

LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS
Pre-Decision Question - Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 1 February 2017

Cabinet Report	Question / Response
5 .3 Housing Revenue Account Budget Report 2017/18	<p>Question</p> <p>1. In relation to the Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) initiatives at 10.1 in the report - What will be done to ensure that this delivers Value for Money for the Council? (i.e. £2.458 million to be spent over the next three years).</p> <p>Response</p> <p>A need has been identified to expand services to address a rising number of Anti-Social Behaviour cases on estates. A range of options is being explored, including security, front line staff, a partnership with the police and enhanced legal support and advice. Detailed service arrangements will be agreed with the Mayor and Deputy Mayor and put in place during the next few months. As part of the evaluation process the opportunity for possibly match-funding schemes with the Council's partners will be investigated.</p>
5 .4 Establishing Housing Delivery Vehicles	<p>Question</p> <p>1. What relationship will proposed new structures (Wholly Owned Company and Community Benefit Society) have with the Tower Hamlets Housing Scrutiny Sub Committee?</p> <p>Response</p> <p>There should be no direct relationship between the WOC and CBS with either Scrutiny committee or Housing Scrutiny committee as both new structures (WOC and CBS) are legally separate entities from the council. In the case of the WOC, close supervision by scrutiny or indeed any other council committee would suggest that the WOC is a part of the council, being treated like a council department, and not legally separate. This is important since it would risk the WOC being seen as a contracting authority for the purposes of procurement with the attendant consequences.</p>

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	<p>Question 2. What types of reports will the Housing Scrutiny Sub Committee receive in future?</p> <p>Response The Cabinet could require reporting by the Chief Executive acting on behalf of the council as shareholder and the Corporate Director of Resources acting on behalf of the council as funder/investor. Performance or progress reports to Cabinet could then be scrutinised. There would also be scrutiny of Mayoral/Cabinet decisions to grant funding, make loans, transfer land, etc. This will not extend to instructing the WOC/CBS or their directors/members to act. Councillors will be able to ask for information but will not be able to direct or instruct the WOC or CBS to act.</p> <p>Question 3. How will the lessons from the Best Value Review and Poplar Town Hall project be used to ensure that governance of the new structure works effectively?</p> <p>Response These are not considered directly relevant examples; the housing delivery vehicles are focused on investment in new housing supply, not corporate property disposal.</p>