

APPENDIX 2 - SCRUTINY REVIEW ACTION PLAN: Improving health, environmental quality, economic and social outcomes through Housing Open Spaces

Action	Responsibility	Date
<p><b>Recommendation 1:</b> Drawing on intelligence, the Council produces an up to date GIS map of housing open spaces, and encourage THHF to <u>sample</u> and assess the accessibility of sites in wards with open space deficiencies identifying any improvement options.</p>		
<p><i>Service comments:</i>            Members of the Housing and Regeneration committee have been advised that the production of a GIS map of housing open spaces is subject to additional resources needing to be identified. This includes financial and staffing both in the production and ongoing maintenance of the GIS map. An approximate calculation of c. £38,000 has been arrived at to support the production of the map alone. This recommendation will therefore only be deliverable on the identification of additional budgetary provision.</p> <p>The internal management structures for this piece of work will also need to be clarified if Cabinet decides to dedicate resources towards the production of and maintenance of a GIS map of housing open spaces.</p>		
<p>1.1 THHF to support the Council to produce an up to date GIS map of housing open spaces (housing amenity land)</p>	<p>Divisional Director, Housing and Regeneration, TH Council</p>	<p>March 2020 (tbc)</p>
<p>1.2 Using the projected levels of open space deficiencies by ward (Open Space Strategy 2017-2027), the Council to map and identify wards with housing open space deficiencies.</p>	<p>Divisional Director, Housing and Regeneration, TH Council</p>	<p>June 2020</p>
<p>1.3 THHF to deliver a pilot project to explore the accessibility of housing open space sites (sample) in wards with the greatest open space deficiencies identifying improvement options (including the unlocking of sites where this is considered the most suitable option following stakeholder consultations).</p>	<p>Chair of Tower Hamlets Housing Forum</p>	<p>October 2020</p>

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**Recommendation 2:** (a) The Council to report back to the committee on new developments and their compliance with planning policies (below).

Policy D.SG3: Health impact assessments  
 Policy D.DH8: Amenity  
 Policy D.H3: Housing standards and quality  
 Policy S.SH1: Delivering high quality design  
 Policy D.DH2: Attractive streets, spaces and public realm  
 Policy S.CF1: Supporting community facilities  
 Policy D.ES3: Urban greening and biodiversity  
 Policy D.OWS3: Open space and green grid networks  
 Policy D.DH6: Tall buildings  
 Policy D.ES2: Air quality

(b) The Council to prioritise and encourage underutilised spaces to be co-designed and transformed to deliver a balance between competing priorities

[Insert Comments]

<p>2.1 Monitoring of policies in the Council’s adopted Local Plan relating to the delivery of open spaces, including those in housing developments, where these are publically accessible, and through the decision making process, ensure these are to a high quality. And in the draft Local Plan (anticipated for adoption in late 2019) investigate further indicators that would allow us to further monitor this in more detail. This would be reported in the Annual Monitoring Report and to Housing Scrutiny.</p>	<p>Adele Maher, TH Council</p>	<p>17/18 AMR March 2020  18/19 AMR March 2021</p>
<p>2.2 Organised by the Councils Members support service, members of the Housing and Regeneration Scrutiny Sub Committee and Strategic Development Committee to carry out a site visit of a recently completed housing development, with feedback reported back to the Strategic Planning Team and THHF.</p>	<p>Adele Maher, TH Council</p>	<p>February 2020</p>
<p>2.4 The Council’s Strategic Planning service to report the findings of the high density living survey and next steps to the THHF Executive and the Housing Scrutiny Sub</p>	<p>Adele Maher, TH Council</p>	<p>Dec 2019</p>

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Committee.		
2.5 The Council to explore with stakeholder engagement the co-designing and transformation of underutilised spaces on Council land to deliver a balance between competing priorities, encouraging and engaging RPs to do the same, reporting progress back to the committee. By March 2020: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Engagement on environmental improvements on Locksley Estate</li> <li>• Creation of a project park on Shelmedine close.</li> <li>• Co-designing land formerly occupied by the Berner TRA, to deliver a community garden.</li> </ul>	Jane Abraham and Rupert Brandon, TH Council	Ongoing
2.6 Public Health to lead and explore the expansion of the communities driving change programme working with landlords and residents to co-design open spaces, and continue to identify sites for outdoor gyms.	Somen Banerjee, TH Council	Ongoing
2.7 Communities driving change programme - Public Health to report back on progress and outputs / outcomes achieved to the Community Involvement Network.	Somen Banerjee, TH Council	March 2020 and ongoing
<p><b>Recommendation 3:</b> The Council to encourage and support THHF to develop a good practice guide to achieve quality open spaces – to deliver health, environmental quality, economic and social outcomes. Comprising of priorities to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Green communities, roofs and balconies and support (incl. grants, tools and revenue funding (where possible)) community growing</li> <li>- Improving access, encouraging usage and multiuse facilities on open spaces</li> <li>- Eco friendly and environmentally grounds maintenance and intelligence based planting</li> </ul>		
[Insert Comments]		
3.1 THHF to develop a collective good practice guide for community greening and quality open spaces.	Chair of THHF	June 2020 and ongoing
3.2 Sharing through the public realm / benchmarking sub group good practices in grounds maintenance procurement and delivery with a focus on environmental, economic and	Chair of THHF	June 2020 and ongoing

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community benefits		
3.8 The Council to share with THHF its procedure for the Inspection And Maintenance Of Play Areas, presenting this to the benchmarking sub group and training staff on its inspection regime as required.	Chair of THHF and Matthew Twohig, TH Council	June 2020
3.3 The THHF CIN to agree the best method to establish a platform for community greening in the borough, publishing the good practice guide and developing a map of community growing projects and contacts.	Chair of THHF	June 2020 and ongoing
3.4 The Council's Biodiversity officer to attend the Public Realm Sub group to re-introduce the Local Bio Diversity action Plan and its priorities, encourage support and regular engagement (2-3 reps) with the Bio Diversity Steering Group.	John Archer, TH Council	March 2020
3.5 Through the THHF Public Realm Sub Group, each Landlord to nominate a key contact specialising on biodiversity matters to be added to the Council's biodiversity mailing list.	Chair of THHF	March 2020
3.7 The Council's Sustainability team to explore through retrofitting, the greening of flat roofs of existing social housing stock, working with the THHF Executive.	Abdul Khan TH Council and Susmita Sen THH	March 2020
<b>Recommendation 4:</b> The Tower Hamlets Housing Forum's Community Involvement Network supported by the Council to facilitate the delivery of projects that encourage community greening, growing and quality open spaces that deliver wide benefits.		
[Insert Comments]		
4.1 The THHF Community Involvement Network to identify projects for all seasons (working with local residents, volunteers, organisations, schools and charities - to engage the elderly, vulnerable, children, young people, and economically inactive in community greening and growing).	Chair of THHF	December 2020
4.2 The Council's Housing Partnerships Team to co-ordinate submissions by THHF for community greening awards, including the Tower Hamlets in bloom awards, maximising bids in the innovation category.	Tracey St Hill, TH Council	Ongoing
4.3 The Council's Housing Partnerships Team to support the THHF's Public Realm sub	Tracey St Hill, TH	Ongoing

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group / Community Involvement Network to co-ordinate the entry of community greening bids, accreditations and delivery of scrutiny outcomes.	Council	
4.4 A community greening platform for residents, including information, advice and guidance, policies, procedures, duties, health and safety, licenses and a map of community growing projects.	Chair of THHF	December 2020
<p><b>Recommendation 5:</b> The THHF Community Involvement Network to widen the scope of its ‘food growing and managing a food garden training session’ to a broader development programme to cover community greening and growing (available to both residents and staff) comprising:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• THHF good practice guide and sharing of good practices</li> <li>• The Green flag awards for housing</li> <li>• Intelligence based planting , enhancing biodiversity and green recycling</li> <li>• Benefits of friends groups</li> <li>• Community greening and growing - policies, procedures, duties, health and safety, and licenses</li> <li>• Supporting a cottage industry and resident led social enterprises</li> <li>• Local employment initiatives in horticulture</li> </ul>		
[Insert Comments]		
<p>5.1 Co-ordinated and facilitated by the THHF Community Involvement Network, the THHF resident training programme to extend its remit to comprise of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Training for environmental teams on the green flag awards guidance for housing</li> <li>- Ongoing training to ensure intelligence based planting and to enhance biodiversity (residents, TRA’s and horticulture staff)</li> <li>- Training on the benefits of friends groups, encouraging TRAs to take on the role</li> <li>- Borough wide training on the consolidated approach to community greening and growing - policies, procedures, duties, health and safety, and licenses</li> <li>- Sharing of good practices</li> <li>- Learning from successful organisations and experts in supporting local food growing,</li> </ul>	Chair of THHF	June 2020 and ongoing

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selling of those products at events and the creation of social enterprises. - The delivery of local employment initiatives in horticulture		
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