

| Item 6.2 Report on the outcome of the public consultation on the closure of Raine’s School and the expansion of Oakland’s School | |
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| Questions | Response |
| <p>1. Considering the decision to end intake to Raines has been overturned by the Schools Adjudicator, what further guidance has been received from DfE as how to proceed.</p> | <p>Raine’s School has remained open to applications for admission, as stated in the Tower Hamlets ‘Ready for Secondary School’ booklet. The LA’s submission to the Office of the Schools Adjudicator (OSA) was made as part of the contingency planning, in the event that the proposal to close Raine’s reaches the end of the 4-stage process and is a decision agreed by the council. The LA respects the views of the OSA and will make a change to its cabinet decision timetable. This change will ensure that, should it be necessary, a final decision on the future of Raine’s can be taken at the earliest opportunity. By taking this action the LA will ensure families who have applied for admission in September 2020 will not be disadvantaged in their opportunity to secure a place at an alternative school, if it is eventually decided that Raine’s School will close in August 2020’.</p> |
| <p>2. Could the future of Raine's and the subsequent effect on Oakland’s School be handed over to the DfE?</p> | <p>The decision on the future of Raine’s School is a matter for the Council not the DfE. Should a decision be taken to issue a</p> |

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| | <p>statutory notice on the School's closure, the Council will need to take its decision within two months, following the end of the statutory notice i.e. by early February 2020.</p> <p>If the Council fails to a take its decision within a two-month period then the matter will be referred to the Office of School's Adjudicator.</p> |
| <p>3. What steps have the Council and Oakland's school taken to ensure that there will not be significant problems when Raine's pupils join Oakland's, given parent witness statements that detail concerns have been so significant in the past that the two schools had different closing times?</p> | <p>The cabinet report and equalities assessment recognises that any potential joint venture between the schools will move forward with tolerance, respect and cooperation paramount, in line with universal "British Values". Various activities are therefore being undertaken as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Meetings between leadership at the Council, Oaklands and Raine's to discuss best way to communicate with their respective student bodies and set expectations of appropriate behaviour. Leadership to consider sanctions where students do not meet these expectations and other measures to support an equalities culture at the schools.• An organisation called "New |

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| | <p>Direction” will develop a programme of activities for pupils to help build relationships between the two schools. New Direction is a not for profit organisation which works with partners across the capital to promote community cohesion through opportunities for children to unlock their creative abilities.</p> <p>A joint steering group has been set up to oversee progress and arrange for further transition support if required.</p> |
| <p>Item 6.5 Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2018-19</p> | |
| <p>Questions</p> | <p>Response</p> |
| <p>1. Safeguarding Adult’s Board: It’s positive to see that there has been training in modern slavery and human trafficking. Is the board aware of the number of adults affected by this in the borough? Now that staff are trained, how often has this training been used in practice to identify people who are victims of modern slavery and human trafficking?</p> | <p>If there is a concern that a child or adult is a victim of modern slavery, a referral is made to the National Referral Mechanism. In 2018-19, social care made 19 referrals (18 related to children, one for an adult).</p> <p>The role of the Safeguarding Adults Board in assuring that local arrangements safeguard vulnerable adults extends to victims of modern slavery. In 2018-19, there were five</p> |

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| | <p>safeguarding adult enquiries relating to this issue.</p> <p>The true number of people impacted by modern slavery and human trafficking is likely to be much higher than National Referral Mechanism figures indicate. Many modern slaves and their abusers will seek to avoid contact with public services for fear of the consequences, or will be ‘hidden in plain sight’. If a victim is identified, they may not engage due to fear of their abusers or being returned to the country they were trafficked from (if applicable).</p> <p>Staff training enables staff to better identify and support potential victims. Staff use this in their day-to-day work. Training is provided on an ongoing basis: For example, next month a ‘Combatting Modern Day Slavery’ event is being planned for Poplar Harca staff.</p> |
| <p>2. What steps will be taken to safeguard adults who are frail and living alone (though not necessarily with care needs) particularly in light of changes to the meals on wheels service when some of these adults will no longer be getting a daily</p> | <p>A range of work is in place to tackle abuse and neglect for adults who are not social care users, but who may be vulnerable for another reason. As</p> |

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| <p>visit.</p> | <p>articulated in the Annual Report, the Safeguarding Adults Board oversee public awareness-raising activity and a detailed programme of staff training so that people working in housing, health and elsewhere can effectively safeguard adults at risk of abuse or neglect. For example, the Annual Report notes that the Board has carried out awareness-raising activity in relation to financial abuse and scams, which was identified as a potential risk for people who are frail and living alone.</p> <p>Safeguarding is also a central part of the support targeted at people who are frail and living alone – e.g. befriending services, LinkAge Plus – whereby staff and volunteers are trained to identify issues and take action when needed.</p> <p>A number of local mechanisms and multi-agency panels exist if there are concerns about the safety of someone who is frail or living alone (with or without care needs). For example, the High Risk Panel looks at challenging and complex cases. We have also</p> |
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| | <p>recently launched the Safeguarding New Approach Panel which aims to engage with health, care, housing and other providers to work preventatively and realise early intervention opportunities as and when needed.</p> <p>When we make any change to services – such as the changes to the welfare meals service – safeguarding risks are carefully considered. We are currently carrying out home visit reviews to move people to new support plans in relation to welfare meals. People will only stop receiving meals from the service once they have been supported to find a suitable alternative option that does not pose any safeguarding risks. In addition, the review meetings will take a holistic approach rather than just focusing on meals, so if there is a risk of loneliness or social isolation (for example), this can be addressed. Things like Telecare or Assistive Technology that can help keep people safer will be offered if needed. The review will also consider a person’s own community resources and the support</p> |
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| | network around them. |
| Item 6.7 Liveable Streets programme report | |
| Questions | Response |
| <p>1. This programme is now running behind its original schedule. What are the key factors behind it and what learning has been put in place to ensure there are no further slippages?</p> | <p>The programme is broken down in to 17 different areas with each having its own programme. Phase 1 and phase 2a have started which includes 5 different areas.</p> <p>In phase 1:</p> <p>Bethnal Green- currently running to its original programme and out for public consultation.</p> <p>Wapping -public consultation is to be started soon (mid-November) and is currently 6 weeks behind schedule. This was due to a third resident workshop being added to encourage further residents to take part in developing the scheme.</p> <p>Bow – Following the early removal of trial, the programme was delayed in order to examine the concerns raised. Workshop are due to take place shortly and a detailed programme is to be developed to fit with residents and business views as well as meeting TfL funding criteria</p> |

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| | <p>In Phase 2a:</p> <p>Barkantine – currently running to its original programme with the next stage of public consultation due in January</p> <p>Brick Lane – delayed by 8 weeks, due to additional time for early engagement with businesses in the area.</p> <p>Phase 1 has enable us to learn some vital lessons in driving forward this programme, one of the most important is ensuring that ward councillors are involved in the process from the beginning. To do this we have developed a ward cllr engagement process to ensure they are aware of the timetable of the programme and how to be involved. This can be found in the appendix of the cabinet report.</p> <p>To keep the future areas on programme we shall be meeting with ward cllrs prior to the first stage of the process, namely early engagement. This will ensure we understand the demographics of the area and the likely issues and concerns. This way we can tailor our engagement and build up a background of vital information</p> |
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| | and stakeholders in the area. |
| Item 6.8 Local Community Fund | |
| Questions | Response |
| <p>1. O&S were told that mitigation funding would be around £180k per year, but we're looking at £220k-£380k a year. Where is this additional funding coming from?</p> | <p>£180,000 was the annual saving on the MSG budget which would have accrued from maintaining the LCF programme at the same level of funding as MSG expenditure in 2018/19 rather than the budget figure. Initially it was agreed this saving could be deferred to 2021/22 to allow it to be used for MSG/LCF transition and equality mitigation costs. It has now been agreed the savings may be deferred to 2023/24 to allow additional funding to meet these costs.</p> |
| <p>2. In the Small Grants Programme will organisations be funded the full amount requested as per the policy on LCF and if not why are we deviating from this policy?</p> | <p>Organisations funded through the Small Grants Programme may not necessarily be awarded the same amount as they applied for.</p> <p>Funding the full amount requested in the LCF was agreed in response to discussions with VCS organisations in the co-production sessions when the programme was developed. Full cost recovery – where the cost of the service is met in full by the funder without any</p> |

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| | <p>requirement for the provider to match fund or contribute towards the cost in other ways – is one of the potential benefits to providers of commissioning through open tender. When the council responded to concerns expressed by the sector about what was then known as Community Commissioning, and proposed the Local Community Fund process, VCS organisations were keen to retain the full cost recovery element.</p> <p>The Small Grants Programme is a different type of funding programme and it would not be appropriate to follow the example of the LCF in providing full cost recovery and funding based solely on the amount requested. A grant is normally made towards the cost of an activity rather than paying the full cost and there is an expectation that the applicant organisation will be able to use grant aid to lever in other resources.</p> <p>The council's Small Grants Programme as set out in the policy document agreed at Cabinet in March 2018 has a specific requirement that applicants demonstrate how funding will help lever in other resources.</p> |
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PRE-SCRUTINY QUESTIONS – CABINET 30 OCTOBER 2019

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| <p>3. When the Mayor agreed LCF at Cabinet in July he requested a report on older people, play and sports. What was the findings of this paper and can this be shared with OSC?</p> | <p>This paper can be shared with members of O&S</p> |
| <p>4. The Funders Fair is planned for April 2020 which is 7 months after funding has ended for organisations that were unsuccessful with LCF. Is this mitigation appropriate?</p> | <p>A Funders Fair is a major event which requires time to set up in order to book all the major funders such as the lottery and the larger trusts and foundations. The Funders' Forum which will bring together local funders and other funders with a particular interest in Tower Hamlets is scheduled to meet before Christmas. The longer term benefits of this forum are greater synergy between funders, potential joint funding initiatives and shared intelligence and in the short term it will help ensure the council and the THCVS are fully informed about forthcoming local funding initiatives that may be of value to organisations whose submissions to the LCF were not successful.</p> |
| <p>Item 6.11 Nomination to Outside Bodies</p> | |
| <p>Questions</p> | <p>Response</p> |
| <p>1. A Tower Hamlets school is currently in the process of being taken over by the University Schools Trust. Will the council's nominee to this board uphold the council's anti-academy policies in this role?</p> | <p>Nominations to academy boards are made by the council and appointed by the mayor. Members of any Board are required to act in the best interests of</p> |

PRE-SCRUTINY QUESTIONS – CABINET 30 OCTOBER 2019

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| | the organisation, in line with legislation and the requirements of charity and company law. |
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