

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE QUERY AND ACTION LOG 2016/17

8 December 2016

Meeting and agenda item	Question or request for action	Response or current status
8 December 2016 -Review of the minutes of the previous meeting	What is the current status of the discussions with LB Hackney regarding the proposal to keep the road to the south of Victoria Park open for longer and to explore ways to influence the parks statutory opening hours?	<p>Officers currently investigating costs associated with additional lighting and CCTV provision in specific areas of the park , prior to developing any potential business cases or proposals.</p> <p>Dialogue is ongoing with key partners and stakeholders.</p>
8 December 2016 - Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) Planning 2017-18 to 2019-20 - Update	What is the specific nature of the efficiency statement prepared for Government as part of the multi -year funding settlement?	<p>Full details of the efficiency statement are listed on the Councils website through the following link :</p> <p>http://www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/lgn/council_and_democracy/council_budgets_and_spending/Tower_Hamlets_Council_Efficiency_Plan_2016_20.aspx</p>
	Quantify the value to the council of business rates received from the Canary Wharf business district, what is the specific share currently received by Tower Hamlets as a contribution to the councils funding.	<p>For the Canary Wharf area (based on relevant postcodes) there are 1,159 business rates assessments which grossed £192,626 112 in 2016/17, this provided the Council with £57,787,833 as a contribution to funding (based on the current retention rate of 30%) .</p> <p>The total gross collection figure for the whole Tower Hamlets area for the same period was £401 593 02 . The Canary Wharf area therefore represents 48% of the Business rates funding collected by the Council.</p>

		The proportion of retained rate income is currently 30% but this will change with the move to 100% retention in 2020, so the impact of any reduction in the business rate base or tariffs will be greater.
	Provide a full list of all of the BAME media contacted as part of the budget consultation exercise.	List of contacted BAME media organisations provided under separate cover to members of the committee.
8 December 2016 - Mayor's Spotlight session	How many of the schools in Tower Hamlets have signed up to the education partnership agreement ?	A total of 88 schools have joined THE Partnership to date, which is approaching 90% of the borough's schools. This represents a powerful statement of our schools' commitment to the principles of THE Partnership and the potential power of collaborative working. There are also nine Associate Members, representing a range of local organisations who are keen to work with school to help improve the quality of life for the boroughs children and young people.
	Quantify the range, scale and impact of the "Help to buy" scheme in Tower Hamlets (ie over the period of the scheme or snapshot at this moment in time).	The Council does not hold this data. It is a Government run scheme, further information is available on the Government Website : https://www.helptobuy.gov.uk/mortgage-guarantee/how-does-it-work/ The Government also publishes information on the Help to Buy (equity loan scheme) and Help to Buy schemes The latest : New Buy statistics: April 2013 to 30 September 2016 are listed below : https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/help-to-buy-equity-loan-scheme-and-help-to-buy-newbuy-statistics-april-2013-to-30-september-2016
	Provide an update on the impact of the Memorandum of Understanding with the local	This information has been requested and will be provided for the Committee when received.

	NHS organisations?	
	In relation to the Women in Health scheme, can you provide an update on the number of women from local communities that have been employed in NHS roles ?	The outcomes from Women in Health scheme that finished in 2016 are that of 23 participants 17 have obtained work in the NHS. .
8 December -Welfare Reform Spotlight	Provide information on the approaches the Council has taken to working with VCS and housing sector partners to develop initiatives to support benefits claimants with the impact of changes to the welfare and benefits framework.	This information has been requested and will be provided for the Committee when received.
	Outline the proposed approach to providing councillors with information, resources and suggested pathways and solutions for welfare claimants ?	The approach is currently under development.