


Non-Executive Report of the:  <b>Standards Advisory Committee</b>  24 November 2015	 <b>TOWER HAMLETS</b>
<b>Report of:</b> Melanie Clay Corporate Director Law Probity & Governance	<b>Classification:</b> Unrestricted
Transparency Protocol: A Transparent Mayor, an Open Council	

<b>Originating Officer(s)</b>	Melanie Clay
<b>Wards affected</b>	All Wards

### Summary

The Transparency Protocol: A Transparent Mayor, an Open Council report that went to Cabinet 3 November 2015 is attached for the Committee's consideration.

### Recommendations:

The Standard Advisory Committee is recommended to:

1. Note and consider on the Transparency Protocol.

**1. REASONS FOR THE DECISIONS**

1.1 The report is to note and consider.

**2. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS**

2.1 N/A.

**3. DETAILS OF REPORT**

3.1 The Transparency Protocol provides an overview of actions the Council currently undertakes to promote transparency and actions the current Mayor has put in place to improve transparency.

3.2 In addition a further set of longer term actions are proposed.

3.3 The purpose of the Transparency Protocol is to ensure that residents and Members will be informed, involved and empowered to scrutinise and hold the Mayor and Cabinet to account. The Protocol will increase the transparency around decision making; the Mayor's activities and priorities; procurement, contract and grants and budgets and expenditure. This will be undertaken through communications, data publication; participation, responsiveness and consultation and the Council's democratic processes.

3.4 The Transparency Protocol provides the framework for the work the Council will undertake on this agenda. This work will be further developed through the work being undertaken by the Overview & Scrutiny Committee through their Transparency Commission and by the Government.

3.5 The Transparency Protocol is attached in appendix 1.

**4. COMMENTS OF THE CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER**

4.1 There are no specific financial implications arising from this report.

**5. LEGAL COMMENTS**

5.1 There are no specific legal implications arising from this report.

**6. ONE TOWER HAMLETS CONSIDERATIONS**

6.1 One of the key elements of the One Tower Hamlets vision is to support community engagement and leadership. By increasing levels of transparency and opportunities for public involvement to scrutinise decision making, the Protocol and the actions it contains, will support the aims of the One Tower Hamlets vision.

## **7. BEST VALUE (BV) IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1 The Transparency Protocol contributes to the Council's requirements, under the Central Government directions and the Best Value plan, to improve the Council's culture. By enhancing resident and member scrutiny the Transparency Protocol will also enhance the Council's effectiveness in delivering services and policy.

## **8. SUSTAINABLE ACTION FOR A GREENER ENVIRONMENT**

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

## **9. RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS**

- 9.1 Improving transparency, through the actions identified in this report, will increase public trust in decision making and improve the scrutiny of decision making, reducing risks around policy and service effectiveness.
- 9.2 Increasing transparency, through the publication of more data, could increase risks around data protection, confidentiality and commercial sensitivity. The Council's data protection and information governance procedures will mitigate this risk through the provision of guidelines and advice on the proper publication of data.

## **10. CRIME AND DISORDER REDUCTION IMPLICATIONS**

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

## **11. SAFEGUARDING IMPLICATIONS**

- 11.1 Whilst the actions in this report are designed to increase transparency of decision making and information in the Council, this will always be within the boundaries of the Data Protection Act and the Council's duty to protect residents' data, including around safeguarding duties.

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### **Linked Reports, Appendices and Background Documents**

#### **Linked Report**

- Transparency Protocol A Transparent Mayor, an Open Council - 3 November 2015

#### **Appendix**

- Transparency Protocol

**Background Documents – Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements)(Access to Information)(England) Regulations 2012**

- NONE

**Officer contact details for documents: N/A**