## APPENDIX A – WRITTEN RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS THAT WERE NOT PUT AT THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING (19 JULY 2017)

### 6.4 Question from Dipu Jagirdar

What is the Mayor doing to stop our schools turning in to Academies?

#### **Response from Councillor Amy Whitelock Gibbs:**

We are proud of our schools in Tower Hamlets. Over the past twenty years we've made amazing progress as a community improving standards and making our schools some of the highest achieving in the country.

We've done this through a Labour government investing properly in schools and by the council, teachers, governors and parents working together as one community of schools focused on delivering the best for local children.

In Tower Hamlets we have resisted the introduction of academies and free schools but the Conservative Government has tied our hands. Once they make a decision to approve a school becoming an academy there is nothing the council can do to stop it.

We believe that schools should consult thoroughly with parents and the local community about their plans and we would be deeply disappointed if that did not happen. But in the end it is school governors who make the decision, even when there may be different views. There is clearly something very wrong with Government policy which allows this.

To date only 3 secondary schools (20% of 15 schools in total) and 5 primary schools (7.5% of 65 schools) have converted to become academies. This is much lower than some boroughs as we have resisted academisation more successfully than most boroughs through our culture of supporting a close community of schools in Tower Hamlets.

For schools who do decide to academise, Mayor John Biggs has brought in a new policy, which means schools which wish to convert are asked to make a £6,000 contribution to the council's costs for administration related to the change including guidance and the legal costs associated with asset transfers for example. We did this as we believe a school's decision to academise should not end up costing council taxpayers. We are also giving guidance on what we think is good consultation, although in the end the Government has set rules that allow schools to decide the consultation rules for themselves.

## 9.14 Question from Councillor Mahbub Alam

Given the alarming increase in Islamophobic hate crimes in recent time, particularly the shocking rise in acid attacks against Muslims, including those in Tower Hamlets, one of which took place on 29 June 2017 in Watney Market (unreported and possibly not recorded), and another attack on Burdett Road, E3 at 02:13hrs on 4 July 2017 (recorded and reported) as well as other such attacks - will the Mayor provide the figures for acid attacks, including any form of dangerous chemical, in Tower Hamlets for each year since 2011?

# Response from Councillor Asma Begum:

Recent acid attacks across the capital, including in Tower Hamlets, have understandably shocked and angered local residents in the East End and the council condemns the perpetrators in the strongest possible terms.

Since the incidents reported in Tower Hamlets we have been working with the police and using council CCTV footage to support their investigations to ensure those responsible are caught and face the full force of the law.

We are committed to tackling acid attacks and the Mayor has already written to the Home Secretary to ask that acid is treated on a par with other offensive weapons and for the necessary support from the Government.

Data for acid attacks in Tower Hamlets is below. Please be advised that data available to the Council Community Safety Team is via official published websites (Metropolitan Police and Mayor's Office of Policing and Crime). The following data has been extracted from a Freedom of Information Request published on the internet.

2011 – 7 2012 – 2 2013 – 4 2014 – 6 2015 – 24 2016 – 42 2017 (to June) – 11

The rise in recent years has been mirrored across London and is not isolated to Tower Hamlets.

The above incidents of Acid Attacks are defined as victims of "Causing explosions, sending explosive substance or throwing corrosive fluids with intent to grievous bodily harm."

# 9.15 Question from Councillor Shiria Khatun

What is being done to ensure fire safety inspections are being carried out for residential blocks in the borough?

## **Response from Councillor Sirajul Islam**

Following the tragic events of the Grenfell Fire the Council took immediate and proactive measures to protect our residents, including immediately taking steps to evaluate the safety of tower blocks in Tower Hamlets.

All 900 blocks managed by Tower Hamlets Homes, including 69 blocks over 6 storeys high, have had Fire Risk Assessments within the last year. The nine blocks identified as a "substantial" risk have been re-checked following the Grenfell Tower fire. Fire Risk Assessments to Council blocks managed by Tower Hamlets Homes are up to date. The Council does not have authority to inspect Fire Risk Assessments carried out by other landlords but all registered social housing providers locally report that they are up to date with Fire Risk Assessments.

All Council blocks over six storeys with cladding have been checked. All registered social housing provider blocks over six storeys with cladding have been checked or are in the process of being checked. Officers have also contacted the Approved Inspectors responsible for ensuring construction materials and methods complied with building regulations on private blocks. Whilst the Council does not have authority to require private owners to check cladding on privately owned blocks we urge them to do this proactively.

We will continue to monitor the fire safety of tower blocks in Tower Hamlets and to take all necessary steps to protect residents.

# 9.16 Question from Councillor Julia Dockerill

Following the meeting I organised on the 27<sup>th</sup> April at St Georges Town Hall to discuss Anti-Social Behaviour problems in St Katharine's & Wapping ward will the Mayor provide an update on the specific issues raised in particular the actions requested by the Borough Commander after the meeting.

### **Response from Councillor Asma Begum**

The meeting was we understood jointly arranged and attended by Cllr Denise Jones, Cllr Shiria Khatun, a number of council officers, and at the end by the Mayor who attended from another meeting.

Tackling anti-social behaviour is one of the council's top priorities. Following feedback from residents, we carried out a ward walkabout in this area on Friday 7th July 2017 to address the key areas of concerns that were highlighted. Please find listed below the actions agreed from the walkabout.

#### Benson Quay/ Shadwell Basin

- THEOs are now tasked to conduct evening patrols in the area following reports from residents
- SNT have agreed to communicate dates of weapon sweeps and speed operations to residents in the area
- SNT have agreed to provide patrols/shift pattern information to residents at their next ward panel meeting

#### St Georges Park & Wapping Woods

- SNT and THEOs are aware of drug use and drug dealing occurring here, and will conduct patrols at different times of the day to these areas
- The THEOs have already started patrolling St Georges Park as a result of recent ASB/drug dealing reports

#### Vaughan Way/Kennett Street and Wapping Lane

- SNT have agreed to communicate dates of speed operations to residents in the area
- SNT have agreed to start using Section 59 to seize vehicles found to be speeding and causing ASB
- LBTH Transport & Highways Team will be installing 2 covert CCTV cameras in the next few weeks to monitor speeding vehicles
- LBTH Transport & Highways Team will be installing special speed bumps and bollards to the side of each bump, that force push bikes and vehicles to slow down (in the next few months)
- LBTH Transport & Highways Team will be consulting with residents in regards to improving Wapping Lane and looking at how to reduce noise from vehicles driving on the cobbled streets, staggering parking and using the traffic monitoring vehicle to build evidence

#### Hermitage Basin and Hermitage Gardens

• LBTH CCTV will be installing a redeployable camera in the park to identify NO2 users and vehicles parking up to cause ASB.

We will continue to monitor and address concerns, particularly using our new ASB policy and increasing the number of council-funded police officers.

### 9.17 Question from Councillor Dave Chesterton

Will the Mayor please take whatever action he deems necessary to prevent the demolition of the No.1 gas holder at Leven Road, Poplar? This gas holder, made at Ironworks on the Isle of Dogs and erected in 1878 is of significant local historical interest and should be preserved as part of the redevelopment of this part of Poplar.

### **Response from Councillor Rachel Blake**

The Council recognises this significant local historical asset and there is a case that it should be preserved as part of redevelopment.

In planning policy, this is specifically reflected in the adopted and emerging Local Plan, where in the site allocation, it states that development should aim to "...**retain and integrate the gas holders** as part of the provision of green open space..."

The council plans to strengthen the design principle within the site allocation and seek to further acknowledge the gasholders significant local historical merit.

It should be noted that the gasholder is not listed, or located within a conservation area or included on the Council's Local List.

In light of a petition submitted as part of the Local Plan process, the No. 1 Gasholder at Leven Road Poplar is considered as having been nominated for addition to the Council's Local List.

Once the nomination process and selection criteria for additions to the Local List have been adopted by the council, a decision will be taken as to whether or not it would be appropriate to add Gasholder No.1 at Poplar to the Local List.

### 9.18 Question from Councillor Shafi Ahmed

The legal definition of an offensive weapon includes anything intended to be used to harm another person, like a sharpened comb. Acid must also now be seen as an offensive weapon. Will the Mayor write a joint letter with all Group Leaders to the Secretary of State to review the legislation of acid so that to carry acid or corrosive substance will be an offensive weapon?

#### **Response from Councillor Asma Begum**

The recent acid attacks in Tower Hamlets were appalling crimes and the Mayor and I are determined to support the police in tackling these shocking crimes.

I can confirm that the Mayor and I have already written to the Government and have copied this below. I will, of course, keep the council and the public informed of any response and developments. Should Group Leaders wish to write in similar terms to support this proposal I am sure the Mayor would welcome that.

#### Dear Ms Rudd,

Recent acid attacks across the capital, including in Tower Hamlets, have shocked and angered local residents in the East End.

Using acid to attack and disfigure people is a heartless and unforgivable crime. It's totally wrong that these vicious and often life-changing assaults are not punished more severely.

The Government should be sending a clear message that anyone who uses acid to harm others is going to face a long prison sentence. That is exactly what I am calling for you as Home Secretary to do. In light of the recent rise of these kinds of attacks there is simply no excuse for the Government dragging their feet on introducing harsher punishments. Hopefully this week's debate in Parliament will push the Government to take faster action.

As you will know in 2016, there were 455 offences recorded where a corrosive/acid substance was used across London: this year to date there have already been more than 150. Of those, 11 have been in Tower Hamlets.

More needs to be done to tackle this horrific crime which in some recent cases worryingly seems to have been adopted by gangs. Given the concern about this new tactic, will the Government make clear they will treat acid attacks just as seriously as attacks with knives or other offensive weapons, and legislate appropriately? This should in my view include exploring making it an offence to carry, without good reason, dangerous substances like sulphuric acid, particularly if it is carried in a manner likely to be used for violence, for example a water pistol. There also need to be far stricter checks on purchasing these kinds of corrosive liquid.

It is also clear that in addition to new powers in this area, the Met Police also needs to be given the funding to tackle these attacks. The Met has already been forced to make cuts of over £600 million since 2010, with the loss of thousands of police officers, and I urge the Government to think again before cutting the Met even further.

It is clear that the shocking acid attacks in London are of great concern to residents in the East End. I hope you will give the police the support, resources and authority to tackle these appalling crimes and make clear to perpetrators they will be caught and punished just as seriously as those who use knives or other weapons to do harm.

I look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely,

Mayor John Biggs Executive Mayor of Tower Hamlets

### 9.19 Question from Councillor Ayas Miah

Does the Mayor support the Mayor of London's Ultra Low Emission Zone?

#### **Response from Councillor Amina Ali**

The Mayor of London's Ultra Low Emissions Zone is an important part of his work to tackle poor air quality in the capital.

We support any ambition to reduce air pollution and look forward to working with the Mayor of London on his ULEZ proposal as further details emerge.

Whilst regional and national work to tackle air pollution is vital, in Tower Hamlets we are also doing our bit. We are investing in electric vehicles and charging points, have set up a cross-borough Low Emissions Neighbourhood and are currently consulting on a new air quality action plan to improve our local environment.

By contrast I would note that the Government's recently published Air Quality plan seems to be nothing but hot air after they failed to provide any new action which would help to clean up the capital's pollution problem.

## 9.20 Question from Councillor Md. Maium Miah

On Monday 26 June 2017, a mother was shockingly hit by a lorry due to dangerous driving in Westferry Road. I attended the scene and residents told me that dangerous driving and lack of proper road safety management/enforcement are among the most consistent and serious concerns for local residents, and across the Isle of Dogs. These issues, along with persistent traffic chaos, building and maintenance work activities mostly sanctioned by the council is turning the Canary Wharf Ward and the Isle of Dogs into an unsafe and chaotic place for both pedestrians and drivers. Will the Mayor tell us what action has been taken to address these issues for Canary Wharf and Isle of Dogs residents?

## **Response from Councillor Amina Al**

We take road safety extremely seriously and are determined to do all we can to reduce collisions.

In general, numbers of fatal and serious injuries arising from collisions have shown a continuing reduction over the past 10 years, but there is a worrying continuing increase in numbers of slight injury accidents reported to the Police.

Council officers regularly review these collision patterns and trends and prioritise schemes to make the biggest impact in reducing collision numbers.

In relation to the particular incident Cllr Miah refers to, officers have consulted the Police for information and it would not be appropriate to go into detail at this stage when Police investigations are continuing, however the initial report does seem to indicate that the road layout design was not considered to be a contributory factor.

It is important to note that the Council does not have any power of enforcement over speeding drivers or other reckless driving behaviour. The enforcement of poor driver behaviour is a Police matter but we will continue to work closely with them including on enforcing the borough-wide 20mph zone we have introduced on non-TfL roads.

## 9.21 Question from Councillor Chris Chapman

Given issues raised in the Channel 4 Dispatches programme on the 3rd July about cruise ship related air, noise and light pollution, what steps is the Mayor and the London Borough of Tower Hamlets undertaking regarding cruise ships on the River Thames, docks and in the future docking at Enderby Wharf which is contiguous to the Isle of Dogs?

#### **Response from Councillor Rachel Blake**

This is an important and ongoing issue you raise with no simple answer. The issue of air, noise and light pollution coming from cruise ships is complicated and requires a range of engagement with different agencies.

Local Authorities do not have statutory powers to enforce air quality limits for cruise ships.

The International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL) is the main international convention covering prevention of pollution of the marine environment.

DEFRA is responsible for the Air Quality Strategy for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland which covers all air pollution sources which breach air quality objectives.

The Port of London Authority is currently developing an Air Quality Strategy <u>https://www.pla.co.uk/environment/Air-Quality-and-Green-Tariff/Air-Quality</u>.

And LBTH's Air Quality Action Plan has an action requiring consideration of potential pollution emissions from proposed river development under the planning regime.

With respect to Enderby Wharf specifically, as required under planning legislation, Greenwich Council consulted LBTH on the revised planning application. Officers commented on the EIA and the planning application, and raised concerns seeking to improve air quality.

We will continue to campaign for on-shore-side power provision and make the case to the Mayor of London and Greenwich Council so that the scheme does not have the negative air quality impacts forecast. The Mayor has also requested a meeting with the Leader of Greenwich Council to discuss this important issue.

#### 9.22 Question from Councillor Aminur Khan

The Tower Hamlets Sports Foundation delivers a fantastic sports programme for children and young people in Tower Hamlets. Will the Mayor and his Cabinet ensure that Tower Hamlets Sports Foundation continues to deliver the much needed sports programme for youngster in Tower Hamlets?

## **Response from the Mayor**

The THYSF model relies on school's opting to purchase their services and with reducing school budgets this has become more of a challenge for them to sustain.

Over the past year the Council has sought to support the THYSF by writing off its deficit and providing assistance to better understand their financial challenges. This work is continuing however the organisation will need to move to a more sustainable business model if it is to remain viable.

## 9.23 Question from Councillor Gulam Robbani

As per HMRC's children in the low-income families' local measure, the most basic and a critical set of data set for a local authority and the Government, will the Mayor confirm how many children are currently in this category and what percentage is it of the total children in Tower Hamlets?

### **Response from Councillor Amy Whitelock Gibbs**

The latest data published by HMRC, for August 2014, indicates that 25,620 children in Tower Hamlets live in poverty – this represents 42 per cent of all children in the borough.

Tower Hamlets has one of the highest rates of child poverty in the country which is why we strongly oppose the Government cuts that are hitting boroughs like ours the hardest. The Mayor has invested £5m into a new Tackling Poverty Fund to protect struggling residents and provide schemes to help them into employment, and the Council is also investing £1.75m into free WiFi in our town centres and social housing to ensure residents in low income households can access opportunities online.

# 9.24 Question from Councillor Craig Aston

Will the Mayor confirm how much S106, CIL and New Homes Bonus cash is sitting in the Councils bank account to help pay to replace the broken play equipment in Ropemakers Fields which is being held up by a lack of funds to pay for replacement equipment?

### **Response from Councillor Abdul Mukit**

As Cllr Aston will know Section 106, ClL and New Homes Bonus are all used to fund varying types of infrastructure, from parks and open space through to housing, schools and GP surgeries across the borough. There are no specific funds hypothecated for Ropemakers Fields however the Council has undertaken a number of improvement works on the site:

- Cut back shrubs and hedges
- Carried out pest control work
- The Parks team will upgrade the current lighting

- Benches will be moved directly under lamp posts so that all seating is overlooked by lighting
- CCTV now installed on Narrow Street entrance, with a second camera planned for the bandstand
- The Council is also consulting on introducing a new Public Spaces Prevention Order to tackle ASB in the area.

Officers are also exploring putting together a capital programme bid to upgrade and replace play equipment across all the parks in the borough.

## 9.25 Question from Councillor Abdul Asad

Given the damaging impact of the new Council Tax Reduction scheme on self-employed residents and others in the borough will the Mayor now admit that he misled Tower Hamlets when he stated that it was still retaining 100% of the original scheme?

## **Response from Councillor David Edgar**

Tower Hamlets has one of the most generous Council Tax Reduction Schemes in the country and is one of the few places in the country where residents who qualify are still able to receive a deduction of up to 100% for their council tax.

Due to the Conservative Government's introduction of Universal Credit, the data to verify the reported income is no longer available to the council for Universal Credit claimants.

Despite these challenges, we remain absolutely committed to supporting residents and we have worked to protect any self-employed person who is likely to face hardship as a result of the changes. The council is offering a hardship scheme, similar to the Discretionary Housing Payments process, which has the flexibility to write off their council tax contributions where necessary.

The Council is also providing advice and support to anyone adversely affected by this change, including offering to meet individually with all residents affected. Support may include referrals to our partners to provide business support and advice for example the Council's Workpath Service or referrals to advice agencies for support.

# 9.26 Question from Councillor Suluk Ahmed

Will the Mayor tell us:

- What is the level of child poverty in Tower Hamlets?
- What % and numbers of residents currently live in fuel poverty?
- How many households have an income of less than £15,000?
- How many residents have used food-banks and vouchers for each year since 2015 until now?

(Please kindly provide the exact figures and information and not refer to a web-link or report. Thank you)

# Response from Councillor Amy Whitelock Gibbs

Thank you for your questions Cllr Ahmed. I am advised that **Part 4** of the Council's Constitution, sections 12.2 & 12.8 state:

**12.2** – Subject to rule 12.3, at an Ordinary or Extraordinary meeting of the Council a Member may ask the Speaker, the Mayor, or the Chair of any Committee or Sub-Committee **a question** about any matter in relation to which the Council has powers or duties or which affects the borough.

**12.8 – 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.

However councillors are able to submit Members Enquiries at any time. In light of the above please find below the response to your initial question.

With regards to child poverty the latest data published by HMRC, for August 2014, indicates that 25,620 children in Tower Hamlets live in poverty – this represents 42 per cent of all children in the borough. These statistics are from HM Revenue & Customs and relate to the 'Children in low income families local measure' which captures the percentage of children falling below the national poverty line (below 60 per cent of median income).

Tower Hamlets has one of the highest rates of child poverty in the country which is why we strongly impose the Government cuts that are hitting boroughs like ours the hardest. The Mayor has invested £5m into a new Tackling Poverty Fund to protect struggling residents and provide schemes to help them into employment, and the Council is also investing £1.75m into free WiFi in our town centres and social housing to ensure residents in low income households can access opportunities online.

# 9.27 Question from Councillor Harun Miah

In relation to housing, will the Mayor tell us:

- How many households are currently on a borough's housing register

   and how many of these are in priority categories 1 and 2. How
   many of these are officially overcrowded?
- How many are in temporary accommodation? Are any in Bed and Breakfast?
- What are the top three furthest places a family on a housing register been accommodated temporarily or permanently by the Council since June 2015 and to which areas and when?
- How many properties are under/over occupied at present?
- How many approaches to the Council about homelessness were made – broken down for each year since 2015 – until present. How many of them were already homeless and how many were at the risk of being homeless?
- How many homeless families were/are from the ethnic minorities or from the protected categories under the Public Sector Equality Duty with a breakdown for each category, please?

(Please kindly provide the exact figures and information and not refer to a web-link or report. Thank you)

# Response from Councillor Sirajul Islam

Thank you for your questions Cllr Miah. I am advised that **Part 4** of the Council's Constitution, sections 12.2 & 12.8 state:

**12.2** – Subject to rule 12.3, at an Ordinary or Extraordinary meeting of the Council a Member may ask the Speaker, the Mayor, or the Chair of any Committee or Sub-Committee **a question** about any matter in relation to which the Council has powers or duties or which affects the borough.

**12.8 – 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.

However councillors are able to submit Members Enquiries at any time. In light of the above please find below the response to your initial question.

There are currently 18,738 on the housing register as of 24<sup>th</sup> August 2017.

Of these:

Band 1 = 1,721 which represents 9.2% of the total figure. Band 2 = 8,877 which represents 47.4% of the total figure.

# 9.28 Question from Councillor Gulam Kibria Choudhury

Will the Mayor tell us the crime figures – with numbers and percentages from 2012/13 until now - for the following categories:

- Murders
- Assaults
- Anti-Social Behaviour
- Knife Crime
- Islamophobic crime (the Cabinet Member responsible stated at a previous council meeting that these were started to be recorded separately, possibly since 2015/16 but were never confirmed or made public?!)
- Acid and any kind of chemical attacks

(Kindly do not provide a link, refer to report or that unable to find the information, please provide the precise information requested. This information is very important for community, council and residents. If for any reason it is not available, please find out and make an official request to obtain this information as a matter of urgency and let the members know and include in the minutes and the written answer)

# **Response from Councillor Asma Begum**

Thank you for your questions Cllr Choudhury. I am advised that **Part 4** of the Council's Constitution, sections 12.2 & 12.8 state:

**12.2** – Subject to rule 12.3, at an Ordinary or Extraordinary meeting of the Council a Member may ask the Speaker, the Mayor, or the Chair of any Committee or Sub-Committee **a question** about any matter in relation to which the Council has powers or duties or which affects the borough.

**12.8 – 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.

However councillors are able to submit Members Enquiries at any time. In light of the above please find below the response to your initial question.

The only data available to the Council Community Safety Team is via official published websites (Metropolitan Police and Mayor's Office of Policing and Crime). The following data has been extracted from the Met Crime Data Dashboard as of 11<sup>th</sup> July 2017.

The data for the number of murders in Tower Hamlets over previous years is

	Number of offences
April 2010- March 2011	5
April 2011- March 2012	5
April 2012- March 2013	3
April 2013- March 2014	5
April 2014- March 2015	3
April 2015- March 2016	4
April 2016- March 2017	5

# 8.29 Question from Councillor Muhammad Ansar Mustaquim

In relation to the cost of living, employment and jobs, will the Mayor inform:

- What is the average cost of living for Tower Hamlets residents now?
- What is average rent in Tower Hamlets at present, and was in 2014?
- What is the long-term youth employment in the borough for each year since 2010 until present?
- Does the Council currently provide the Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA), Higher Education/University Bursary, PGCE subsidy to teachers from BAME community who are still underrepresented compared to population ratio, if the council does, to how many young people and what are the current budgets? If not, will the Council confirm when were these stopped by the administration, and for which time-periods these three schemes operated for, how many people benefit(ted) from each scheme and what was the total budget for each scheme while in operation?

# **Response from Councillor Joshua Peck**

Thank you for your questions Cllr Choudhury. I am advised that **Part 4** of the Council's Constitution, sections 12.2 & 12.8 state:

**12.2** – Subject to rule 12.3, at an Ordinary or Extraordinary meeting of the Council a Member may ask the Speaker, the Mayor, or the Chair of any Committee or Sub-Committee **a question** about any matter in relation to which the Council has powers or duties or which affects the borough.

**12.8 – 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.

However councillors are able to submit Members Enquiries at any time. In light of the above please find below the response to your initial question on the average cost of living in Tower Hamlets.

To establish an average cost of living for a typical resident or family, one would need to establish what an average family/person spends on all their various outgoings (housing, food, utilities, transport, clothing, recreation etc).

Nationally, these data are collected on the Living Costs and Food Survey run by the Office for National Statistics. The survey is a UK household survey, designed to provide information on household expenditure patterns and food – the results are published on the ONS website in their Family Spending in the UK. These do highlight the higher level of spending among families in London. The latest data shows that across the London region the average household expenditure is £572 including housing costs.

As far as we are aware, no similar survey or exercise has been undertaken for Tower Hamlets, so there are no data readily available at a borough level.