets as his wife is a landlord of property.

The following Councillors declared Disclosable Pecuniary Interests in Agenda Items 12.17 Motion regarding housing in Tower Hamlets and 12.18 Motion regarding Fire Safety in Tower Hamlets as landlords of property:

- Councillor Shah Alam
- Councillor Muhammad Ansar Mustaquim
- Councillor Harun Miah
- Councillor Suluk Ahmed

Councillors Craig Aston, Clare Harrison and Danny Hassell declared a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in Agenda Item 12.17 Motion regarding housing in Tower Hamlets as private renters in the Borough.

Members declaring Disclosable Pecuniary Interests would be required to leave the room for the duration of the relevant agenda items.

3. MINUTES

RESOLVED:

1. That the unrestricted minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council held on Wednesday 20 September 2017 be confirmed as a correct record and the Speaker be authorised to sign them accordingly.

4. TO RECEIVE ANNOUNCEMENTS (IF ANY) FROM THE SPEAKER OF THE COUNCIL OR THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

There were no announcements.

5. TO RECEIVE PETITIONS

5.1 Petition regarding Watts Grove

Terry McGrenera addressed the meeting and responded to questions from Members. Mayor John Biggs then responded to the matters raised in the petition. He thanked the petitioner for all the hard work that he had undertaken in relation to housing issues in the borough over the years. He and Councillor Sirajul Islam, Cabinet Member for Housing were willing to meet with the petitioner to discuss his particular concerns. He considered that the rents secured at the Watts Grove development were genuinely affordable. The new homes would accommodate residents from the Borough's housing waiting list based on need. He also confirmed that Tower Hamlets Homes would manage the development and the arrangements were to be reviewed in 2018.

RESOLVED:

1. That the petition be referred to the Acting Corporate Director, Place for a written response within 28 days.

5.2 Petition regarding new secondary school, Westferry Printworks site

Father Tom Pyke and others addressed the meeting and responded to questions from Members. Councillor Amy Whitelock Gibbs Cabinet Member for Education and Children's Services then responded to the matters raised in the petition. She thanked the petitioners and also Councillors on the Isle of Dogs for highlighting the issues raised in the petition at an early stage.

She also explained that whilst the Mayor and Cabinet welcomed the new school, they shared the concerns about the government's approach to selecting the provider. They would continue to contact the government to ensure that the views of local community were taken into account regarding the selection of the provider. Councillor Whitelock Gibbs invited fellow Councillors from other parties to join with them in this.

RESOLVED:

1. That the petition be referred to the Corporate Director, Children's, for a written response within 28 days.

Procedural Motion

Councillor Dave Chesterton **moved** and Councillor Danny Hassell, **seconded**, a procedural motion "that under Procedure Rule 14.1.3 the order of business be varied such that agenda item 12.15 Motion regarding Westferry Printworks Secondary School be taken as the next item of business". The procedural motion was put to the vote and was **agreed**.

5.3 Petition regarding Zebra Crossing at Henriques Street, E1

Lukey Begum addressed the meeting and responded to questions from Members. Mayor John Biggs then responded to the matters raised in the petition. The Mayor stated that he had met with the school governors and had visited the area outside the school to assess the situation. The Council took seriously the issue of road safety and would be developing plans to address the issues highlighted in the petition. There would be public consultation on the proposals and it was anticipated that the new scheme should be put in place in the next few months.

RESOLVED:

1. That the petition be referred to the Acting Corporate Director, Place for a written response within 28 days.

6. TO RECEIVE WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

The following questions followed by a supplementary question (except where indicated) were put and responded to by the Mayor or the relevant Executive Member:-

6.2 Question from Norma Vondee:

How many residents has WorkPath actually supported into work compared to Skillsmatch?

Response of Councillor Joshua Peck, Cabinet Member for Work and Economic Development:

I am delighted to be able to say that WorkPath has resulted in 416 residents getting into work in its first six months of operation. That's a 41% increase on what Skillsmatch achieved in the same period last year.

(No supplemental question was asked)

6.4 Question from Mohammad Rafique Ullah

How do rent levels at Watts Grove compare with rent levels at Poplar Baths and Dame Collet House?

Response of Councillor Rachel Blake, Cabinet Member for Strategic Development and Waste:

When Mayor Biggs was first elected, he asked us to do an Affordability Commission to get to the bottom of what genuinely affordable homes meant now. We found that under the previous Mayor, rents were set too high for local people to afford, often due to expensive PFI deals that the previous Mayor signed up to. Rents on new Council homes agreed under the previous Mayor for example at Poplar Baths, Bradwell Street and Dame Collet House were set at expensive framework rents. Our new rent levels which will be social rent and the Tower Hamlets living rent at a proportion of local incomes will make new affordable homes far more affordable to those on low incomes saving residents significant amounts of money. We also took the decision to apply these new rents levels at Watts Grove.

Supplementary question from Mohammad Rafique Ullah:

Do you have a limit on affordable rents and what do you mean by affordable rents?

Councillor Blake's response to supplementary question:

Sadly this Government's affordable rents could be anything up to 80% of market rents. We think that is completely unaffordable for our residents. So for us, we are setting rent levels at social rent and at the Tower Hamlets living rent which is about a third of average incomes in Tower Hamlets. There is still

much more to do to make housing genuinely affordable, including encouraging other social landlords to take up these lower rents, and to really start tackling private landlords on their rent levels. Our new rent levels are definitely a big step in the right direction.

6.5 Question from Polly Avison:

How many police officers and PCSOs have been cut from Tower Hamlets?

Response of Councillor Asma Begum, Cabinet Member for Community Safety:

Due to huge cuts to the policing budget from the Conservative Government, Tower Hamlets lost almost a quarter of their police from the seven years following May 2010. Since the Tories took power, there has been a reduction from 818 officers to just 630. Tower Hamlets also lost more than $\frac{3}{4}$ of their PCSOs. 78% since 2010. More importantly, in the absence of intervention from central Government, we've taken steps ourselves to increase the police presence on our streets. We've ring fenced funding of £3m for police officers in Tower Hamlets, committing £3m of funding over the next three years to help protect neighbourhood policing. The police officers are tasked with tackling issues that residents told us were their biggest concerns, such as tackling anti-social behaviour, acid attacks, drug dealing and violent crime. 14 officers will be responsible for tackling crime on estates and 25 additional officers will work across the borough. A new 'Designing Out Crime' officer will also help planners, housing providers and developers to ensure that future developments consider community safety issues from the outset and design them out before being built. The Government expects local councils to step in to fill the gap – while we are doing everything we can, like funding extra officers, we simply cannot replace every police officer that the Government scraps. The Met has already lost £600 million since 2010 and the Government is threatening to go further. These are not sustainable cuts to the Met's budget and are damaging frontline policing and putting the public at risk. We are continuing to urge the Government to think again.

(No supplemental question was asked)

Questions 6.1, 6.3, and 6.6 were not put due to the absence of the questioner. Written responses would be provided to the questions. (Note: The written responses are included in Appendix 'A' to these minutes.)

7. MAYOR'S REPORT

The Mayor made his report to the Council, referring to his written report circulated at the meeting, summarising key events, engagements and meetings since the last Council meeting.

When the Mayor had completed his report and at the invitation of the Speaker, the Leaders of the Independent Group, the People's Alliance of

Tower Hamlets and the Conservative Group, responded briefly to the Mayor's report.

Procedural Motion

Councillor Danny Hassell **moved** and Councillor Rachel Blake **seconded**, a procedural motion "that under Procedure Rule 14.1.5, Rule 13.1 be suspended to enable an urgent motion regarding the Autumn Budget 2017 and Fire Safety measures to be considered". The procedural motion was put to the vote and was **agreed**.

8. TO RECEIVE WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

The following questions and in each case supplementary questions were put (except where indicated) and were responded to by the Mayor or relevant Executive Member-

8.1 Question from Councillor Helal Uddin:

Can the Mayor or Cabinet Member update Council on ongoing work to tackle the housing crisis?

Response of Councillor Sirajul Islam, Statutory Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Housing

I am sure that you will be aware that the Council adopted a new Housing Strategy in December 2016 which set out our plan to tackle the Housing crisis through to 2021. A lack of affordable housing is a major concern for residents and we have made significant strides forward over the past two and a half years. I pledged to provide 1,000 council homes and we're on track to meet this target. On affordable housing, Council figures show we delivered 1,070 affordable homes last year, 2016/17, and another 1,073 the year before. And under my new Living Rent policy, rents for new affordable homes are more affordable to those on low incomes, saving residents up to £6,000 a year. We are also investing £3m in local neighbourhoods to make them safer, cleaner and greener. Further, we're driving up standards in the private rented sector with landlord licensing scheme and our new Tower Hamlets Private Renters' Charter. The Council is doing a great deal to tackle the housing crisis, but we need the Government to back us up and take the challenge seriously, something we discussed already in the motion earlier.

Supplementary question from Councillor Uddin:

What sort of strategies are in place to increase social housing as well as affordable housing in the borough and will the Lead Member ensure me that the work programmes created by the Housing Scrutiny Sub-Committee will be supported and resourced by the administration to ensure that fire safety issues are being dealt with effectively?

Councillor Sirajul Islam's response to supplementary question:

We have recently announced £119m funding to purchase surplus housing stock from registered providers including £19m to buy homes from Poplar HARCA. We have purchased additional homes for use as temporary accommodation. We have also purchased new housing from developers as part of their planning obligations. We'll discuss this in more detail later this evening, but this is a massive investment in affordable homes for our residents highlighting just how seriously we take the housing crisis.

In terms of fire safety, we take this very seriously. We cannot forget the 71 lives lost at Grenfell Tower. The Mayor has allocated around £30m for fire safety work. As you know, we are already carrying out work at Brewster House and on the Cranbrook Estate. Under Mayor Biggs' leadership in 2015 we carried out fire risk assessments of every Council block and registered provider block which is something the previous administration failed to and left our residents in grave danger.

8.2 Question from Councillor Oliur Rahman

Following the changes to the Council Tax reduction scheme by the Mayor in April 2017, how is the Council supporting self-employed residents – like mini cab drivers and driving instructors etc. – in relation to their council tax rebate and reduction?

Response of Councillor David Edgar, Cabinet Member for Resources:

The changes made to the local Council Tax reduction scheme earlier this year, kept the option of providing up to a 100% discount. Many Councils throughout the county require all working people to make a contribution to Council Tax. We did make some changes to the assessment criteria that took into account the changes that come from the introduction of the universal credit. The introduction of which means that the Council will no longer be responsible for housing benefit for working age claimants. The Government in their budget made some small changes to universal credit, but really did not make the changes that were absolutely necessary. The introduction of universal credit by the Government has been a disaster for many people. It means that not only are many of the rules around benefits changing, but the government is also stopping sharing information with Councils and is cutting the funding that they give Councils to process benefits. This means that we have no verified information on actual income for those in receipt of universal credit which is the information that we previously used to base the local Council tax calculation on. As a result, one of the changes that was made by the Council in January this year was the introduction of a minimum income floor which was based on 35 hours work on a national minimum wage. That is the same criteria that is going to be applied and is applied under universal credit which will increasingly affect the Borough's self-employed claimants as universal credit is rolled out. That has had an impact on some self-employed claimants.

Supplementary question from Councillor Rahman:

Not every resident receives universal credit and I think for the Council to have a blanket policy affecting every single working resident is not right. When I asked Officers what legal legislation they used to reach that decision they could not answer maybe you could answer that question. What legal legislation have you used to reach this decision that is affecting the self-employed working people in this borough?

Councillor Edgar's response to supplementary question:

Councils are able to set their Council tax reduction schemes. The Government abolished a number of years ago the national scheme and also reduced significantly the funding that came to it. But what we have done in response to help those people who face problems as a result of the changes, that will affect more and more people as universal credit is rolled out, is to provide support to people so that everybody who feels that they are in financial hardship and feels that they have been affected by the changes can contact the Council and have a discussion with the Council. What the Council can do in response is reduce financial hardship through the support it provides. The Council can provide help on work and advice on benefits. These measures will form part of a report that goes to the November Cabinet. This is in addition to the hardship scheme that was introduced with the Council Tax reduction scheme. We are doing this in the context where the Government continues to push forward universal credit. This makes the work that we do as a Council to support people into work through the hardship fund and through the other things we can do all the more important.

8.5 Question from Councillor Shiria Khatun:

How did the Council respond to the Met Police consultation on police front counter closures?

Response of Councillor Asma Begum, Cabinet Member for Community Safety:

A detailed written response from the Council was submitted to the London Mayor's Office for Policing & Crime (MOPAC) opposing the closures. There were 17 questions in total covering many aspects of community engagement and accessibility. One of which specifically asked "Do you agree that it is right that the Metropolitan Police Service prioritise police officers over poorly-used front counters?" The Council did not agree with this proposed prioritisation which is far from simple. The Council expressed serious concerns over the impact of government cuts on the police and that MOPAC should not be placed in the situation of having to choose between police officers and front counters.

Concerns were raised on the loss of two front counters in the borough and the isolation this would cause. We offered alternative options to avoid their closure.

(No supplemental question was asked)

Questions 8.3 – 4 were not put due to the absence of the questioners. Questioners 8.6- 29 were not put due to lack of time. Written responses would be provided to the questions. (Note: The written responses are included in Appendix 'A' to these minutes.)

Procedural Motion

Councillor Danny Hassell **moved** and Councillor Sirajul Islam, **seconded**, a procedural motion “that under Procedure Rule 14.1.3 the order of business be varied such that agenda item 12. 4 Motion regarding Operation Lynemouth be taken as the next item of business”. The procedural motion was put to the vote and was **agreed**.

Procedural Motion

Councillor Danny Hassell **moved** and Councillor Marc Francis, **seconded**, a procedural motion “that under Procedure Rule 14.1.3 the order of business be varied such that agenda item 12. 8 Motion regarding the future of Old Ford Housing Association be taken as the next item of business”. The procedural motion was put to the vote and was **agreed**.

Extension of time limit for the meeting

Mayor John Biggs **moved**, and Councillor Danny Hassell **seconded**, a procedural motion that “under Procedure Rule 15.11.7 the meeting be extended for up to an additional 10 minutes to enable item 12. 8 Motion regarding the future of Old Ford Housing Association and the remaining reports on the agenda to be considered”. The procedural motion was put to the vote and was **agreed**.

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

9.1 Report following an Individual Mayoral Decision - Acquisition of Affordable Homes

The Council considered a decision following on from an Individual Mayoral Decision published on Friday 10 November 2017. The recommendation was put to the vote under the guillotine procedure at Council Procedure Rule 9. Accordingly it was

RESOLVED:

1. That the allocation of £119.0 million in the capital programme to fund the purchase of, and any works required to dwellings be agreed.

9.2 Report of the General Purposes Committee - Constitution Review – Council Procedure Rules

The Council considered a report of the General Purposes Committee following a review of the Council Procedure Rules section of the Council's Constitution. The recommendation was put to the vote under the guillotine procedure at Council Procedure Rule 9. Accordingly it was:

RESOLVED:

1. That the revised Council Procedure Rules at Appendix 1 to the report be approved.

9.3 Report of the General Purposes Committee - Constitution Review – Member/Officer Relations' Protocol

The Council considered a report of the General Purposes Committee following a review of the Member/Officer Relations' Protocol section of the Council's Constitution. The recommendation was put to the vote under the guillotine procedure at Council Procedure Rule 9. Accordingly it was:

RESOLVED:

1. That the revised Member/Officer Relations' Protocol at Appendix 1 to the report be approved.

9.4 Report of the Audit Committee - Treasury Management Mid-Year Report 2017/18

The Council considered a report from the Audit Committee setting out the Treasury Management Mid-Year Report 2017/18. The recommendations were put to the vote under the guillotine procedure at Council Procedure Rule 9. Accordingly it was

RESOLVED:

That the Council note:

1. The contents of the treasury management activities and performance against targets for half year ending 30th September 2017;
2. The Council's outstanding investments which amount to £447.1m at 30th September 2017 as set out at appendix 2 to the report;
3. The potential impact on the Council of becoming a retail client with effect from 3rd January 2018 as set out at section 3.7 of the report; and
4. The protections available to retail clients that the Council will forgo as a result of opting up to professional client as set out at appendix 4 to the report.

10. TO RECEIVE REPORTS AND QUESTIONS ON JOINT ARRANGEMENTS/EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS (IF ANY)

There was no business to transact under this agenda item.

11. OTHER BUSINESS**11.1 Review of proportionality and allocation of places on committees and panels of the Council 2017/18**

The Council considered the report of the Corporate Director, Governance, in respect of changes to the proportionality calculations for allocating places on the Council's Committees. The recommendations were put to the vote under the guillotine procedure at Council Procedure Rule 9. Accordingly it was:

RESOLVED:

1. That the review of proportionality as at section 3 of the report be noted and the allocation of seats on committees and panels be agreed for the remainder of the Municipal Year 2017/18 as set out at paragraph 4.2 of the report.
2. To note the committees and panels established for the municipal year 2017/18 as listed in paragraph 4.2 as agreed at the Annual Council meeting held on Wednesday 17 May 2017.
3. That Councillor Gulam Kibria Choudhury be appointed as a Member of the Development Committee and Councillors Md Maium Miah and Mohammed Mufti Miah be appointed deputies of the Development Committee.
4. That the Corporate Director, Governance be authorised to approve the appointment of ungrouped Councillors to any committee places not allocated by the Council to a political group, after consultation with those Councillors and the Speaker of the Council.

12. TO CONSIDER MOTIONS SUBMITTED BY MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL**12.4 Motion regarding Operation Lynemouth**

Mayor John Biggs **moved** and Councillor Sirajul Islam **seconded** the motion as printed in the agenda.

Councillor Peter Golds **moved** and Councillor Andrew Wood **seconded** the following friendly amendment to the motion:

Insert as Item 2 after this Council notes;

The report contains a number of significant observations including;

From Page 12

“It would appear that the original MPS investigation failed to secure pivotal evidence which could have led to further enquiries. Operation Lynemouth has done so and is seeking early advice from the CPS as to whether the evidence provides realistic opportunities for investigation and prosecution.”

From Page 14

“The MPS’s fraud squad considered ten matters during the original investigation, including allegations of fraud, bribery, perjury and tax evasion, but did not make any arrests. Operation Lynemouth has already identified potential evidential opportunities, although there is still much work to be done.”

Insert as Item 4 after this Council resolves;

Item 4

That the residents of the borough will look to the police, electoral officials, political parties, their candidates and supporters to ensure that the elections to be held in 2018 are free, fair and untainted by the malpractice which so damaged the reputation of this borough in 2014.

Renumber Item 4 as Item 5

Mayor John Biggs and Councillor Sirajul Islam accepted the amendment and altered their motion accordingly.

Councillor Oliur Rahman attempted to move a further amendment to this motion. However the Council’s Monitoring Officer advised the Speaker that the content of the amendment was out of order so it should not be accepted.

Following debate, the motion as amended was put to the vote and was **agreed**.

RESOLVED:

This Council notes:

1. That Operation Lynemouth has published its second interim report, which is investigating *‘any alleged criminal or electoral wrongdoing... committed, counselled or procured by a senior figure (or senior figures) within the London Borough of Tower Hamlets’* between 25 October 2010 and 23 April 2015.
2. The report contains a number of significant observations including;

From Page 12

"It would appear that the original MPS investigation failed to secure pivotal evidence which could have led to further enquiries. Operation Lynemouth has done so and is seeking early advice from the CPS as to whether the evidence provides realistic opportunities for investigation and prosecution."

From Page 14

"The MPS's fraud squad considered ten matters during the original investigation, including allegations of fraud, bribery, perjury and tax evasion, but did not make any arrests. Operation Lynemouth has already identified potential evidential opportunities, although there is still much work to be done."

This Council believes that:

1. Although, as was stated in the election Court judgement *'the election of all THF (Tower Hamlets First) Councillors must be taken to have been achieved with the benefit of the corrupt and illegal practices'*, all councillors in Tower Hamlets have a legal and moral duty to support the police investigation into the wrongdoing of the past;
2. While many councillors who were elected as part of Tower Hamlets First still serve on the Council in the Tower Hamlets Independent Group and the People's Alliance of Tower Hamlets, including potentially two Mayoral Election candidates, and that they remain in denial about the corrupt regime which they were a part of, all sitting councillors and the Mayor have a personal responsibility to address the failures and criminality of the Lutfur Rahman administration and help the borough move forward. We note with sadness that while a majority accept this responsibility a sizeable minority clearly do not.

This Council resolves:

1. To welcome and fully support the HMIC investigation into alleged criminal offences arising from the 2014 mayoral election;
2. That every councillor should cooperate fully with any police investigation into criminality, including coming clean about any of their own actions and proactively offering any evidence they may have of wrongdoing;
3. To work to ensure the highest possible standards in the coming election and consign the electoral fraud of the previous administration to the past;
4. That the residents of the borough will look to the police, electoral officials, political parties, their candidates and supporters to ensure that

the elections to be held in 2018 are free, fair and untainted by the malpractice which so damaged the reputation of this borough in 2014.

5. To condemn in the strongest possible terms the illegality of the former mayor.

12.8 Motion regarding the future of Old Ford Housing Association

Councillor Marc Francis **moved** and Mayor John Biggs **seconded** the motion as printed in the agenda.

Following debate, the motion was put to the vote and was **agreed**.

RESOLVED:

This Council notes:

1. Old Ford Housing Association (OFHA) was established in 1998 as the successor body to Tower Hamlets Housing Action Trust (HAT);
2. OFHA was a subsidiary of Circle 33 Housing Trust for financing purposes, but was accountable to its own Board of tenants, leaseholders and independent members;
3. In 2005, Circle 33 merged with Anglia Housing to form Circle Anglia Ltd, and that other associations joined later to form Circle Housing Group;
4. In July 2007, LBTH transferred the “Parkside” council estates to OFHA with the promise to refurbish individual flats and the estates within five years;
5. In 2015, following complaints from LB Islington and LBTH about the performance of its repairs service, the Social Housing Regulator found evidence of “serious detriment” to tenants and downgraded Circle Housing Group, requiring an action plan to improve governance;
6. In response, Circle put forward an “action plan”, which involved closing down its subsidiaries, including Old Ford HA, and centralising services, moving most Bow-based staff to a new call-centre in Kent;
7. In summer 2016, despite clear evidence of a continuing deterioration in services, including tenants being left without heating for weeks on end, the Regulator upgraded Circle again;
8. Within days, Circle announced its intention to merge with Affinity Sutton *“to create the largest housing association in Western Europe”*;
9. In response to Circle’s “consultation”, more than 1,000 residents signed a petition opposing the proposed closure of Old Ford, which led to Old Ford’s Board declining to agree to Circle’s proposal;

10. Following a Parliamentary debate initiated by Rushanara Ali MP, the Regulator finally began an investigation, which confirmed “serious detriment” had again been caused to tenants and resulted in the newly-merged Circle / Affinity Sutton being downgraded again in December 2016;
11. The former Chief Executive and Chair of Circle have both left the new organisation - Clarion Housing Group - and it is now run by former Affinity Sutton staff;
12. While Clarion’s new Management Team has made some improvement in services, it is continuing with Circle’s plan to close subsidiaries and centralise services;
13. Clarion has asked Old Ford’s Board to consult residents again on closing Old Ford;
14. At least two other local community-based housing associations have expressed an interest in coming together with Old Ford.

This Council believes:

1. The ex-HAT and “Parkside” estates in Bow were transferred to Old Ford on the basis that it would be a “*community-based housing association*”, and that residents voted in favour of the transfers from LBTH on that basis;
2. As the former landlord, Tower Hamlets Council has a moral and legal responsibility to ensure that any substantive changes to the governance arrangements at Old Ford are only made with the consent of residents;

This Council resolves:

1. To oppose any attempt by Clarion Housing Group to close Old Ford without the formal consent of residents;
2. To support the Mayor and Cabinet in opposing these plans publicly, including by raising objections to the Housing Minister and Social Housing Regulator, and by legal means if necessary;
3. To support the Mayor and Cabinet in facilitating direct discussions between Old Ford’s Board and those other community-based housing associations that have expressed an interest in combining with Old Ford.

12.15 Motion regarding Westferry Printworks Secondary School

Councillor Dave Chesterton **moved** and Candida Ronald **seconded** the motion as printed in the agenda.

Following debate, the motion was put to the vote and was **agreed**.

RESOLVED:

The Council notes:

1. The Council's Local Plan adopted in April 2013 identifies the site of the former Printworks on Westferry Road as a priority location for a new secondary school on the Isle of Dogs.
2. A new 1,200 place secondary school on this site was granted planning consent in May 2016. When this opens this will be the first new second secondary school on the Isle of Dogs since George Green's School opened in 1975, more than 40 years ago;
3. Currently there is a surplus of secondary school places on the Isle of Dogs (just over 7% across all year groups). Current projected demand for secondary school places indicates that additional provision will not be required until the start of the school year 2021/22;
4. The "free school presumption" is the process Local Authorities have to follow where they intend to open a new school. It is set out in section 6(A) of the Education & Inspections Act 2006 which provides that where a Local Authority believes that a new school needs to be established in their area, they must seek proposals for the establishment of an Academy or Free School;
5. However, the guidance clearly states (para 17) that 'In considering the need for a new school, local authorities should factor in any other free school projects that the department has approved and are due to open;'
6. The Secretary of State has made it clear that she considers Canary Wharf College to be an appropriate provider as it is already open as a school and includes secondary provision from September 2016;
7. Even where the Council decides to run a competition, the Secretary of State is the ultimate decision maker and may decide to appoint a sponsor other than that recommended to her by a local authority following competition. The guidance states: "The Secretary of State reserves the right to agree a sponsor of her own choice (from the list of approved sponsors) on the basis that she may have further evidence about a proposer, or proposers, which means that none of those put forward is suitable." In this instance it seems likely she may decide to appoint Canary Wharf College despite other expressions of interest submitted, making the process abortive for the Council and other schools who bid;
8. If the Council opts to run a competition, the Council could bear costs of up to £30million, in addition to the costs of running the free school competition. The costs would remain the responsibility of the Council regardless of the Secretary of State's decision on who the provider will be;

9. If the school goes ahead as a central free school determined by the Department for Education, and the Council does not run a competition, the capital costs and the pre and post-opening costs for the school would be borne by the Department for Education;

This council also believes:

10. That the previous Regional Schools Commissioner indicated that, by virtue of the fact Canary Wharf College has already been approved by the Secretary of State to open a secondary school on the Isle of Dogs, it would be fair to assume the Government intends to approve Canary Wharf College despite any recommendation process.

The Council Believes;

1. There is no need to rush to select an operator for the Westferry Printworks Secondary School, this secondary school will not be required until September 2021;
2. The process by which an operator for this new school is selected should be by open competition, completely transparent and the views of parents placed at the centre of the selection process;
3. Potential operators must be able to evidence outstanding success in:
 - a. High educational attainment for children from diverse backgrounds;
 - b. Community cohesion and inclusiveness;
 - c. Actively reaching out to children from poor families;
 - d. Actively reaching out to children of parents from all faiths;
 - e. Positively encouraging children with special needs.
4. Ideologically motivated interference by the Secretary of State in this selection process is unacceptable;
5. That by making the Council liable for what could cost £30m, without giving them the power to decide on who will run the school is entirely wrong and flies in the face of parents' wishes and local democracy;

The Council Resolves to:

1. Ask the Mayor to continue to stand up for the rights of local parents, to have their voices heard and to write to the Secretary of State urging her to properly consider and be guided by local opinion before making any decision on this site;
2. Ask the Mayor to urge the Secretary of State and Regional Schools Commissioner not to undermine local decision-making and accountability, and to be open about their intentions relating to the Westferry Printworks Secondary School and to make this process fully open by waiving in advance of any local competition, the requirement for council to fund as much as £30m costs should the recommendation of such a competition not be approved by the Secretary of State;

3. Call on Conservative Councillors to add their voices to local concerns and make representations to the Department for Education to enable a genuine free school competition where the decision is not pre-determined and which does not cost the council millions even if the local process is then overturned by Government;
4. Refer the petition signed by local people to the Secretary of State and Regional Schools Commissioner.

Motions 12.1, 12.3, 12.5-12.7, 12.9- 12.14 and 12.16-12. 21 were not debated due to lack of time.

13. URGENT MOTIONS

The Council agreed to suspend Procedure Rule 13.1 to enable the following urgent motion to be debated without notice:

13.1 Motion regarding the Autumn Budget 2017 and Fire Safety measures

Councillor David Edgar **moved** and Mayor John Biggs, **seconded**, the motion as **tabled**.

Following debate the motion was put to the vote and was **agreed**.

RESOLVED:

This Council notes:

1. The Government's Autumn Budget 2017 was presented to Parliament on 22nd November 2017.
2. The Budget failed to address the crisis facing our public services, directly caused by the Government's austerity programme.
3. That the Council is committed to keeping our residents safe with a focused programme of works based on up-to-date and professionally considered Fire Risk Assessments, but the Government's Budget did not include any new funding for fire safety measures, such as sprinklers, which many residents across the UK have understandably called for.

This Council believes:

1. That the Government's continued austerity programme is having a real impact on residents here in Tower Hamlets and across the UK:
 - a. Cuts of £18.7m to schools in Tower Hamlets, the equivalent of £508 per pupil;
 - b. 295 fewer police officers and PCSOs on streets in Tower Hamlets since the Tories came to power in 2010;
 - c. Government cuts to council funding have meant that Tower Hamlets Council has to save £58m over the coming years;
 - d. By 2019, local authorities will be forced to spend 19% less per household under the Tories;

- e. An open letter, signed by five major children's charities and organisations, warned that children's social care will have a £2bn funding gap nationally by 2020;
 - f. Child poverty has risen to 4 million under the Conservative Government and is set to rise by a further million by the end of this Parliament;
 - g. Cuts to adult social care budgets are expected to reach £6.3 billion by March 2018;
 - h. There are over 4 million people on NHS waiting lists in England, and there are 6,000 fewer mental health nurses than in 2010.
2. That the Budget should have included extra funding for fire safety measures, including cladding removal, fire doors, other protection systems and sprinklers.

This Council resolves:

- 1. To call on the Mayor to write to the Prime Minister:
 - a. Demanding that proper funding is provided for public services;
 - b. Demanding that the Government properly fund fire safety works across the UK, for example sprinklers, and accept that its disastrous programme of deregulation and cost cutting is putting lives at risk.

The meeting ended at 10.18 p.m.

Speaker of the Council

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APPENDIX A – WRITTEN RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS THAT WERE NOT PUT AT THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING (22 November 2017)

8.3 Question from Councillor John Pierce

The Mayor's 2017/18 Budget included nearly £6m additional spending for Mayoral Growth Priorities – what sort of programmes and projects has this £6m provided?

Response by Mayor John Biggs

A number of programmes and projects were approved as part of this £6m:

- £2m for free school meals
- £1.7m towards the £5m tackling poverty fund
- Nearly £700k to support women from unemployment into health care careers
- £120k for Children's Centre commissioning of voluntary and community sector organisations
- £50k to improve air quality in Tower Hamlets
- £185k to help residents overcome barriers to employment
- £230k for the Mayor's Apprenticeship Programme
- Many other projects benefitting residents right across the borough.

I note that Cllr Rabina Khan wanted to scrap this £6m in her February budget amendment. In short it would have meant that these projects would not have gone ahead so there would have been no money to help residents into work, to tackle poverty, for apprenticeships and crucially, Cllr Khan's budget proposals would mean no more free school meals.

8.4 Question from Councillor Chris Chapman

Will the Mayor explain as to why housing, built on land owned by the taxpayer through the council on Blackwall Reach, is being marketed to speculative investors in Singapore, Hong Kong and the Middle East before the council and partners have even opened a UK sales office?

Response by Councillor Rachel Blake

The overseas marketing of these homes just goes to show that London's housing market is broken, it can't be right that to pay for social homes we have to sell private homes overseas. Sadiq Khan is right in his 'first dibs' policy. We have complied with that policy and would like to work with him to go further to make sure that new homes in Tower Hamlets are available for local residents. The agreement was signed under the previous Mayor.

The scheme has to be commercially viable ' the alternative would have been for LBTH to part-subsidise directly or through grant. A normal deal for a private developer under a s106 planning agreement would not have these marketing conditions.

Marketing of the private homes at Blackwall Reach Regeneration Project is in line with a Principal Development Agreement (PDA) signed between project partners LBTH, the GLA and Swan Housing Association. This was signed under when Boris Johnson and Lutfur Rahman were Mayor of London and Tower Hamlets respectively - in April 2011 following the appointment of Swan as development partner and updated December 2013.

This summer saw a sales launch for the 200 private homes being built for Phase 1b of this project.

Initially, and as per the PDA, homes for sale in this phase were marketed by Swan for three months within Tower Hamlets and then London-wide for a further three months. Following this combined six month period, there has been marketing overseas.

Whilst the development phase does not complete till September 2019, it was hoped to secure advance sales in part to fund the affordable homes being built both in this phase and the already completed Phase 1a which was 100% affordable to facilitate rehousing from the Robin Hood Gardens Estate.

8.6 Question from Councillor Rabina Khan

Will the Mayor agree to set up a Tower Hamlets' Brexit Task Group to plan for a number of Brexit scenarios in the lead up to Britain's departure from the EU?

Response by Mayor John Biggs

Brexit is one of the biggest challenges facing our council and our country. The Growth and Economic Partnership Sub-Group – co-chaired by Councillor Peck and Ian Parkes of ELBA - has also been looking at the potential economic impacts of Brexit on the borough, and considering what partners need to do to respond to a number of potential scenarios. This work is focussed on ensuring that any skills or labour shortages caused by Brexit can be responded to by employment schemes in the borough.

I have been clear to our EU citizens living and working in Tower Hamlets, about 12% of our population, that our borough will remain a welcoming, open and international place, as it always has been.

In terms of preparation for Brexit we have done a lot but this is hampered by the Government's chaotic handling of the Brexit negotiations. Despite that, the council has been working to prepare ourselves for whatever the outcome.

As you will be aware, I have asked the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee to form a working party which met on 7th December to consider three things: the impact on the Council; the impact on the Borough and community, such as the rights of EU citizens; and to ensure we position the Borough accordingly. In effect we already have the group you are asking for.

We are also working with leading business figures and our partners across the NHS, schools, business, police, housing associations and other public services to jointly analyse the impact of Brexit on the whole borough. From house building to employment, tackling poverty to regeneration, Brexit will have a major impact which we are meeting head on.

8.7 Question from Councillor Ayas Miah

How many meetings of the Best Value Improvement Board have opposition members attended?

Response by Mayor John Biggs

Thank you for this important question. Since the previous Mayor left the Council in utter chaos we have been working hard to repair the damage he did. A major part of that has been through the work of the Best Value Review Board and then the Best Value Improvement Board which have overseen this vast improvement.

The Best Value Review Board Public Meetings ran from May 2015 until April 2017 with the Best Value Improvement Board replacing it since 10 April 2017. In total the two Boards have held ten meetings.

The meetings are open to all councillors and held in public. Representatives from all the political Groups are invited.

In answer to your question:

Councillor Peter Golds has attended on six occasions.
Councillor Oliur Rahman has NEVER attended
Councillor Rabina Khan has NEVER attended.

8.8 Question from Councillor Ohid Ahmed

How do the figures for all crime categories in Tower Hamlets since June 2016 compare to those for the previous two years?

Response by Councillor Asma Begum

From June 2016 to June 2017 there were 34,367 offences recorded in Tower Hamlets.

At the time of writing the Met were not able to provide comparison figures for the previous 24 months but were able to provide monthly comparisons: there was a 1.7% reduction in crime from May to June 2017.

To put this in context other boroughs saw increases – In Newham 3.52%, Hackney 1.25% and Islington 5.86%.

We are committed to making this borough a safer place for residents and to tackling crime. Nationally, recorded crime has risen and we are deeply concerned about central Government cuts.

The Mayor recently announced £3m for an additional 19 officers (on top of the 14 previously announced, focusing on estates) which will work across the whole borough.

In addition I recently took the new Community Safety Partnership to Cabinet, focusing on taking action in the following areas:

ASB including drugs and alcohol
Violence
Hate crime, Community Cohesion and Extremism
Reducing Reoffending

This was in response to extensive consultation with residents in Tower Hamlets in which we received responses from 1,400 residents living or working in the borough.

8.9 Question from Councillor Danny Hassell

Can the Lead Member please update on improvement work undertaken in relation to the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub since the Ofsted inspection earlier this year?

Response by Councillor Amy Whitelock Gibbs

Since the Ofsted inspection in February this year there has been a significant amount of work to address the concerns outlined in the report. This work started before the report was published and seeks to make the required improvements across the service with a view to being rated as at least 'good' at our next inspection.

We have put in extra resources across the service but have put an additional focus on our Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH). The MASH is a vitally important service receiving all of the initial contacts from partners and members of the public. The reason for focusing on this part of the child's journey first is that if we get things right at the very beginning of the child's journey then this has a positive impact on the life of that child, as well as ensuring that resources are appropriately targeted at those who most need them.

Since the inspection, two new team managers have been brought in which has greatly improved the functioning of the teams. Daily MASH meetings now take place which has greatly increased the multi-agency involvement in decision making. Performance has significantly improved, with the majority of contacts being closed within 24 hours. A small amount do take longer than this but usually only an additional 24 hours.

There has been a significant increase in the number of cases which are referred for a multi-agency response. These "MASH Episodes" greatly improve decision making and ensure that the children and families receive the most appropriate level of support.

Ofsted's first monitoring visit took place on the 30th and 31st of August 2017. The feedback was:

"Senior managers have appropriately prioritised improving the 'front door' multi-agency safeguarding hub (MASH) and the assessment and intervention (AI) service. As a result, most children in need of help and protection are beginning to benefit from the effective identification of risk and timely action by managers to safeguard them to prevent further harm. Leaders and elected members are developing comprehensive knowledge of the strengths and areas for development in the local authority."

"As a result, children in need of help and protection benefit from a more timely response, ensuring that their needs are prioritised. Cases are speedily transferred to the AI teams, where they are allocated promptly."

"Staff who have been working in Tower Hamlets for a long time are very positive about the changes, describing the MASH and AI service as 'unrecognisable'"

We are not complacent about the scale of the task and know that there is much to do in order to ensure that the changes are sustained and that the improvement is replicated across the service.

Under the previous Mayor there was a severely underfunded service that relied on using reserves as a short term fix, but which stored up significant problems in the long term. In contrast, Mayor Biggs has invested £4.8m in Children's Social Care, as agreed by Full Council in the last Budget. In addition, in the 2018/19 budget process we plan to invest a further £5m plus an estimated £4m for the specific Improvement Plan Budget.

The challenges we face locally are in the context of a national crisis. Nationally Children's social care is being pushed to breaking point, with an unprecedented surge in demand leaving services struggling to cope, across the public, voluntary and community sector. The funding gap facing children's services across the UK will reach at least £2 billion by 2020. The Government's failure to invest in these vital services, including early help for vulnerable families, will have long term consequences for our country's children and families. The number of children needing child protection plans has nearly doubled over the past decade, and last year saw the largest annual increase in children in care since 2013.

8.10 Question from Councillor Andrew Wood

Will the Mayor arrange a meeting between the Councils Planning, Clean and Green, Roads, Public Health and the Environmental Health teams and affected residents on the Isle of Dogs as to how to mitigate the cumulative impact of construction on their health and quality of life?

Response by Councillor Rachel Blake

We are already taking action - in April 2017, the Council's structure was reorganised which resulted in planning and environmental health services being brought together within the new Place Directorate. The Planning Compliance (Enforcement) Team has been restructured and expanded following a Mayoral Growth bid approved in the 2017/18 budget. A new Planning Compliance Manager has been recruited to and all vacant posts within the team have been filled, providing much needed additional capacity, stability and strong team leadership. All open enforcement cases, including ones centred on construction issues, are subject to progress review at least once a month and more frequently for high profile, urgent or harmful cases. We have also assigned a lead officer to deal largely with construction management issues

In terms of the meeting, this is already in progress. The Planning Compliance Team is working to produce a cross-departmental Construction Works Forum with Environmental Health, Highways, Licensing, Building Control, as well as the Director of Public Health and others. The group should be fully operational within the next month and will consider input from residents. The meetings are being held monthly with the second meeting held on 21st November 2017. The next meeting after the Christmas break is tentatively set for 23rd January 2018.

The forum meets on a monthly basis with key nominated officers from each service acting as main contact points and monitoring officers for significant cases. We are currently compiling a 'hitlist' of sites in order to co-ordinate action and necessary monitoring arrangements.

The main crux of this forum is to tackle problematic construction work especially focused on the rapidly developing Canary Wharf and Isle of Dogs

areas.

The working group is a cross-departmental initiative set up to collaborate and co-ordinate action, site inspections and/or communication for construction sites where resolution is on-going. In this regard internal lead contact points for departments such as Environmental Health, Planning, Parking and Highways have been established and they will continue to share information amongst themselves in a more expeditious and concentrated manner. Additionally key sites such as Landmark Pinnacle have been prioritised for collaborative action and enhanced direction or enforcement.

8.11 Question from Councillor Marc Francis

Will the Lead Member update me on the outcome of the survey of Bow residents about the current parking restrictions that took place over the summer?

Response by Mayor John Biggs

The Council has undertaken an informal survey on parking in zones B4 and B2, to listen to residents and business regarding their parking and gave the opportunity for residents and businesses to indicate their parking views.

The main reason for the informal survey is that with significant development on the eastern edge of Tower Hamlets, particularly resulting from the development of the nearby Olympic Park, Westfield, West Ham Football Club and new housing schemes, some residents and business have expressed concerns about the pressure on parking. As a result we carried out this survey to gather wider views of residents and businesses.

We are reviewing feedback. There may be some limited areas such as Fish Island where residents may be keen for changes, but we would not proceed unless there is a strong local demand.

We would like to thank residents and businesses for taking the time to complete the informal parking survey questionnaire and providing us with your feedback.

8.12 Question from Councillor Abdul Asad

With the changes introduced under the new Council Tax Reduction Scheme does the Mayor believe that it has not affected our most vulnerable members in the community?

Response by Councillor David Edgar

The council's Local Council Tax Reduction scheme (LCTRS) is designed to ensure that the most vulnerable households in Tower Hamlets can qualify for a maximum 100% Council Tax rebate. Most councils no longer have a scheme which allows a 100% reduction in Council Tax.

We have 27,977 live claims of which 19,322 (69%) receive a full reduction in their council tax bill.

Since the abolition of Council Tax Benefit in April 2013, the funding provided to local authorities for their Local Council Tax Reduction Schemes has significantly reduced. Tower Hamlets kept a local scheme broadly similar to Council Tax Benefit between April 2013 and March 2017. This had significant costs because the council had to fund the difference between the actual cost of the scheme and the funding provided by central government

Following a public consultation in autumn 2016, the council decided to make changes to its scheme, partly in response to the Government's introduction of Universal Credit which means we no longer receive much of the income information we used to base the LCTRS calculation on. The changes also aimed to slightly reduce costs and make the scheme fairer, whilst prioritising protecting the poorest.

The council wants to ensure that residents do not suffer financial hardship as a result of the changes and has a hardship scheme as part of the revised LCTRS. This allows a reduction in council tax liability where it is deemed appropriate to do so.

In addition to this, the November Cabinet meeting considered and agreed two reports that are part of the Mayor's wider Tackling Poverty priority. These reports set out the additional support and funding available for the borough's more vulnerable residents.

8.13 Question from Councillor Khales Uddin Ahmed

Does the Mayor feel his human rights have been impeded by responding to questions at Full Council meetings?

Response by Mayor John Biggs

Thank you Councillor Ahmed for what in any other council would be an utterly bizarre question.

Sadly as we all know the previous Mayor refused to answer a single question from councillors or members of the public at Council meetings.

You could reasonably be forgiven for assuming he didn't have a clue, or potentially a care, about what he did with taxpayer money.

Instead he hid behind a farcical defence that it was against his human rights to be made to account for his decisions. Some might call that cowardly. I call it a disgrace.

Since becoming Mayor I have not only answered countless questions, petitions and motions at Council, I've attended Overview and Scrutiny

regularly, made myself as open and accountable as possible to local residents through surgery, casework and community meetings and held numerous Ask the Mayor sessions to invite residents to quiz me on my decisions and plans for the borough.

From the next meeting Members will note the rules have changed so each opposition group will get a chance to bring a motion to Full Council.

I believe that being Mayor is a privilege and that residents should have the power to question every decision you make. By contrast, the previous mayor and Cabinet treated it like an entitlement and were accountable to no-one. An utter disgrace.

8.14 Question from Councillor Maium Miah

Can the Council provide the record of the number of missed bin collections (household waste, recycling and associated log of complaints) for each electoral ward since 2010 until now?

Response by Councillor Rachel Blake

The statistics for this response will be circulated separately.

Some of the information you requested is not held or not effectively recorded to provide analysis and breakdown of your query. Clean, Green and Highways was created in 2011

8.15 Question from Councillor Candida Ronald

The 20mph speed limit on Prestons Road in my ward of Blackwall & Cubitt Town is regularly ignored by drivers and there have been a spate of accidents at the traffic bollard outside Horizons Tower. What measures will the Mayor take to improve road safety in this area?

Response by Councillor Amina Ali

Officers are currently completing a design review of Prestons Road to improve the safety of this road and encourage slower speeds through design, thus improving compliance with the 20mph speed limit.

The traffic island houses an ANPR security camera which monitors the two lanes of traffic to either side.

This island links to another island at Westferry Circus lower roundabout and forms part of the "Canary Wharf ring of steel" that was put in as part of Canary Wharf security. Unfortunately there is a history of accidents within the vicinity as vehicles merge into a single lane.

The design review will seek to address this problem both in terms of revising the road layout and providing a safer location for the camera to be able to

maintain its role.

The design review also takes into account the changes required to provide access to the Wood Wharf development.

It is expected that the study will be completed before Christmas and subject to Mayoral approval, will be issued for local public consultation early in the New Year.

8.16 Question from Councillor Peter Golds

It has been council policy for the past seventeen years, under both the Labour and Tower Hamlets First administrations, for the provision of a second South Quay Bridge. In view of the population explosion on the Isle of Dogs, will the Mayor outline when the bridge will be delivered? By Contrast the Mayor of London has started a full public consultation on the new Rotherhithe to Canary Wharf bridge one year after announcing he would build it by the year 2020.

Response by Mayor John Biggs

We have progressed this unlike the previous administration. I have taken an interest in this from 2002, and it has been a complicated project.

A feasibility study completed by the Council has identified options for the provision of additional crossing capacity over South Dock.

A project team, including secured project management resources, and a Project Executive Board are in place.

A report is to be considered by the Mayor in Cabinet at the meeting on the 19th December. This report will provide an overview and outline of the project. Subject to the Mayor's approval we hope to start consultation on crossing options in February next year.

The draft programme of works identifies completion of the project by March 2020.

8.17 Question from Councillor Dave Chesterton

When does the Mayor anticipate being able to announce the creation of a new riverside public park on the site of the old Millwall Lock Entrance, opposite the Dockland Sailing Centre?

Response by Councillor Abdul Mukit MBE

The Council has secured Section 106 funding to support the improvement of the open space in its ownership at Millwall Outer Dock.

A project team, including secured project management resources and a

steering group are in place.

The draft programme of works identifies completion of the project by August 2018, with public consultation programmed in for the first quarter of 2018. Officers are seeking dialogue with the owners of non-Council owned land.

8.18 Question from Councillor Aminur Khan

How many council funded police officers did the Mayor cut following his first two budgets?

Response by Councillor Asma Begum

Since 2010, Tower Hamlets council – like councils across London and the UK – has faced a Conservative-led Government determined to cut police budgets. The Met has already lost £600 million in funding since 2010 and the Government is threatening to go even further.

This has left Tower Hamlets Council to pick up the tab. In fairness to the opposition, to that end the council funded a team of 21 police officers in July 2011. However, the disgraced former Mayor Lutfur Rahman chose to scrap them in March 2015 when their contract was up for renewal.

Central Government cuts to police budgets are having a real impact.

This administration is determined to do everything it can to protect our community from huge central Government cuts to policing. This year we hired fourteen new police officers as part of a ground-breaking team to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour on council estates – the first of its kind in the borough.

Furthermore the Mayor in Cabinet has recently agreed to fund additional officers to support neighbourhood policing, including an officer focused on 'designing out crime'. This will bring the total number of officers including those patrolling THH estates to 39.

8.19 Question from Councillor Clare Harrison

How will the Mayor's £200,000 Air Quality Fund be spent?

Response by Councillor Rachel Blake

At Cabinet on the 31st October 2017 the Mayor agreed a new fund as part of the Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP).

The fund is for £200,000 over a two year period of 17/18 and 18/19.

The fund is intended for 'prospective bidders to support activities aligned to the Council priorities in improving air quality'.

Criteria for the proposed projects include:

- be related to either reducing emissions of, reducing exposure to or increasing awareness of air pollution;
- be directly relevant to actions in our AQAP;
- have a measurable impact; and
- have wider community benefits

The next stage is to take a report to the grants sub-committee to approve the process to release the funds.

8.20 Question from Councillor Mahbub Alam

Following the Grenfell tragedy, will the Mayor commit to publishing all Fire Risk Assessments immediately?

Response by Councillor Sirajul Islam

The Mayor has publicly committed to publishing THH's Fire Risk Assessments and this programme is already underway. All blocks rated a substantial risk have already had their FRA's published. All remaining blocks are being processed by THH who have a programme agreed with the council to upload the assessments.

8.21 Question from Councillor Rachael Saunders:

What plan for Old Flo did the Mayor inherit when he was elected?

Response by Councillor Abdul Mukit MBE

Old Flo is an important part of our cultural heritage and it deserves proper recognition.

Before the previous mayor was removed from office, he planned to sell Old Flo. One of the first decisions I made after my election was to cancel the sale and return her to the borough.

Old Flo is now safely back in Tower Hamlets, at a secure and accessible home in Cabot Square. Whilst I would have loved to see Old Flo returned to her old home in Stepney her considerable value means we've had to find her a safe and secure home for her for the next five years, in Canary Wharf. My hope is after that she can move even closer into our community, at the new Civic Centre in Whitechapel when it is complete.

Tower Hamlets has recently submitted its bid to be London Borough of Culture and I'm proud that Old Flo is back home and played a big role in our bid.

8.22 Question from Councillor Craig Aston

Will the Mayor indicate what discussions he held with his counterpart in Hackney with regard to sharing the costs of the firework display which was much appreciated by residents of both Tower Hamlets and Hackney but paid for by Tower Hamlets?

Response by Councillor Chunu Mukit

The London Borough of Hackney has not in recent times been formally approached with regard to sharing the costs of the Victoria Park fireworks display with Tower Hamlets. The Mayor did briefly mention it to Mayor Glanville who said that resources were allocated to the north of the borough.

The Fireworks event attracted an audience of 80,000 this year and was a successful event. It is one of the few remaining free events of this kind in London. As a neighbouring borough Hackney residents already benefit from the high quality facilities in the park as do many others who live in other parts of London

8.23 Question from Councillor Shah Alam

Does the Mayor agree that this budget overlooks the needs of the disabled children who use council funded nurseries and abandons the low income families these nurseries currently serve?

Response by Councillor Amy Whitelock Gibbs

Supporting our children to get the best start in life is one of our top priorities in Tower Hamlets. We are proud to have a diverse range of early years services for children under 5 with over 7,000 children attending sessions across the borough. The vast majority of these are provided by pre-school classes within primaries, separate maintained nursery schools, independent nurseries, numerous playgroups and child-minders, with around 105 children (dropping to about 30 children during holidays) attending day nurseries run directly by the Council - Overland, Mary Sambrook and John Smith.

We know parents value the service their children receive at these council-run nurseries. That's why we have been consulting online and directly with parents on proposals about how we manage them in the future and we very much welcome people's views as we decide what to do.

As of June this year the breakdown across our early years provision was:

- 68 primary schools, 65 of which have nursery classes and the other 3 have reception classes (attended by 2,980 children)
- 6 maintained nursery schools with teaching staff (407 children)
- 47 day care nurseries and nursery schools provided by private businesses and voluntary or independent organisations including charities (2,503 children)

- 30 playgroups (888 children) and 114 child minders (560 children)
- 3 Local Area Day Nurseries

The quality of services offered is exceptional with the vast majority (95%) of nurseries in our borough rated “good” or “outstanding” by Ofsted, which accredits all childcare settings.

We are clear that anyone seeking to run our nurseries would have to show they can offer services which are as good or better than what is currently there, including meeting tough contract requirements about maintaining excellent standards of care for children. That includes protecting the excellent specialist support for our children with disabilities or special educational needs, in particular the hearing impairment support at Overland. We would also ensure these and other nurseries continue to support vulnerable children that are being supported through the council’s social care and child protection services.

We are committed to listening to local people and will take the results of the consultation into account before any final decisions are made.

8.24 Question from Councillor Suluk Ahmed:

Will the Mayor provide the number of housing units (affordable, private and council) ‘approved’ since June 2015 until now with their completion schedules?

Response by Councillor Rachel Blake

The population of Tower Hamlets recently passed the 300,000 mark and it is predicted there will be a further 87,400 people living in the Borough over the next 25 years. While an increasing population brings opportunities, a lack of affordable housing is a major concern for our residents.

Mayor Biggs has committed to fighting the housing crisis and increasing the number of affordable homes in Tower Hamlets.

In the last two years of the previous administration, 2013/14 and 2014/15, only 595 and 635 affordable homes were built in Tower Hamlets, respectively.

Since Mayor Biggs came into office we have almost doubled that figure with over 1,000 new affordable homes built in each of the past two years.

Since June 1st 2015, the numbers of affordable housing units which have been built, i.e. completed, is as follows:

Year	Total Affordable	Rented	Intermediate
June 2015 – Mar 2016	1009	728	281
April 2016 – Mar	1066	734	332

2017			
April 2017 – Sept 2017	464	357	107
	2539	1819	720

In addition to this Mayor Biggs has introduced new rent levels, based on the findings of the Affordability Commission, which will save residents up to £6,000 per year compared to rents under the former mayor before he was removed from office.

When Mayor Biggs was elected, 174 families were living in B&B accommodation for longer than the six week legal limit. After significant investment and planning, we've brought this figure down to zero.

We have a proactive approach to housing; we don't bury our head in the sand like the previous administration.

8.25 Question from Councillor Julia Dockerill

The building of a new secondary school was part of the deal when the London Dock planning application was approved, and the development is now completed in parts. However, there has been very little information about the building and running of the school ever since, beyond two last-minute 'consultation' meetings, the most recent of which was held outside of the ward. Given that the council is meant to hold an open and competitive tendering process for any new provider, will the Mayor update the council on what his administration intends to do?

Response by Councillor Amy Whitelock Gibbs

Cabinet agreed on 19 September 2017 to defer implementation of the London Dock secondary school building scheme while there is a review of the demand for secondary school places in the borough.

We are seeking planning consent at this stage to consult with residents in advance of gaining planning approval and starting the process with the Department for Education to open a new school. Based on current figures it is anticipated that the school will not be needed before September 2021 at earliest, with the likelihood that the scheme will be planned for either September 2022 or 2023. The implementation date will be considered again by the Council's Cabinet at a meeting in September 2018.

The consultation invite was mailed to 2,275 addresses (residential 2213 and businesses 62) that may be affected by the proposed plans. The design team is currently working with Planning Officers to finalise the proposals taking account of the consultation issues raised.

Where the need for a new school is identified, the local authority (LA) is no longer able to open a new community school. We can seek expressions of

interest from approved free school or academy providers, following a procedure set out by the DfE.

We will set a specification for the new school at London Dock to ensure that a provider is appointed who can deliver the specification, including a requirement to support the Tower Hamlets Education Partnership. Once the specification is agreed, Expressions of Interest (Eols) in providing the services specified will be sought. Eols are publicised by the LA as well as the requirement for them to be available on the DfE website.

8.26 Question from Councillor Shafi Ahmed

Does the Mayor think that there has been an increase in knife crime in Tower Hamlets?

Response by Councillor Asma Begum

Sadly we have seen knife crime rise across London, including in Tower Hamlets. According to the latest figures from the Police in the Borough on a rolling year to date (12.11.17) compared to the previous rolling year to date (12.11.17)

Total Knife Crime has increased by 22.1% to 684 offences (this includes a knife or sharp instrument that has been used to injure, used as a threat, or the victim was convinced a knife was present during the offence and knife possession).

Other London boroughs have seen similar increases:

Lambeth up 50.58% to 646
Hackney up 10.85% to 562
Croydon up 102.67% to 683
Newham up 15.08% to 702
Southwark up 45.58% to 840

Knife Injury Victims (under 25 non domestic abuse) has stayed the same at 106.

We are committed to tackling knife crime in Tower Hamlets. In June 2017 the Community Safety Partnership and Council set up a Task force of partner agencies to review knife and knife enabled crime in the borough and ensure that the partnership's response was effective in order to prevent and respond to future incidences.

Since then we have undertaken the following:

- 7 community weapon sweeps, supported by our dedicated youth outreach Rapid Response Team.

- knife test purchase operations have been carried out by Trading Standards and police cadets during which 22 premises have been visited and 5 failed, those 5 are subject to further action and prosecution being considered.
- 4 young people were referred to the most recent LFB LIFE Course, of which 2 engaged with the course and 1 young person completed the course which offers positive activities and diverts them from ASB and crime. A further 4 young people have referred to the next course.

8.27 Question from Councillor Harun Miah

Will the Mayor provide details of how many Council staff have been made redundant or left the council since June 2015 including the number who fall under the protected categories of the Public Sector Equality Duty and their final impact assessments?

Response by Councillor David Edgar

All staff are covered by the Public Sector Equality Duty as all have protected characteristics. The 'Annual workforce equalities report' published in 2016 showed that 54% of the people working for the Council identify as Asian, Bangladeshi, Black or Mixed race. That is slightly higher than the percentage of BAME people living in Tower Hamlets and slightly higher than when I was elected.

Two of the council's five Corporate Directors are from BAME backgrounds and all five are women.

There has been a significant reduction in the size of the workforce due to Government spending cuts – a 1,200 reduction since 2010.

Overall in my 30 months as Mayor, the BAME composition of our workforce has actually risen from 52.6% in 2015 to 54% in 2017.

In terms of the number of staff who have been made redundant or left the Council since June 2015 for any other reason, the information below covers the protected characteristics where sufficient information is held for reporting.

Table 1 – Leavers by ethnicity

Leavers June 2015 - Oct 2017		
Ethnicity	Number	%
Asian	93	4.8
Bangladeshi	414	21.5
Black	282	14.6
Mixed	60	3.1
Other	12	0.6
White	796	41.2
Declined to State / Missing	273	14.1
Grand Total	1930	100.0

Table 2 – Leavers by religion

Leavers June 2015 - Oct 2017		
Religion	Number	%
Buddhist	23	1.2
Christian	520	26.9
Hindu	14	0.7
Jewish	14	0.7
Muslim	448	23.2
No religion	350	18.1
Other	73	3.8
Sikh	9	0.5
Decline to State Missing	479	24.8
Grand Total	1930	100.0

Table 3 – Leavers by sexual orientation

Leavers June 2015 - Oct 2017		
Sexual Orientation	Number	%
Bisexual	22	1.1
Gay	27	1.4
Heterosexual	1309	67.8
Lesbian	10	0.5
Decline to State Missing	562	29.1
Grand Total	1930	100.0

Table 4 – Leavers by gender

Leavers June 2015 - Oct 2017		
Age band	Number	%
<=20	31	1.6
21 - 24	159	8.2
25 - 34	552	28.6
35 - 44	490	25.4
45 - 49	164	8.5
50 - 54	119	6.2
55 - 59	157	8.1
60 - 64	155	8.0
65+	103	5.3
Grand Total	1930	100.0

Leavers June 2015 - Oct 2017		
Gender	Number	%
Female	1162	60.2
Male	768	39.8
Grand Total	1930	100.0

Table 5 – Leavers by disability

Leavers June 2015 - Oct 2017		
Disability	Number	%
Not disabled	1363	70.6
Disabled	110	5.7
Declined to State / Missing	457	23.7
Grand Total	1930	100.0

Table 6 – Leavers by age

Leavers June 2015 - Oct 2017		
Age band	Number	%
<=20	31	1.6
21 - 24	159	8.2
25 - 34	552	28.6
35 - 44	490	25.4
45 - 49	164	8.5
50 - 54	119	6.2
55 - 59	157	8.1
60 - 64	155	8.0
65+	103	5.3
Grand Total	1930	100.0

Please note the following about the information above: -

These figures are slightly different than those quoted in an FOI (9551965) which asked for similar information because they include all leavers by post. i.e. a person who leaves 2 posts is counted twice - once for each post.

The figures include iTRES leavers – the Council's in-house resourcing agency. The figures are inclusive of staff who left due to TUPE transfer. This includes Fides Care staff who initially TUPEd in to the Council with no protected characteristics information provided, which partially explains the high 'declined to state/missing' figures.

8.28 Question from Councillor Gulam Kibria Choudhury

Will the Mayor provide the number of recorded ASB cases (incidents and complaints) in each electoral ward from June 2015 until now?

Response by Councillor Asma Begum

There have been a total of 29,087 anti-social behaviour calls in LBTH to Police 101 between 1st June 2015 and 12th November 2017.

The latest comparison for ASB calls to 101 for the 12 months up to and including 12th November 2017 compared to the previous 12 months up to 12th November 2016 show that they are down 13.8% as follows:

2016: 17,816

2017: 15,351

For the same period, repeat callers for ASB to Police 101 are down 14.0% as follows:

2016: 701

2017: 603

This administration is committed to tackling ASB, including making it a top priority of the new Community Safety Partnership and for the new police officers tasked with tackling crime and ASB in Tower Hamlets.

These figures are for ASB between 1st June 2015 and 12th November 2017

Ward	Number of ASB calls
Bethnal Green	1478
Blackwall and Cubitt Town	1692
Bow East	1577
Bow West	1200
Bromley North	1669
Bromley South	1500
Canary Wharf	1022
Island Gardens	1068
Lansbury	1061
Limehouse	1128
Mile End	1326
Poplar	1472
Shadwell	1632

Spitalfields and Banglatown	2085
St Dunstan's	2103
St Katharine's and Wapping	1759
St Peter's	1570
Stepney Green	1374
Weavers	1162
Whitechapel	1209
Grand Total	29087

8.29 Question from Councillor Muhammad Ansar Mustaqim:

Will the Mayor set out the list of youth centres which are no longer in use but which were operational (full or part time) in February 2015?

Response by Councillor Abdul Mukit MBE

In February 2015 the Youth Service was responsible for a number of youth projects. However, young people were getting a poor offer from the Youth Service which was characterised by:

Insufficient staffing levels to guarantee that youth centres would open at the stated time. Because staff were spread too thinly across youth centres;
Short notice closures of youth centres;
An inconsistent youth offer delivered from youth centres;
Very low attendance of young people at some youth centres due to the poor programme offer

At its meeting on 10th January 2017 Cabinet agreed that the Youth Service could be restructured to commission internally run youth activities from 8 key youth centre hubs; providing support for a number of young people, including more vulnerable young people.

As a result, the restructured Youth Service now has a total of 24 council youth projects operating now (made up of 18 universal youth centres, five specialist projects, and a youth participation programme).

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Refuse

Wards	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	Total 17-18
Domestic total	248	267	549	573	368	483	304	0	0	0	0	0	2792

Wards	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	Total 16-17
Domestic total	167	236	355	337	290	310	281	208	204	289	350	289	3316

Wards	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	Total 15-16
Domestic total	360	370	383	490	335	242	204	184	161	277	283	338	3627

Wards	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	Total 14-15
Total	205	266	302	337	247	274	426	315	223	412	290	341	3638

Wards	April - Sept	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	Total 13-14
Total	356	360	356	356	356	356	213	270	223	284	268	318	3716

Wards	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	Total 12-13
Total	259	352	317	474	467	347	327	283	241	444	386	330	4227

Wards	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	Total 11-12
Total	251	226	294	295	347	313	284	269	198	267	208	282	3234

Wards	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	Total 10-11
Total	0	0	0	0	0	0	62	415	577	237	231	326	1848

Recycling

Wards	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	Total 17-18
Recycling total	286	298	539	419	253	274	295	0	0	0	0	0	2364

Wards	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	Total 16-17
Recycling total	172	177	322	371	457	427	326	351	380	305	282	389	3959

Wards	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	Total 15-16
Recycling total	236	297	311	391	256	240	215	199	163	293	260	283	3144

Wards	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	Total 14-15
Total	210	236	266	294	267	264	384	319	233	484	252	322	3531

Wards	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	Total 13-14
Total	285	290	285	285	285	285	228	193	165	256	154	180	2891

Wards	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	Total 12-13
Total	130	265	258	279	206	166	140	158	135	240	195	197	2369

Wards	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	Total 11-12
Total	507	317	300	315	766	816	355	269	205	261	153	217	4481

Wards	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	Total 10-11
Total	0	0	0	0	0	0	103	223	238	196	182	291	1233

Food and Garden

Wards	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	Total 17-18
Recycling total	67	114	189	94	94	70	68	0	0	0	0	0	696

Wards	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	Total 16-17
Recycling total	130	119	92	94	132	129	216	186	104	107	105	75	1489

Wards	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	Total 15-16
Recycling total	74	48	105	89	149	85	205	89	153	97	90	51	1235

Wards	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	Total 14-15
Total	116	200	205	188	103	129	87	79	59	212	171	129	3531

Wards	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	Total 13-14
Total	69	60	77	99	240	218	167	146	81	149	92	175	2891

Wards	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	Total 12-13
Total	63	107	95	133	85	79	101	66	55	122	80	65	1051

Wards	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	Total 11-12
Total	137	120	118	107	132	218	165	175	73	123	82	81	1531

Wards	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	Total 10-11
Total							51	136	107	67	63	115	539

Complaints


Complaints	Domestic	Recycling	Organic	Bulky waste
Year 17/18	24	10	10	7

Complaints	Domestic	Recycling	Organic	Bulky waste
Year 16/17	90	50	23	33

Complaints	Domestic	Recycling	Organic	Bulky waste
Year 15/16	73	25	14	26

Complaints	Domestic	Recycling	Organic	Bulky waste
Year 14/15	179	80	42	52

Complaints	Domestic	Recycling	Organic	Bulky waste
Year 13/14	51	10	5	1

<p>Non-Executive Report of the:</p> <p>Council</p> <p>17 January 2018</p>	 <p>TOWER HAMLETS</p>
<p>Report of: Asmat Hussain, Corporate Director, Governance</p>	<p>Classification: Unrestricted</p>
<p>Petitions to Council</p>	

<p>Originating Officer(s)</p>	<p>Matthew Mannion, Committee Services Manager, Democratic Services.</p>
<p>Wards affected</p>	<p>All wards</p>

SUMMARY

1. This report sets out the valid petitions submitted for presentation at the Council meeting on Wednesday 17 January 2018. The texts of all petitions received for presentation to this meeting are set out in the attached report.
2. The Council's Constitution provides for up to four petitions to be heard at each ordinary Council meeting. These are taken in order of receipt, except that petitions for debate (those in excess of 2,000 signatures) will take precedence. Should more than four petitions be received, all remaining petitions will be listed to be formally noted by Council.
3. Responses to all petitions will be sent to the lead petitioner and displayed on the Council website.
4. For Petitions listed as for debate:
 - a. petitioners may address the meeting for no more than 3 minutes.
 - b. Members may then question the petitioners for a further 4 minutes.
 - c. The petition will then be debated by Councillors for a maximum of 15 minutes. All speeches are limited to a maximum of 3 minutes. During his or her speech, any Councillor may move a motion for the Council's consideration relevant to matters in the petition (this does not require the suspension of the Council Procedure Rules).
 - d. The speaker will invite the Mayor or (at the Mayor's discretion) the relevant Lead Member or Committee Chair to respond to the petition for up to 3 minutes.
 - e. Following the petition debate, any motions moved will be put to the vote in the order they were tabled.

- f. If no motion is agreed, the petition will stand referred to the relevant Corporate Director for a written response within 28 days of the meeting.
- 5. For Petitions listed as to be heard:
 - a. Petitioners may address the meeting for no more than 3 minutes.
 - b. Members may then question the petitioners for a further 4 minutes.
 - c. Finally, the speaker will invite the Mayor or (at the Mayor's discretion) the relevant Lead Member or Committee Chair to respond to the petition for up to 2 minutes. The petition will then be referred to the relevant Corporate Director for attention who will provide a written response within 28 days of the date of the meeting.
- 6. Members, other than a Cabinet Member or Committee Chair responding at the end of the item, should confine their contributions to questions and not make statements or attempt to debate.
- 7. For Petitions listed as to be noted, petitioners may not address the meeting. The Speaker will state where they will go for a full response.

PETITIONS FOR DEBATE

No petitions for debate had been received by the petitions deadline.

PETITIONS TO BE HEARD

5.1 Petition regarding Latham House fire safety (from Mr. M Ahmed and others)

We the undersigned petition the council to:

Conduct an independent inspection of the cladding of Latham House for it's a) fire safety and b) insulation qualities. If single/both aspects are not up to a high standard for living, we demand improvements.

Due to a decline of community and vehicle safety/protection over a period of ten years, we the undersigned demand CCTV cameras to be installed in three strategic locations in Mountmorres Estate, 1) Centre of Latham House carpark 2) Westport Street/Chudleigh Street junction 3) Westport Street/Old Church Road junction. We also demand the council to develop a respectable solution to the continuous disruptions caused by events at Troxy on Commercial Road.

5.2 Petition regarding Galleon House fire safety (from Nasim Ahmed and others)

Please note the following is an extract of the full petition, which is around 2,500 words. The full text of the Galleon House fire safety petition can be found on the Council's Petitions website at www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/petition

We, the residents of Galleon House, are extremely concerned over fire safety on our block and the poor standard of work completed by East End Homes (EEH). Our fear over these issues and the neglect shown by EEH over complaints raised by residents has been further intensified by a recent fire on the first floor of our block during the weekend of 14 October 2017.

Our appeal to the council:

- We appeal to Tower Hamlets council for the following:
- We are calling on the council to investigate the issues raised by residents of Galleon House concerning work carried out by East End Homes.
- We want the council to obtain assurances from EEH that it will address the fire safety concerns of the residents.
- We want EEH to explain their failure to carry out the work they promised, especially concerns over fire safety.
- We want the council to obtain assurances from EEH that it will not increase service charge given that the renovation was meant to

address essential problems in the block.

- We also request the council to call on EEH to suitably compensate the residents for its poor standard of work including (lifts, water pressure, drainage, entry doors and balusters etc).

5.3 Petition for water sprinklers at Anglia House, Salmon Lane E14 (from Momina Begum and others)

We the residents of Anglia House ask the Tower Hamlets Council and its Mayor to immediately ensure that water sprinklers are installed (retrofitted) in our tower block in the aftermath of Grenfell Tower, and the recommendations made by Keith Wiseman, the coroner for Southampton (sprinklers to be fitted to all building higher than 30 metres (98 ft), and Judge Frances Kirkham, the coroner at the inquest into the deaths of six people at Lakanal House in Camberwell, south-east London.

We appreciate efforts by our ward Cllr Mahbub Alam for pursuing this issue on our behalf and would be grateful if the Council could act on our request urgently.


5.4 Petition regarding the Campaign for Outdoor Gym in Sir John McDougal Park, Westferry Road, E14 (from Natasha Bolter and others)

We the undersigned - residents of Canary Wharf ward and Isle of Dogs - support the campaign by our local independent Cllr Maium Miah (Canary Wharf ward) to have an outdoor gym installed by the Council in Sir John McDougal Park (Gardens), Westferry Road, London E14. The Council has been considering a proposal to install outdoor gyms but fails to confirm or inform residents about the locations or how are these being chosen. The Council has formally stated that "outdoor gyms are on the agenda". We ask the Council to confirm that an outdoor gym will be installed in Sir John McDougal Park within its existing proposal. In addition, S106 and Community Infrastructure Levy monies can easily be - and must be - used by the Council to invest in local neighbourhoods and communities particularly given the rate and scale of development in Isle of Dogs and Canary Wharf where the case is even stronger and makes perfect sense.

We want the Council to keep the local residents fully informed and consult with them properly instead of deciding where to install outdoor gyms behind the closed door.

PETITIONS TO BE NOTED

No further petitions had been received by the petitions deadline, so there are no petitions to be noted at this meeting.

<p>Non-Executive Report of the:</p> <p>COUNCIL</p> <p>17 January 2018</p>	 <p>TOWER HAMLETS</p>
<p>Report of: Asmat Hussain, Corporate Director, Governance and Monitoring Officer</p>	<p>Classification: Unrestricted</p>
<p>Motion for debate submitted by the Administration</p>	

<p>Originating Officer(s)</p>	<p>Matthew Mannion, Committee Services Manager, Democratic Services.</p>
<p>Wards affected</p>	<p>All wards</p>

SUMMARY

1. Council Procedure Rule 11 allows for time at each Ordinary Council meeting for the discussion of one specific Motion submitted by the Administration. The debate will follow the rules of debate at Council Procedure Rule 13 and will last no more than 30 minutes.
2. The motion submitted is listed overleaf. The Administration Motion is submitted by the Labour Group.
3. Motions must be about matters for which the Council or its partners has a direct responsibility. 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; or which proposes that a decision of the Council taken in the previous six months be rescinded; unless notice of the motion is given signed by at least twenty Members.
4. Notice of any proposed amendments to the Motions must be given to the Monitoring Officer by Noon the day before the meeting.

MOTION

Set out overleaf is the motion that has been submitted.

7 – Administration Motion regarding Housing in Tower Hamlets

Proposer: Councillor Sirajul Islam

Seconded: Councillor Rachel Blake

This Council notes that:

1. The population of Tower Hamlets has broken through the 300,000 mark. It is predicted there will be a further 87,400 people living in the Borough over the next 25 years.
2. A lack of affordable housing is now the main concern for residents, as highlighted by the Annual Residents Survey 2017.
3. Since 2010 rough sleeping has more than doubled and the number of homeless households has increased by half to almost 60,000. This is a direct result of the Government's failed housing policies: no proper investment for affordable homes; benefit changes; reduced funding for homelessness services, and a lack of action to help private renters.
4. The Government announced in its Autumn Budget that the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) cap would be lifted for some councils, up to £1bn, starting in 2019/20, but that councils will need to bid for this in the future rather than automatically being given the power now.
5. The new Local Plan will set out how the Council intends to manage the scale and pace of development and ensure that all residents benefit from the opportunities growth brings to the borough and will deliver more schools, transport, GP surgeries and jobs alongside new housing.
6. Mayor Biggs pledged to deliver 1,000 council homes and the Council is on track to meet this target.
7. Council figures show Tower Hamlets delivered 1,070 affordable homes last year (2016/17) and another 1,073 the year before (2015/16).
8. Under Mayor Biggs' new Living Rent policy, rents for new affordable homes are far more affordable to those on low incomes, saving residents up to £6,000 a year. This was a recommendation of the Tower Hamlets Affordability Commission, which was set up by Mayor Biggs in 2015 following his election.
9. That Mayor Biggs unveiled 148 new council homes at Watts Grove in September; a scheme which was scrapped in 2013 by the previous administration but reinstated after a local Labour-led campaign to save the housing. The housing is covered by new rent levels, introduced by Mayor Biggs, which means that compared to the previous Mayor's rent levels, a family living in a new three bed property will be up to £5,791 better off.
10. The Mayor's Neighbourhood Refresh scheme will invest £3million in local neighbourhoods to make them safer, cleaner and greener. Practical improvements such as new lighting, more green space, traffic calming and new bins will make a positive difference to local areas.

11. The rights of private renters in Tower Hamlets are being protected with the launch of the Tower Hamlets Private Renters' Charter. This, alongside innovative new measures such as the landlord licensing scheme, means a better deal for private renters.
12. The Government's housing policies such as the benefit cap and bedroom tax have led to the total number of households in temporary accommodation – including bed and breakfast style housing, hostels, women's refuges and housing leased from private landlords –increasing by 55% from 50,400 in 2010 to 78,180 in 2017.
13. Families are no longer housed in B&B accommodation for longer than the 6 week legal limit, compared to the 174 families that were left to languish in B&Bs under the previous administration.
14. The Development Viability Supplementary Planning Document (SPD), which ensures transparency in the planning process and encourages reviewing viability at each phase of large schemes, aims to provide greater clarity to both applicants and the public and ensures that the principles of sustainable development are at the forefront of decision-making in Tower Hamlets.


This Council believes:

1. Population growth will bring Tower Hamlets numerous benefits as well as challenges.
2. The Borough benefits from the approach of this Council administration which is meeting the challenge of the housing crisis head on by providing high quality affordable housing, a better deal for private renters, improved local environments and 1,000 council homes.
3. The 174 families left to live in B&B accommodation for over 6 weeks, and their original decision to scrap the Watts Grove development, illustrates the approach of the previous administration: a failure to serve residents; a failure to properly manage council budgets; and a failure to plan for the future.
4. The Government's HRA cap proposals do not go far enough – borrowing caps should be lifted significantly higher, and not limited to a bidding process.

This Council resolves:

1. To work with Mayor John Biggs to continue to deliver more affordable housing for local people.
2. To support Mayor Biggs in his campaign to lift the HRA cap significantly and immediately, to ensure that councils including Tower Hamlets can provide the good quality social housing that is so badly needed.
3. To support Mayor Biggs in his campaign to make sure that the Government does not impose High Value Sales on Local Authorities.

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<p>Non-Executive Report of the:</p> <p>COUNCIL</p> <p>17 January 2018</p>	 <p>TOWER HAMLETS</p>
<p>Report of: Asmat Hussain, Corporate Director, Governance and Monitoring Officer</p>	<p>Classification: Unrestricted</p>
<p>Motion for debate submitted by an Opposition Group</p>	

<p>Originating Officer(s)</p>	<p>Matthew Mannion, Committee Services Manager, Democratic Services.</p>
<p>Wards affected</p>	<p>All wards</p>

SUMMARY

1. Council Procedure Rule 11 allows for time at each Ordinary Council meeting for the discussion of one Motion submitted by an Opposition Group. The debate will follow the rules of debate at Council Procedure Rule 13 and will last no more than 30 minutes.
2. The motion submitted is listed overleaf. In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 11, submission of the Opposition Motion for Debate will alternate in sequence between the opposition groups.
3. Motions must be about matters for which the Council or its partners has a direct responsibility. 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; or which proposes that a decision of the Council taken in the previous six months be rescinded; unless notice of the motion is given signed by at least twenty Members.
4. Notice of any proposed amendments to the Motions must be given to the Monitoring Officer by Noon the day before the meeting.

MOTION

Set out overleaf is the motion that has been submitted.

8 – Opposition Motion by the Independent Group calling for the abandonment of the planned State Visit by Donald Trump

Proposer: Councillor Ohid Ahmed

Seconded: Councillor Oliur Rahman

Tower Hamlets is home to one of the country's most diverse communities. The borough has always been a home to migrant communities beginning with the French Huguenots in the 16th Century, followed later by Jewish and Irish migrants. Bangladeshi residents began arriving in the borough during the 1970s. Somalian residents arrived as seamen and then later as a result of a war in Somalia. Tower Hamlets has the highest percentage of Muslim residents in England – 35 per cent compared with the national average of 5 per cent.

Tower Hamlets Council undertakes important and positive community cohesion work through its policies and priorities.

The Tower Hamlets Community Plan 2015 outlined the vision for the borough where people, regardless of their backgrounds, have the opportunity to achieve their full potential. The then Strategic Plan 17/18, sets out the council's aim to create more engaged, resilient and cohesive communities. One of the four key themes of the Tower Hamlets Community Plan, as part of its priority outcome to create and maintain a vibrant successful place, was to create a Safe and Cohesive Community and, as part of this, the plan highlighted a commitment to promote community cohesion. A cohesive community enables all to have an equal stake and status in the community; where people have the same opportunities as their neighbours; and where people have a commitment and responsibility to contribute to the well-being of their communities.

Like the neighbouring Royal Borough of Greenwich which formally adopted a similar motion, this Council notes with shock and alarm the decision by Donald Trump, President of the United States, to 'retweet' Islamophobic propaganda from the Britain First Twitter account.

The Council further notes with sadness the President's bigoted attitude (Washington Post, Caroline Lucas MP and co-chair of Green Party, Republicans in the United States, Boston Globe, Royal Borough of Greenwich among others) towards women, ethnic minorities and Muslims which has resulted in examples of division and hatred within the USA and beyond.

Mr Trump has been invited to visit the United Kingdom by the Government.

This Council also notes Trump's unilateral decision to recognise Jerusalem as the capital of Israel which is against the United Nations resolutions, the official policy position of our country and all United Nations permanent member states and an overwhelming majority of nations refused to support this illogical decision. Trump's decision has created a huge impediment to achieving peace, to secure a possible two-state solution between Israel and Palestine and has unnecessarily provided a potential opportunity to be exploited by violent extremists which could have a possible knock-on impact on the efforts to deal with extremism and radicalisation in Tower Hamlets.

The Council further notes Trump's earlier remarks in December 2015 when he first stated 'parts of London were so radicalised that police feared for their lives', and then his decision 'a ban on Muslims travelling to the United States', statements and policies akin to 'Keystone Kops' running around.

For centuries our borough has welcomed people who want to make a better life for themselves or who are fleeing persecution. Our borough is one of the greatest of melting pots and as the centre of London moves towards us, in Tower Hamlets, we understand very well how to foster harmony and cohesion in society while defeating policies and decisions created to sow division and hatred.

The Council notes that Mr Trump needs to understand when the minority fascists calling themselves 'English Defence League (EDL)' tried to march into Tower Hamlets on 7 March 2013, the united local community led by the then leadership came together to stand up to the forces of bigotry and fascism. Similarly, when the East London Mosque was under siege on 12 March 2016, and again on 11 April 2016 by minority fascists calling themselves 'Britain First', it was the local community with a diverse and united population of our great borough, including a local Christian priest, Jewish, Buddhists, Jains, and people of no faith, who all came together to defend the right of their Muslim neighbours to worship peacefully.


The Council notes the positive impact of the work undertaken by the Council under the banner of its 'Community Plan', 'One Tower Hamlets', 'No Place for Hate' and 'Tower Hamlets Fairness Commission' bringing together all community; including faith, communities, community and third sector groups, throughout Tower Hamlets. As such, Council reiterates its commitment to working with residents to further strengthen community cohesion and relations.

The Council notes with regret that this Borough's commitment to maintaining a strong and vibrant community is totally incompatible with the ideology and policies espoused by President Trump and could have a very negative impact upon the positive work of the council.

Based on above, London Borough of Tower Hamlets resolves:

1. To formally ask the Government, on a cross-party basis, to abandon plans to invite Donald Trump on a State visit to the UK.
2. The Council further calls upon the government to use funding that would have been spent on security and other arrangements for such a state visit to fund charities like the Jo Cox Foundation, in conjunction with other local Tower Hamlets-based charities, that promote peace, dialogue and understanding and also tackle homelessness, loneliness and rough sleeping for our vulnerable citizens both locally and across the country.
3. However, should the Government still choose to go ahead with State Visit, this Council makes clear that President Trump would not be welcome in our Borough.

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<p>Non-Executive Report of the:</p> <p>Council</p> <p>17th January 2018</p>	 <p>TOWER HAMLETS</p>
<p>Report of: Asmat Hussain, Corporate Director, Governance</p>	<p>Classification: Unrestricted</p>
<p>Questions submitted by Members of the Council</p>	

Originating Officer(s)	Matthew Mannion, Committee Services Manager, Democratic Services.
Wards affected	All wards

SUMMARY

1. Set out overleaf are the questions that were submitted by Members of the Council for response by the Mayor, the Speaker or the Chair of a Committee or Sub-Committee at the Council meeting on Wednesday 17 January 2018
2. In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 10.4, questions relating to Executive functions and decisions taken by the Mayor are put to the Mayor unless he delegates such a decision to another Member, who will therefore be responsible for answering the question. In the absence of the Mayor, the Deputy Mayor will answer questions directed to the Mayor.
3. 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. Oral responses are time limited to one minute. Supplementary questions and responses are also time limited to one minute each.
4. Council Procedure Rule 10.7 (a) provides for an answer to take the form of a written answer circulated to the questioner, a reference to a published work or a direct oral answer.
5. There is a time limit of thirty minutes at the Council meeting for consideration of Members' questions with no extension of time allowed and any questions not put within this time are dealt with by way of written responses.
6. Members must confine their contributions to questions and answers and not make statements or attempt to debate.

MEMBERS' QUESTIONS

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

9.1 Question from Councillor John Pierce

The scale of Government cuts to police budgets has led to police front counter closures in Limehouse and Brick Lane – what impact will this have?

9.2 Question from Councillor Ohid Ahmed

Will the Mayor inform the council if he cut 34 council-funded police officers in his 2016 budget?

9.3 Question from Councillor Clare Harrison

Can the Cabinet Member please provide an update on Operation Continuum, the police and council operation to tackle drug dealers?

9.4 Question from Councillor Rabina Khan

Is Tower Hamlets Drugs Service in Special Measures?

9.5 Question from Councillor Danny Hassell

Can the lead member please update us on the outcome of the Ofsted monitoring visit for Children's Social Care that took place in December?

9.6 Question from Councillor Andrew Wood

The Mayor will be aware of the spate of recent acid attacks on the Isle of Dogs and street robberies in Limehouse. In view of the sums of money held by Tower Hamlets Council under section 106 agreements, when will the administration provide modern, high quality and permanent CCTV cameras in Marsh Wall, Glengall Grove, Blackwall Way, Millharbour and Narrow Street, all of which are both areas of development and have been subjected to attacks and robberies as outlined above?

9.7 Question from Councillor Khales Uddin Ahmed

What support does the Council offer for new and small businesses?

9.8 Question from Councillor Oliur Rahman

Will the Mayor inform the council why did he not personally ensure that the £2m bribery allegation eventually reported by the Sunday Times on 10 December involving, the journalist stated, a Labour-supporting businessman who campaigned for the Mayor in 2015 and 4 councillors (that a lay person would assume are Labour given the businessman's allegiance) and, were not reported to the police straight away in late 2015 by him when the Mayor was first informed about the criminal allegations?

9.9 Question from Councillor Rachael Saunders

How will the Mayor tackle air pollution in Tower Hamlets?

9.10 Question from Councillor Abdul Asad

How has the Mayor's decision to charge for adult social care services which includes free homecare affected vulnerable and disabled adults, their carers and families?

9.11 Question from Councillor Helal Uddin

How will the Mayor's £5m Tackling Poverty Fund be used?

9.12 Question from Councillor Peter Golds

Will the Mayor confirm that the council's Anti-Bribery Policy will, under his administration, "Rigorously investigate all instances of alleged bribery," and assist the police and other investigative authorities in all such investigations?

9.13 Question from Councillor Rajib Ahmed

The Mayor recently launched his new Apprenticeship Commitment. What progress has been made so far?

9.14 Question from Councillor Maium Miah

There were two recent separate horrific acid attacks in Tower Hamlets on Wednesday 27th December within the space of just two hours – one in my ward, Canary Wharf, on the Isle of Dogs.

According to the Police and other reports, a 36-year-old white woman suffered serious life-changing burns to her leg and face. No ID on the attacker or why she was attacked was established. She is in hospital at the time of writing this question.

The 2nd attack between Glengall Close and Crossharbour DLR was on an Asian male by two white men. The police stated they had decent CCTV images of two White males aged 20 – 22 years old approximately. 5'10 tall.

Given that Tower Hamlets is the third worst London borough for acid attacks, will the Council do more and agree to Cllr Ohid Ahmed's call for the council to use its existing regulatory powers to immediately create a 'Tower Hamlets Acid Register' on a voluntary basis for shops and businesses to record who they sell 'acid' or 'dangerous liquids' to; and to ensure acid/potentially dangerous liquid is not sold to under 18s in the borough which is being used as the weapon of choice in attacks on our innocent residents?

9.15 Question from Councillor Ayas Miah

What impact will the Mayor's Acid Charter have in tackling acid attacks locally?

9.16 Question from Councillor Abjol Miah

Given the impact on working families, mini-cab drivers and the borough's disabled and vulnerable will the Mayor now reverse his cut to the Council Tax Reduction Scheme?

9.17 Question from Councillor Dave Chesterton

How much S106 funding has the Council allocated since June 2015?

9.18 Question from Councillor Chris Chapman

Will the Mayor confirm the legal responsibilities and statutory duties of the council to report to the appropriate external authorities alleged criminal activity that is brought to the attention of the council, even when the activity has been undertaken by a perpetrator who is neither an employee, elected member or contractor to the council or an associated body of the council?

9.19 Question from Councillor Marc Francis

Will the Lead Member for Environmental Services instruct officers to carry out a consultation with residents in Cadogan Terrace and the Fairfield Conservation Area about extending the Controlled Parking Zone restrictions in those mini-zones to deal with the parking stress on weekends and early evenings?

9.20 Question from Councillor Harun Miah

I am concerned about the current consultation process in relation to traffic and road safety measures leading to a lack of clarity for residents, businesses and stakeholders. In relation to the urgent Shadwell ward traffic and road safety situation, I ask the Mayor if he will swiftly support improvement works of the types I list below as examples:

1. Martha St & Watney St junction - will put in place a 'No Entry' system on Martha Street - vehicles will be unable to turn into Martha Street from Watney Street;
2. Dellow Street, Lowood Street and Bewley Street - will implement a one-way system on the Dellow Street - Lowood Street - Bewley Street loop;
3. Tarling Street and Sutton Street junction - will implement a no entry system on Tarling Street, which means vehicles will not be able to turn into Tarling Street from Sutton Street.

9.21 Question from Councillor Candida Ronald

We have lovely new tennis courts in St John's Park which are proving very popular with my residents. However the final piece of the work has never been completed. Can the mayor or cabinet member tell us when the floodlights for the tennis courts in St John's Park will be working?

9.22 Question from Councillor Shafi Ahmed

Does the Mayor believe that the current community safety plan he has in place addresses the increasing knife crime and acid attacks we have seen in 2017?

9.23 Question from Councillor Julia Dockerill

Will the Mayor indicate what public consultation took place before deciding to lock in St Katharine's and Wapping and parts of Limehouse wards for another day this year when the Big Half Marathon takes place on Sunday 4th March 2018 resulting in closing off access to many roads and explain why with less than two months to go before the event there was still no detailed road closure information yet available to residents?

9.24 Question from Councillor Mahbub Alam

Will the Mayor inform the council how many murders have taken place in the borough for each year since 2010 until now?

9.25 Question from Councillor Aminur Khan

Will the Mayor commit to supporting campaigners of the Advocacy Support system for carers and families of vulnerable adults which ran at John Smith's Children's Centre

9.26 Question from Councillor Craig Aston

Is the Mayor aware that the St James footbridge over the entrance to the Rotherhithe tunnel connecting Limehouse and Shadwell wards has been owned by the London Borough of Tower Hamlets since 2003 but as yet no council department has taken responsibility for maintenance, resulting in the lighting on it has falling into disrepair despite a number of muggings close by?

9.27 Question from Councillor Muhammad Mustaqim

Will the Mayor inform if the Labour members serving on the council's planning committees have been asked by the Council's Monitoring Officer or the Police if they were approached by a fixer with the alleged £2m bribe or, If this has not been done, will they do so now?

9.28 Question from Councillor Shah Alam

Will the Mayor ensure that genuine consultation takes place regarding the proposals for traffic calming measures put forward for Shadwell?

9.29 Question from Councillor Kibria Choudhury

Will the Mayor confirm or deny if one of his Labour Cllrs arranged an introductory meeting between the fixer, who claimed, as set out by a Sunday Times journalist, to pay a £2m bribe to 4 councillors (who a lay person would assume were Labour given the fixer's allegiances), and a developer who wanted to build one of Britain's tallest skyscrapers in Canary Wharf, Tower Hamlets?

9.30 Question from Councillor Gulam Robbani

Will the Mayor inform the council how much did it cost the taxpayers to procure the external consultant, EY, and a leading QC in relation to seeking further advice (in addition to Bribery, Fraud, Best Value and other relevant policies, legislation and acts governing the Council's conduct in such circumstances which were already in place and must be followed) about the £2m bribery allegations before the council was forced to approach the police?

9.31 Question from Councillor Mohammed Mufti Miah

Given the seriously negative impact of the Mayor John Biggs's new Council Tax Reduction scheme, particularly on the self-employed and vulnerable residents in my ward as well others in London Borough of Tower Hamlets, will the Mayor now admit that he misled Tower Hamlets when he stated that the council was still retaining 100% of the original scheme and any such claims should not be allowed by the Monitoring Officer on the factual accuracy ground?

9.32 Question from Councillor Suluk Ahmed

How many rape cases have been reported in the borough for each year since 2010 until now?

<p>Non-Executive Report of the:</p> <p>Council</p> <p>17th January 2018</p>	 <p>TOWER HAMLETS</p>
<p>Report of: Denise Radley, Corporate Director – Health, Adults & Community</p>	<p>Classification: Unrestricted</p>
<p>Community Safety Partnership Plan 2017 - 21</p>	

Originating Officer(s)	Denise Radley, Corporate Director Health, Adults & Community
Wards affected	All wards

Summary

The Community Safety Partnership (CSP) has a statutory duty to produce a Community Safety Partnership Plan which investigates challenges and opportunities for the borough and identifies its priorities for crime reduction.

The Plan (Appendix 1) outlines the Strategic Framework within Tower Hamlets and how the Community Safety Partnership Plan fits into this, specifically through the 'Safe and Cohesive Community' theme of the Community Plan.

It describes the Partnership's two other statutory duties in order to produce the Plan, the Strategic Assessment 2016 and the Public Consultation on community safety priorities conducted in 2016.

In 2016 the Community Safety Partnership reviewed and restructured its governance structure and operating procedures to ensure that it remains fit for purpose, implementing a strategic executive board (CSP Executive), made up of the Statutory Authorities, to drive strategic decision making and oversight.

The Community Safety Partnership have agreed on four priorities for the term of this Plan, they are:

- Anti-social Behaviour including Drugs and Alcohol
- Violence
- Hate Crime, Community Cohesion and Extremism
- Reducing Re-offending

Recommendations:

Council is recommended to:

1. Adopt the Community Safety Partnership Plan 2017-21 (Appendix 1)

1. REASONS FOR THE DECISIONS

- 1.1 Council must adopt a Community Safety Partnership Plan in order to meet statutory requirements set by the Crime and Disorder Act (1998). The priorities and governance structure outlined in the Plan are based on the strategic assessment exercise that was carried out by statutory partners to consider data on crime and disorder in the Borough. They have been agreed by the Community Safety Partnership to be the best model to deliver a safer and more cohesive community in Tower Hamlets. The Mayor in Cabinet on 31 October 2017 agreed for the Plan to be forwarded to Council for decision.

2. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 2.1 It is a statutory responsibility for Community Safety Partnerships to produce a Community Safety Partnership Plan. Under the Council Constitution it is the role of Council to ratify that Plan.

3. DETAILS OF REPORT

- 3.1 To produce this plan, the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) conducted a review of its governance and operational structure which included looking at best practice of community safety partnerships nationally and locally. As part of this review and restructure, the Partnership held a workshop to agree the new structure and review the findings of both the significant public consultation exercise and the 2016 Strategic Assessment. The Partnership agreed the production process for the new CSP Plan and the requirements on partners to enable it.
- 3.2 Ultimately the new CSP Executive are responsible for the statutory duties of the CSP under the legislation, and this Plan has been produced for them and approved by both the CSP Executive (18th July 2017) and the CSP (16th May 2017). The new CSP Structure allows for consultation across the strategic partnership boards (Health & Wellbeing; Children and Families Partnership) as well as the statutory safeguarding children and adults boards via their membership on the CSP and vice versa. This has allowed these strategic boards as well as partnership subgroups and partner agencies to have the opportunity to shape this Plan.
- 3.3 This plan has been produced in line with 'The Crime and Disorder (Formulation and Implementation of Strategy) Regulations 2011', which includes statutory duties to produce a strategic assessment for the partnership and conduct community consultation in terms of the levels crime and disorder to identify priorities in order to produce a Community Safety Partnership Plan. An amendment to the law on 1st June 2011 made the decision on the length of the plan a local one. This Plan term runs from 1st April 2017 until 31st March 2021.

- 3.4 The Plan outlines the Strategic Framework within Tower Hamlets and how the Community Safety Partnership Plan fits into this, specifically through the 'Safe and Cohesive Community' theme of the Community Plan.
- 3.5 It summarises the results of the Community Safety Plan Priorities Public Engagement and Consultation Report which identifies the public's top three crime priorities for the Plan.
- 3.6 The Plan describes the newly approved Community Safety Partnership Governance and Delivery Structure including its sub groups.

Consultation and Partnership Involvement

- 3.7 A public consultation exercise was conducted from 10th June to 12th August 2016, this asked members of the public, the 3rd sector, elected members and partner agencies to identify their top 3 community safety priorities for 1st April 2017 onwards. In total 1,389 responses were received, with 95% of respondents living, or working or a combination of the two in the borough.. A summary of the public consultation is as follows:
- 3.8 Consultees were contacted via a press article in OurEastEnd, email alerts and social media posts including Facebook and Twitter with the handle #WhatsYourPriority.
- 3.9 They were given the opportunity to respond to the survey/consultation in person by attending their ward panel meeting, a Boroughwide public meeting (Community Safety Partnership Awards and Public Engagement Event), a number of outreach consultation sessions, consultation and vote casting centres (Idea Stores) across the borough. Written responses were facilitated by letter, email or on the dedicated consultation webpage on the Council Internet.
- 3.10 The consultation survey gave respondents an option of 20 community safety concerns including some specific crime types to choose from, with a further option of 'other' if their particular concern was not listed. Based on the respondents first choice, the top three concerns were 1) Drugs and Alcohol abuse (339 or 24.4%), 2) Anti-social Behaviour (311 or 22.4%) and Gangs (130 or 9.4%).
- 3.11 Additionally respondents were asked if they felt safe in the borough, of which 998 (71.85%) agreed, whilst 391 (28.15%) disagreed and did not feel safe.
- 3.12 Elected members were made aware of the public consultation and the opportunity to take part in it via the weekly Members' Briefing, additionally paper copies were left in all Members' in-trays and they were made aware of the outreach events taking place in their ward.

Strategic Assessment

- 3.13 A Strategic Assessment on crime, anti-social behaviour, substance misuse and re-offending was carried out in August-September 2016 and the findings of this assessment were considered by the Community Safety Partnership at its Review Workshop on 27th September 2016. The final Strategic Assessment was presented to and approved by the Community Safety Partnership on 31st October 2016. The review of performance against the existing CSP Plan priorities of which there were 11 in the draft Strategic Assessment, and consideration of those that had become day to day business against those that were significant priorities moving forward resulted in a revised CSP Governance Structure and a provisional 4 new priorities.

Term of Plan and Priorities

- 3.14 The CSP agreed on the 31st October 2016, that this new Plan should cover 2017-21, so that it remained aligned in term and funding to the London Mayor's Office of Police and Crime (MOPAC) Police and Crime Plan. The four year term of this plan is 1st April 2017 – 31st March 2021.
- 3.15 The Community Safety Partnership Plan 2017-21 including its priorities, was approved by the Community Safety Partnership on the 16th May 2016 and the Community Safety Partnership Executive on 18th July 2017.
- 3.16 The Plan sets out the Community Safety Partnership's priorities (4 in total) for 2017-21:
- Anti-Social Behaviour including Drugs and Alcohol
 - Violence
 - Hate Crime, Community Cohesion and Extremism
 - Reducing Re-offending
- 3.17 Anti-Social Behaviour includes Drugs and Alcohol misuse as a priority due to the impact this has on the behaviour as well as these offences being considered as being types of anti-social behaviour under the current government definition.
- 3.18 Violence as a priority includes domestic violence and Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG). This work also includes violence against men and boys, which is less prolific both nationally and locally in this context. There are 11 strands within VAWG including trafficking and child sexual exploitation. The Partnership works closely with specialist partners through both the Safeguarding Adults Board and the Local Safeguarding Children Board to ensure those vulnerable people in the borough are identified and supported in order to prevent abuse from occurring and/or rebuild their lives in the aftermath of it. The Violence priority also includes other forms of violence which are not domestic related, such as violence with injury, assault and Grievous Bodily Harm (GBH). Knife crime, gun crime, use of toxic substances and serious youth violence are all addressed through the Reducing Re-offending Priority.

- 3.19 Hate Crime, Community Cohesion and Extremism have been grouped together as one priority due to the links between the three as well as the impacts they can have on the wider community. This priority and specifically the extremism part of it, includes the important statutory work that the partnership carry out under the Prevent Strategy.
- 3.20 Reducing Re-offending remains a priority for the borough as it focuses partnership resources on the management of a small cohort of offenders, who are responsible for a disproportionately large number of offences in the borough. This priority also includes partnership work to combat gang related offences including robbery, violence by and against young people and acquisitive crimes conducted to fund substance misuse.
- 3.21 Each of the four priorities have been broken down in the Plan into 4 subsections to provide information on why this is a priority, what the partnership will focus on within this theme, what they aim to do in the current 12 months of the Plan and what they aim to deliver by the end of the 4 year plan term.
- 3.22 Safeguarding is a crosscutting theme and one of the core priorities in the new Plan is to reduce the crimes that cause most harm to children and young people such as knife crime, gang related violence, serious youth violence and sexual abuse. Working with the Local Safeguarding Children's Board (LSCB) and Youth Offending Board, we aim to:
- Reduce young people's chances of becoming victims of crime
 - Reduce first time entrants to the youth justice system
 - Reduce the number of young victims of knife crime
 - Tackle child sexual exploitation and other forms of criminal exploitation linked to active drug markets in the borough
- 3.23 It is important to note that the subgroups of the Community Safety Partnership produce their own action plans. These explain how they will address the CSP priorities annually throughout the term of the Plan. Each subgroup action plan will be monitored at both the individual subgroup level and through priority performance indicators at Community Safety Partnership level.
- 3.24 The Mayor of Tower Hamlets and the Council recognise the importance of tackling crime and anti-social behaviour (including related issues about prostitution and drugs) which are key concerns for the borough residents. The Council continues to fund the Police Partnership Taskforce (PTF) of 6 police officers to support tackling ASB, drugs and prostitution and directed through the ASB Operations Group. The team works in partnership with the Council and other key partners to coordinate interventions to maximum effect.
- 3.25 The Mayor in Cabinet has recently agreed to fund further Police Officers in the borough to address crime and anti-social behaviour priorities for the Council and the communities it serves:

- 14 police officers to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour on Tower Hamlets Homes housing estates with a particular focus on drug dealing and drug misuse.
 - An additional 18 police officers to strengthen neighbourhood policing and respond to emerging community safety concerns in hotspot locations across the borough.
 - A police officer qualified as a Crime Prevention Design Advisor seconded to the borough to contribute to prevention and demand management with an understanding of environmental design and assessment.
 - This brings the total number of Council Police officers to 39 and will provide significant benefit to the borough in light of tasking, prevention, planning and problem-solving in the borough which is seeing significant population growth and development.
- 3.26 The Plan not only takes into account local policy and priorities across the partnership agencies, it also includes both national and regional (pan London) policy and priorities.
- 3.27 A number of changes have occurred since the drafting of the CSP Plan that whilst not materially impacting on the content of the Plan at present will have implications on how the borough police work to address these community safety priorities as well as carrying out their day to day functions. The MOPAC Police and Crime Plan 2017-21 proposed a new borough policing model for London, known as the 'One Met Model 2020', it aims to strengthen local policing and help the Metropolitan Police to meet the next phase of planned government funding cuts. There are proposals in this that local policing would be delivered through a revised structure, yet to be finalised once the outcome of the current pilots have been considered.
- 3.28 The 'One Met Model 2020' is based on multi-borough Basic Command Units, each comprising of more than one borough. It is envisioned that if rolled out across all London there would be between 11 and 16 of these, a significant reduction on the current 32. Test Pilots in the inner London Boroughs of Camden and Islington, as well as the outer London boroughs of Barking and Dagenham, Havering and Redbridge involve multi-borough Basic Command Units with Emergency Response Teams, Local Investigation Teams and Pathfinders that operate across borough boundaries, with a streamlined Basic Command Unit Leadership Team.
- 3.29 At a borough neighbourhood level a minimum of 2 Dedicated Ward Officers (DWOs) and one Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) per ward will be 'ring fenced' from abstraction (i.e. will not be able to be transferred to other areas or duties). Additional DWOs to a total of over 1700 across London will be allocated to higher demand wards through local consultation to address local priorities and it is likely that some of the wards in Tower Hamlets will benefit from this additional resource. Also proposed are 281 Youth and Schools Officers rising to 600 working full-time in schools, Pupil Referral Units

(PRUs) and other educational institutions to prevent crime and protect young people – again allocated through local consultation.

4. COMMENTS OF THE CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER

- 4.1 There has been significant investment in Community Safety. This is being funded from resources provided by both the Council and external organisations. The implementation of the new 4 year Plan will need to be managed within the Council's medium term financial strategy.
- 4.2 The Council's budget process for 2016/17 identified a number of service priorities, which align to priorities in the CSP Plan; growth of £1m was allocated for investment to both tackle ASB (£480k) and street cleanliness (£520k).
- 4.3 As part of the Council's robust approach to tackling ASB the 2017-18 Medium Term Financial Strategy included an additional Mayoral Priority Growth allocation of £150k. This is for the redeployment of enforcement officers to areas where they are most needed and to comply with the Landlord Licensing Scheme.
- 4.4 A saving of £400k will be delivered in 2017/18 by a reduction in the Street Enforcement and Response Service. This was identified as part of the service review. Whilst this is likely to have an impact on ASB resources, there is an expectation that the impact can be mitigated by the effective use and deployment of staff resources.
- 4.5 As part of the Medium Term Financial Plan, £2.458 million has been allocated in the Housing Revenue Account to be spent over the next 3 years to fund initiatives that reduce ASB on Council estates.
- 4.6 In September 2017, the Mayor in Cabinet approved £1m of annual expenditure on additional police officers for the three years from 2018-19 up to 2020-21. This is to fund 4 teams to support neighbourhood policing, each consisting of 1 Police Sergeant and 5 Police Constables, (24 Police Officers in total) and to second a Crime Prevention Design Advisor at Police Constable level to the borough, as well as associated vehicle costs.
- 4.7 MOPAC have reviewed, consulted and updated the London Crime Prevention Fund allocations for 4 years (2017-20). Tower Hamlets has received a significant uplift in its Year 1 allocation, whilst other boroughs have had a reduction in funding. The entire fund is subject to a 30% top slice for Year 2 onwards, which effectively reduces our current annual allocation by £150,000 to £662,986 per annum for 2018/19 onwards.
- 4.8 London Crime Prevention Fund allocations for Local Authorities have been developed by the partnership and approved by MOPAC with the following projects being funded from our borough allocation for years 1 and 2 (2 year allocations with no carry forward into year 3 and 4). These 2 year projects will help the Community Safety Partnership to deliver against the priorities in this

new CSP Plan and ultimately those in the London Police and Crime Plan, which it is aligned to. Projects resourced through this fund under the MOPAC Priority Themes are:

	2 year total (£)
Children and Young People	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Youth Violence Intervention and Engagement Service Behind the Blade (knife crime) Training Programme 	75,000 30,650
Violence Against Women and Girls	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> VAWG Training and Awareness Officer & Programme Female Genital Mutilation Engagement Project Prostitution Programme (Support to exit prostitution) 	74,000 74,459 204,000
Wider Criminal Justice System	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Crime Data Analyst and Crime Intelligence Analyst Prison Exit Team (offenders with substance misuse needs) Assertive Outreach and Enforcement Team (support to reduce substance misuse related ASB and Crime) Integrated Offender Management (IOM) Co-ordinator Single Point of Contact for Police and Prison Teams 	200,000 340,000 476,000 96,000 40,000
TOTAL	1,610,109

4.9 £1,156,000 of the £1,610,109 total set out in the table above is for projects to be delivered by the Council's Drug and Alcohol Action Team (DAAT), in accordance with the Tower Hamlets Substance Misuse Strategy 2016-2019.

4.10 The Tower Hamlets Substance Misuse Strategy 2016-2019 aims to reduce the negative consequences of drug and alcohol misuse. The Council will deliver this using funding received from MOPAC and its annual Public Health grant. MOPAC have allocated the Council £1,156,000 over a two year period. This will be in equal amounts of £578,000 over the financial years 2017/18 and 2018/19 and comes from the 2017-20 London Crime Prevention Fund. This is to fund the Prostitution Programme; Prison Exit Team; Assertive Outreach and Enforcement Team; Integrated Offender Management Co-ordinator and Single Point of Contact for Police and Prison Teams (see the table above for the detailed allocations). In 2017-18, £7,335,876 of Public Health grant has been made available. This will be used to reduce harm to those at risk; empower those who are addicted or dependent on substances to recover and tackle the anti-social behaviour and crime associated with substance misuse. The Public Health allocation of £7,335,876 takes account of £950,000 of savings to be made in 2017-18, that will be achieved largely from the re-design and re-procurement in 2016-17 of treatment services delivered. A further saving of £50,000 will be required from the Public Health allocation in 2018-19.

4.11 The Home Office provides the Council with annual funding for the delivery of Prevent projects and associated staffing expenditure. In 2017-18, the Council

will receive £132,000 for the delivery of three Prevent projects. These projects are to increase recognition of and resistance to extremist narratives in schools (£37,500); improve governance and safeguarding processes in mosques (£30,000) and increase awareness of the dangers of radicalisation and cyber safety skills for parents who may not have this awareness and/or English as a first language (£64,500).

- 4.12 The Council also benefits from annual funding directly from the Home Office that provides third-party organisations with funding for the delivery of Prevent projects. In 2017-18, third-party organisations will receive £295,000 for the delivery of two Prevent projects. These projects are to reduce the risk of young people becoming radicalised (£210,000) and build the capacity of local practitioners to challenging extremist ideologies (£85,000).

5. LEGAL COMMENTS

- 5.1 The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 ('the 1998 Act') makes it a statutory requirement for the Council and the other responsible authorities in Tower Hamlets (e.g. the chief officer of police) to formulate and implement strategies for: the reduction of crime and disorder; combating the misuse of drugs, alcohol and other substances; and the reduction of re-offending. In formulating and implementing such regard must be had to the police and crime objectives set out in the police and crime plan for the relevant police area. This has been taken into account in preparing this plan.
- 5.2 The Community Safety Partnership discharges the functions of the strategy group required under the Crime and Disorder (Formulation and Implementation of Strategy) Regulations 2007. The report confirms that the Community Safety Partnership Plan is the relevant partnership plan and has been prepared in accordance with these Regulations.
- 5.3 When planning action under the Community Safety Partnership Plan, it will be necessary for officers to have regard to the Council's statutory functions and ensure these are not exceeded.
- 5.4 The Community Safety Partnership Plan forms part of the Council's Budget and Policy Framework and therefore its adoption is for Council (see Part 2, Article 4 of the Constitution). The Budget and Policy Framework Procedure Rules (see Part 4.3 of the Constitution) requires that the Mayor as the Executive has responsibility for preparing the draft plan for submission to Council. Therefore for this Plan to be adopted, the Mayor in Cabinet must recommend it to Council and which recommendation was made by the Mayor in Cabinet on 31st October 2017.
- 5.5 Before adopting the Community Safety Partnership Plan, the Council must have due regard to the need to eliminate unlawful conduct under the Equality Act 2010, the need to advance equality of opportunity and the need to foster good relations between persons who share a protected characteristic and those who don't. Equalities considerations are set out in the One Tower Hamlets Section below.]

6. ONE TOWER HAMLETS CONSIDERATIONS

- 6.1 The Community Safety Partnership aims through its plan, to make Tower Hamlets a more cohesive place to live, work, study and visit. The work of the No Place For Hate Forum; Tension Monitoring Group and the Prevent Board, all subgroups of the CSP, aim to carry-out this important part of work for the Partnership. Hate Crime, Community Cohesion and Extremism remains an important priority for the Partnership, please see Priority E on page 13 of the CSP Plan for further details.
- 6.2 Equalities analysis has been carried out on the priorities identified in the Plan (with recommendations made for further considerations when supporting action plans are developed).

7. BEST VALUE (BV) IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 Crime and Disorder and anti-social behaviour levels are high compared with similar and neighbouring boroughs. Through the new CSP Plan the Partnership will continue to scrutinise existing investment/resources and how it delivers services within the multi-agency context that it works within.
- 7.2 There are potentially significant efficiency gains from working in partnership to reduce crime and disorder in the borough. The Community Safety Plan 2017-21 is a partnership document and brings together key crime and disorder reduction agencies to work together and share resources.
- 7.3 There are also further efficiencies from addressing problems before they escalate, requiring less resource than would be necessary in dealing with a more serious problem at a later stage. These efficiencies would be spread across the Council and key partner agencies. This work is integrated in to the corporate efficiency planning processes supporting the Medium Term Financial Plan.

8. SUSTAINABLE ACTION FOR A GREENER ENVIRONMENT

- 8.1 Implementation of the Community Safety Partnership Plan 2017-21 is expected to have a positive effect on the environment by helping to reduce anti-social behaviour. This will then reduce the amount of criminal damage, graffiti, fly-tipping and fly-posting and other environmental crimes in the borough.

9. RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 The Community Safety Plan sets out an overarching structure and framework of priorities within which management of risks will take place. There are no particular risk management implications attached to the plan itself.

- 9.2 There are risks associated with the harm caused by anti-social behaviour, crime and substance misuse in terms of the quality of life, health and wellbeing of residents. This includes mental health and wellbeing. These risks are increased for vulnerable victims.

10. CRIME AND DISORDER REDUCTION IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 The Community Safety Partnership Plan 2017-21 will help to reduce crime, anti-social behaviour, substance misuse and re-offending; it will also meet the Mayors priorities whilst reducing fear of crime, improving community cohesion and contributing to relevant community plan commitments.
- 10.2 Tackling crime, anti-social behaviour and substance misuse has a significant link to safeguarding both vulnerable adults and children. Vulnerable adults and young people can be both victims and perpetrators. The Plan and subsequent delivery plans put vulnerable adults and children at the heart of the priorities and aim to ensure that they are identified as well as offered the appropriate support needed to keep them and the rest of the community safe.
- 10.3 Effective prevention can reduce the likelihood of young people becoming involved in gangs, carrying knives and otherwise becoming involved in the criminal justice system. This Plan has been developed with partners in both Safeguarding Boards and colleagues in Children's Services, it will contribute to improving and delivering effective safeguarding practice in line with the children's improvement plan.

Linked Reports, Appendices and Background Documents

Linked Report

- None

Appendices

- **Appendix 1 – Community Safety Partnership Plan 2017-21.**

Local Government Act, 1972 Section 100D (As amended)

List of "Background Papers" used in the preparation of this report

- CSP Strategic Assessment 2016
- Community Safety Plan Priorities Public Engagement and Consultation Report
- Equalities Considerations
- Equalities Screening Document

Officer contact details for documents:

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Tower Hamlets

Community Safety Partnership Plan 2017 - 21

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Hello & Welcome from Mayor of Tower Hamlets



**Mayor
John Biggs**

Welcome to the Tower Hamlets Community Safety Partnership Plan - our aim is that Tower Hamlets will be a safer place where people feel safe, get on better together and difference is not seen as a threat, but core strength of the borough.

To do this, we work together as a partnership, bringing those who are in a position to help make a difference. They include the

Cabinet Member for Community Safety, senior officers from the Council, Police, Health, Probation, Fire Service and other key agencies with a responsibility for community safety, with additional support from housing, community groups and other organisations which represent the voice of local people, such as the Safer Neighbourhood Board and Tower Hamlets Council for Voluntary Services. Together we form the Tower Hamlets Community Safety Partnership, a statutory multi-agency board set up in response to the Crime and Disorder Act 1998.

We know we face some challenges in the borough with reductions in funding, resources and increases in confidence to report crimes putting more pressure on these stretched resources. By working together as a partnership with our local communities, we can make a positive difference to community safety and reduce the fear of crime, bringing our communities together so that we all stand up to the threats we face.

We have asked the partners, the residents, those that work, study and visit the borough what our priorities should be. We have assessed our performance as a partnership against the priorities from our last Community Safety Plan. We have listened to both what people are telling us are their priorities and what the figures say.

This four year Plan aims to address our new priorities, work together in both new as well as tried and tested ways and show how we will measure our performance against these aims.

This Community Safety Partnership Plan will tell you:

- a) What we want to do
- b) Why we have chosen these areas to focus on
- c) What we plan to achieve

Foreword by Co-chairs of Community Safety Partnership Executive



**Denise Radley,
Corporate
Director, Adults
and Community,
London
Borough of
Tower Hamlets**

This four year Community Safety Partnership Plan sets out how the Police, Council, Probation, London Community Rehabilitation Company (CRC) Health, Fire Service, voluntary and community sectors and individuals can all contribute to reducing crime, disorder, anti-social behaviour, substance misuse and re-offending to keep Tower Hamlets a safe place.

It aims to reduce the number of crimes and anti-social behaviour in the borough, but in some categories, it aims to increase the number of reports, due to under reporting where historically victims don't feel confident enough to report it to us. By increasing reporting and therefore recording, we will then be able to offer appropriate support to those victims and take appropriate action against the perpetrators.

The people in our communities are not just numbers or statistics. Crime, disorder, anti-social behaviour, substance misuse and re-offending impact on not only the victim's, but also the wider community's quality of life. We understand how important it is for you that we tackle these community safety issues in a timely, efficient and effective way.



**Sue Williams,
Chief
Superintendent,
Tower Hamlets**

We are confident that this Plan not only captures and addresses the priorities that have been identified through our analysis of evidential information and performance in the borough, but also the concerns of the people of Tower Hamlets.

We recognise that not only do we have a duty to continue to tackle crime, disorder, substance misuse and re-offending, but we all (both organisations and members of the public), have a duty to prevent it from happening in the first place.

As a partnership we are responsible for community safety and community cohesion. We will work with our local communities to ensure we protect the vulnerable, support our communities to develop and make Tower Hamlets a safer place for everyone.

What data we used and what it told us:

The Partnership has a statutory duty to produce an annual strategic assessment to measure our performance against our priority performance indicators under our CSP Plan 2013-16 Priorities. To do this, the partners agree the most effective ways to measure the impact of the community work that we do in the borough, by setting these priority performance indicators.

In the 2016 Strategic Assessment, the Partnership measured the performance in the financial year 2015/16 against the preceding financial year, 2014/15. Published data was collected and analysed against 41 priority performance indicators under the 2013-17 Plan's 11 Priorities.

For full details please visit (INSERT WEBPAGE LINK FOR STRATEGIC ASSESSMENT)

What people told us:

The Partnership has a statutory duty to consult the public on the levels of crime and disorder and to obtain their priority concerns, so that these can be taken into consideration with the data in the strategic assessment when devising its Community Safety Partnership Plan.

Over 9 weeks in summer 2016, the Partnership conducted an extensive public consultation which took the form of a short questionnaire, providing the current community safety performance levels, asking them how safe they felt in their area and for their top three priority concerns.

In total 1,389 responses were received which qualified for analysis, with over 95% of respondents living and/or working in the borough. The results below are calculated solely on votes for Priority One of the Top 3 Community Concerns question in the consultation, not results of Priority Two and Priority Three questions.

Position	Community Safety Priority One	Number of Responses	% of Overall Responses
1	Drugs and Alcohol Abuse	339	24.4%
2	Anti-social Behaviour (ASB)	311	22.4%
3	Gangs	130	9.4%
4	Road Safety	101	7.3%
5	Burglary	88	6.3%

When asked if they felt safe, 71.85% (998 people) of those questioned agreed, whilst only 28.15% (391 people) disagreed and did not feel safe.

For full details please visit (INSERT WEBPAGE LINK FOR PUBLIC CONSULTATION REPORT)

CSP Priority Setting

The Partnership met on the 26th September 2016, to review the findings of the Public Consultation and the Strategic Assessment to agree both the priorities for this new CSP Plan and re-align the CSP Governance Structure to those new priorities.

The Partnership agreed that the following will be its priorities for the period 1st April 2017 – 31st March 2021 (4 years). It also retains the right to amend these priorities annually based on performance in the borough and external factors should the need arise as part of its statutory duty to annually review this Plan.

Priority A: Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)

Priority B: Violence

Priority C: Hate Crime, Community Cohesion and Extremism

Priority D: Reducing Re-offending

Following discussions with MOPAC regarding local Police priorities, the CSP Executive agreed that these additional Police priorities were to be reviewed by the CSP Subgroup Chairs and agreement made as to where they best sit under the new CSP Governance Structure's priority themes. It was agreed that the CSP Priorities themes would include the following Local Police Priorities:

Priority A: ASB including Drugs and Alcohol

Priority B: Violence including Domestic Abuse, Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG), Total Sexual Offences and Non-Domestic Violence with Injury

Priority C: Hate Crime, Community Cohesion and Extremism

Priority D: Reducing Re-offending including Burglary, Knife and Gun Crime

Governance

The Partnership is statutorily responsible for community safety in the borough and is one of the Community Plan Delivery Groups. It is accountable to the Local Partnership Executive, the Council Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime if it is not fulfilling its duties.

Community Safety Partnership Executive:

The CSP Executive works in partnership with all other statutory strategic boards in the borough. It offers high quality and cost effective services to the borough of Tower Hamlets. The key leadership functions of the Executive are to:

- Provide strategic leadership and vision to make Tower Hamlets a safer borough;
- Be a strategic driver, working with all partners to support the direction of the partnership;
- Delivering sustainable Community Safety Strategy priorities and any relevant targets arising from these priorities;
- Deliver statutory responsibilities held by the CSPE; and
- Have oversight, receive and agree funds and funding applications relating to community safety within Tower Hamlets.

Community Safety Partnership:

The Community Safety Partnership is responsible for:

- Delivering Community Safety Partnership strategic priorities and any relevant targets arising from these priorities on behalf of the CSP Executive;
- Fulfil statutory responsibilities held by the CSP Executive under the legislation; and
- Respond to other issues relating to community safety, which may arise, from government policies or other developments.

Linked Strategic Boards:

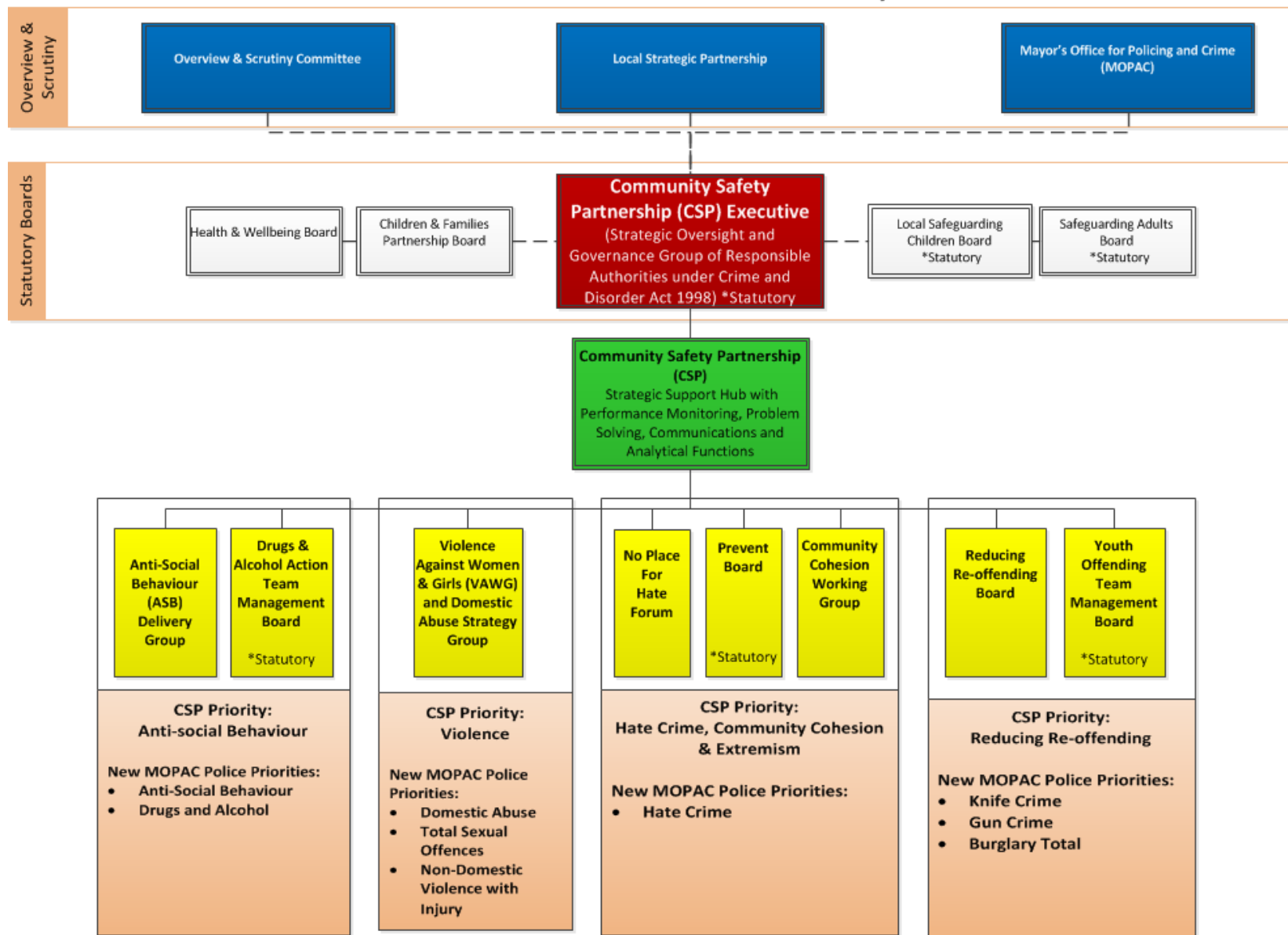
The Partnership is one of several strategic and statutory partnerships in the Borough. It works together with them to ensure that community safety priorities are embedded in other partnership strategies and in turn, those strategies are taken into account in both the CSP Plan and the work of the Partnership.

Community Safety Partnership Subgroups:

The Partnership is structured, so that it has strategic subgroups and operational groups to develop, co-ordinate and deliver activity in the various areas of crime, disorder, substance misuse and re-offending under its CSP Plan priority themes.

Each sub-group is responsible for producing annual delivery plans which aim to address these Partnership priorities, ensuring that there are resources available to deliver these plans and if required funding applications are submitted to obtain these resources. They are also responsible for ensuring that equalities analysis is carried out, to ensure that their Delivery Plans conform to duties under the Equalities Act 2010.

CSP Governance Structure 2017/18



Priority A: Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) including Drugs and Alcohol

Why is this important?

Preventing and tackling anti-social behaviour rightly appears at the top of any list of public concerns because of the impact it has on the quality of people's lives.

In 2015/16, Tower Hamlets Police logged 16,320 reports on its 101 and 999 numbers, down 9% from the previous year. 2016/17, however, is anticipated to see an increase of 12.5% to 18,289 reports. There are lots of possible reasons for this – an increase in the number of incidents, or an increase in public confidence to report, or better data collection through a single reporting source. But whatever the reason, it is clear to the CSP that tackling ASB and drug-related crime has to be a priority for the partners.

When the CSP consulted local people about concerns for the 2016 Strategic Assessment in order to produce this Plan, drug and alcohol-related anti-social behaviour was overwhelmingly top of the list. Also on the list was ASB linked with vehicles: noise from and congregating around them, dangerous driving, and misuse of mopeds.

What is our focus?

This 4-year plan focuses on improving the six areas identified as making the biggest difference by the Council's review of the effectiveness of ASB-related partnership services:

1. Communication
 2. Community Engagement
 3. Early Intervention
 4. Resources
 5. Tasking
 6. Tools and Powers
- Reduce drug and alcohol related crime and anti-social behaviour via prevention, treatment and enforcement approaches

First 12 months – what will we do?

- We will work together to implement the recommendations from the Council's ASB review and ASB Blueprint to respond to ASB more cohesively and effectively.
- Introduce a Community (ASB) Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Case-conference (MARAC) to support the most vulnerable victims and perpetrators to address this type of behaviour and ensure that safeguarding principals are followed.
- Provide an Adult Mental Health Practitioner to specialise in ASB cases, providing assessment, expert guidance to enable ASB case investigators to support vulnerable victims and help vulnerable perpetrators to address their behaviour.
- Provide an independent ASB advocate service to support victims and those affected by ASB throughout the investigation and enforcement process.

- We will map the interventions provided by statutory and other agencies which support the reduction in ASB, and promote eligibility criteria and access routes to partners.
- We will explore opportunities to work together more efficiently, and reinvest savings into early intervention opportunities.
- We will promote to residents the ways to report ASB, and opportunities to get actively involved in community safety initiatives.
- We will train frontline teams, and residents, on the tools and powers that are available to prevent and tackle ASB with the aim that they are used more effectively.
- We will manage newly commissioned treatment services to identify a larger cohort of individuals using drugs / alcohol problematically and improve the outcomes of structured treatment interventions.
- We will work closely with Childrens Services to identify and address parental substance misuse to minimise the harms and neglect experienced by children and prevent intergenerational substance misuse.
- A Late Night Levy will come into effect in June 2017. This will fund specialist interventions targeted at reducing late night and alcohol-related issues.
- We will target resources to reduce drug-dealing and misuse through supporting individuals out of dependency, disrupting supply, and prevention through education and diversion programmes focusing primarily on young people. The Substance Misuse Strategy Action Plan for 2017/18 will address the three strands of the strategy
- We will develop and implement robust pathways for drug / alcohol related ASB which will ensure individuals are required to address their substance misuse issues, using all relevant tools and powers available

What will have changed at the end of this Plan?

- Local people will feel safer.
- Local people will be clearer about how to report incidents, and who to report them to.
- Local people will understand the tools and powers available to tackle ASB, and will be working collaboratively with frontline teams to use these appropriately and effectively.
- The number of people engaging in treatment programmes for drug / alcohol addiction will increase.
- The number of people successfully completing drug / alcohol treatment programmes will increase.
- Individuals committing drug / alcohol related crime and/or anti-social behaviour will be required to address their substance misuse issues via criminal or civil orders.

Priority Performance Indicator for 2017/18 Quarterly CSP Monitoring:

- 1) ASB Demand (CAD calls (999 and 101) to Police to report ASB)
- 2) Number of ASB repeat callers to Police (999 and 101)
- 3) Number of individuals causing drug / alcohol related crime or ASB required to engage in structured treatment programme via criminal or civil orders.

Priority B: Violence

Why is this important?

There has been a historic case of under-reporting of domestic violence and abuse for a considerable time both nationally and locally. Significant partnership work has been undertaken to raise awareness of domestic abuse and violence for a number of years locally to address this under-reporting. It could be said that this is one of, if not the main reason why the borough has experienced year on year increases in both reports to the police and recorded levels.

Reports of sexual violence including rape have also seen an increase over the last few years, although a proportion of these are reports of historic incidents, with them occurring over a year before the report has been made to the Police. This increase could therefore be partially attributed to increased confidence in obtaining justice following recent high profile cases also known as the 'Yewtree Effect'.

Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) is a national priority, with a significant amount of work being undertaken in the borough through our VAWG Strategy 2016-19 to address these forms of violence/abuse to not only women and girls, who make up a significant proportion of the cohort, but also men and boys. The 9 strands of VAWG are:

- Sexual Violence and Abuse
- Domestic Violence and Abuse
- So-called 'Honour' Based Violence
- Forced Marriage
- Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)
- Prostitution, Trafficking and Exploitation
- Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)
- Sexual Harassment and Sexual Bullying
- Stalking and Harassment

Non-Domestic Violence with Injury crimes have seen a recent increase in numbers, however this can be attributed to changes in recording methods including incidents formerly recorded as affray and ABH now being reclassified as this crime type.

What is our focus?

- To raise awareness of Violence Against Women and Girls in all its forms, so that victims feel confident to report earlier and obtain specialist support in order for perpetrators to be brought to justice.
- Working in partnership with the Local Safeguarding Children Board to address child sexual exploitation and other safeguarding issues in the borough.
- To raise awareness of domestic abuse so that victims feel confident to report earlier and obtain specialist support in order for perpetrators to be brought to justice.
- The partnership's core projects including Specialist Domestic Violence Court, Sanctuary, Domestic Violence One Stop Shop, IRIS and the Multi-Agency Risk

Assessment Case-conference all focus on supporting victims and prevention as a whole.

Non-Domestic Violence With Injury (VWI)

- Utilising CCTV to identify and secure convictions against the most prolific offenders
- Utilising judicial restrictions and offender management to moderate offending behaviour

First 12 months – what will we do?

- Deliver a VAWG training programme to raise awareness including VAWG Champions Project, 'whole school' approach, 3 day compulsory training for Children Social Care social workers on VAWG, Local Safeguarding Children Board Domestic Violence Training and harmful practices to improve early identification assessments and partnership approach to prevention.
- Increase number of domestic abuse reports and access to specialist services via the delivery of core projects and campaigns.
- Improve Sanction Detection rates for Violence with Injury (domestic and non-domestic), i.e. offences brought to justice
- Increase reporting of domestic abuse and sexual violence to the Police and partner agencies.

Non-Domestic Violence With Injury (VWI)

- Introduce electronic neighbourhood Watch (OWL) to provide a platform for crime prevention and the securing of community based intelligence.
- Deliver VWI victim satisfaction plan utilising 1st victim contact methodology designed by Tower Hamlet CID (mentioned above).

What will have changed at the end of this Plan?

- Reduced the number of violence victims in the borough
- Increased awareness of all forms of Violence Against Women and Girls
- Increased access to support and protection for victims of domestic abuse

Non-Domestic Violence With Injury (VWI)

- More offenders brought to justice
- Improvement to non-domestic VWI detection rate
- Uplift in victim satisfaction (as measured by the User Satisfaction Survey)
- Criminal Behaviour Order pathway to be refined & implemented
- Successful monitoring and behaviour change of known offenders through Integrated Offender Management adoption.
- Non-domestic VWI reduction within hotspot areas (known for ASB) and night-time economy areas.

Priority Performance Indicator for 2017/18 Quarterly CSP Monitoring:

- 1) Increased number of VAWG champions from wide range of professions
- 2) Increase the number of domestic abuse reports to Police

- 3) Violence with Injury reduction in hotspot areas (known for ASB) and night-time economy areas
- 4) Number of victims of Serious Youth Violence

Priority C: Hate Crime, Community Cohesion and Extremism

Why is this important?

The Borough is a diverse and tolerant place, where the vast majority of people treat each other with dignity and respect. Unfortunately there is a small minority of people who don't hold those same values and perpetuate hate. Hate crimes are committed on the grounds of prejudice against people who are different than the perpetrator in some way.

The experience of prejudice and hate isn't limited to one particular group. Hate incidents and crimes are committed against people of or perceived to be of different:

- Race / Ethnicity
- Religion / Beliefs
- Age*
- Disability
- Sexuality
- Refugee / Asylum Status*
- Gender / Gender Identity
- Any other (actual or perceived) differences*

*Included in Tower Hamlets definition, but not Metropolitan Police or Crown Prosecution Service

It is important to undertake some proactive work to challenge hate through fostering community cohesion i.e. help in creating a community where the diversity of people's backgrounds and different circumstances are appreciated and strong positive relationships are formed between people from different backgrounds. In addition to addressing hate a more cohesive community allows those from different backgrounds to have similar life opportunities and creates a common vision and a sense of belonging amongst all people in the community.

Tower Hamlets prides itself in being a welcoming and vibrant community that resists all forms of extremism both internal and external to the borough. Unfortunately the community in Tower Hamlets is not alone in having experienced the devastating effect of extremism on families living in the borough.

Extremism is defined as: *"vocal or active opposition to fundamental, British values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect; and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs. Extremism also includes calls for the death of our armed forces."*

What is our focus?

The Borough's diversity is one of its greatest strengths with the richness, vibrancy and energy that our communities bring. As a partnership we are committed to:

- To raise awareness of hate crime so that victims feel confident to report earlier and obtain specialist support in order for perpetrators to be brought to justice
- Strengthen community cohesion by building both community leadership and personal responsibility

- Prevent extremism and people becoming involved in it

The Partnership will work together to address all forms of hate, with specific activity targeting under-reported, more prevalent or emerging types of hate crime.

First 12 months – what will we do?

- Continue to develop and deliver action plans to impact on all forms of hate and agree and publish a borough wide approach to community cohesion.
- Increase the number of hate incidents reported and access to specialist services via delivery of core projects and campaigns
- Continue holding quarterly and emergency TMG meetings and take forward actions to prevent and mitigate community tensions.
- Deliver training and support to frontline staff and those with responsibilities under the Prevent Duty, to ensure clarity and efficiency of the referral process

What will have changed at the end of this Plan?

- A partnership action plan to address all forms of hate and a published approach to community cohesion
- Increased access to support and protection for victims of hate incidents
- Mitigated incidents of community tension and increased community cohesion.
- Better operation of the referral process following review and increased training and communication of the process itself to relevant individuals and institutions

Priority Performance Indicator for 2017/18 Quarterly CSP Monitoring:

- 1) Increased Victim Satisfaction levels with Victim Support Service
- 2) Number of incidents of hate reported to Police
- 3) Number of offences of hate reported to Police
- 4) Number of Prevent training, engagement and workshop sessions delivered per quarter

Please Note:

Community Cohesion is unable to set a quarterly priority performance indicator as the only existing and meaningful performance indicator is measured annually in Annual Residents Survey.

Priority D: Reducing Re-offending

Why is this important?

We know that 50% of all crime is committed by individuals (both young people and adults) who have already been through the criminal justice system, with re-conviction rates for some offenders reaching over 70%.

Integrated Offender Management (IOM): Like most boroughs, there are a relatively small number of people who carry out the majority of criminal acts. By targeting resources at these prolific offenders, to improve support provided for those who wish to change their lives in a positive way and fast-track the prosecution process for those who refuse to change, we aim to reduce the number of prolific offenders.

Young People: The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 created Youth Offending Teams and places all those working in the youth justice system under a statutory duty to have regard to a principal aim of preventing offending by children and young people. Our youth justice service deals with 10-17 year olds who commit an offence, or are alleged to have done so, from the first point of contact with the police through, for those convicted, to completion of sentence.

Gangs: In the year ending March 2017 the borough recorded the third highest number of gang related offences of any in London, although this is a marginal improvement on the previous year, when it recorded the highest. A gang as defined by Hallsworth and Young is a relatively durable, predominantly street-based group of young people who see themselves (and are seen by others) as a discernible group for whom crime and violence is integral to the group's identity.

The latest Police Public Attitude Survey of public perception in March 2017, was that 29% of those polled in Tower Hamlets, believed that gangs are a problem in the area. This could be that a lot of residents identify groups of young people who are engaged in ASB, as gangs. The majority of offending in the borough is not committed by one of our named gangs, and fewer than 20% of knife crime incidents in the borough can be attributed to them.

In 2016 the Police and partners made significant impacts on gang activity, following an upsurge in violent offending and tit for tat offending, this has led to a marked reduction in gang related offences.

Serious Youth Violence: In the year ending March 2017 the borough recorded the third highest number of knife crime injuries to under 25 year olds, although this is marginally lower than the previous year, when it recorded the second highest in London. The latest Police Public Attitude Survey of public perception in March 2017 was that 23% of those polled in Tower Hamlets believed that knife crime is a problem in the area.

Gun Crime: Tower Hamlets doesn't currently experience the problematic levels of gun crime experienced by boroughs with similar levels of gang related offending. We will diligently monitor levels of gun crime to ensure this remains the case.

Acid Attacks: The use of corrosive substances in crimes is not a new phenomenon, although there has been an increase in incidents over the past 5 years. Recently in east and north east London, there have been the use of acid and corrosive substances as a weapon for robberies, whilst historically the majority have been honour based or domestic revenge attack motivated. Increased media coverage due to the significant and life-changing injuries to the victims had led to local misperceptions that they are hate crime motivated, which only a few have been in London in the past.

The Metropolitan Police and partners in the borough remain committed to address this emerging trend, and will both welcome and utilise any further legislation from government for powers to control the sales, enforce the law and increased sentencing of perpetrators, as well as specialist support to those who have been a victim.

Working in partnership with the Local Safeguarding Children Board to reduce the crimes that cause most harm to children and young people, such as knife crime, gang related violence, serious youth violence and sexual abuse, child sexual exploitation and other safeguarding issues in the borough.

What is our focus?

Integrated Offender Management (IOM)

- The sole purpose of IOM is to reduce adult re-offending amongst the most prolific offenders, with priority offences in-scope including burglary, motor vehicle crime and pedal cycle theft.

Reducing Re-offending & YOT Management Board Priority Performance Indicators

- Young People: YOT Reoffending Rates (Binary Rate, % of young people in the with YOT Orders who go on to re-offend)

Burglary

- Utilising judicial restrictions and offender management to moderate offending behaviour

First 12 months – what will we do?

Integrated Offender Management (IOM)

In partnership with local agencies, IOM will assist in delivering parts of the Police and Crime Plan, including a drive to utilise ASB powers with an emphasis on Criminal Behaviour Orders (CBOs) with both positive and prohibitive requirements put in place.

With Gripping the Offender extended for a further 18 months, IOM will continue to utilise all aspects of the MOPAC commissioned services to ensure all offenders are effectively targeted and provided with the help and support they require.

There will be an emphasis on working with Housing Providers to ensure tenancy agreements are not being breached, with an open communication channel in place

between them and partners, to benefit from this unique position to effectively target offenders.

Explore cross-border work with neighbouring boroughs, with the opportunity to align resources and provide effective management of offenders across borough boundaries.

Gangs, Guns and Knife Crime

We will introduce and embed a truly partnership 'Multi Agency Gangs Meeting' to case manage those who pose the most risk in relation to gangs, firearms and knife crime. Establish a more tactical Gangs, Youth Violence and Exploitation Partnership Meeting to better identify and address blockages in practice and partnership working to promote an integrated community facing prevention strategy and a rapid co-ordinated response to serious incidents.

We have set up a Task and Finish Group to bring key partners together and develop an Action Plan in response to the current increases in knife crime volume for under 25 year olds and repeat victimisation. We will also conduct a long term review of the current strategies in the borough, taking into account the implications of the new London Knife Crime Strategy 2017 and any updates to the Home Office's Strategy, in order to enhance prevention and intervention locally.

We will utilise new MOPAC funding to enhance and refine our preventative work to either not carry knives in the first place or where they are already carrying them, to desist from doing so and to support more young people to step away from gang involvement and to do so earlier.

Provide support to Secondary School Heads, so that knife crime is recognised as a borough-wide issue, not just one relating to individual schools, which will help in breaking down barriers which can arise when we try and engage with schools on this issue.

Establish a network of 'Safe Havens' to encourage more reporting of violent crime, particularly amongst young people.

Encourage the Police to utilise Stop and Search Powers in relation to knife crime.

There are too many stabbings with no known suspect, currently one of the highest boroughs in London, which stems from victims not wanting to engage with the Police. We will develop a partnership response to young knife crime victims to promote their confidence in and willingness to engage with the Police.

Other emerging weapon enabled crimes include the use of acid and corrosive substances in robberies in the borough, so we will set up a Task and Finish Group to bring key partners together to develop an action plan to address this.

Young People

Safeguarding is a crosscutting theme and one of the core priorities in the new Plan is to reduce the crimes that cause most harm to children and young people such as knife crime, gang related violence, serious youth violence and sexual abuse. Working with the LSCB and Youth Offending Board, we aim to:

- Reduce young people's chances of becoming victims of crime.
- Reduce first time entrants to the Youth Justice System.
- Reduce the number of young victims of knife crime.
- Tackle child sexual exploitation and other forms of criminal exploitation linked to active drugs markets in the borough.
- Develop analysis of trends and patterns of youth offending and re-offending.
- Continue to work effectively with partners and improve the partnership approach including the participation in a peer Review of the YOT Management Board.
- Establish a hub and bespoke delivery model for the provision of education, training and employment support for children and young people in the criminal justice system and utilise existing services including the council's new WorkPath programme
- Deliver relevant and good quality group intervention programmes in partnership
- We will provide all front line youth work staff directly employed or employed by commissioned service providers with training on the basics of the youth justice system and the implications of decisions made by young people at various stages of the system. This will ensure young people and their families are able to make informed choices and are supported to reduce any negative outcomes on life chances.

Burglary

- Secure 20 Criminal Behaviour Orders (CBOs) against prolific burglars
- Adopt 20 burglars to IOM cohort for robust management in the community
- Identify repeat venues and target harden through expert advice from Designing Out Crime Officers and commitment of landlords
- Widen reach of Met Trace
- Target second hand markets (outlet for stolen property) through regular engagement and enforcement
- Develop cross border intelligence on known offenders/groups
- Subject specific crime prevention campaigns utilising more social media tool (Facebook etc.)
- Introduce electronic neighbourhood Watch (OWL) to provide a platform for crime prevention and the securing of community based intelligence
- Deliver burglary victim satisfaction plan, to improve the victim's satisfaction with the level of service they receive from the Police and other partner agencies providing support

What will have changed at the end of this Plan?

Integrated Offender Management (IOM)

- Partner agencies will be working together to avoid duplication

Young People

- The current trend of increasing numbers of First Time Entrants to the Youth Justice System will be reversed

Gangs, Guns and Knife Crime

- A greater partnership integration and problem-solving in relation to gangs, knives and guns in the borough

Burglary

- Uplift in victim satisfaction (as measured by the User Satisfaction Survey)

Priority Performance Indicator for 2017/18 Quarterly CSP Monitoring:

- 1) Multi-Agency Public Protection Approach (MAPPA): Number of L3 offenders committing a serious offence within the period of supervision
- 2) IOM: Number of Red to Amber offenders with a substance misuse need versus the number where that need has been met
- 3) Number of Red and Amber offenders with an Education, Training and Employment (ETE) need versus the number where that need has been met
- 4) Number of First Time Entrants to the Youth Justice System

Linked Strategies and Evidential Documents

The Community Safety Partnership does not exist in isolation, it is part of a series of key strategies in the borough which set out how local services will support and improve the lives of local residents. Sitting above this collection of strategic plans is the overarching 2015 Tower Hamlets Community Plan, which itself is based around 4 key themes:

- A great place to live
- A fair and prosperous community
- A safe and cohesive community
- A healthy and supportive community


There are also 4 cross-cutting themes:

- Empowering residents and building resilience
- Promoting healthier lives
- Increasing employment
- Responding to population growth

The Community Safety Partnership Plan 2017-20, the strategic aims and the activity against these aims are linked to other community plan delivery groups' strategies and their subgroup delivery plans, which all aim to improve the lives of people in Tower Hamlets:

- Tower Hamlets Community Safety Partnership Strategic Assessment 2016
- Community Safety Plan Priorities, Public Engagement & Consultation Report
- Joint Strategic Needs Assessment – this evidential product (similar to the CSP Strategic Assessment) is used to inform both the Health and Wellbeing Strategy and the Community Safety Partnership Plan.
- Health and Wellbeing Board Strategy
- Gang Strategy
- 2016-19 Children and Families Plan
- Partnership Anti-Social Behaviour Blueprint & Action Plan
- London Policing and Crime Plan 2017-20
- Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy 2016-19
- MPS Control Strategy
- Prevent Strategy
- Knife Crime Action Plan

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<p>Non-Executive Report of the:</p> <p>Council</p> <p>17 January 2018</p>	
<p>Report of: Asmat Hussain, Corporate Director, Governance & Monitoring Officer</p>	<p>Classification: Unrestricted</p>
<p>Localism Act 2011 - Appointment of Second Independent Person</p>	

Originating Officer(s)	Mark Norman, Legal Adviser & Deputy Monitoring Officer
Wards affected	All Wards

Summary

This report recommends the appointment of a second Independent Person under the provisions of the Localism act 2011 to undertake duties in connection with the consideration of any complaints of alleged breach of the Code of Conduct for Members by the Mayor, a Member or Co-opted Member of the Council. The report also recommends changes to the remuneration payable for any individual appointed as Independent Person.

Recommendations:

The Council is recommended to:

1. Agree the appointment of Rachael Tiffin as a second Independent Person for a period of 4 years effective from the date of the Council meeting and concluding on 16 January 2022.
2. Agree an annual allowance of £1,000 for any person appointed by the Council to the role of Independent Person to replace the existing separate allowances payable for attendance at meetings and training events and consultation on complaints as detailed in paragraph 3.2 and 3.3 below.

1. REASONS FOR THE DECISIONS

- 1.1 The Localism Act 2011 requires the Council to adopt a Code of Conduct for Members and put in place arrangements for dealing with any allegation that a Member or Co-opted Member has breached the Code. In accordance with the Localism Act 2011, the arrangements adopted by the Council must include the appointment of at least one Independent Person (IP) whose views must be sought and taken into account by the authority before it makes a decision on any alleged breach of the Code which has been referred for investigation.

2. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 2.1 The Council already has an appointed IP, Elizabeth Hall and could therefore decide not to agree the appointment of a second IP. This is not recommended as a second IP is required to assist in dealing with complaints in circumstances where Ms Hall is unable to act (for example where there is a potential conflict of interest) and/or where the Member complained about wishes to seek the view of the IP.

3. DETAILS OF REPORT

- 3.1 The IP must be consulted by the authority before it makes a finding as to whether a Member has failed to comply with the Code of Conduct or decides on action to be taken in respect of that Member. They may be consulted by the authority in respect of a standards complaint at any other stage and the Council's arrangements for dealing with alleged breach of the Code require that the IP is consulted before deciding whether a complaint should be referred for investigation. The IP may also be consulted by a Member or Co-opted Member of the Council against whom a complaint has been made.
- 3.2 The IP is invited to attend meetings of the Standards (Advisory) Committee, but is not a co-opted member of the Advisory Committee. The remuneration for the IP was determined by Council on 26 June 2013 and is currently set at £117 for each complaint on which they are consulted and for each attendance at a committee meeting or training event that they are required to attend in connection with the role. This rate was based on the attendance allowance payable for Co-opted Members of the Council in 2013.
- 3.3 Council is recommended to replace these existing separate allowance payments with a single annual allowance of £1,000. Benchmarking information indicates that some London boroughs retain separate allowance payments whereas others have moved to one off allowance payments as the role of the IP has developed since its introduction by the Localism Act 2011. Examples of the current remuneration arrangements in other London Boroughs are detailed below:

Enfield LBC – Annual allowance £1,250

Greenwich LBC – Annual allowance £1,536

Hackney LBC – Annual allowance £455.90p

Haringey LBC – Annual allowance £500 + subsistence

Islington LBC - £117 per meeting
Lewisham LBC – Annual allowance £1,000
Southwark LBC – Annual allowance £1,100
Waltham Forest LBC – Annual allowance £946

- 3.4 Council agreed to recruit for a reserve or second IP in July 2016. The role was advertised in September 2016 together with vacancies for Co-opted Independent Members of the Standards (Advisory) Committee. In the event no application were received for the IP role. As reported to the Standards (Advisory) Committee on 19 October 2017, a further stand alone advert was placed for the second IP role in the local press on 19 October 2017 and using the Council's facebook page and twitter feed.
- 3.5 There were two applications which were considered by the Independent Chair of the Standards (Advisory) Committee, the Corporate Director Governance and a Deputy Monitoring Officer. Only one applicant, Rachael Tiffin, was assessed as suitable for interview and she was interviewed by the Chair of the Advisory Committee, the Corporate Director and a Deputy Monitoring Officer on 14 December 2017.
- 3.6 Ms Tiffin is currently employed as the Head of Counter Fraud at CIPFA. She has worked in local government (not within the previous 5 years) as Head of Internal Audit at two local authorities. Ms Tiffin has also worked in central government at a senior level dealing with audit, fraud and risk management issues in the Home Office and the Ministry of Defence. During interview Ms Tiffin demonstrated a clear understanding of the probity issues relating to both Member and officer conduct and the interview panel was unanimous that she should be recommended to Council for appointment as a second IP.
- 3.7 The period of appointment for the IP is not prescribed by legislation and it is therefore recommended that Ms Tiffin should be appointed for a period of 4 years which is the same period of appointment used for Co-opted Independent Members of the Standards (Advisory) Committee.

4. COMMENTS OF THE CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER

- 4.1 The remuneration associated with this position will be funded through existing budgets within Democratic Services.

5. LEGAL COMMENTS

- 5.1 The Localism Act 2011 introduced new arrangements to regulate standards of conduct by local authority Members and Co-optees. A key element of the arrangements is the appointment of at least one Independent Person.
- 5.1 The Act provides that the IP must be appointed through a process of public advertisement and the appointment. There must be by a positive vote of a majority of all members of the Council (not just of those present and voting). The Act sets out specific statutory prohibitions on who can be an IP and excludes current and previous (within a 5 year period) officers, Members and

Co-opted Members of the authority. The relatives and close friends of a current officer, Member or Co-opted Member of the authority are also excluded from carrying out the IP role.

6. ONE TOWER HAMLETS CONSIDERATIONS

- 6.1 There are no specific implications for One Tower hamlets arising from this report.

7. BEST VALUE (BV) IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 There are no specific best value implications arising from this report.

8. SUSTAINABLE ACTION FOR A GREENER ENVIRONMENT

- 8.1 There are no sustainable action for a greener environment implications arising from this report.

9. RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 There is a statutory requirement to appoint at least one IP. The appointment of a second IP will ensure the efficient operation of the Council's arrangements for dealing with alleged breach of the Code and that the Council is able to comply with statutory requirements in cases where one IP is unable to act or has a potential conflict of interests.

10. CRIME AND DISORDER REDUCTION IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 There are no specific crime and disorder reduction implications arising from this report.

Linked Reports, Appendices and Background Documents

Linked Report

- None

Appendices

- None

Local Government Act, 1972 Section 100D (As amended)


List of "Background Papers" used in the preparation of this report

List any background documents not already in the public domain including officer contact information.

- None

Officer contact details for documents:

- N/A

<p>Non-Executive Report of the:</p> <p>Council</p> <p>Wednesday 17 January 2018</p>	 <p>TOWER HAMLETS</p>
<p>Report of: Asmat Hussain, Corporate Director, Governance</p>	<p>Classification: Unrestricted</p>
<p>Review of proportionality and allocation of places on committees and panels of the Council 2017/18</p>	

<p>Originating Officer(s)</p>	<p>Matthew Mannion, Committee Services Manager, Democratic Services</p>
<p>Wards affected</p>	<p>All wards</p>

Summary

A change in the political composition of the Council has occurred recently with Councillor Abjol Miah joining the People's Alliance of Tower Hamlets Group having formally been Independent (Ungrouped).

Consequent to this change, the Council must review the allocation of places on Committees and other bodies covered by the proportionality requirements in the 1989 Act. The proposed new committee allocations are set out at paragraph 4.2 overleaf.

Recommendations:

Council is recommended to:

1. Consider the review of proportionality as at section 3 of this report overleaf and agree the allocation of seats on committees and panels for the remainder of the Municipal Year 2017/18 as set out at paragraph 4.2.
2. Note the committees and panels established for the municipal year 2017/18 as listed in paragraph 4.2 as agreed at the Annual Council meeting held on Wednesday 17 May 2017.
3. Agree that Members and deputies be appointed to serve on those committees and panels in accordance with nominations from the political groups to be notified to the Corporate Director, Governance.
4. The Corporate Director, Governance be authorised to approve the appointment of ungrouped Councillors to any committee places not allocated by the Council to a political group, after consultation with those Councillors and the Speaker of the Council.

1. REASONS FOR THE DECISIONS

- 1.1 Changes to the political composition of the Council require a review of the proportionality calculations for the Council's Committees.

2. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 2.1 No alternative options.

3. DETAILS OF REPORT

- 3.1 Section 15(1) of the 1989 Act requires the Council as soon as practicable after a change in the political composition to carry out a review to determine the allocation to the political groups of seats on the committees/panels of the Council. The principles which must be adopted are:
- (i) that in relation to each body covered by the Act, all seats are not allocated to the same political group;
 - (ii) that the majority of seats on each body must go to the political group with the majority on the Council (if any);
 - (iii) that subject to (i) and (ii) the number of seats on the total of all the ordinary committees/panels of the authority allocated to each group bears the same proportion as that group's proportion of the seats on the full Council; and
 - (iv) that subject to the above three principles, the number of seats on each ordinary committee/panel of the authority allocated to each political group bears the same proportion as that group's proportion of the seats on the full Council.
- 3.2 Once the political groups have been allocated their places in accordance with the above rules, the Council may appoint ungrouped members to any remaining positions.
- 3.3 Neither the Cabinet and any executive sub-groups of the Cabinet; nor the Tower Hamlets Health and Wellbeing Board, are covered by the requirement for proportionality.

- 3.4 Following the changes described in the Executive Summary to this report, the political composition of the Council is now as follows:

GROUP	SEATS (on Council)	PROPORTION ON COUNCIL	ENTITLEMENT (to seats on Committees)
Labour	22	48.89%	33.73 (34)
Independent Group	10	22.22%	15.33 (15)
People's Alliance of Tower Hamlets	6	13.33%	9.20 (9)
Conservative	5	11.11%	7.67 (8)
Ungrouped	2	0*	3 (remainder)
	45		69

* Ungrouped Councillors are not included in the proportionality calculation. As two Councillors are required to form a group the Liberal Democrat Councillor is included in the 'ungrouped' designation above.

4. Allocation of Places on Committees

4.1 The committees and panels established by the Council for the municipal year 2017/18 are listed below. There is a recommended total of 69 places on these committees and panels.

4.2 Applying the principles in the 1989 Act as closely as is reasonably practicable, the proposed allocation of places on the committees and panels covered by the requirement for proportionality for the remainder of the municipal year or until the next review of proportionality, whichever is sooner, is as follows:-

Committee/panel	Total	Labour	Independent Group	People's Alliance of Tower Hamlets	Conservative	Ungrouped
Overview & Scrutiny Committee (plus 6 co-optees)	9	5	2	1	1	
Audit Committee	7	3	1	2	1	<u>10</u>
Development Committee	7	4	2	0	1	
Strategic Development Committee	8	4	2	1	1	
General Purposes Committee	9	5	2	1	1	
Licensing Committee	15	7	3	2	1	2
Pensions Committee	7	3	1	1	1	1
Standards Advisory Committee (plus 7 co-optees)	7	3	2	1	1	
TOTALS	69	34	15	9	8	3

4.3 The above will result in the allocation of all committee places amongst the political groups in accordance with the rules set out in the 1989 Act. The change from the last report is shown in bold/underlined.

- 4.4 It is for the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to agree arrangements for its own Sub-Committees. However, this change will not result in any changes to the Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Committee proportionality calculations.

5. COMMENTS OF THE CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER

- 5.1 There are no direct financial considerations arising from this report.

6. LEGAL COMMENTS

- 5.1 The legal considerations are set out in the main body of the report.

7. ONE TOWER HAMLETS CONSIDERATIONS

- 6.1 None specific to this report.

8. BEST VALUE (BV) IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 None specific to this report.

9. SUSTAINABLE ACTION FOR A GREENER ENVIRONMENT

- 8.1 None specific to this report.

10. RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 None specific to this report.

11. CRIME AND DISORDER REDUCTION IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 None specific to this report.

Linked Reports, Appendices and Background Documents

Linked Report

- None

Appendices

- None

Local Government Act, 1972 Section 100D (As amended)


List of “Background Papers” used in the preparation of this report

- None

Officer contact details for documents:

- N/A

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<p>Non-Executive Report of the:</p> <p>COUNCIL</p> <p>17 January 2018</p>	 <p>TOWER HAMLETS</p>
<p>Report of: Asmat Hussain, Corporate Director, Governance and Monitoring Officer</p>	<p>Classification: Unrestricted</p>
<p>Motions submitted by Members of the Council</p>	

<p>Originating Officer(s)</p>	<p>Matthew Mannion, Committee Services Manager, Democratic Services.</p>
<p>Wards affected</p>	<p>All wards</p>

SUMMARY

1. Twenty motions have been submitted by Members of the Council under Council Procedure Rule 11 for debate at the Council meeting on Wednesday 17th January 2018. Two Motions, those for the Administration and Opposition Motion Debates are listed earlier at items 7 and 8 on the agenda.
2. The remaining 18 motions submitted are listed overleaf. In accordance with the protocol agreed by the Council on 22 November 2017, the motions are listed to alternate between the administration and the other Political Groups, with the Opposition Group motions starting with the largest Political Group not to have the meeting's Opposition Motion debate slot.
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; or which proposes that a decision of the Council taken in the previous six months be rescinded; unless notice of the 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 9.3 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.

12.1 Motion regarding Thrive LDN

Proposer: Councillor Denise Jones

Seconder: Councillor Amina Ali

This Council acknowledges that two million Londoners experience poor mental health, which equates to 62,500 people in each borough, and that London's suicide rate increased by 33 per cent from 552 to 735 incidents between 2014 and 2015 – the highest figure recorded by the Office for National Statistics since records began.

This Council understands that employment for Londoners with a mental health problem is 31 per cent lower than the UK average and that the financial cost of mental ill-health is approximately £700million for each London borough.

This Council reaffirms its commitment to approach mental health and wellbeing as a key priority and to work collaboratively with partners within and outside the borough to address and tackle mental ill-health across our communities.

This council commits to support and work with Thrive LDN to:

1. Create a citywide movement for all Londoners that empowers individuals and communities in our borough to lead change, address inequalities that lead to poor mental health and create their own ways to improve mental health.
2. Following on from the examples set by Harrow Thrive and Black Thrive in Lambeth, look in to localising Thrive LDN to Tower Hamlets by exploring the practicalities of establishing a local Thrive hub that responds to local needs
3. Examine new methods to support more people in Tower Hamlets to access a range of activities that help them to maintain good mental health and wellbeing.
4. Work closely with partners across Tower Hamlets to end mental health stigma and discrimination.
5. Build on the great work happening across London to engage children and young people in mental health by helping Thrive LDN to develop training and resources for youth organisations, schools and student societies.
6. Support employers to make mental health and wellbeing central to the workplace.
7. Work with partners to explore new ways to access services and support, and consider the use of digital technologies to promote mental health and improve information about accessing support.
8. Work with partners and build on the excellent work being done across the borough to reduce suicides in Tower Hamlets. We will build on existing suicide reduction and prevention initiatives by establishing a zero suicide ambition for Tower Hamlets.

12.2 Motion regarding Stop the Cut to the Council Tax Reduction (CTR) Scheme

Proposer: Councillor Aminur Khan

Seconded: Councillor Abdul Asad

The Council Notes;

1. That by HM Revenue & Customs' Children in Low-income Families Local Measure, 42% of all children in the borough live in poverty. This is the highest rate nationally, and is more than double the rate for England (20 per cent), and well above the London average (24 per cent).
2. That all wards in Tower Hamlets have child poverty rates well above the national average of 20%. The rate ranges from 33% in St Katharine's & Wapping ward and up to 48% in the ward of Bow East.
3. That rates are more polarised at Lower Super Output Area level (LSOA), ranging from 9% in the Canary Wharf area and up to 58% in parts of Blackwall and Cubitt Town. Only ten of the borough's 144 LSOAs have rates below the national average of 20%.
4. That the risk of child poverty rises with family size: in Tower Hamlets, 47% of children who live in families with 3 or more children live in poverty, compared with 34% of those families with just one child. Larger families in Tower Hamlets have a higher risk of poverty than larger families nationally (47% vs. 29%).
5. That Mayor John Biggs cut the Council Tax Reduction (CTR) for thousands of the borough's poorest and most vulnerable residents, but awarded himself an 11% overall pay rise.
6. That Mayor John Biggs' proposal replaced the current scheme with one where all working age claimants will be expected to pay at least 20% of their council tax liability, although one of the proposed options does include an exemption for a few vulnerable groups, but there's no guarantee.
7. That where other London boroughs have introduced such 'Minimum Payment' schemes, the result has pushed low-income residents deeper into poverty, stifling social mobility.
8. That Camden Council has recognised the hardship caused by its minimum payment scheme and is proposing to abolish it and reinstate 100% support from next year. This shows it is possible to avoid passing funding cuts onto the poorest residents.

The Council Believes;

1. That the council tax reduction has impacted on the cost of living for many Tower Hamlets' residents and will result in unfortunate choices between providing for their families, paying utility bills or paying their council tax, which Mayor Biggs increased by 4% in February 2016.
2. That Mayor John Biggs' proposal resulted in the abolition of the 100% support that currently exists for the borough's 23,000 working age claimants.
3. That Mayor John Biggs' cut to the Council Tax Reduction (CTR) has impacted on self-employed working families, in particular mini-cab drivers, and vulnerable and disabled adults.

The Council Resolves to;

1. Call on Mayor John Biggs to reverse the cut to Council Tax Reduction (CTR) for thousands of the borough's poorest and most vulnerable residents.
2. Call on Mayor John Biggs not to award himself an unreasonable pay rise when a large proportion of the Tower Hamlets' community is struggling to cope financially.

12.3 Motion regarding Planning Decisions

Proposer: Councillor Andrew Wood

Seconder: Councillor Peter Golds

This Council notes that;

The London Borough of Tower Hamlets is the fastest growing borough in the country with the highest national receipts of New Homes Bonus. The planning system in Tower Hamlets decides more large scale planning applications than any other borough in the country. It is therefore essential that planning decisions are made and seen to be made correctly and are not influenced by external factors whether that be bribery or other inappropriate influences.

Some residents though have a belief that only corruption can explain the huge amount of development underway in parts of the borough. They often talk of 'brown' paper envelopes being passed around.

The Sunday Times account of alleged corruption in the Alpha Square development published on Sunday December 10th 2017 reinforces those prejudices. Allegations of serious corruption in the planning system only became public two years after the initial incident was reported to the council and only then by a whistleblower unconnected to the to the council or other authorities.

Whether the initial bribery attempt was serious or not, the council delayed reporting what they knew to the appropriate authorities for some considerable amount of time. This lack of action in the face of serious allegations of corruption means that residents and taxpayers cannot have full confidence that planning decisions made before the story broke on the 10th December 2017, were not in some way affected by bribery or the knowledge that an attempt at bribery had been made.

This Council further notes;

That the Councils own Anti-Bribery Policy has the following relevant sections

- *'Bribery is a criminal offence.'*
- *"To use a third party as a conduit to channel bribes to others is a criminal offence."*
- *"comply with the spirit, as well as the letter, of the laws and regulations of all jurisdictions in which the organisation operates, in respect of the lawful and responsible conduct of activities"*
- *"Rigorously investigating instances of alleged bribery and assisting police and other appropriate authorities in any resultant prosecution"*
- *"There is also a corporate offence under Section 7 of failure by a commercial organisation to prevent bribery that is intended to obtain or retain business, or an advantage in the conduct of business, for the organisation."*

That the Councils Whistleblowing Policy says

- *"If there is evidence of criminal activity then the investigating officer will be obliged to inform the police."*

That the allegations reported to Mayor John Biggs were sufficiently serious for both him and Will Tuckley, Chief Executive to go for a walk down to the river Thames in late 2015; two years before the events entered the public domain.

That the Council had access to the audio tape also made available to the *Sunday Times* (excerpts of which *the Sunday Times* provided online) which provided references to the attempted bribery, the introductions made and the alleged nature of the people who could be bribed as well as party political donations that would be made if the bribery offer was accepted.

Yet it was not until August 2016 that the council informed the authorities and then only after being told to so by a distinguished QC.

The slow response by the council indicates that residents and taxpayers cannot know whether any other attempts at bribery or undue influence were made by this same person.

That in order to regain where possible public confidence in the Planning system that the council:

1. Publish in writing on the Councils website the full timeline as to what the council knew and what action was taken. This is of vital importance as currently the only publicly available information is contained within several newspaper reports (some behind a paywall) and on a 30 minute long video recording of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on Tuesday 19th December 2017. Not even a transcript of this meeting is available. This does not provide confidence and assurance in the councils willingness to deal with issues like this.
2. That the Tower Hamlets council planning team ascertain from developers whether the individual alleged to have made the bribery attempt has worked for any other developers active in the Borough. If yes, that information be put in the public domain and any associated planning applications be reviewed as a matter of urgency.
3. That members on the two Development Committees are provided with additional training as to their legal and planning responsibilities and the penalties for corrupt and illegal practices.
4. That the council make clear what its legal, statutory and moral responsibilities are when an alleged crime is reported to it. Especially when that alleged crime is committed by a 3rd party not employed by the council.
5. That the council publicly places on record exactly what information was provided to the DCLG Commissioners who were in situation at the time and responsible, with the Mayor and officers, for producing a Best Value programme for the council.
6. Update policies to make clear the process actually undertaken in this case as it does not appear to have been policy compliant
7. To always immediately report any information on an alleged crime to the Police rather than wait to be told to do so by a distinguished QC.
8. Publicly explain why the council appears to have undertaken an internal preliminary investigation rather than hand the material to the police.

9. Confirm the cost to council taxpayers of employing external accountants and counsel.

10. Clarify what the role, powers and expertise is of forensic auditors to investigate an issue like this when the key individuals were outside of the council?

11. What extra powers or expertise do these external auditors provide beyond those available to the Police?

12. In future brief members when it knows important stories about Tower Hamlets are due to appear in the national press. The Council knew on Thursday 7th December that this investigation was to be published by the *Sunday Times*, but no information was provided to members directly either then or after the story ran on the 10th December 2017. Subsequently group leaders were later provided with a statement they were not, for no apparent reason, allowed to share. That is still the case with the exception of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting where the appearance of the Mayor and Chief Executive on this matter was not known until shortly before the meeting commenced and for obvious reasons questions were limited.

13. That the account noted in paragraph 12 above indicates a regression to the secrecy and obfuscation which was prevalent during the previous administration.

14. That Tower Hamlets Council review it's planning processes to ensure that where possible they are bribe proof and that until the National Crime Agency investigation is complete it seeks external assistance to check that planning applications have been correctly dealt with. Until then the suspicion will remain that bribery is a penalty free activity and that attempts at bribery can be made with impunity in Tower Hamlets. The council needs to ensure that such attempts are not worth making.

The council calls upon the Labour Party to reveal any financial connections with the person identified in the tape and what help and assistance, financial and otherwise, that he has given to Labour Party election campaigns in the borough.

That the Department for Communities and Local Government appoints Commissioners to supervise planning applications in the borough until the investigation into this incident is complete.

This Council further notes with concern that the person identified in the tape claims not to have been interviewed by any investigating authority. In view of past experience in dealing with corruption in Tower Hamlets the authorities are urged to make investigation of this matter a priority.

12.4 Motion regarding 'Tower Hamlets Acid Register' & the Council's Existing Regulatory Powers* (in the aftermath of two recent acid attacks on 27 December 2017 in Tower Hamlets)

Proposer: Councillor Maium Miah

Seconder: Councillor Ohid Ahmed

This Council notes:

Senseless, tragic and bigoted acid attacks have become prevalent in London. Too many families and individuals are suffering and falling victim to this grievous and criminal act. London is being dubbed as 'Acid attack capital of Britain'. Instances of acid attacks are on the sharp increase in 2016/17, a big increase on the year before.

Tower Hamlets is now the third worst borough for acid attacks in London according to the official statistics. Worryingly, a high percentage of these attacks have been concentrated in a small pocket of east London with 398 attacks in Newham, 134 in Barking and Dagenham and more than 84 acid attacks in Tower Hamlets in recent years. These figures exclude the recently reported acid attacks in 2017 and the unreported attacks which will further increase the number in relation to Tower Hamlets statistics.

Most recently, there were two separate horrific acid attacks in Tower Hamlets on the same day within the space of just two hours – one in Canary Wharf ward, another in Blackwall and Cubitt Town in the Isle of Dogs - on Wednesday evening 27th December. According to the police and other reports, on 27 December, a 36-year-old white woman suffered serious life-changing burns to her leg and face after she was hurled at with acid very close to South Quay Tesco/DLR station at 18.50 hours. No ID on the attacker or why she was attacked was established. She is in hospital at the time of writing this question. The 2nd attack was on an Asian male by two white men at 20.30 hours. The attack started on Glengall Grove close leading to the George pub but the actual attack was close to or in Crossharbour DLR. The police have decent CCTV images of these attackers, described as 'The suspects are believed to have gotten out of a Volkswagen car and are described as two White males aged 20 – 22 years old approximately. 5'10 tall, one was dressed in a Grey hooded top with a baseball cap, the other was in a blue jacket with a short beard.'

Previously, on 21 June 2017 in east London, Resham Khan, a university student, was driving a car with her cousin Jameel Mukhtar when they were victims of a horrific acid attack by a white male. Without any provocation or logic, out of nowhere, both were attacked with acid thrown at their face and body. Both will have scars that will never leave them. Their lives have been changed forever. The pair strongly believed and said they felt this was an Islamophobic hate crime.

Two of the other recent attacks in Tower Hamlets were on Commercial Road with the junction of Sidney Street, in Tower Hamlets on 29 June 2017 – another such attack on Burdett Road, E3 at 02:13hrs on 4 July 2017. A separate attack, possibly unreported, took place in Watney Market in the week before. There are quite a few other attacks which were neither reported to the police nor appeared in the media.

This Council believes:

Acid has become a weapon of choice used by younger criminals because it is far too

easy to get hold of, far too cheap to buy, and most importantly far too unregulated – something Tower Hamlets Council has the regulatory power over and must do more to address this serious criminal and horrendous issue.

The horrific injuries often sustained from such attacks can leave victims with permanent scarring, deep psychological problems and destroy their lives. These barbaric and inhumane attacks seriously impact on those who suffer as well as the wider community.

After media stories and campaigns led by many victims and civil society including the Independent Group, the Government had announced that under 18s will be banned from buying acid but the Government and the local authority (Tower Hamlets Council) can and must do more to tackle this menace and horrific crime as a person can easily walk into a store and purchase this lethal substance or similar chemical off the shelf.

Corrosive acids like sulphuric acid are very dangerous substances. Independent Group believes that you should only be allowed to purchase them with a licence or with a verifiable professional/trade identification. The person purchasing should go through checks before.

Many attacks could have been stopped if there were sensible and practical controls that made it harder to buy, and meant we knew more about people buying it.

This Council Resolves:

Tower Hamlets Council and its current Mayor must implement practical and sensible action urgently upon which the Council and the Mayor already have control and power over. After lobbying and pressure from the Independent Group, residents, victims, media and the civil society, a local acid charter by the council is a small step in the right direction, but it must go beyond public relation management exercise and promotion of John Biggs in order to genuinely reassure the residents and deter horrific acid attack crimes on our residents.

To immediately explore its already available regulatory powers and other existing means to seriously and effectively deter these disgusting criminal acts.

Given that Tower Hamlets is the third worst borough for the acid attacks, the Council will:

- a)** immediately create a 'Tower Hamlets Acid Register' on a voluntary basis for shops and businesses to record who they sell 'acid' or 'dangerous liquids' to;
- b)** ensure compliance when the government changes the legislation to prohibit the sale of acid/ potentially dangerous liquids to under 18s in the borough which is being used as the weapon of choice in attacks on our innocent residents; and
- c)** urge the government to increase the restrictions on the sale of acid and dangerous liquids for example to ensure that they are sold only with a licence or with a verifiable professional/trade identification and that the person purchasing should go through identity checks.

12.5 Motion regarding Tower Hamlets Drugs Service in Special Measures

Proposer: Councillor Shafi Ahmed

Seconder: Councillor Rabina Khan

The Council Notes;

1. Cllr Rabina Khan emailed Mayor John Biggs the following email on 17th December 2017:

“I write to ask for urgent clarification on the substance misuse service being provided in Tower Hamlets. As you are aware, last year your administration restructured the entire substance misuse work in Tower Hamlets, which was previously delivered by a number of providers successfully. This included the highly regarded service delivered by Nafas, which caused great concern in the borough. The restructuring led to three new providers, which commenced only last November 2016.

Six months into the appointment, Lifeline – who were awarded the Recovery Services’ contract – went bust, which in itself was a scandal as it calls into question the borough’s due diligence, or the lack of it in this case. Questions still remain as to why Lifeline were awarded this contract when they were having internal mismanagement issue since 2015, according to newspaper reports.

You then approved Crime Reduction Initiatives (CRI) – now known as CGL – to take over from Lifeline and run the Recovery Services without going to tender. Yet, a further failure and back door decision by you and your administration.

We now understand that the entire substance misuse service in the borough is under performing and has been put on special measures.

This is very concerning to me and the residents of this borough who place high importance on drugs and drug treatment in Tower Hamlets.

The fact that these services were put on special measure have been kept under wraps by your administration to avoid embarrassment and questions from residents.

I ask you to clarify the following:

- 1) To confirm whether substance misuse services were put on special measures and when this happened.
- 2) To provide a list of specific areas where the services were failing borough residents, due to their underperformance.
- 3) To provide a performance comparison with previous years in all key measurement areas and demographics.
- 4) To provide a breakdown of client demographics entering each of these respective services.

The failure of these providers undoubtedly resulted in many borough residents not receiving the services they required. One wonders how many potential service users missed out on essential services and the impact of that on their continued drug and alcohol use, not to mention the impact on their families and the wider community.”

The Council Resolves;

1. That Mayor John Biggs provides a full briefing to all Elected Members of the process by which Lifeline was appointed and on what basis NAFAS was disregarded as a contractor delivering drug misuse intervention services. The briefing must also include the following:
 - 1) Confirm whether substance misuse services were put on special measures and when this happened.
 - 2) List of specific areas where the services were failing borough residents due to their underperformance.
 - 3) A performance comparison with previous years in all key measurement areas and demographics.
 - 4) A breakdown of client demographics entering each of these respective services.
2. Crime Reduction Initiatives (CRI) now known as CGL took over from Lifeline to run the Recovery Services without going to tender – briefing must explain the process.
3. The failure of these providers undoubtedly resulted in many borough residents not receiving the services they required – please provide how vulnerable people were safeguarded.

12.6 Motion regarding CCTV cameras

Proposer: Councillor Peter Golds

Seconder: Councillor Andrew Wood

This Council notes that the Council has 339 permanent CCTV cameras across the Borough and that the distribution is as in the table below.

The Council further notes:

That the Infrastructure Delivery Plan October 2017 has allocated no money to the expansion of the network in the next fifteen years despite substantial population growth in a number of wards and that the location of many cameras reflect priorities from some years ago and may need to be refreshed.

That there has been a series of street robberies in late 2017 in Limehouse ward along Narrow Street, Ropemakers Fields and Limehouse Basin. That seemingly in response to Police Operation Naga, attacks appear to have moved to the boundaries of Limehouse ward including St James Gardens and an attempted attack on the Canary Riverside.

That on Wednesday 27th December 2017, two separate 'acid' attacks on the Isle of Dogs 1 ½ hours and 5 minutes walk apart.

That even where wards appear to have CCTV cameras their effectiveness is poor due to poor links back to the control room in Mulberry Place.

That the Infrastructure Plan only plans to improve links between Victoria Park and Mulberry Place.

This Council believes that;

Criminals know where the Council CCTV cameras are and are likely to exploit any gaps in that network.

The council calls on the Mayor to ;

Expand the permanent CCTV network to growth areas and to ensure a fairer distribution of cameras as many areas paying large amounts of Council tax receive no benefit from the Council CCTV network.

That the Mayor notes that whilst previous experience of crime is a factor the council needs to better anticipate problems in the future.

Ensure all Council CCTV cameras are of the highest technical quality with high quality fibre links back to the control room.

That the Council work with other stakeholders on a joint CCTV network strategy so that whether Council or private or housing association camera they effectively work together to capture criminal activity.

That the Council provide the Met Police with a way of accessing the network that does not require driving to and from Mulberry Place, thereby saving both time and expense to the police.

The Mayor notes the table below, which is completely unrepresentative of the problems facing the borough.

Ward	Permanent CCTV Cameras	Population 2016	CCTV Per Person
Limehouse	0	8,200	None
Stepney Green	2	13,600	6,800
Canary Wharf	3	14,600	4,867
Bromley North	6	14,000	2,333
Bromley South	7	11,700	1,671
Blackwall and Cubitt Town	7	18,500	2,643
Poplar	9	8,000	889
St Katharine's and Wapping	9	12,400	1,378
Island Gardens	14	16,500	1,179
Lansbury	14	17,300	1,236
Shadwell	15	11,500	767
St Dunstons	15	11,800	787
Weavers	16	14,900	931
Mile End	19	17,400	916
Bethnal Green	21	22,200	1,057
Bow West	30	13,500	450
Whitechapel	31	15,200	490
St Peters	31	19,000	613
Bow East	33	15,900	482
Spitalfields and Banglatown	57	14,100	247
Total	339	290,300	856

12.7 Motion regarding the Council Tax Reduction Scheme

Proposer: Councillor Oliur Rahman

Seconded: Councillor Ohid Ahmed

The Council Notes:

Because of changes made by the administration to the Council Tax Reduction Scheme for poor and vulnerable residents, many residents are suffering – especially the self-employed residents and tax payers.

One of the changes made by the administration was to use notional earnings equivalent to 35 hours at the National Living Wage in the assessment of Council Tax Reduction for residents who have been self-employed for over one year and whose declared earnings are below this figure.

The Council Resolves:

The Council must reconsider its approach and reinstate its Council Tax Reduction Scheme to pre-April status as the change put in place by the Mayor and the administration are having a significant negative impact on the residents.

12.8 Motion regarding Gender Pay Gap

Proposer: Councillor Rabina Khan

Seconder: Councillor Abjol Miah

This Council Notes:

1. That 48 years after the Equal Pay Act of 1970, women still earn, on average, [less per hour](#) than men do.
2. That in 2017, England had the highest overall gender pay gap of 10%, with a [UK average](#) of 9.1%.
3. That analysis by the TUC reveals that the [annual salary pay gap](#) between the top-earning women and top-earning men is 54.9%.
4. That on [Equal Pay Day](#) (10 November 2017), it was revealed that the gender pay gap for women in their 20s is increasing, with some women being paid less than men at the beginning of their careers.
5. That [pay inequality in Tower Hamlets](#) is significantly higher than that of all other boroughs.
6. That in Tower Hamlets, women's [average hourly wage](#) has been slashed by 6.7 per cent to £19.60, while men's has slightly dropped by 1.9 per cent to £26.90.
7. [In 183 out of 206 local authority](#) areas, men in full time jobs earn more on average than women, but the gap varies from place to place.
8. The top 10 includes the Tower Hamlets.

This Council Believes:

1. That there should be an immediate gender pay-gap audit of the Council.

This Council Resolves to:

1. Audit a report of the current gender pay gaps at London Borough of Tower Hamlets.
2. Commit to flexible working, enabling more mothers of young children to work from home.
3. Commit to better maternity and paternity leave options for parents and carers.

12.9 Motion regarding women's suffrage

Proposer: Councillor Chris Chapman

Seconder: Councillor Julia Dockerill

This council notes that this year, 2018, is the centenary of the enfranchisement of women permitting them to vote in local and national elections and to stand for election to Parliament for the first time.

The enfranchisement of women came partly as a response to the tremendous efforts made by the women of this country in the war effort between 1914-1918 and partly as a result of the heroics of the women's suffrage campaign and their supporters.

This Council notes with pride the involvement of local women in the war effort in an area where much local work was dangerous and hard and to the local personalities who had fought for universal suffrage before 1914.

Tower Hamlets public figures who were at the forefront of the women's suffrage movement included George Lansbury, who resigned his parliamentary seat of Poplar; Bow and Bromley in 1912 to contest a by-election in support of women's suffrage. Later, Emily Pankhurst who, at the time of her death in 1928, was the Conservative candidate for the Stepney; Whitechapel and St George's constituency was campaigning to secure the equal voting age for all electors, men and women, which came into law just three months after she passed away.

The Council resolves that in the centenary of women's suffrage we unanimously commit to ensuring that all women electors vote according to their own opinions and to vote in secrecy without harassment or intimidation.

12.10 Motion regarding the new direction from the secretary of state for education about failure of tower hamlets children services

Proposer: Councillor Muhammad Ansar Mustaqim

Seconded: Councillor Mahbub Alam

The Council Notes:

1. On 12 September 2017, The Secretary of State for Education, Justine Greening, issued a fresh "Direction" to Tower Hamlets Council because John Biggs led Labour administration was failing the residents in the critical statutory area of 'children social care'.

2. Full details of the decision can be found here on the Government website https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/643844/Tower_Hamlets_Direction_Sept_2017_signed_v2.pdf

3. Tower Hamlets Children's Services Improvement Board was already chaired by a former DCLG appointed Commissioner in a new capacity as the Improvement Board Chair due to failure in April 2017 when OFSTED judged Tower Hamlets Children Services to be "inadequate" – the worst possible rating. The same service was judged "Good" with outstanding features under the previous OFSTED inspection.

4. The Secretary of State has now imposed fresh "Intervention Advisers" from two outside authorities (Islington and Lincolnshire County Council), whose own OFSTED inspection reports revealed their own services to be Good with Outstanding features, and the first line of their Terms of Reference state "London Borough of Tower Hamlets has failed in its delivery of children's social care services."

5. The latest decision by the Secretary of State is a clear proof that Government have no trust in John Biggs led Labour administration and their existing plan of improvement for Tower Hamlets Children Services.

6. After shambolic OFSTED failure, in yet another damning verdict on John Biggs's mayoralty, the new "Direction" letter from the Secretary of State stated, inter alias, the following:

· "...the Council is failing to perform to an adequate standard, some or all of the functions to which section 497A of the Education Act 1996 ("the 1996 Act") is applied by section 50 of the Children Act 2004 ("children's social care functions");

· The Secretary of State, having considered representations made by the Council, considers it expedient, in accordance with her powers under section 497A(4B) of the Education Act 1996, to direct the Council as set out below in order to ensure that all of the Council's children's social care functions are performed to an adequate standard; and

· Pursuant to section 497A(4B) of the Education Act 1996, the Secretary of State directs the Council as follows:

a. To comply with any instructions of the Secretary of State in relation to the improvement of the Council's exercise of its children's social care functions and to provide such assistance as may be required;

b. To co-operate with the Intervention Advisers, including on request allowing the Intervention Advisers at all reasonable times access:

- i. to any premises of the Council;
- ii. to any document of or relating to the Council; and
- iii. to any employee or member of the Council”

The Council believes:

1. The latest ‘Order’ from the Secretary of State shows that his mayoralty is not just in a crisis but in a complete meltdown – and the buck stops with him.
2. in addition to the political leadership, the catastrophic failure of the Council’s top professional leadership in Children Services in performing their duties and responsibilities as evident in 2017 OFSTED inspection result of “inadequate” – the worst possible rating, together with, the damaging data breach and leaking of confidential and sensitive council information about a 5-year-old foster girl.

The Council resolves:

1. John Biggs has not done what is required. He must act now to put Children Services back on track.
2. John Biggs must ensure to provide the political and officer level leadership that has clearly been lacking thus far. The Secretary of State clearly feels that John Biggs and the Council have not done what is required - hence the fresh “Direction”.
3. Banish all talk about delivering a Good OFSTED rated service in the next two years but only talk about our intention to receive an Outstanding OFSTED rating as soon as is practicable.
4. That the Council appoint an independent person to investigate individual cases like that of the 5-year-old foster child to ensure that we have full confidence in the handling of such cases while Children's Services rebuilds its credibility.

12.11 Motion to prepare Tower Hamlets workforce for the possible impact of Artificial Intelligence

Proposer: Councillor Abjol Miah
Seconded: Councillor Rabina Khan

This Council Notes:

1. That Tower Hamlets is the fourth largest employment location in London and that 54% of all employment is located in the Canary Wharf/Isle of Dogs' area.
2. That the largest employment sector in Tower Hamlets is in the financial and insurance industries (30%), followed by admin & support and professional services (11%), info & communication (9%), health & social care (7%) and education (6%).
3. That within 10 years, it is possible that [4 million private sector jobs](#) be lost due to automation and artificial intelligence, with robotics taking over roles currently performed manually.
4. That the [roles most likely to be affected](#) are those in finance and accounting, transport and distribution and media, marketing and advertising, which could have a significant impact on the financial hub in Canary Wharf.
5. That in some instances, artificial intelligence could [enhance employees' roles](#), or even create roles.

This Council Believes:

1. That steps need to be taken to encourage local employers, where possible, to offer new tasks to those in roles adversely affected by artificial intelligence, thus reducing redundancy and unemployment.
2. That accessible and affordable re-training programmes need to be created locally, so that those affected have the opportunity to gain skills in occupations that are technically difficult or impossible to automate e.g. care professions, the medical profession, plumbing etc.
3. That marketisation of previously unpaid work could create hundreds of jobs locally.

This Council Resolves to:

1. Place pressure on the government to devise strategies to alleviate local unemployment due to automation and artificial intelligence.
2. Campaign for affordable training schemes for the unemployed and workers whose jobs are affected by automation and artificial intelligence.

12.12 Motion regarding the future of the Tower Hamlets Youth Service

Proposer: Councillor Gulam Robbani

Seconder: Councillor Oliur Rahman

This Council notes that:

1. Former Mayor Lutfur Rahman had a positive vision for the Youth Service which was expressed, for example, at the Cabinet in April 2012:

“He considered that what really mattered were the young people of Tower Hamlets who represented the future of the Borough and that youth services were provided that benefited them. It was his intention as Mayor that young people in Tower Hamlets received the best youth services and best education possible.”

2. That the main motivations of bringing the Youth Service back in-house were:
 - to save money on duplicating management functions and re-invest it in the front line of the service;
 - to respond to the Government’s localism agenda;
 - to strengthen the Council’s partnership agenda;
 - to obtain extra value by, for example, the youth service working effectively.
3. That although bringing the Service back in-house was a decision of the Executive Mayor, councillors were able to discuss the transfer openly within Council structures – for example, Councillor Oliur Rahman was able to explain the decision to the April meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, at which Councillor Rachael Saunders declared a personal interest on this item as she had “been in receipt of information from some of the service providers managing the contract in question.”

This Council further notes that:

1. The current Mayor’s intention to make a fundamental change in the way that the Youth Service is run (initially on an interim basis) was not mentioned at the Cabinet on 10th May 2016, although planning must have been well underway by then.
2. The Mayor’s intention to make this fundamental change was set out in a briefing paper from the Mayor’s office dated 12th May 2016 which was circulated to all councillors.
3. This paper stated that the interim delivery plan would begin in July, which clearly precludes any wider member involvement (indeed, the paper refers to the decision having been developed in discussion with John Biggs and Councillor Saunders) and a future delivery model will be in place from April 2017 (and there will be full member involvement in options for this model, but how this will happen is not explained).
4. This paper also stated that a gap analysis is underway with a view to there being a programme of procurement **Page 146** commissioning in June 2016 targeted at local third

sector organisations.

5. This paper also states that it is the intention to offer youth services for the rest of this financial year from only eight venues in the borough – despite the fact that youth are often very reluctant to travel far to a formal provision. The paper states that the Council intends to offer an outreach service to encourage you to travel to the formal provision and also to rely, in the interim, on whatever additional services are provided in an un-co-ordinated manner by local charities or voluntary organisations.

This Council further notes that:

1. The Mayor's decision was revealed at the Council's Annual Meeting on 18th May 2016 by Councillor Rachael Saunders in what appeared to be an unplanned announcement. This included Councillor Saunders reading out an email from her mobile phone but not saying who had sent her the email (in sad contrast to her previous openness about who was briefing her).
2. Councillor Saunders stated that "The service has faced allegations of fraud and corruption" and other serious allegations. She also said that "Investigations into these serious allegations are ongoing," and that the Youth Service does not have the capacity to deliver as much as it has in the past. She stated that "we" were working out a service plan which would be based on reduced capacity and on when that had been developed would consideration be given to identifying and filling gaps. She expected the identification of gaps to be finished by June (a couple of weeks after she was speaking) – but did not mention John Biggs's intention to fill these gaps by contracting out parts of the service to third sector organisations (or who, in the event of this being done, would manage these organisations).
3. The Council Communications Office issued a press release on 26th May referring to the change only having been prompted by "historic shortcoming". This announced that an interim delivery model would be adopted "by the summer". It gave details of the interim delivery model and stated that young people's views had been listened to throughout the review process. (The members have yet to see a concrete tangible and evidence of that)
4. There have been a number of reports in the local press since the Council AGM which have reported the detail of various allegations – presumably either on the basis of their own imaginations or on the basis of briefings from unknown parties in the Council which have not been shared with all councillors.
5. That as a result of the way the Mayor and relevant Cabinet Members have dealt with this issue, it is entirely unclear what is happening to the youth service – which has led to a great deal of serious concern among service users and in the wider community.

This Council believes that:

1. If and when there are allegations of corruption or other serious malpractice, these should be investigated in accordance with Council procedures and individuals should be dealt with appropriately. (Independent Group fully supports this approach and have publicly offered to work together for the benefit of young people of Tower Hamlets).
2. That if a service is to be reviewed in order to spend or save money by cutting

certain provisions, and/or deliver the service more efficiently or effectively, this should be discussed openly, including with councillors and services users and the wider community rather than playing politics or blame-game.

3. (1) and (2) above should not be confused.

This Council further believes that:

1. The current position, in which the Administration appears to have responded to allegations against individuals by pre-emptively altering the service as a whole, and in which the Youth Service is to be run on an interim delivery model based on reduced capacity and enhanced by some sort of ad-hoc procurement, is ill thought out and poorly planned.
2. The interim service delivery model will, for the rest of this financial year, lead to an increase in Anti-Social Behaviour across the Borough – to the irritation of the whole community, for whom this is already a massive problem.
3. The interim service delivery model will, for the rest of this financial year, incur a risk of extra spending on management and quality assurance of the service – risks which have not been addressed in the little documentation available or in such public statements as have emerged.

This Council resolves that:

1. The current Mayor, John Biggs, should honour his commitment to govern in a transparent manner and he should put on the public record a full account of what has been going on, including what allegations have been made, when these were made, by whom and how - and critically how these are being investigated (releasing as much information as is possible without compromising the investigations or the individuals concerned); what prompted the service review and how it took place; and what his intentions are towards the service.
2. The current Mayor, John Biggs, to immediately stop any further work to drastically reduce and cut the Youth Service provision in the name of interim delivery model and engage in a serious, open, transparent consultation with the young people, residents and stakeholders.
3. The current Mayor, John Biggs, to reverse the decision to close unprecedented number of Youth Centres and look for an alternative way to provide effective, efficient and fit-for-purpose Borough-wide localised youth service provision.
4. The current Mayor, John Biggs, must keep the Youth Service in-house rather than privatising or contracting it out.
5. In the event that the current Mayor, John Biggs, should not agree to do think again, he must issue a statement clarifying how he intends to procure a service to fill in the gaps from the third sector, given that the Commissioners have been running grant-making functions; and he must also issue a comprehensive statement covering which of his chosen eight venues will pick up delivering the service previously provided by centres which John Biggs and Councillor Saunders have closed and how service users whose centres have been closed are expected to access the replacement services, including details of travel arrangements, etc.

12.13 Motion regarding Changing Prospects Changes Lives – Addressing Knife Crime in 2018

Proposer: Councillor Shah Alam
Seconder: Councillor Rabina Khan

This Council Notes:

1. There were approximately [80 fatal stabbings](#) in London in 2017, [four of them](#) on New Year's Eve.
2. That in the year ending June 2017, the police recorded a [26% increase](#) in knife/sharp instrument crime compared to 2016.
3. That knife crime has increased in the [Tower Hamlets by 8%](#) in the past year.

This Council Believes:

1. That In 2018, the strategy to address knife crime must be from the bottom up, where we begin to engage with a generation of disenfranchised and disillusioned young people.
2. That we need to follow Scotland's example where there was not a single knife crime fatality in 2017, which could be attributed to its [Violence Reduction Unit](#) (VRU), established in 2005.
3. That we should work with local schools in the fight against knife crime and support the work of safer schools' officers.

This Council Resolves to:

1. Work collectively with communities to educate and help reduce knife crime.
2. Work with the local residents, community groups and police to continue to deliver ["Flash Sweeps"](#) to help remove knives from our streets so that a Community Police Partnership model is developed.
3. Campaign for stricter laws surrounding the carrying of knives and sharp instruments.
4. Campaign for [stop and search](#) powers to be carried out through intelligence led implemented ethically and with integrity.
5. Campaign for tougher sentences for knife crime perpetrators as a deterrent.
6. Reintroduce positive activities for young people and fund PAYP activities to combat crime in areas where there is always a spike in antisocial behaviour during school holidays, which stem from a severe lack of provisions.
7. Target those who are at risk of being involved in antisocial behaviour and crime to channel them into positive activities and volunteering, boosting their prospects – ultimately into further education and/or employment.

8. Positive activities need to be funded and administered through grassroots' organisations, who have a relationship with those in need of such services.
9. Young people who might not be aware of, or willing to engage with, statutory services, or who do not have a positive relationship with the police, can be signposted via relevant community and youth workers.
10. Promote schemes and charities, such as [Steel Warriors](#), which recycled knives seized on the streets to create a free outdoor gym in Langdon Park, Poplar.
11. Through this investment, the borough will save money from reduced police call outs, housing associations will save money from reduced expenditure on repairs and the wider community will benefit from having more people contributing to the positivity and strength that makes us very proud to be part of Tower Hamlets.

12.14 Motion regarding Housing Achievements in Tower Hamlets – setting the record straight

Proposer: Councillor Mohammed Mufti Miah

Seconder: Councillor Maium Miah

The Council Notes:

It has become more difficult than any time before for people in inner City boroughs like Tower Hamlets to find a decent home to rent or buy. Today many essential workers; teachers, nurses, fire fighters and other public service workers find it nearly impossible to buy or rent in Tower Hamlets.

The former Mayor Lutfur Rahman's administration embarked on an ambitious journey to tackle the housing issues locally in a two-prong strategy:

1. Building affordable houses in Tower Hamlets; and
2. Improving the standard for private properties.

For example, to deal with the poor standards of maintenance and upkeep within the private sector, then Mayor Lutfur Rahman and his Deputy Mayor Ohid Ahmed introduced 'licensing for private rented sector housing' under the Housing Act 2004.

The achievements of the Rahman Mayoral policies and the leadership between 2010 and 2015 were recognised by people and commentators across the UK. With Cllr. Ohid Ahmed he also led building the highest number of affordable homes in the country. Figures released by the Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG) showed that between 2010/11 and 2015, Tower Hamlets delivered a record 5,590 affordable homes.

In addition, as Cabinet Lead Member for Regeneration, Cllr Ohid Ahmed led two major regeneration programmes, Ocean Estate and Blackwall Reach.

The Independent Group's success under the leadership of former Mayor Lutfur Rahman, his Deputy, Cllr Ohid Ahmed, and his team was further acknowledged by the Government, who released £24.2 million in 2015 alone from the 'New Homes Bonus' scheme, which has enabled the current administration to continue that legacy of our housing delivery. By 2015, the council had secured the total of £53m in New Homes Bonus - the highest in the country.

A recent City Hall report further acknowledged our administration's achievement that Tower Hamlets had built more affordable housing than anywhere else in the capital.

There were other regeneration projects – approved by the previous administration - for example 148 homes in Watts Grove with £26.33m funding approved by Mayor Lutfur Rahman on 5 November 2014. The London Docks regeneration project not only secured invaluable affordable housing but also a space for a 1,500 spaces strong secondary school in Wapping.

The Whitechapel Vision along with its Master Plan was the brainchild of the former Mayor Lutfur Rahman and his then Cabinet Member Alibor Choudhury. Both were approved by the previous administration and adopted by the Council. This historic regeneration of Whitechapel is the former administration's hard work and a testament to their

commitment and ambition to improve the Borough which included local businesses, the agreed 'tech city' and the expansion of medical research facilities.

The Whitechapel Vision, its Master Plan and including associated regeneration will also provide:

- At least 3,500 new homes
- 5,000 new local jobs
- School improvements
- Transformed public spaces
- Enhanced local heritage
- A civic centre in the heart of the community

We have proposed a 'local community-led forum of grass-root stakeholders' to add value to get it right in the implementation phase which has been ignored by John Biggs.

The Council Believes:

John Biggs, his allies, and other opportunists have sought to take credit for what Mayor Lutfur Rahman, his Deputy Ohid Ahmed, former Cabinet member Alibor Choudhury and other cabinet members worked hard to deliver for residents.

John Biggs promised to build a thousand more houses in his manifesto, in reality he has built none save to carry on Lutfur Rahman's commitments as this was tied to the projects previously started and the funding previously secured and approved by us.

In the 2014 mayoral election, the previous administration had a manifesto promise to deliver further 5,000 affordable housing for the next 4 years by 2018. Indeed, on top of the 5,590 homes already delivered by the previous administration, another 3,000 affordable homes were in the pipeline and were well on course to be delivered as the previous administration's manifesto promise of additional 5,000 local homes. It's disingenuous for John Biggs to take credit for affordable housing in Tower Hamlets in which his administration had no contribution.

Our administration had a clear vision and drive to deliver more social affordable housing in the borough to alleviate overcrowding and increase life chances of our young people. A vision and drive we fail to see in John Biggs administration. There are no new council or affordable homes built between June 2015 until now 'which were not started or approved by our previous administration under former Mayor Lutfur Rahman and his Deputy Mayor'.

John Biggs has yet to credibly name one big regeneration project which he has initiated and approved which will deliver substantial affordable housing but as usual, he tries to take credit for the success of our hard work.

The Council Resolves:

John Biggs should stop taking the credit for former Mayor Lutfur Rahman and Deputy Mayor Cllr Ohid Ahmed's achievements and learn to take responsibility for the series of catastrophic failures he has committed and to stop blaming anyone but him for easy political point scoring.

To acknowledge the historic achievements of the former Mayor, Deputy Mayor and their administration in delivering the record level of affordable housing as acknowledged by DCLG, the GLA and others.

12.15 Motion regarding Stop closure of one stop shops in Tower Hamlets

Proposer: Councillor Suluk Ahmed

Seconder: Councillor Oliur Rahman

The Council Notes:

John Biggs led Tower Hamlets administration is planning to shut down four One Stop Shops in their current form which provide invaluable services to many residents, including friends, family members and loved ones. This is being disguised as a “merger”.

The reason or ‘excuse’ given is the integration of the service with the Idea Stores and forcing the residents to use online services instead.

To force the service online will alienate the elderly, those who do not use a computer, find reading a challenge, have special needs or for whom the first language is not English.

This means there will no longer be ‘immediate’ face to face service in its current form about parking, housing benefits, council tax, welfare etc. for the residents in stand-alone One Stop Shops with face to face contact providing expert knowledge and support to help residents – many of whom would be vulnerable in a distressed situation or in need of ‘urgent’ help.

There is a genuine fear that the face to face service will completely disappear even if any ‘temporary stop-gap-measures’ or ‘a provisional promise’ to see complicated cases at a future date was made to some users to get the changes approved now in order to ‘manage’ any protest or to negate the complaints from the residents/users, staff, elected representatives and others. The ‘if needed’ assistance and a possible face to face meetings in complicated cases at a ‘future’ date leave a lot to be desired and are meaningless rhetoric for residents who need immediate face to face help.

Independent Group’s Shadow Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Partnerships, Cllr Ohid Ahmed, has raised this important issue and is campaigning to save the service. If approved this proposal will mean there will no longer be any stand-alone One Stop Shops with immediate face to face service using ‘ticket and wait’ provision currently in place in the borough.

It is also important to ensure that the Council does not allow the new wifi service to provide an opportunity for hackers and others in respect of data breaches and access to confidential information.

Approximately 1,000 residents visit the One Stop Shops services on daily basis – many of whom are from the ethnic minorities or the most vulnerable groups due to a variety of factors.

The Council Resolves:

To ask Mayor John Biggs to stop his proposed cut and closure of four One Stops Shops in Tower Hamlets due to its detrimental impact on residents who already feel besieged by his brutal cuts as well as a record 9% increase in the council tax while the Mayor enjoys an 11.7% pay rise at more than £10,000 extra in his pay packet.

12.16 Motion regarding Fire Safety in Tower Hamlets for Residents

Proposer: Councillor Kibria Choudhury

Seconder: Councillor Md. Maium Miah

The Council notes:

Prime Minister Theresa May has admitted in the Parliament that there are other buildings with 'combustible' cladding - like Grenfell Tower - across the country. She stated that the Department for Communities and Local Government will inform the relevant local authorities and checks were being carried out.

The fire in Grenfell Tower in London was a national tragedy - with 80 people presumed dead but the accurate figure is likely to be more - to widespread public anger, dismay and a national search for answers. They all should have been safe when they went to sleep at night. In the 21st century Britain, one of the richest countries in the world, in the richest city in the country, nobody should be living in a home that risks their life.

It's heartbreaking when you consider that this devastating fire was eminently avoidable. The allegedly unnecessary cost cutting measures by Kensington and Chelsea (K&C) Council or its agencies to reportedly save £5,000 by installing cheaper but more flammable cladding and non-existence of sprinklers did not help the poor people, which included very young children, who were trapped and died in the fire. This becomes even more devastating when you consider the fact that the K&C Council is sitting on a shocking £209 million reserves in their coffers – surplus to their requirements, and offered a £100 council tax rebate to residents just before the local election in 2014.

The Chief Executive, Leader and Deputy Leader have of K&C council had to resign from their positions after initial reluctance. The Government is being urged to send commissioners to the K&C council.

The Boss - Director of Grenfell Tower insulation provider - 'is government adviser'. Technical director of Saint Gobain UK, which makes Celotex insulation, is reportedly also on the Building Regulations Advisory Committee (BRAC), which advises Sajid Javid, Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government.

In Tower Hamlets, we have many similar towers and residents are genuinely worried and have concerns. We have seen many fires in Tower Hamlets in recent weeks with many families evacuated.

On 3 July, a young teenage girl – 17 years old – tragically died after trying to escape a burning fire in her home in Mile End, with 50 people evacuated and four suffering smoke inhalations. Our thoughts and prayers are with her family and loved ones, as well as all the victims and loved ones of Grenfell Tower and other fires in the capital.

A large blaze tore through the roof of a multi-million-pound development next to Regent's Canal, Bow Wharf in Tower Hamlets where eighty firefighters were dispatched to tackle the fire at the five-storey building in Bow Wharf, Wennington Road – luckily no one was yet living in the building.

Following Grenfell fire tragedy, John Biggs issued a statement citing Tower Hamlets Homes (THH), Council's Arms-length Housing provider, about the Fire Risk Assessments (FRAs) of its THH managed tower blocks in the Borough but has failed to publish the FRAs despite requests by the residents and the Independent Group.

John Biggs has yet to confirm the final details about the safety of the buildings and towers managed by Registered Social Landlords (RSLs) and private landlords.

Labour administration in Tower Hamlets sold off the family silver – our social housing stock – to private companies or RSLs – so John Biggs cannot simply absolve himself of his utmost responsibility of keeping all our residents safe in light of the tragedy that befell on the poor people of Grenfell Tower in west London at night.

Independent Group in London Borough of Tower Hamlets had officially written to John Biggs highlighting the concerns and asking for reassurance and specific answers for residents, still awaiting a reply.

The Council believes:

Everyone deserves to know if their home is safe when they go to sleep at night.

All Landlords - including local authorities, RSLs, Arm's Length Housing Management Organisations (ALMOs) like THH and private landlords - have a legal obligation to provide safe and secure buildings for our residents and where they cannot do so they must provide alternative accommodation.

People need assurance and answers and Biggs must ensure that 'all' our buildings in Tower Hamlets are safe for our residents.

The Council resolves:

1. Install up to date sprinklers and smoke alarms that are regularly checked – retrofitted if needed without any exception, and implement all relevant recommendations made by Lakanal House fire inquiry.
2. A clear public assurance that none of our buildings, not just THH tower blocks, is fitted with the cladding that contains 'flammable polyethylene' used in Grenfell Tower or have 'any combustible material' that may spread instead of containing the fire.
3. The most appropriate fire safety doors that can at least withstand the fire for 60 minutes, retrofitted if necessary, in consultation with the residents.
4. Comply with the best practice and official advice from the Fire Brigade and other relevant authorities on fire safety.
5. Comply with the advice from The Department for Communities and Local Government which state: "Cladding using a composite aluminium panel with a 'polyethylene core' would be non-compliant with current Building Regulations guidance."
6. Use the Council's position and power directly, or through appointed board members sitting on RSL boards and other influential places, to ensure that the above is complied with by the RSLs, the Council and THH.
7. Publish all Fire Risk Assessments carried out by the Council, THH and RSLs.
8. Keep all local ward councillors inform of any local issues in this regard.

With the Independent Group and others who may wish to join, write to the Government for urgent changes in the fire safety laws. Use the Council's reserves and/or contingency funds to ensure all our buildings - particularly high rise and tower blocks - are safe and are properly maintained

12.17 Motion regarding Acid Attacks

Proposer: Councillor Mahbub Alam

Seconded: Councillor Ohid Ahmed

The Council notes:

Senseless, tragic and bigoted acid attacks have become prevalent in London and all over the United Kingdom. This year the number of attacks doubled. Too many families and individuals are suffering and falling victim to this grievous and criminal act.

London is being dubbed as 'Acid attack capital of Britain'. Instances of acid attacks are on the sharp increase in 2016, a big increase on the year before.

On 21 June in east London, Resham Khan, a university student, was driving a car with her cousin Jameel Mukhtar when they were victims of a horrific acid attack by a white male. Without any provocation or logic, out of nowhere, both were attacked with acid thrown at their face and body. Both will have scars that will never leave them. Their lives have been changed forever. The pair strongly believe this was an Islamophobic hate crime.

Worryingly, a high percentage of these attacks have been concentrated in a small pocket of east London with a high Muslim population - 398 attacks in Newham, 134 in Barking and Dagenham and **84 acid attacks in Tower Hamlets in recent years**.

Two of the most recent attacks were on Commercial Road with the junction of Sidney Street, in Tower Hamlets on 29 June – another such attack on Burdett Road, E3 at 02:13hrs on 4 July 2017. A separate attack, possibly unreported, took place in Watney Market in the week before. There are quite a few other attacks which were neither reported to the police, nor appeared in the media.

The Council believes:

The attackers seem to specifically target Muslims and/or Asians but an attack like this could happen to anyone.

The horrific injuries often sustained from such attacks can leave victims with permanent scarring, psychological problems and destroy their lives.

These barbaric and inhumane attacks, the impact on those who suffer as well as the wider community relations and cohesion, should not be dumbed down or diluted by anyone.

It is about time that the law changes for the purchase of corrosive acid and dangerous chemicals - right now anyone can buy it easily from any hardware store. A person can easily walk into a store and purchase this lethal substance or similar chemical off the shelf.

Corrosive acids like sulphuric acid are very lethal and life damaging substances. You should only be allowed to purchase them with a licence to buy or verifiable professional/trade identification. The person purchasing should go through checks before.

Many attacks could have been stopped if there were controls that made it harder to buy, and meant we knew more about people buying it.

Acid attacks have become too common, the Home Office and the local authorities through trading standards and other means available at their disposal needs to do something to bring it under control. It is a disgusting criminal act. We need licensing laws and the use of existing regulatory powers now to deter this from happening.

John Biggs needs to strengthen the scope of community safety and enforcement, with more resources, to protect and support our residents. He can easily do so by reversing his illogical cuts in budgets for the community safety team, enforcement team of police officers and THEOs.

The Council resolves:

The assailants of such inhumane attacks need to be prosecuted and publicised for an effective deterrence and punishment. Critically, the victims and the families of these barbaric attacks be supported in every way possible.

To reverse the Mayor's decision to sack 34 dedicated local partnership police officers - a critically important frontline resource - appointed by the former Mayor and his team who could be used to work with and provide support to the community.

With the Independent Group and others who may wish to join, to write to the Home Secretary, the Prime Minister and the local MPs to do whatever they can to change the laws on the purchase of corrosive acid and dangerous chemicals used in acid attacks.

To explore local authority's powers to stop the sale of these dangerous substances other than to licenced or registered trade buyers with a clear database and checks.

John Biggs to ensure an accurate and up to date monitoring and publication of Islamophobic crimes in Tower Hamlets. *(something which the Independent Group has been urging the Mayor for more than a year but the Mayor has failed to listen or deliver the information despite a promise by his cabinet member)*

John Biggs need to reverse his catastrophic decisions: to cut community safety team; to stop CCTV upgrades, to sack 10 THEOs; to remove the community safety coordinator post; and to bring the teams up to the level under the former Mayor Lutfur Rahman and his cabinet.

There needs to be more THEOs and the Police on the beat. CCTV and surveillance need to be a lot more robust in order to apprehend the assailants which mean the planned CCTV upgrade by the previous administration - stopped by John Biggs - must go ahead immediately.

12.18 Motion regarding the Public Sector Pay Cap – including Tower Hamlets staff and emergency workers

Proposer: Councillor Harun Miah

Seconded: Councillor Gulam Robbani

The Council notes:

The political choice of austerity has failed miserably.

The Tory Government and their allies need to recognise that the economic approach of the past decade has been an abject failure. The recent economic data shows that growth has slowed, Inflation is rising. Wages - when adjusted for prices - are lower than they were when the last recession began in early 2008.

Britain has a cost-of-living crisis as well as a political crisis but most importantly it is affecting our residents, our staff, wider public sector workers, civil servants and their loved ones which in turn affect the local economy and the wider society.

Local Government is the most efficient part of the public sector according to Government. Tower Hamlets council staff have had their pay frozen or capped for nearly a decade.

Firefighters, Nurses, Police, Paramedics, all put their lives on the line to protect people, but right now they're suffering because of a pay cap which means that wages stay frozen while costs of living continue to go up.

MPs had their pay increased by 10%. John Biggs gave himself a 14.24% pay increase and granted a 40% increase to the pay packet of a local Tory councillor.

Stephen Crabb, the former Conservative Work and Pension Secretary, as well as, Government Cabinet Ministers, Michael Gove and Boris Johnson have called for the pay cap to be lifted. Regrettably and hypocritically, they did not vote for removal of the cap in the Parliament.

The Chancellor had previously claimed that the public is "weary" of austerity and wants to see an end to the "long slog" of cutbacks. The latest comments from within the Government's top brass about austerity and pay cap follow accusations of a Government "shambles" on the issue after a Number 10 source said the PM was ready to listen to the pay review bodies' recommendations, only for her official spokesman and the Treasury to insist "the policy has not changed".

Speaking to Panorama, a former Tory MP and now Theresa May's Chief of Staff at No 10 Downing Street, Mr Barwell said "There's a conversation I particularly remember with a teacher who had voted for me in 2010 and 2015 and said 'you know I understand the need for a pay freeze for a few years to deal with the deficit but you're now asking for that to go on potentially for 10 or 11 years and that's too much'.

The Council believes:

Given the outstanding job that our emergency services perform week in, week out, we feel that they deserve just reward for their efforts.

Given the recent tragedies and the incredible bravery and heroism these people and their colleagues across the country have shown, with little thought for their own lives, it is time

to find the money to make sure these brave and honourable men and women are being paid a decent wage for the incredible job they do.

We all saw the brave police tackling the terrorists at London Bridge, the firefighters rushing in to tackle the Grenfell fire, the paramedics running to help the people caught up in the Manchester terror attack. And every day nurses working round the clock to keep our NHS going. These people shouldn't have to worry about whether they can pay their rent or the electricity bill at the end of the month.

The Council resolves:

With the Independent Group, the Mayor to write to the Chancellor and Prime Minister asking them to remove the pay cap and officially end austerity in order to help the working people, the public-sector workers and local authorities including our hard-working council staff.

With the Independent Group, the Mayor to write to the local MPs and shadow chancellor John McDonnell requesting them to do whatever in their power to influence and force the Government to lift the pay cap - present an Early Day Motion or a joint opposition motion - and vote for it in the Parliament at the next possible opportunity in light of clear divisions in the Government at the highest level.

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