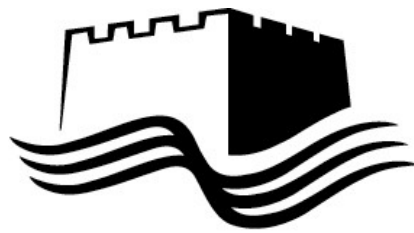


**Scrutiny Review Report:**  
**Recreational Activities for Children and Young People  
in Tower Hamlets**



**TOWER HAMLETS**

**March 2018**

# Chair's Foreword:

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**Councillor Andrew Wood**  
Scrutiny Lead for Resources  
Chair of Grants Scrutiny Sub Committee

# Recommendations:

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**Recommendation 1:**

That an online booking system be implemented to improve access, better data analysis and targeting of resources.

**Recommendation 2:**

To adopt the “Open Opportunity Data System” developed by London Sports which will expose customers to opportunities in a more user-friendly way and make getting active easier for young people.

**Recommendation 3:**

To adopt a multi-purposed approach when designing new youth hubs to optimise the limited space available in the Borough and provide more flexibility in facility usage.

**Recommendation 4:**

To embed “playable” spaces within the planning regime to optimise the limited space available in the Borough and ensure developers provide chances for young people to be physically active through Sports England Active Design model.

**Recommendation 5:**

To encourage children and the wider community to spend time outside, moving around and interacting with each other to explore Play Streets used for example in Hackney to simplify the process behind closing roads to allow greater activity.

**Recommendation 6:**

Maximise use of facilities by investigating using a commercial operator model for existing outdoor sports facilities owned by the council.

**Recommendation 7:**

Encourage the maximisation of space by working with developers to encourage them to an adopt interim / meanwhile approach for outdoor sport and recreation on development sites prior to them coming forward for development.

# Introduction:

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- 1.1 Grants Scrutiny Sub Committee arranged two sessions to specifically look at the different provisions offered by the Council for young people to stay active in the Borough. In order to provide a complete overview of the current provisions offered by the council, this review involved numerous Services including Youth and Communities, Sports, Leisure and Events and Public Health.
- 1.2 This review fits timely with the other work done by Tower hamlets Council as Services are in the process of creating a Strategy that looks at physical activity in the Borough. The aim of the physical activity strategy is to encourage and support inactive residents to get physically active in the Borough.
- 1.3 Alongside the physical activity strategy, two other strategy documents were created, the Open Space Strategy- which looked at parks and outdoor facilities- and an Indoor strategy- which looked at Indoor Sport Facilities. Both involved conducting an asset mapping of Council facilities and it gave the Services a better understanding of the resources available to better tackle the challenges that the Council is facing, like population growth and high demand on the services.
- 1.4 For the scope of the review, the term “**recreational activity**” was used to identify any activity proposed and promoted by the Council that got children and young people under the age of 24 moving around and engaged, from table tennis to team sports. Moreover, the review focused its efforts in identifying activities carried out outside of school hours, therefore excluding PE or other in-school activities. This review specifically avoided defining these activities as “sports”, as the term can be more alienating, especially to women and girls. Just like the national context, Tower Hamlets Council is moving to that strategic approach to physical activity.
- 1.5 The review was arranged in order to get a better understanding of the current provisions and facilities, and enquiry whether we are equipped to handle the population growth projections. Being the second most densely populated local authority in the UK, Tower Hamlet’s population is projected to reach 365,200 by 2027 – equivalent to around 15 additional residents per day for the next ten years. It is for these reasons, and the fact that we currently have the fourth youngest population in the UK where almost half our residents (47%) are aged 20-39, that our strategic planning must reflect these trends and find creative ways to keep the children of the borough active.

1.6 Alongside the population growth, this review aimed at looking at our grants allocation system, and seeing what grants are currently awarded and whether we can better coordinate these fundings with service necessities.

1.7 The review was underpinned by three questions:

- What Council provisions are currently available for Children and Young People to stay active?
- How does our Grants Programme support Children and Young people to be physically active?
- What recreational facilities do we have in the Borough and what can we do to make them more accessible?

1.8 The review was chaired by Councillor Andrew Wood and attendees to the two sessions, one on the 18<sup>th</sup> of January and one on the 8<sup>th</sup> of February, were:

Session 1, 18/01/2018	Session 2, 08/02/2018
• Councillor Andrew Wood, Chair of Grants Scrutiny Sub Committee	• Councillor Andrew Wood, Chair of Grants Scrutiny Sub Committee
• Councillor Candida Ronald, Member of the Grants Scrutiny sub Committee	• Robert Mee, Programme Analysis and Review Officer, Third Sector Team
• Margherita De Cristoforo, co-opted member of Grants Scrutiny Sub Committee	• Mohammed Ahad, Community Programmes Officer, Grants, Third Sector Team
• Reha Begum, Public Health. Children and adolescent lead	• Judith St John, Acting Divisional Director Sports Leisure and Culture
• Claire Belgard, Interim Head of Integrated Youth and Community Services	• Steve Murray, Head of Arts, Parks and Events
• Lisa Pottinger, Head of Sport & Physical Activity	• Tim Clee, Partnership and Participation Manager- Sports and Physical Activity
• Tim Clee, Partnership and Participation Manager- Sports and Physical Activity	• Robert McLean, Partnership Manager at London Sports

The review was supported by:

- Ludovica Orlando, Strategy, Policy and Performance Officer

1.9 The two sessions were divided into two parts, the first one where every council officer outlined the current provisions offered in their department and the second part of the meeting was used for a discussion. While the first session had more of a public health focus and aimed at gathering evidence from the different services, the second session revolved around funding and the strategic approach needed to match the current demand on our services.

# Local Context:

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## Population

The population of Tower Hamlets has more than doubled in the past 30 years, rising from 150,200 in 1986 to 304,900 in 2016<sup>1</sup>. Growth has been particularly fast over the last decade. Between 2006 and 2016, the population grew by 86,500 residents – a 40 per cent increase. This was the fastest population increase out of all 391 local authority areas in the UK. The borough's population growth rate (40 per cent) was also more than double that in London (16 per cent) and more than four times that in England (8 per cent).

Taking this expected development into account, projections from the Greater London Authority (GLA) expected to reach 365,200 by 2027. This would be an increase of nearly 54,000 residents over the next decade – equivalent to an average of around 15 additional residents every day for the next ten years. The Borough's population is expected to reach 400,000 by 2041.

## Population Age

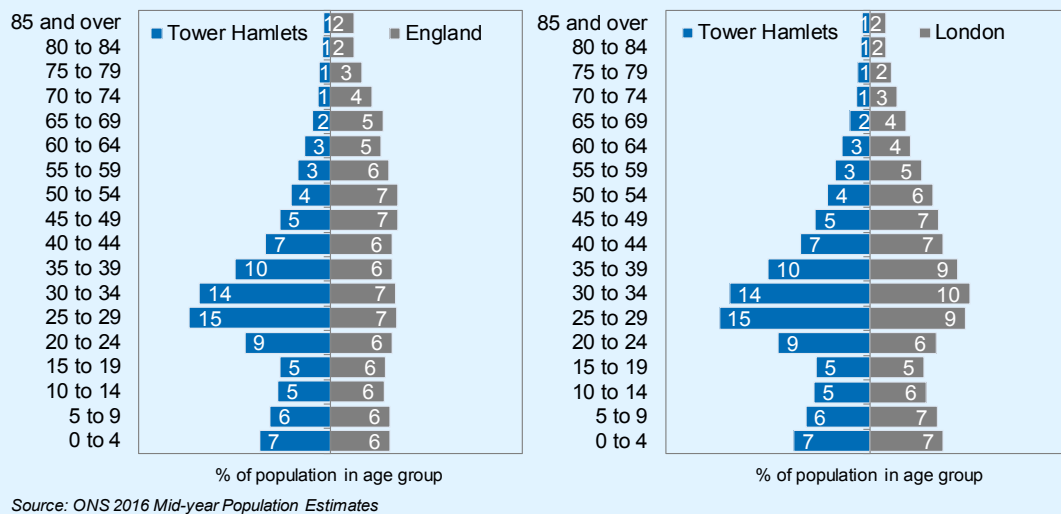
Tower Hamlets has a relatively young population compared with the rest of the country. Our median age in 2016 was 30.6 years which was the 4<sup>th</sup> youngest median age out of all local authorities in the UK. The median age was 34.8 in London, 39.8 in England and 40.0 in the UK.

Almost half of all borough residents (47 per cent) are aged 20-39, the highest proportion in the UK, and well above the London average (34 per cent). Conversely, Tower Hamlets has proportionately fewer older residents compared with other areas: 9 per cent of Tower Hamlets residents are aged 60 or over, compared with 16 per cent in London and 23 per cent in England.

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<sup>1</sup> Office for National Statistics, *1986 to 2016 Mid-year Population Estimates* via [NOMIS](#).

## Age profiles of Tower Hamlets, England and London, mid-2016



The borough's relatively young age profile reflects the fact that over the past ten years, the borough's working age population has increased much more quickly than the child population or older age groups (see Figure below). In addition, nearly eight in ten (77 per cent) residents who have lived in the borough for less than 5 years are aged between 18 and 34<sup>2</sup>, and 86 per cent of our economic migrants in 2016/17 were aged under 35<sup>3</sup>.

While the Borough's population is projected to age slightly in the coming years, it is expected to retain its distinctive young population.

### The importance of keeping active in Tower Hamlets:

According to the UK Government's obesity strategy, 34.2% of year 6 pupils in the UK are overweight or obese. In Tower Hamlets, the latest measurements for 2016/17 detail that 23.2% of reception aged children and 42.5% of Year 6 children as being obese or overweight.

Because of these statistics, one of the Council's priorities is to improve the health and wellbeing of young people in the Borough including through physical activity and other health promoting activities.

According to Government guidance, to maintain a basic level of health<sup>4</sup>, children and young people aged 5 to 18 need to take part in at least 60 minutes of physical activity every day ranging between moderate activity, such as cycling and playground activities, to vigorous activity, such as running and tennis. Alongside this daily activity, it is advised to add exercises to strengthen muscles, such as push ups and exercises for strong bones, such as jumping and running.

Figure 1 shows the results of 2015 Pupil Attitude Survey, and it illustrates the percentage (%) of pupils who reported doing something active in the previous

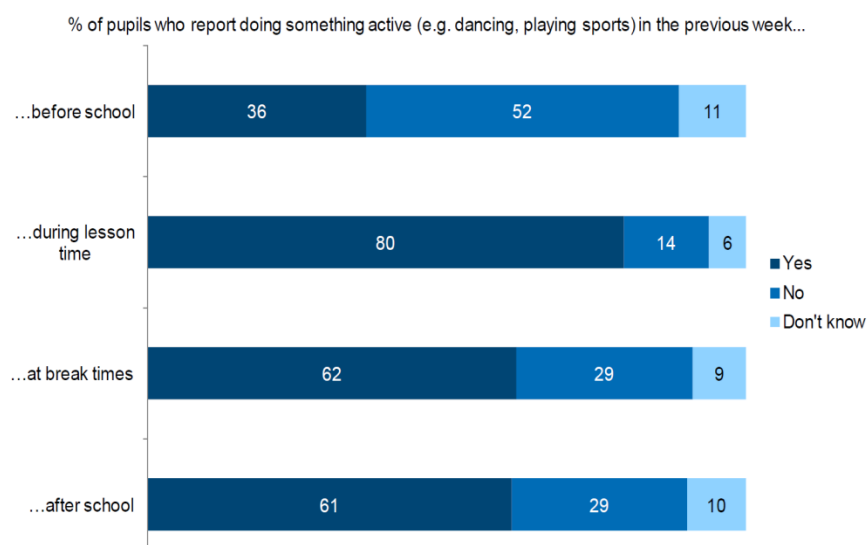
<sup>2</sup> Tower Hamlets Council, *Annual Residents Survey 2017* (unpublished data tables).

<sup>3</sup> Department for Work and Pensions, *NINO Registrations To Adult Overseas Nationals Entering The UK* via [Stat-Xplore](#).

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.nhs.uk/Livewell/fitness/Pages/physical-activity-guidelines-for-young-people.aspx>

week. The graph clearly shows the importance of providing a wide range of possibilities to being active as, outside of school hours, it is the moment in time when young people can be active.

**Figure 1: Proportion of pupils who did something active the previous week**



In conclusion, it is important for the Council to encourage participation in keeping physically active as evidence shows how being active can reduce risks of major illnesses, such as heart disease, stroke, type 2 diabetes and cancer by up to 50% and lower risk of early death by up to 30%.<sup>5</sup>

Alongside the mentioned health benefits, there is evidence to show that recreational activities can promote community cohesion. A Scrutiny session held last year on community cohesion recommended sports and cultural activities should be used to bring communities together and strengthen cohesion in the Borough.

However, seeing how many of these benefits are difficult to measure and require long-term monitoring, their value they can therefore get neglected or completely ignored in discussions. The Council should make a conscious effort to promote and invest in keeping our youth active by supporting the running of physical activities, which is why Members believe this scrutiny review can be an important step in moving forward in this direction.

### The Council Offer:

At present, the Council offer around physical activities cuts across numerous departments and does not sit singularly in one. Below is an overview of the service in the council that support young people to be active:

- **Public Health:**

The main focus of the Public Health team is to encourage the uptake of physical activity for young people. The model around it is to focus around

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.nhs.uk/Livewell/fitness/Pages/Whybeactive.aspx>



families, encouraging a behavioural change that gets them moving all together. Key to this behavioural change is placing the attention around how fun moving and playing is, therefore distancing from the old notion that sports are equal to competition and only athletic people can take part in. As outlined in the Health and Wellbeing strategy plan of 2017-2020, Tower Hamlets residents start to develop poorer health around ten years earlier than the London average. To stop this trend, schools are being used as the principal sharing means of this information in the hope that if kids are active younger, they will maintain constant activity levels throughout their lives. When linking up to primary, secondary and special schools in Tower Hamlets, an accreditation (Silver, Gold and Bronze) gets awarded based on the physical activity uptake within the school.

- **Sports, Leisure and Events:**

The council offer is a universal service that targets under-represented groups, such as women and girls, people with disabilities, BAME communities and inactive people. By approaching sports with a Physical Activity focus and moving away from the more conventional term “sport”, the Council hopes to target those groups that would otherwise feel alienated by the term, like girls and inactive people.

The offer promoted by the Council is quite vast, ranging from afternoon activities in parks, to summer and holiday programmes (Appendix 2), which are free of charge and aim at getting young people in the borough moving and engaged in the summer months and after school. It is this sociable element that contributes to the uptake of these activities and makes them popular among Tower Hamlets residents. Like many other council services, the recent cuts have meant questioning whether it is still feasible to run many activities free of charge or whether they should be cancelled.

In 2016-17 SPA attracted a total of circa 2.2 million visits across all areas of the service. Sports Development and Outdoor Education had a combined throughput of 38,155.

<b>Attendance / Usage Data</b>				
	<b>Total Service Throughput</b>	<b>Throughput (0-25 year olds)</b>	<b>Percentage Throughput (0-25 year olds)</b>	<b>Gender split (M:F)</b>
Sports Development	23,064	15,453	67.2%	50:50
Outdoor Education	15,091	15,091	100%	62:38
<b>Total</b>	<b>38,155</b>	<b>30,544</b>	<b>83.6% (ave.)</b>	

There was a 50/50 gender split within Sports Development but a 62%:38% gender split in favour of male users in the Outdoor Education Service.

Provision across Sport Development and Education varies from adventurous activities such as cycling, climbing, canoeing, kayaking and accredited courses such as the Duke of Edinburgh's Award, multi-sport activity sessions, football, exercise classes, swimming, inter-generational sports events for families, training course and accredited sports qualifications.

The Summer programme information provided in this section only relates to the SPA programmes and excludes information on Parks and Open Spaces. In total 463.5 hours of delivery took place over the summer period, which attracted nearly 8,000 participants, with a throughput of over 9,000. £37k was spent on the programme at a cost of £4.75 per head.

In terms of marketing and advertising, this is done predominantly as "paper communication", principally distributed within schools. Work is being carried out to digitalise the service more, which could help in promoting the Council's provision further to the wider community. Moving digitally could also prove to be the right solution in ensuring the creation and implementation of a booking system. This would enable a more efficient service delivery by the Council.

- **Youth and Community Services:**

Over the past year, the council has rebuilt the service with a new vision and processes to ensure high standards in governance, procurement and the tracking of performance results. New targets and outcomes, along with new training for staff, have also been brought in to drive up standards.

Young people have been involved to help create new values, priorities and a youth brand which will appear in youth hubs and on the uniforms of Youth Workers.

Tower Hamlets Council is one of the highest spenders on youth services in London. This year's running costs are £4 million and thousands of young residents (aged 12-19) will have free access to activities including sport, games, arts, music, along with state of the art facilities including music recording studios, hair salons, climbing walls and ICT suites. A point based system surrounding the activity chosen by young people earns them rewards, which encourages them not just to play with electronics but to take part in physical and community cohesion activities. The idea behind these centres is to create a sense of community where young people can go, socialise and spend time together in a safe and supervised environment.

Looking at a young people consultation survey that took place in June 2016, 82% (287) of young people consulted indicated that they attended these council facilities between one and three times a week. Appendix 3 shows the preferred activities from those who took part in the consultation which, in summary, outlines that:

- 30.9% were interested in sporting activities
- 23.5% were interested in workshops /courses or training
- 15.9% were interested in day trips

- 7.9% were interested in indoor activities
- 4.1% were interested in outdoor activities.

The service has been transformed following serious failings uncovered under the Government’s Commissioners in 2014 and 2015 which included failures to follow procurement rules, in governance and in transparency; and a failure of staff to declare interests in organisations benefiting from contracts.

- **Grants:**

The current Main Stream Grants programme, which has been extended until 31 March 2019, has three strands that cover “recreational activities”, namely youth, culture and sports. To access these funding, organisations had to fill in an application and demonstrate how the activity matches the grants applied for. For instance, if a tennis club is in need of funding, they will apply for a grant by showing how their programme helps keep kids active and how their activities aim at bringing communities together.

Other grants that have been used to fund recreational activities are the “Emergency Grants”, which have helped organisations with a budget deficit, and the “Innovation Funding”, which is funded through crowdfunding. Both of these funding sources are classified as “one offs”.

The current number of projects funded through each strand and the total annual grant award are as follows:

<b>Strand</b>	<b>No. of projects</b>	<b>Annual Grant Funding</b>	<b>Average Annual Grant Award</b>
Youth	16	£198,207	£ 12,388
Culture	8	£87,374	£10,922
Sports	6	£98,455	£16,409

# Key Findings and Recommendations:

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## Making the existing recreational and physical offer for children and young people more visible

1.1 The Council provides a wide range of mostly free activities for young people in the Borough. Whether at parks, leisure centres or community hubs, the Council offer is wide spread across the Borough.

1.2 Provision across Sport Development and Education varies from adventurous activities such as cycling, climbing, canoeing, kayaking and accredited courses such as the Duke of Edinburgh's Award, multi-sport activity sessions, football, exercise classes, swimming, inter-generational sports events for families, training course and accredited sports qualifications.

1.3 However, at present, there is no way to record the level of interest in participating in Council-run activities as they are on a drop-in basis and therefore don't require booking in advance. This creates a challenge for the services in how they deliver the activities, as they are unable to prepare accordingly.

1.4 It is therefore proposed to implement an online booking system with the aim of collecting the number of participants attending every session. With this new approach, not only will the Service be provided with the tools to better plan their activities and make better use of our resources, but the Council will, following the approval of a standardised privacy notice, collect accurate and in real time data of its residents interests. Moreover, the more details the Council can collect about their residents, the easier it will be to target future activities and to widen the Council's reach.

1.5 Members strongly believe that this digitalisation will help with the newly adopted Outcome Based Accountability (OBA) approach. By collecting how many activities are carried out and how many children have participated in them, members believe we will be better served to analyse how many children are better off.

### **Recommendation 1:**

**That an online booking system be implemented to improve access, better data analysis and targeting of resources.**

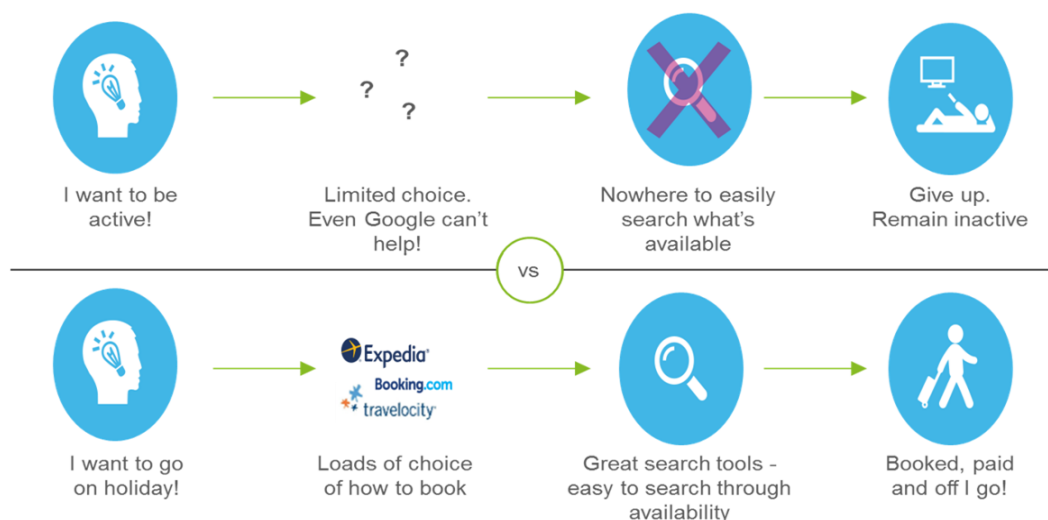
1.6 As highlighted in the second session of this scrutiny review by Robert McLean, the Relationship Manager for London Sports, the uptake of "Open

Opportunity Data” is revolutionising the way we access and gather information.

1.7 ‘Open Opportunity Data’<sup>6</sup> is data about where and when sports and physical activities happen. The data is openly available for anyone to access, use and share, which allows customers to have information available to them at any given time.

1.8 The travel and holiday sector are already using Open Data to make our lives easier. Companies like Amadeus bring flight, hotel and transportation data together in one place to allow organisations like Expedia and Hotels.com to offer a one stop shop for booking holidays or trips. The same process is currently underway with the sport, leisure and recreation sector and when embedded, it will make access to information easier and more user-friendly.

Exposing customers to opportunities - OpenActive



1.9 Therefore, the committee members recommend partnering up with London Sports and their Open Active model to group all the council and third sector activities and allow easier access to information for residents. It is in fact believed that helping young people access the wide range of activities offered in a way that works for them, i.e. online, will increase their uptake.

1.10 A requirement for being able to obtain any Council fundings and commissioned services would be to require them to uploading their data on the system.

1.11 Moreover, when we collect information from organisations as part of our monitoring process, we collect it in a way that is not used in a strategic way and it often rests unutilised. If linked with the Open Active system, we could have instant records of how many sessions were carried out, who the attendees were and how many of them attended the events. This will incorporate monitoring needs with vital information that could be used to better target our audiences. Alongside the above proposed booking system, this tool could be a vital part of the Council’s digital transformation.

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.openactive.io/use-data.html>

**Recommendation 2:**

**To adopt the “Open Opportunity Data System” developed by London Sports which will expose customers to opportunities in a more user-friendly way and make getting active easier for children and young people.**

**Maximising spaces where children and young people can be more physically active**

2.1 As highlighted in scrutiny session two, one of the biggest challenges that Tower Hamlets faces is the lack of space in the Borough. To tackle this, services urge the need to start using the Council’s planning powers to rethink how public space is designed and to use its influence as a planning authority to shape the landscape of the Borough.

2.2 As a proposal, Members of the Grants Scrutiny Sub Committee recommended a co-location approach to the future youth hubs in the Borough.

2.3 With two hubs in the process of being opened and one in consultation, the committee recommends for them not to be too “specialised”, or for one purpose, but to allow the space to be used in different ways. Despite having undergone a consultation where an “ideal” youth hub was designed, Members felt like that layout would limit its usage.

2.4 The committee felt this approach could somewhat aid with the challenges posed in term of population growth in the Borough. With a population that is expected to reach 365,200 by 2027, the committee believes the Council should take every opportunity to optimise the limited space available in the Borough.

**Recommendation 3:**

**To adopt a multi-purposed approach when designing new youth hubs to optimise the limited space available in the Borough and provide more flexibility in facility usage.**

2.5 Linking to adopting a multi-purposed approach for new build Council facilities, the committee recommends ensuring the creation of playable areas when accepting planning applications.

2.6 The role of the Local Plan is to demonstrate how the Council is responsibly planning for the growth demands of the current and future population of the Borough, in line with Government requirements. With such a

fast growing Borough it is important to find every chance to apply a cost effective approach around being active. Whether it is a small playground, an adapted rooftop space or a closed off pedestrianised street, there are plenty of opportunities to tackle the challenges Tower Hamlets faces.

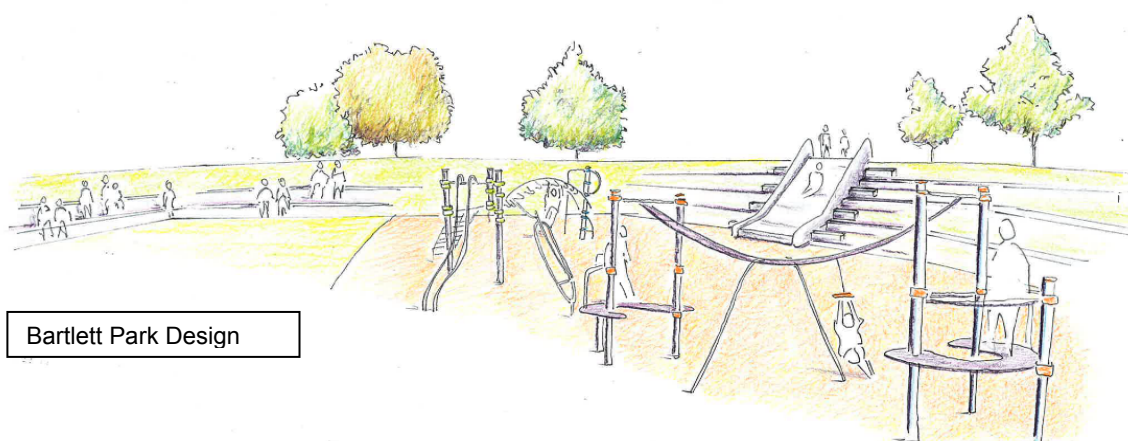
2.7 As the new Local Plan being developed by the Council states, in considering the design and layout of child play space, it is important to ensure that this responds to the needs of local children and young people within the development taking consideration of existing provision in the area. As a requirement, play space for children under 5 should always be on site. This space should be well-integrated into development as well as a consideration in the design of the communal space provision. However, it is important to note that the standard for play provision is in addition to other quantitative standards such as open space provision and communal space provision.

2.8 The committee also recommends using “Bartlett Park Design” as the standard design for playground facilities. This park design has gone through consultation and has been assessed as universally accessible. Replicating this model when refurbishing our current facilities will not only prove to be time efficient, since the consultation and the design works have already been carried out, but it will also ensure a Borough-wide accessible standard to new play areas.

2.9 Another positive outcome that having a standardised playground facility has is its maintenance; if the equipment is standardised it will make maintenance and replacement more time and cost efficient as the Council’s team will know where to source replacement parts.

Proposed play areas

Proposed earth mounding will be used to create a more interesting and undulating parkland. Landform will provide enclosed space to house play areas and provide seating opportunities for supervising adults. In this way these areas will be anchored and better integrated within the surrounding park.



2.10 In order to further take embedding “playability” into planning applications, it is recommended to follow the Active Design proposed by Sports England. Active Design is supported by Public Health England and is part of Sports England’s collaborative action to promote the principles set out in Public Health England’s ‘Everybody Active, Every Day’ ethos. Good design should contribute positively to making places better for people and to create



environments that make the active choice the easy and attractive choice for people and communities.

2.11 Sports England identifies as “The Ten Principles of Active Design”<sup>7</sup> as practical examples to promote environments that offer individuals and communities the greatest potential to lead active and healthy lifestyles.

2.12 The principles can be applied to many different forms of development across many different settings and, while not all the Active Design Principles will be relevant or appropriate to all scenarios and settings, achieving as many of them as possible will assist in optimising opportunities for active and healthy lifestyles.

2.13 It is also suggested to continue organising family focus events that encourage being active in a fun way all together. An example of this is big park events like the “Great Day Out”, which encourages moving around while taking part in fun, community led activities.

**Recommendation 4:**

**To embed “playable” spaces within the planning regime to optimise the limited space available in the Borough and ensure developers provide chances for young people to be physically active through Sports England Active Design model.**

2.14 Following Hackney’s model<sup>8</sup>, the committee members encourage the Council to look into the “Play Street” format. In Hackney in fact, children and young people are reclaiming the streets, thanks to a ground-breaking scheme enabling residents to close residential streets for a few hours to through traffic, turning them into play streets. This enables residents to close forty of their roads once a month to allow children and the wide community to spend time outside, moving around and interacting with each other.

2.15 As noted by Members, bureaucracy creates a big barrier in the effective delivery of these sort of initiatives. In the session it was recognised that in order to encourage the behavioural change needed to make physical activity a part of everyday lives, the Council must play a part into allowing residents to feel like they own their neighbourhood and can freely move around in it.

**Recommendation 5:**

**To encourage children and the wider community to spend time outside, moving around and interacting with each other. To explore” Play Streets”, used for example in Hackney, to simplify the process behind closing roads to allow greater activity**

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.sportengland.org/media/3964/spe003-active-design-published-october-2015-high-quality-for-web-2.pdf>

<sup>8</sup> <https://hackney.gov.uk/play-streets>

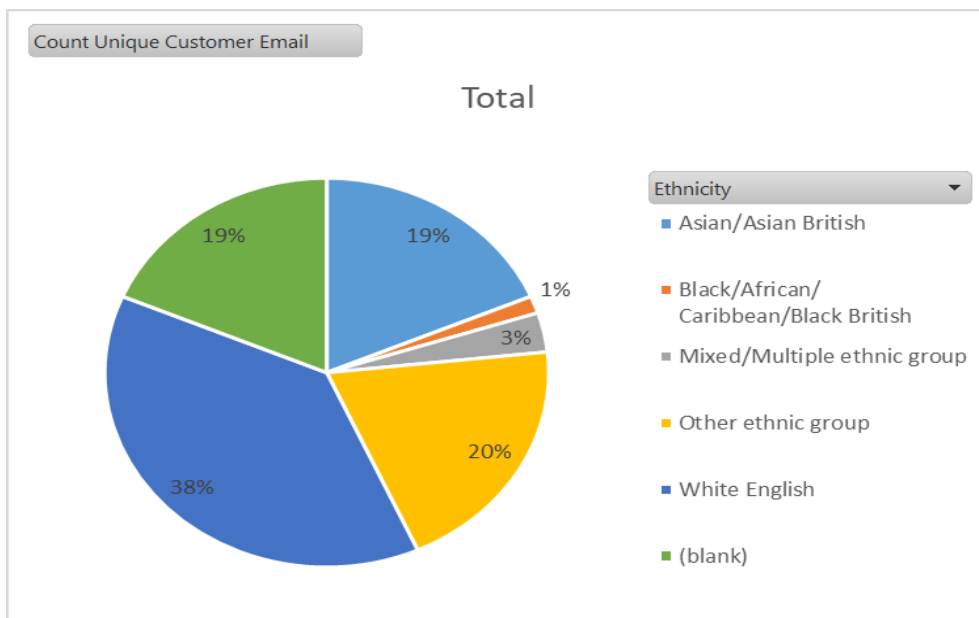


2.16 Members heard about the Council’s approach to the management of its tennis courts, which were under-utilised. The Council has contracted a social enterprise to commercially manage the premises and run coaching sessions. There are a total of sixteen tennis courts located across these four parks:

- Bethnal Green Gardens – 4 Courts
- King Edward Memorial Park – 4 Courts
- Poplar Recreation Ground – 2 Courts
- Victoria Park – 4 Courts
- St Johns Park – 2 Courts

2.17 The cost of hiring the tennis facilities is relatively small (£6ph or £4ph off peak for adults, and £2ph for under 18s). Part of this management contract in fact is enabling the delivery of a varied programme and further develop what presently is on offer and the operator has been expected to have a partnership approach with local organisations across many different spheres. The current Tennis Programme, run by the operator at present includes:

- Mini tennis and junior tennis
- Schools tennis
- Adult Tennis Courses
- Cardio Tennis
- Disability Tennis
- Women’s specific Training



2.18 A fundamental part of this programme is ensuring that no group misses out on the chance to access the tennis courts. The chart below shows a breakdown of usage since March 2017 when the contract was let, where nineteen percent of users identified as Asian/Asian British, 20 percent identified as mixed/multiple ethnic group and white British accounted for 38%.

2.19 As pointed out by services during the session, income generated for the Council is not significant; however this approach has allowed facilities that were not being used to their potential to thrive. Members felt that this approach could be positive as it both removes the costs of maintaining the pitches and at the same time, it empowers residents to run sessions and activities for the wider community.

2.20 To ensure that the commercial management does not adversely affect usage by young people, especially those from under-represented groups, the council could ask that contractors to allocate discounted time slots in exchange for favourable rental agreements.

2.21 Members felt that there were several positive benefits to adopting this “commercial operator model” and thought it would be good practice to widen out this approach to manage other facilities in the borough.

**Recommendation 6:**

**Maximise use of facilities by investigating using a commercial operator model for existing outdoor sports facilities owned by the council.**

2.22 Because of the lack of space in the borough for play and recreation areas, attendees felt that more use could be made of currently unused land in the borough; for example where land has been bought for private development but are not yet ready to be built out.

2.23 This ‘interim’ or ‘meanwhile use’ of space is already applied in some areas in the borough – for example creating a bar, restaurant and shopping venue at Box Park on the Bishopsgate Goods Yard site, and the ‘meanwhile community garden’ which is being established around Whitechapel on land which will be re-developed as part of the Whitechapel Vision Masterplan.

2.24 As part of the delivery of the Open Space Strategy, the Council is identifying the priority sites for investment in open space and outdoor recreation for those sites owned and managed by the Council.

2.25 There is a known need for additional football pitches in the borough, however investigations so far have found that there are interim sites are big enough for a full size football pitch. Through the Open Space Strategy delivery, a review of site allocations in the local plan which are required to provide 1 hectare of space or above is also being undertaken, to determine the extent to which this open space could provide pitch capacity.

2.26 Members felt that it would make strategic sense to make use of interim / meanwhile use for badly needed sports and recreational facilities. With this approach, Members felt that the Council could maximise assets in the borough, empower residents and creatively manage the existing high demand on the service.

**Recommendation 7:**

**Encourage the maximisation of space by working with developers to encouraging them to adopt an interim / meanwhile approach for outdoor sport and recreation on development sites prior to them coming forward for development.**

# Next Steps:

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At the end of the two sessions, it was recognised how big the issue around recreational activities for young people is. This review made seven recommendations. However Members felt that there is a continuing need to look at the issue, especially in relation to grants.

Members felt that it was important that with the move from grant making to commissioning, outcomes for recreation, physical activity and sport are appropriately covered and that the outcomes specified are aligned to the emerging physical activity and sports strategy.

As part of next year's work programme, members of grants scrutiny subcommittee recommend the following three areas are looked at:

1. Monitor implementation and progress of this review
2. Review the data on access usage to better understand progress and use the OBA model to understand:
  - a. How much are we doing
  - b. How well are we doing it
  - c. The impact on service provisions
3. Conduct an asset mapping exercise that identifies all recreational activities and facility available in Tower Hamlets

# Appendix:

## Appendix 1:

Life expectancy measures at birth, <sup>9</sup> Tower Hamlets, London and England, 2014-2016						
	Tower Hamlets	London	England	Gap in years between TH and London	Tower Hamlets rankings (1=lowest life expectancy)	
					London (32 Boroughs)	England (local authorities)
<b>Males</b>						
Life expectancy	78.7	80.4	79.5	-1.7	3	84
Healthy Life Expectancy	61.3	63.5	63.3	-2.2	7	55
Disability free life expectancy	56.9	63.8	62.8	-6.9	1	8
<b>Females</b>						
Life expectancy	82.4	84.2	83.1	-1.9	2	76
Healthy Life Expectancy	55.6	64.4	63.9	-8.8	1	3
Disability free life expectancy	56.4	63.7	62.3	-7.3	1	5

## Appendix 2:



Appendix 2 Summer Programme Leaflet 20



Appendix 1a Sports Development Weekly

<sup>9</sup> Source: Office for National Statistics, Health state life expectancies, UK, 2014 to 2016  
Notes: England rankings relate to lower tier local authority areas for Life Expectancy (324 areas) and to upper tier authorities (150 areas) for Healthy Life Expectancy and Disability Free Life Expectancy.

### Appendix 3:

What type of activities would encourage you to spend more time travelling to a youth centre or youth project?			
Answered: 295 Skipped 151			
Activity		Count	Additional comments
<b>Sporting activities:</b> including			<b>175</b> The top 3 sporting activities: <b>56</b> young people indicated that they were interested in Football  <b>17</b> young people indicated that they were interested in Badminton  <b>10</b> young people indicated that they were interested in Rugby
Football in & out door	32.0%	56	
Sports	17.1%	30	
Badminton	8.6%	15	
Rugby	5.7%	10	
Cricket	5.7%	10	
Gymnastics	4.6%	8	
Basketball	4.6%	8	
Athletics	4.0%	7	
Tennis	2.9%	5	
Weightlifting	2.3%	4	
Boxing	2.3%	4	
Golf	1.7%	3	
Dodge ball	1.7%	3	
Bowling	1.1%	2	
Acrobatics	1.1%	2	
Wrestling	0.6%	1	
Volley ball	0.6%	1	
Netball	0.6%	1	
Hockey	0.6%	1	
Bike-riding	0.6%	1	
Baseball	0.6%	1	
Archery	0.6%	1	
Abseiling	0.6%	1	
<b>a) Trips - Day:</b> Including			<b>50</b> The top 3 day trips were <b>13</b> young people indicated that they were interested in fun days out  <b>9</b> young people indicated that they were interested in Paintballing  <b>8</b> young people indicated that they were interested in Go-karting  <b>39</b> young people were interested in residential trips Only <b>1</b> young person was interested in international trips.
Fun days out	26.0%	13	
Paintballing	16.0%	8	
Go-karting	16.0%	8	
Theatre trips	10.0%	5	
Cinema	8.0%	4	
Cardrome	6.0%	3	
Laser tag	4.0%	2	
Theme parks	2.0%	1	
Site seeing	2.0%	1	
Jumping Jacks	2.0%	1	
Ice skating	2.0%	1	
Dune Buggy	2.0%	1	
Dirt biking	2.0%	1	
Concerts	2.0%	1	
<b>b) Trips - Residential</b>			<b>39</b> <b>1</b>
<b>c) Trips - International</b>			

<p><b>Courses/Workshop/Training:</b></p> <table border="1"> <tbody> <tr><td>Cooking</td><td>21.1%</td><td>28</td></tr> <tr><td>Other</td><td>15.8%</td><td>21</td></tr> <tr><td>Assault training</td><td>15.0%</td><td>20</td></tr> <tr><td>Arts</td><td>11.3%</td><td>15</td></tr> <tr><td>Drama</td><td>5.3%</td><td>7</td></tr> <tr><td>Accredited Courses e.g.</td><td>5.3%</td><td>7</td></tr> <tr><td>Film production/editing</td><td>4.5%</td><td>6</td></tr> <tr><td>Graphic design</td><td>2.3%</td><td>3</td></tr> <tr><td>Dance</td><td>2.3%</td><td>3</td></tr> <tr><td>Public speaking,</td><td>2.3%</td><td>3</td></tr> <tr><td>Poetry</td><td>1.5%</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>Photography</td><td>1.5%</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>Fitness courses</td><td>1.5%</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>Makeup</td><td>1.5%</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>Graffiti</td><td>1.5%</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>Fashion</td><td>1.5%</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>Young leaders course</td><td>0.8%</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>Security</td><td>0.8%</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>Painting</td><td>0.8%</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>Media</td><td>0.8%</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>Maths classes</td><td>0.8%</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>Hair dressing</td><td>0.8%</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>English classes</td><td>0.8%</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>Coding</td><td>0.8%</td><td>1</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Cooking	21.1%	28	Other	15.8%	21	Assault training	15.0%	20	Arts	11.3%	15	Drama	5.3%	7	Accredited Courses e.g.	5.3%	7	Film production/editing	4.5%	6	Graphic design	2.3%	3	Dance	2.3%	3	Public speaking,	2.3%	3	Poetry	1.5%	2	Photography	1.5%	2	Fitness courses	1.5%	2	Makeup	1.5%	2	Graffiti	1.5%	2	Fashion	1.5%	2	Young leaders course	0.8%	1	Security	0.8%	1	Painting	0.8%	1	Media	0.8%	1	Maths classes	0.8%	1	Hair dressing	0.8%	1	English classes	0.8%	1	Coding	0.8%	1	<p><b>133</b> The top 3 Courses/ Workshops/ Training were:</p> <p><b>28</b> young people indicated that they were interested in taking part in cooking or food based courses/workshop/training</p> <p><b>13</b> young people indicated that they were interested the Arts courses/workshop/training</p> <p><b>7</b> young people indicated that they were interested in taking part in Film production/editing courses/workshop/training</p>
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<p><b>Indoor activities:</b></p> <table border="1"> <tbody> <tr><td>Martial Arts</td><td>31.1%</td><td>14</td></tr> <tr><td>Pool</td><td>26.7%</td><td>12</td></tr> <tr><td>Table tennis</td><td>17.8%</td><td>8</td></tr> <tr><td>Trampolining</td><td>15.6%</td><td>7</td></tr> <tr><td>Wall climbing</td><td>8.9%</td><td>4</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Martial Arts	31.1%	14	Pool	26.7%	12	Table tennis	17.8%	8	Trampolining	15.6%	7	Wall climbing	8.9%	4	<p><b>45</b> The top 3 Indoor activities were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>14</b> young people indicated that they were interested in martial arts</li> <li>- <b>12</b> young people indicated that they were interested in playing pool</li> <li>- <b>8</b> young people indicated that they were interested in table tennis</li> </ul>																																																									
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<p><b>Outdoor activities:</b> Including</p> <table border="1"> <tbody> <tr><td>Rock climbing</td><td>56.5%</td><td>13</td></tr> <tr><td>Other outdoor</td><td>26.1%</td><td>6</td></tr> <tr><td>Camping</td><td>8.7%</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>Walking</td><td>8.7%</td><td>2</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Rock climbing	56.5%	13	Other outdoor	26.1%	6	Camping	8.7%	2	Walking	8.7%	2	<p><b>23</b> <b>13</b> young people were interested in rock climbing</p>																																																												
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<p><b>Music activities:</b> Including</p> <table border="1"> <tbody> <tr><td>Music production</td><td>63.2%</td><td>12</td></tr> <tr><td>Studio time</td><td>36.8%</td><td>7</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Music production	63.2%	12	Studio time	36.8%	7	<p><b>19</b></p>																																																																		
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<p><b>Water based activities:</b> including</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="65 226 730 342"> <tbody> <tr> <td>Water Sports</td> <td>41.7%</td> <td>5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Swimming</td> <td>41.7%</td> <td>5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Boating (e.g.</td> <td>16.7%</td> <td>2</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Water Sports	41.7%	5	Swimming	41.7%	5	Boating (e.g.	16.7%	2	<b>12</b>	<p>Water sports:  <b>5</b> young people indicated that they were interested in general Water Sports   <b>5</b> young people indicated that they were interested in Swimming</p>			
Water Sports	41.7%	5												
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<p><b>Professional advice:</b> including</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="65 441 730 595"> <tbody> <tr> <td>Caseworker support</td> <td>38.5%</td> <td>5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Employment advice</td> <td>23.1%</td> <td>3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Academic support/</td> <td>23.1%</td> <td>3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Help with CVs</td> <td>15.4%</td> <td>2</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Caseworker support	38.5%	5	Employment advice	23.1%	3	Academic support/	23.1%	3	Help with CVs	15.4%	2	<b>13</b>	
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<b>Other</b>	<b>19</b>													
<b>Total number of activities</b>	<b>567</b>													