

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

**Monday, 28 January 2019 at 6.30 p.m., Room C1, 1st Floor, Town Hall,
Mulberry Place, 5 Clove Crescent, London, E14 2BG**

This meeting is open to the public to attend.

Members:

Chair: Councillor Abdal Ullah

Vice Chair: Councillor Marc Francis

Lead for Resources

Councillor Sufia Alam

Lead for Children's Services

Councillor Mufeedah Bustin

Councillor Kahar Chowdhury

Lead for Health, Adults and Community

Councillor Dipa Das

Lead for Place

Councillor James King

Councillor Kyrsten Perry

Councillor Mohammed Pappu

Councillor Bex White

Lead for Governance

Councillor Andrew Wood

Co-opted Members:

Neil Cunningham

Parent Governors

Joanna Hannan

Representative of Diocese of Westminster

Ahmed Hussain

Parent Governors

Fatiha Kassouri

Parent Governors

Dr Phillip Rice

Church of England Representative

Khoyrul Shaheed

Muslim Faith Community

Deputies:

Councillor Peter Golds, Councillor Tarik Khan, Councillor Victoria Obaze and Councillor Val Whitehead

[The quorum for this body is 3 voting Members]

Contact for further enquiries:

David Knight, Democratic Services

1st Floor, Town Hall, Town Hall, Mulberry Place, 5 Clove Crescent,
London, E14 2BG

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Web: <http://www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/committee>

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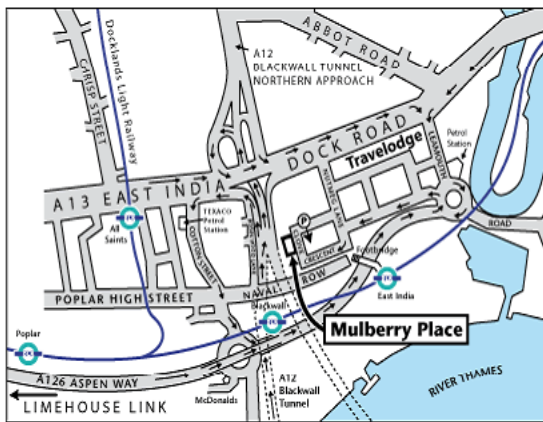
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SECTION ONE		WARD	PAGE NUMBER(S)
1.	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE To receive any apologies for absence.		
2.	DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTEREST To note any declarations of interest made by Members, including those restricting Members from voting on the questions detailed in Section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act, 1992. See attached note from the Monitoring Officer.		7 - 9
3.	UNRESTRICTED MINUTES	All Wards	
3.1	Minutes - 17th December, 2018 To confirm as a correct record of the proceedings the unrestricted minutes of the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 17 th December, 2018	All Wards	11 - 22
3.2	Minutes - 14th January, 2019 To confirm as a correct record of the proceedings the unrestricted minutes of the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 14 th January, 2019.	All Wards	23 - 30
4.	SCRUTINY SPOTLIGHT	All Wards	
4.1	Community Safety- Safer Neighbourhood Board The Committee will receive a presentation from Jack Gilbert, Vice- Chair of the Safer Neighbourhoods Board	All Wards	
4.2	Community Safety in the Borough The Committee will receive a presentation from the Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Equalities Cllr Asma Begum; the Borough Commander, Sue Williams; and the Corporate Director, Health, Adults & Community, Denise Radley	All Wards	

4.3	Prevent	All Wards	
	The Committee will receive a presentation from the Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Equalities Cllr Asma Begum; the Divisional Director, Community Safety: Ann Corbett and the Head of Community Safety Charles Griggs		
5.	UNRESTRICTED REPORTS FOR CONSIDERATION	All Wards	
5.1	Budget Scrutiny	All Wards	
	The Committee will receive an update report from Cllr Ronald, Cabinet Member for Resources and the Voluntary Sector and Neville Murton, Acting Corporate Director of Resources – With particular reference to the Cabinet Agenda Item 6.1 and Item 6.2		
5.2	Social Cohesion Challenge Session Report		31 - 65
	The Committee will receive a report that follows up from the scrutiny challenge session on the Council's community cohesion services, which went to Overview and Scrutiny Committee (OSC) on 12 April, 2017 with 6 recommendations. This report reviews the progress against the recommendations.		
6.	REQUESTS TO SUBMIT PETITIONS	All Wards	
	To receive any petitions (to be notified at the meeting).		
7.	OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE QUERY AND ACTION LOG 2018/19	All Wards	
	The Committee are asked to note and to comment upon the Action Log - To follow		
8.	CABINET FORWARD PLAN & WORK PROGRAMME REVIEW	All Wards	67 - 93
	Members are asked to review the Forward Plan and to plan around the Committees priorities		
9.	UNRESTRICTED REPORTS 'CALLED IN'	All Wards	
	No decisions of the Mayor in Cabinet on the 28 th November, 2018 in respect of unrestricted reports on the agenda were 'called in'.		

10. VERBAL UPDATES FROM SCRUTINY LEADS **All Wards**

To receive verbal updates from each of the Scrutiny Leads.

(Time allocated – 5 minutes each)

11. PRE-DECISION SCRUTINY OF UNRESTRICTED CABINET PAPERS **All Wards**

To consider and agree pre-decision scrutiny questions/comments to be presented to Cabinet.

12. ANY OTHER UNRESTRICTED BUSINESS WHICH THE CHAIR CONSIDERS TO BE URGENT **All Wards**

To consider any other unrestricted business that the Chair considers to be urgent.

13. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC **All Wards**

In view of the contents of the remaining items on the agenda the Committee is recommended to adopt the following motion:

“That, under the provisions of Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985, the press and public be excluded from the remainder of the meeting for the consideration of the Section Two business on the grounds that it contains information defined as Exempt in Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act, 1972.”

EXEMPT/CONFIDENTIAL SECTION (Pink Papers)

The exempt committee papers in the agenda will contain information, which is commercially, legally or personally sensitive and should not be divulged to third parties. If you do not wish to retain these papers after the meeting, please hand them to the Committee Officer present.

SECTION TWO

WARD

**PAGE
NUMBER(S)**

14. EXEMPT/ CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES **All Wards**

Nil items

15. EXEMPT/ CONFIDENTIAL REPORTS 'CALLED IN' **All Wards**

Nil items

16. PRE-DECISION SCRUTINY OF EXEMPT/ CONFIDENTIAL) CABINET PAPERS **All Wards**

To consider and agree pre-decision scrutiny questions/comments to be presented to Cabinet.

(Time allocated 15 minutes).

17. ANY OTHER EXEMPT/ CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIR CONSIDERS URGENT **All Wards**

To consider any other exempt/ confidential business that the Chair considers to be urgent.

Next Meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Monday, 4 February 2019 at 6.30 p.m. to be held in Room C1, 1st Floor, Town Hall, Mulberry Place, 5 Clove Crescent, London, E14 2BG

DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS - NOTE FROM THE MONITORING OFFICER

This note is for guidance only. For further details please consult the Members' Code of Conduct at Part 5.1 of the Council's Constitution.

Please note that the question of whether a Member has an interest in any matter, and whether or not that interest is a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest, is for that Member to decide. Advice is available from officers as listed below but they cannot make the decision for the Member. If in doubt as to the nature of an interest it is advisable to seek advice **prior** to attending a meeting.

Interests and Disclosable Pecuniary Interests (DPIs)

You have an interest in any business of the authority where that business relates to or is likely to affect any of the persons, bodies or matters listed in section 4.1 (a) of the Code of Conduct; and might reasonably be regarded as affecting the well-being or financial position of yourself, a member of your family or a person with whom you have a close association, to a greater extent than the majority of other council tax payers, ratepayers or inhabitants of the ward affected.

You must notify the Monitoring Officer in writing of any such interest, for inclusion in the Register of Members' Interests which is available for public inspection and on the Council's Website.

Once you have recorded an interest in the Register, you are not then required to declare that interest at each meeting where the business is discussed, unless the interest is a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest (DPI).

A DPI is defined in Regulations as a pecuniary interest of any of the descriptions listed at **Appendix A** overleaf. Please note that a Member's DPIs include his/her own relevant interests and also those of his/her spouse or civil partner; or a person with whom the Member is living as husband and wife; or a person with whom the Member is living as if they were civil partners; if the Member is aware that that other person has the interest.

Effect of a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest on participation at meetings

Where you have a DPI in any business of the Council you must, unless you have obtained a dispensation from the authority's Monitoring Officer following consideration by the Dispensations Sub-Committee of the Standards Advisory Committee:-

- not seek to improperly influence a decision about that business; and
- not exercise executive functions in relation to that business.

If you are present at a meeting where that business is discussed, you must:-

- Disclose to the meeting the existence and nature of the interest at the start of the meeting or when the interest becomes apparent, if later; and
- Leave the room (including any public viewing area) for the duration of consideration and decision on the item and not seek to influence the debate or decision

When declaring a DPI, Members should specify the nature of the interest and the agenda item to which the interest relates. This procedure is designed to assist the public's understanding of the meeting and to enable a full record to be made in the minutes of the meeting.

Where you have a DPI in any business of the authority which is not included in the Member's register of interests and you attend a meeting of the authority at which the business is considered, in addition to disclosing the interest to that meeting, you must also within 28 days notify the Monitoring Officer of the interest for inclusion in the Register.

Further advice

For further advice please contact:-

Asmat Hussain, Corporate Director, Governance and Monitoring Officer. Tel 020 7364 4800

APPENDIX A: Definition of a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest

(Relevant Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012, Reg 2 and Schedule)

Subject	Prescribed description
Employment, office, trade, profession or vacation	Any employment, office, trade, profession or vocation carried on for profit or gain.
Sponsorship	<p>Any payment or provision of any other financial benefit (other than from the relevant authority) made or provided within the relevant period in respect of any expenses incurred by the Member in carrying out duties as a member, or towards the election expenses of the Member.</p> <p>This includes any payment or financial benefit from a trade union within the meaning of the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992.</p>
Contracts	<p>Any contract which is made between the relevant person (or a body in which the relevant person has a beneficial interest) and the relevant authority—</p> <p>(a) under which goods or services are to be provided or works are to be executed; and</p> <p>(b) which has not been fully discharged.</p>
Land	Any beneficial interest in land which is within the area of the relevant authority.
Licences	Any licence (alone or jointly with others) to occupy land in the area of the relevant authority for a month or longer.
Corporate tenancies	<p>Any tenancy where (to the Member's knowledge)—</p> <p>(a) the landlord is the relevant authority; and</p> <p>(b) the tenant is a body in which the relevant person has a beneficial interest.</p>
Securities	<p>Any beneficial interest in securities of a body where—</p> <p>(a) that body (to the Member's knowledge) has a place of business or land in the area of the relevant authority; and</p> <p>(b) either—</p> <p>(i) the total nominal value of the securities exceeds £25,000 or one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that body; or</p> <p>(ii) if the share capital of that body is of more than one class, the total nominal value of the shares of any one class in which the relevant person has a beneficial interest exceeds one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that class.</p>

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LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

MINUTES OF THE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

HELD AT 6.30 P.M. ON MONDAY, 17 DECEMBER 2018

**ROOM C1, 1ST FLOOR, TOWN HALL, MULBERRY PLACE, 5 CLOVE
CRESCENT, LONDON, E14 2BG**

Members Present:

Councillor Marc Francis (Vice-Chair)	– Lead for Resources
Councillor Sufia Alam	– Lead for Children's Services
Councillor Mufeedah Bustin	–
Councillor Kahar Chowdhury	– Lead for Health, Adults and Community
Councillor James King	
Councillor Kyrsten Perry	
Councillor Bex White	– Lead for Governance
Councillor Andrew Wood	–
Councillor Tarik Khan	– Councillor Helal Uddin

Co-opted Members Present:

Neil Cunningham	– Parent Governors
Joanna Hannan	– Representative of Diocese of Westminster
Ahmed Hussain	– Parent Governors
Fatiha Kassouri	– Parent Governors
Dr Phillip Rice	– Church of England Representative
Khoyrul Shaheed	– Muslim Faith Community

Other Councillors Present:

Mayor John Biggs	
Councillor Danny Hassell	– Cabinet Member for Children, Schools and Young People
Councillor Candida Ronald	– Cabinet Member for Resources and the Voluntary Sector

Apologies:

Councillor Abdal Ullah	
Councillor Dipa Das	– Lead for Place
Councillor Mohammed Pappu	

Officers Present:

Stephen Ashley	– Independent Chair of the Local
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Richard Baldwin	– Safeguarding Children's Board (Divisional Director, Children's Social Care)
Victoria Hiney	– Safeguarding Children Board Co-Ordinator
Rafiqul Hoque	– (Lettings Services Manager, Housing Options Service, Development & Renewal)
Debbie Jones	– (Corporate Director, Children and Culture)
Matthew Mannion	– (Committee Services Manager, Democratic Services, Governance)

1. DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTEREST

No declarations of disclosable pecuniary interest were received.

2. UNRESTRICTED MINUTES

The Chair **Moved** and it was:-

RESOLVED

That the unrestricted minutes of the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 26th November, 2018 were approved as a correct record of the proceedings.

3. SCRUTINY SPOTLIGHT

3.1 Mayor John Biggs Scrutiny Spotlight

The Committee received a presentation from Mayor John Briggs he set out the Council's key achievements over the last seven months since the election and noted that this had been a particularly busy period. The questions and comments from Members on the report may be summarised as follows:

The Committee:

- Noted that the LGA Peer Review in June, which had noted areas of improvement around developing an open culture; strong leadership; the Council's healthy financial position and ongoing work around an increasing the pace and appetite for change;
- Noted that the Council has made strong progress in its improvement journey, culminating in the Council's directions lapsing in September;
- Was advised that further work has included the development of the Council's new Strategic Plan, Partnership Plan and aimed to improve transparency by revising its Performance Reports;

- Was informed with regard to Children's Services, the Council has prepared for Ofsted visits, launched a social worker academy, held an Early Years Summit with key partners and offered free meals to children to stave off holiday hunger;
- Noted that to further address poverty, the Council has continued its Council tax Reduction Scheme, based on 100% Council Tax Liability;
- Noted that to tackle ASB and crime, the Council has increased funding and continued Operation Continuum to disrupt drug markets in the Borough;
- Was informed that the Council has also (i) Launched the Breath Clean campaign to change behaviours to tackle air pollution across Tower Hamlets; (ii) Built new Council homes to address the Borough's affordable housing needs; (iii) Helped 5,000 residents find work through a new WorkPath Programme; and (iv) Brought waste back in-house to improve waste and recycling service delivery; and
- Was advised by the Mayor that regarding the future uncertainty with both Brexit and the Fair Funding Review and the Council's efforts to mitigate any risks of uncertainty through launching a Brexit commission.

The Committee then queried the Council's work and plans on following areas:

- **School Planning:**

What can the Council do to alleviate school funding difficulties? The Committee noted that the Council has limited influence over school budgets. Schools are facing budget deficits and year on year cuts, exacerbated by demographic changes resulting in take up in some areas lagging behind full capacity. The Committee noted that the Council does not have resources to shore up these deficits but is working with schools to mitigate the impact.

How is the Council easing school planning uncertainty? The Committee noted the problems with predictability in the west of the Borough and had consulted with key stakeholders.

- **Childcare Support:**

The Committee noted that Government funding provides 30 hours of childcare for under 5s for working parents, compared to 15 hours of childcare for non-working parents. This is not assisting parents get into work and alleviating child poverty. The Committee noted that the Council is looking at providing a package of funding (approximately £1m) but Government has delayed its plans on packages on this.

- **SEND funding:**

The Committee noted that the overspend in SEND spending needs to be addressed by 2020 and queried the process and timeframes of consultations around services likely to be affected, such as the Support for

Learning Service (SLS). The Committee also noted that there were difficult choices around SEND across the country, which included reduced services around transportation and diagnosis. There will be more detail in the budget, which is due to be published at the end of the week.

- **Local Authority Day Nurseries:**

The Committee noted that it had not received a report from the Mayor in Cabinet responding to the OSC's call-in recommendation to further consult on the decision to close the Local Authority Day Nurseries (LADNs). The Committee asked for clarification on the Mayor's key drivers in deciding to close the LADNs, against the Committee's recommendations. Further, the Committee highlighted the diversity benefit gains that LADNs provide in supporting parents of under two year olds work, with potentially better value for money than WorkPath. The Mayor highlighted that the funding was not in place and does not believe the model to be correct. Accordingly, the Mayor noted that early years and under 5's were an area of growth in the budget but not through LADNs.

- **Air Quality:**

The Committee noted the pressures of housing demand in the borough and queried how the Mayor intends to protect green spaces and air quality for residents near TfL roads. The Mayor highlighted that the borough is the second densest local authority in London but had schemes of pocket parks, larger green spaces incorporated in the community infrastructure levy. The mayor also highlighted that the borough had some of the worst air quality in London and was in breach of EU guidelines and the Council was looking at road configuration, parking charges and planting to tackle air quality. However, traffic is also linked to resident behaviours and a more long term education piece was required to encourage residents onto public transport.

- **Housing:**

The Committee also queried how the Council was driving social housing building, addressing building delays and penalising land banking? The Committee noted that the Council's powers to penalise land banking are limited. To meet London's housing needs, the housing market depends on the private market. Last year 32 schemes lapsed and the economy will impact development in the private sector. The Committee noted that the Mayor mentioned land banking in his manifesto and further queried how he was working with the Mayor of London to set appropriate housing targets. The Mayor of London has set out 50% more housing, compared to the Local plan, which conservatively expects 35% more housing in Tower Hamlet's Local Plan, based on viability assessments. To meet these targets, the Mayor noted programmes of estate regeneration and new Council homes acquisition and building.

- **Rehousing Large Families:**

The committee noted the need for 4/5 bedroom houses to rehouse larger families. The Mayor noted that the waiting list can be over a decade and that this was a significant issue, which Tower Hamlets could not solve on its own. The Council have worked on incentives and better use of resources by addressing under occupation. The Council is also working on a limited program of knock-through's.

- **Waste and Recycling:**

The Committee noted that the waste and recycling service required improvement and has now been brought in-house. The Committee queried how the council would tackle low recycling levels and whether bringing the service in-house would be more cost beneficial. The Mayor highlighted that recycling levels tended to be less in boroughs with less gardens and was more resource intensive in high rise dwellings and therefore would be unlikely to save money. The Committee also noted past problems in measuring recycling levels and requested more information on this (see actions).

- **Fast food shops and licensing:**

The Committee noted that some areas have significant numbers of fast food restaurants, which was worrying at a time of high levels of childhood obesity. The Mayor noted that the Council can regulate change of use licensing and last year rejected 63% of applications. There are also rules around how far from schools fast food restaurants can be. However, the borough is an attractive place for entrepreneurial business start-ups and the Council need to work with businesses to encourage healthier options and nudge behaviours to through educating young people.

- **Direct Payments:**

The Committee commented that some of the performance figures around adult social care required clarity. In particular, MP3.1 commentary needs to be more detailed to state how many service users and carers are not supported through direct payments and the impact on those people.

- **Care in People's Homes:**

The Committee noted introducing charging of home care and day care. The Committee noted that charging was only introduced recently and is dependent on the level of income. Monitoring is taking place to ensure this doesn't lead to hardship and people are not refusing care packages because being charged.

The Chair Moved and it was:-

RESOLVED

The Committee welcomed more opportunity to engage with the Executive to influence the Council's policy development, for example

1. Jointly establishing terms of reference on charging for home care;
2. Working together on the Council Tax Reduction Scheme around minimum floor income, due to be determined next month; and
3. Reviewing the two child allowance to understand the impact on universal credit and housing benefit and aligning the Council scheme with the Government's scheme.

In conclusion, Councillor Francis thanked the Mayor for his presentation Council's key achievements.

3.2 Strategic Plan Performance & Delivery Reporting: Quarter 2 2018/19

The Committee received a report that provided an update on the delivery and implementation of the council's Strategic Plan 2018/19 up to the end of quarter 2 (September 2018).

The Committee noted that:

- Council's Performance and Accountability Framework sets out the process for monitoring the timely and effective delivery of the Strategic Plan to improve outcomes for residents. In line with the framework, the Mayor in Cabinet receives regular update reports to ensure oversight of delivery, performance and improvement at Cabinet level;
- This report promotes openness, transparency and accountability by enabling Tower Hamlets residents to track progress of activities that impact on their lives and the communities they live in;
- As part of the budget setting report at the beginning of 2018, the Council adopted a set of eleven new corporate outcomes grouped under three priorities. This was the first step on moving the council to becoming a much more outcome-based organisation which focuses on making a difference to people's lives;
- In July 2018 the Cabinet had adopted a new Strategic Plan based on the new corporate outcomes. With each outcome being supported by a number of activities and the impact of activity is being measured through strategic performance indicators aligned to each outcome;
- The Council's Strategic Plan is focused on meeting the needs of the diverse communities living in Tower Hamlets and ensuring that everyone can play their part in a vibrant and cohesive community. The strategic outcomes and supporting activities are designed to reduce inequalities and the foster community cohesion;

As a result of discussion on the report the Committee queried the Council's work and plans on following areas:

- **School Planning:**

What can the Council do to alleviate school funding difficulties? The Committee noted that the Council has limited influence over school budgets. Schools are facing budget deficits and year on year cuts, exacerbated by demographic changes resulting in take up in some areas lagging behind full capacity. The Committee noted that the Council does not have resources to shore up these deficits but is working with schools to mitigate the impact.

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The Chair Moved and it was:-

RESOLVED

The Committee welcomed more opportunity to engage with the Executive to influence the Council's policy development, for example

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In conclusion, Councillor Francis thanked the Mayor for his presentation Council's key achievements.

4. UNRESTRICTED REPORTS FOR CONSIDERATION

4.1 Children's Services Improvement - Quarterly Progress Report Quarter 2 2018/19:

The Committee received a report that provided an update on progress in delivering improvements to Children's Services in response to the report published by Ofsted in April 2017 which rated the Council services as being

'inadequate'. The Council's improvement plan aims to achieve a standard of 'good' in summer 2019, when it is likely to be next inspected. This is a bold aspiration but the Council believes it is the minimum local children and families deserve.

Committee focused on the following areas:

- 3.1- 15%gap- what doing to shorten impact and improve closer to 100%? Context – CIN plans improved but more work to be done. CIN plan is just below child protection plan- visits are not where the Council wants to be for children on cusp so important that get in early to prevent. Reasonably steady practice then decline. Plans not completed because sickness and illness. Children in need – working on voluntary basis- not statutory. Committee discussed that the figure of 90% could not be a stretch target if the upper limit was 95% and noted that there was a downward trend so this target was not going in the improvement trajectory;
- Care leavers – what does “suitable accommodation mean- why 18%? Suppliers provide suitable accommodation. Some are in youth custody / prison which is deemed unsuitable. 44 care leavers between 18-25
- Health assessments – what have these not been included in the performance measures. Now 50%- how many children does this impact? Barts Health have commissioned a review to gain a clearer idea of delays. Not on here because on dashboard. Committee noted that in future this needs to be on here. How many children does this impact? What happens to those going over 28 days?
- Child's diversity explore in “most” cases. What is “most cases” and what is the impact of not exploring this for the child?
- Missing children in care- how many are missing. Better at tracking. What are the reasons? Missing care- daily tracker. Reasons for missing are 1) visiting family and friends but recorded as missing every time leave supported accommodation, 2. Crossing county lines and exploitation, 3. Safety plans- children are found. . Missing children- 77% had a return to home interview in 3 days. 1 of hardest to reach groups so this is good performance.
- Are you seeing a tangible decrease in missing children through interventions and prevention work and how are you explaining to the wider community? Neglect addressed through early help pathway and early identification and how link with schools and social workers. Not yet seeing a decrease in missing children numbers. Building greater awareness and confidence to identify concerns. Tracking the same names in particular- comes out in profile- understand why young people going missing. Exploitative relationship. Quarterly reports become outdated but cabinet member acknowledged that OSC may require specific information to help them provide effective scrutiny.
- CIN visit measure in plan- what measures to ensure consistent upward trend- 100 children not visited in 4 weeks. Children visited but not recorded. Seeing an improvement in performance- trends of concern. Supervision- performance surgeries. Continuing to do month by month.

Performance drifting until intervention. Focus on statutory visits- all children needs protection.

- Exploitation- needs performance data- how many at work? Areas of improvement- what of your action plan? Do you have measures to adequately address?
- Do you have data- 53 people CSE? Risk assessments= most vulnerable. Assessments updated regularly. Criminal exploitation- co-location of police colleagues- disruption techniques.
- Do you have sufficient resources? Best way to tackle exploitation at early stage- source – strengthen work with early help and work with schools. Need culture shift from police. – dedicated resource to team.
- Auditing- what cases are these targeted? Thematic approaches. Front door assessment and intervention audited.
- Performance data- include dashboard

Recommendations:

1. Information in reports in future. Chair and Scrutiny lead for Children's service both highlighted that the performance data need to be included in the actual report presented to the committee to assist effective scrutiny and transparency. This includes health assessment performance data.

In conclusion, Councillor Francis thanked Councillor Hassell on progress in delivering improvements to Children's Services.

4.2 MTFS Budget Update 2019-22

The Committee received a report that aimed to provide an update on the Budget for 2019-2020 and Medium Term Financial strategy (MTFS) for the period 2019 - 2022. It was noted that (i) the Council is under a duty to set a balanced and sustainable budget and maintain adequate reserves such that it can deliver its statutory responsibilities and priorities; (ii) A Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) covering the entirety of the resources available to the Council is considered to be the best way that resource prioritisation and allocation decisions can be addressed and agreed in a way that provides a stable and considered approach to service delivery and takes into account relevant risks and uncertainty; and (iii) A statutory budget consultation is required with business ratepayers, however, a broader consultation with all residents and other relevant stakeholders is considered to represent best practice. In particular, the Cabinet Member for Resources and the Voluntary Sector, Councillor Ronald, highlighted (i) The impact of the Chancellor's recent budget announcement – 29 October; (ii) The Local government Settlement for 2019-2020; (iii) Updates on the 2019-2020 London business Rates retention Scheme; (iv) New governance arrangements on the new capital programme; and (v) Outcomes from the recent budget consultation.

The Committee considered the following budget areas:

- Additional Government Adult Social Care Funding potentially has a wide application but only applies 2019-20. Further funding will depend on the Fair funding review.
- London Business Rate Retention Scheme: The Committee noted that London Council's Executive agreed through urgency powers to extend the pilot scheme in London. However, for 1919-20 the retention will be reduced from 100% to 75% of growth above the baseline and the 'no detriment' clause will be removed. Based on these factors, the Council has factored in a conservative estimate of £4m (as opposed to £10m last year).

In conclusion, Councillor Francis thanked Candida Ronald for her presentation.

4.3 LBTH Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy - 2018 - 2023

The Committee will receive a report plus a briefing regarding the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy - 2018 – 2023. It was noted that under the Homelessness Act 2002 all housing authorities must have in place a homelessness strategy. It must be renewed at least every 5 years. The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) indicates that it is also a requirement due to recent release of its Rough Sleeping Strategy and the Mayor's Rough Sleeping Plan of action for Local Housing Authorities to have in place a Rough Sleeping Strategy. The London Borough of Tower Hamlets' current Housing Strategy had been adopted by the Council in December 2016, and covers a full range of housing issues that included meeting overall housing need, new housing supply including affordable housing, regeneration, the prevention of evictions; tackling poor conditions in the private rented sector; developing access to the private sector rented accommodation and a commitment to partnership working.

The Committee noted that:

- The Service has overall been one of the best within London in spite of the pressures on this service;
- Regarding the quality of temporary accommodation the Service aims to ensure the homes provided are to a certain standard;
- The Council will be joining the Government-funded homelessness scheme that is intended to provide accommodation for homeless people. Under this scheme Capital Letters, a company being set up by local authorities in London, which will rent or lease properties to move households from temporary accommodation into affordable private rented homes. The homes will be a mix of private rented sector properties let by the property owner to households nominated by the Council and properties leased directly from landlords or managing agents;

- It was important for those placed in accommodation should in the first instance report any issues regarding repairs to the property to the landlord. Then if these are not addressed satisfactorily the matter should be escalated to the Council (**e.g.** heating and ventilation) and that in certain instances people would be moved by the Council into other properties (**e.g.** those managed by Registered Providers);
- That in 2019 there will be a briefing session for councillors on the delivery of the Strategy;
- Consideration is being given to the feasibility of increasing the utilisation of community facilities (**e.g.** Mosques and Churches); and
- Whilst there are challenges in finding accommodation given the high rent levels if accommodation is found not to be suitable then the families/individual would be moved to a suitable property that meets the required standards.

In conclusion, Councillor Francis thanked Rafiqul Hoque for his presentation on the Rough Sleeping Strategy and the Mayor's Rough Sleeping Plan of Action.

5. REQUESTS TO SUBMIT PETITIONS

The Committee was advised that no requests to submit any petition's had been received for consideration at this meeting.

6. OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE QUERY AND ACTION LOG 2018/19

Noted

7. CABINET FORWARD PLAN & WORK PROGRAMME REVIEW

Noted

8. UNRESTRICTED REPORTS 'CALLED IN'

Nil items

9. VERBAL UPDATES FROM SCRUTINY LEADS

1. **Councillor Bex White Scrutiny Lead for Governance** advised the Committee that (i) on Brexit Commission at its meeting on 27th November, 2018 the Commission had met at the Harford Health Centre to hear evidence from civil society representatives; and (ii) On 16th January, 2019 there will be a scrutiny spotlight session on communications.
2. **Councillor Kahar Chowdhury Scrutiny Lead for Health, Adults & Community** advised the Committee that on 11th December the Sub-Committee considered (i) received an overview of the findings from the recent impact assessment that was carried out to review the impact of

the new charging policy for community-based adult social care services on service users and carers; (ii) Noted the results of the survey on adult and social care they will help the Council to understand the impact of services on people's quality of life and key areas for improvement, helping to inform and support the standard and delivery of adult social care services in Tower Hamlets; (iii) Received a report that provided an overview on Residential and Nursing Care Homes and Home Care provision in the Borough.

3. **Councillor Marc Francis Scrutiny Lead for Resources** advised the Committee that regarding the Challenge Session on Council Tax Reduction it was noted there had been a productive discussion with the Lead Cabinet Member.

4. **Councillor Sufia Alam Scrutiny Lead for Lead for Children's Services** advised the Committee that (i) she attended the Mayors Early Years Summit on 30th November which was a conversation on how high quality early childhood education and care can ensure children have the best health and education outcomes for life and how best it supports parents into training and employment; (ii) Meetings have been arranged with Directors/Service Leads and she has had a briefing from the Divisional Director, Children's Social Care.

10. PRE-DECISION SCRUTINY OF UNRESTRICTED CABINET PAPERS

The Committee received and noted those questions to be presented at Cabinet by the Chair in relation to unrestricted business on the agenda – **See Appendix 1**

11. ANY OTHER UNRESTRICTED BUSINESS WHICH THE CHAIR CONSIDERS TO BE URGENT

Nil items

12. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

As the agenda circulated contained no exempt/ confidential business and there was therefore no requirement to exclude the press and public to allow for its consideration.

13. EXEMPT/ CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES

Nil items

14. EXEMPT/ CONFIDENTIAL REPORTS 'CALLED IN'

Nil items

15. PRE-DECISION SCRUTINY OF EXEMPT/ CONFIDENTIAL) CABINET PAPERS

Nil items

16. ANY OTHER EXEMPT/ CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIR CONSIDERS URGENT

Nil items

The meeting ended at 9.00 p.m.

**Chair,
Overview & Scrutiny Committee**

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LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

MINUTES OF THE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

HELD AT 6.35 P.M. ON MONDAY, 14 JANUARY 2019

**ROOM C1, 1ST FLOOR, TOWN HALL, MULBERRY PLACE, 5 CLOVE
CRESCENT, LONDON, E14 2BG**

Members Present:

Councillor Abdal Ullah (Chair)	
Councillor Marc Francis (Vice-Chair)	
Councillor Marc Francis (Vice-Chair)	– Lead for Resources
Councillor Sufia Alam	– Lead for Children's Services
Councillor Mufeedah Bustin	–
Councillor Kahar Chowdhury	– Lead for Health, Adults and Community
	– Lead for Place
Councillor Dipa Das	–
Councillor Kyrsten Perry	–
Councillor Mohammed Pappu	–
Councillor Bex White	– Lead for Governance
Councillor Andrew Wood	–
Councillor Val Whitehead	

Co-opted Members Present:

Neil Cunningham	– Parent Governors
Joanna Hannan	– Representative of Diocese of Westminster
Ahmed Hussain	– Parent Governors
Dr Phillip Rice	– Church of England Representative

Other Councillors Present:

Mayor John Biggs	
Councillor Amina Ali	– Cabinet Member for Culture, Arts and Brexit
Councillor David Edgar	– Cabinet Member for Environment
Councillor Danny Hassell	– Cabinet Member for Children, Schools and Young People
Councillor Denise Jones	– Cabinet Member for Adults, Health and Wellbeing
Councillor Candida Ronald	– Cabinet Member for Resources and the Voluntary Sector

Apologies:

Councillor James King	
Fatiha Kassouri	Parent Governors

Khoyrul Shaheed

Muslim Faith Community

Officers Present:

Elizabeth Bailey	– (Strategy & Policy Manager)
Adam Boey	– (Senior Strategy & Policy Manager - Corporate)
Michael Darby	– (Head of Parking & Mobility Services)
Sharon Godman	– (Divisional Director, Strategy, Policy and Performance)
Afazul Hoque	– (Head of Corporate Strategy & Policy)
Dan Jones	– (Divisional Director, Public Realm)
David Jones	– (Interim Divisional Director, Adult Social Care)
Debbie Jones	– (Corporate Director, Children and Culture)
Christine McInnes	– (Divisional Director, Education and Partnership, Children's)
Neville Murton	– (Acting Corporate Director, Resources)
Denise Radley	– (Corporate Director, Health, Adults & Community)
Judith St John	– (Divisional Director, Sports, Leisure and Culture)
David Knight	– (Senior Democratic Services Officer)

1. DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTEREST

The Committee noted that with reference to agenda item 3 Initial Budget Proposals should there be any formal discussion on the Discretionary Rate Relief then the following Members indicated that they would have to declare an interest:

- Councillors Bex White and Mufeedah Bustin indicated they were both trustees of a locally based charity and employees of another;
- Councillors Val Whitehead and Abdul Ullah indicated they were both trustees of local charity; and
- Councillor Kyrsten Perry indicated she worked for local Grant Making Body.

2. REQUESTS TO SUBMIT PETITIONS

Nil items

3. INITIAL BUDGET PROPOSALS

The Committee was reminded that in February 2018 the Council had agreed a 3 year budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) for the period 2018-2021; including savings of £10.78m that would need to be delivered to if LBTH was to achieve a balanced budget over that period.

Accordingly, as part of the Council's annual budget cycle, the Committee was informed that the report sets out to provide a review and to update the assumptions made in that report for the years 2019-2021 and incorporates a new year, 2021-22, to maintain the Council's three year MTFS. It was noted that the assumptions as set out in last year's MTFS for 2019-20 have been specifically reviewed so as to allow Members to agree a balanced budget and Council tax requirement for that year.

The Committee was advised that 2019-20 is the final year of the government's four year guaranteed funding settlement, the introduction of a London-wide business rates retention pilot scheme and the Councils decision to participate will have an impact on those resources the Council receives from Revenue Support Grant and Business Rates and this has therefore been considered in this report. In addition, the Committee did note that demographic and inflationary budget pressures together with mayoral priority growth proposals have also been identified and the action that is needed to meet these additional commitments over the existing MTFS assumptions have been outlined within this report.

Finally, the Committee was advised that the impact on the Council's MTFS of the Chancellors Autumn Statement that was announced on the 29th October, 2018 and the 2019-20 provisional local government finance settlement which followed on the 13th December 2019 had also been considered within the report. The questions and comments from Members on the report may be summarised as follows:

Committee focused on a number of areas including the following:

- That Cabinet, 9th January 2019 had formally proposes the draft Budget. Then on 10th January 2019 formal notification had been sent to the Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Committee confirming that the Mayor's initial budget proposals had been circulated to all Members, and that any response of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to these must be submitted to the Mayor by noon on Friday 26th January 2019. Accordingly, tonight's meeting was specifically to discuss the Mayor's proposals and then formally consider scrutiny comments to be reported to the Mayor by the deadline above;
- That on 30th January 2019 Cabinet will meet to consider all the feedback (Including from Scrutiny; the Public and those paying NNDR) and then to formally propose the budget to Council. Whilst, on Monday 5th February 2018 the Committee will if needed have the opportunity to meet to specifically to discuss any material changes to the Mayor's proposals announced on 30th January;
- That the report outlines what is being done to address the various budgetary pressures facing LBTH.

GENERAL OVERVIEW

- That the Budget had been developed through a series of workshops between officers and members to ensure delivering services to meet the needs of residents set against the background of austerity;
- There is a good level of general fund reserve to provide a solid base to address the unexpected;
- Residents had indicated that their main priorities were housing community safety and education;
- The demands on residents budgets have been factored into the development of the budget; Council Tax Increases and Brexit;
- The Budget had been set to be within the agreed parameters;
- Within the base budget there is an additional £3M over and above the monies set aside at the onset of each budget period. This is derived from the previous year's spending and adjustments such as inflation
- The Budget developed based on best practice and have external overview to provide an independent perspective;
- London Authorities are better placed overall in comparison compared to other Metropolitan Authorities;
- The reserves are in line with the size of the authorities as a percentage of the overall budget especially with regard to the General Fund Balance;
- The impact of the Council Tax Reduction Scheme is a very generous 2.4% against most Boroughs which are set at 2.9%;
- The Council has a good track record on achieving the savings as set out in the budget process (i) there had been extensive benchmarking in the development of the budget; and (ii) the three year rolling budget provides an overview that enables forward planning of issues that might arise;
- Fees and charges are agreed at the rate of inflation and in a constructive fashion so as to encourage positive attitudes in respect of various key issues e.g. environmental; planning fees; diesel surcharges; and the meals on wheels service;
- An equality impact assessment of the Council Tax; savings and growth would be considered addressed at the appropriate time for an in depth review;
- There would be a separate report on Fees and Charges submitted to 30th January Cabinet;
- The Council Tax Reduction Scheme takes on board the equality impact of the Scheme;
- The degree of uncertainty with regard to the initial level of retained Business Rates has meant that assumptions had to be made. However, going forward there will be a better grasp on what can be retained;
- Certain posts deleted in previous savings that are now required due to the changes in the way that the Council is now required to deliver its services.

PARKING AND ENVIRONMENT

- That there is a need to have effective management of contracts and that in respect of Waste Management a better service can be run “in-house” to achieve the desired levels of cleanliness in the Borough;
- Changes in behaviour is required with schools to understand why parking restrictions are required outside of schools **e.g.** the School Streets is about creating changes in behaviour to make streets near schools safer;
- Wanted more detail on the parking review and the benefits of developing cashless parking;
- On the vehicle fleet purchase; rental; servicing; repairs of waste vehicles consideration was being given as to how green it can be and where/when it would be maintained and by whom;
- Car Clubs will reduce the pressure of needing a car; the associated costs and where to park;
- Recent increases in the number of Car Clubs in the Borough have been in one-way car rentals which offer an easy and convenient Rent-A-Car scheme;
- The types of vehicles that these Clubs have in their fleets are Hybrid and Electric.

COMMUNITY LANGUAGE SERVICE (CLS) SAVINGS PROPOSALS

- Received deputation on CLS Service to express concern on there being a sustainable service;
- Concern was expressed regarding (i) the future for the organisations effected and the impact on providers/users; (ii) the perceived loss of provision and that it will have disproportionate detrimental impact on the Bengali Community (iii) impact on the children of these community's their culture; background and language;
- Charging for the service would it was felt that many of the families who are on low incomes could not afford to pay;
- The Mayor welcomed the deputation and commented that the Service does not need to be provided in the current way and could be offered in an alternate fashion;
- Tower Hamlets is the only Borough to provide such a service and whilst the Council places value on that service it needs to be set against the back ground of austerity;
- The development of the new service will be a 3 year process and the suggested fee would be £5/week;
- Parents pay for other tuition whilst this has been a free service for many years;
- The charges proposed have been based on what it is felt to be sustainable fee structure; hours spent in the lessons and number's in each class although a full business case would be worked up;
- Whilst the Service is used by 1,400 children yet demand is valuable so during the consultation it is hoped to develop a clearer picture in the development of a sustainable business case and look at affordability;
- The Council values the heritage of all the communities in Tower Hamlets;

- The Mayor indicated that there would be merit in undertaking a Scrutiny Review of the Service.

CHILDREN'S AND CULTURE: GROWTH AND SAVINGS PROPOSALS

- THEP is monitored on School Improvement – There is support for schools in the preparation for Ofsted as well as regular monitoring support
- THEP is developing 3 yr. plan and so it can set bench marking/KPI and the Partnership has one of the highest levels of school performance;
- THEP is encouraging BME Teachers to take up senior management roles e.g. the future Heads Course with a specific focus for BME Teachers;
- Bench marking is undertaken in terms of performance and in terms of the amount of money that is put in is lower than with other boroughs;
- Looked forward to see regular updates from THEP around its performance;
- The Foster Grant take up has been promoted but need to look at the based budget to reflect need;
- There will be 3 year programme of support for adopters;
- Social worker recruitment is on target to meet/exceed targets on recruitment/retention;
- Noted with regard to Early Help would be at risk if not put additional resources into that Service;
- The Services also need to be more easy to access and for those accessing to be able to understand how the various services provided can support them;

HEALTH AND ADULTS SOCIAL CARE: SAVINGS PROPOSALS

- Noted annual growth in demand for Adult and Social Care Services nationally is reflected within the Borough;
- Noted the focus is to increase choice and address needs in each care package and to achieve a saving of £18,000/year/person by caring for a person in the community through supported living rather than the more traditional residential care;
- It is about providing a better quality of life and to meeting people's needs in a better way;
- To provide a more flexible approach that can better met needs and address demand than the current provision;
- The offer will be more varied and people can say what they would like to do and not just have to accept what is being offered;
- It is about allowing people to be more independent for a longer period of time if possible and managing quality of life and not just budgets;
- It is about service transformation/investment to provide services to an increasing population of older people and vulnerable adults in a setting of their choice. It was felt that (i) more details were required on the service users and how two different groups of service users can be

supported alongside each other; and (ii) a breakdown of the costs be provided in regard to current costs and the savings envisaged.

CONCLUSION

- Noted **Lead Member Resources** felt that the Budget as presented protects front lines services and provides investment into services. Also going forward if there are to be changes in saving proposals then this will be brought to the attention of OSC;
- **Mayor** Budget aiming to fund services against a difficult financial climate;
- **Mayor** commented in the proposal's for the Community Language Service it will be subjected to changes in the way it is provided, recognising that changes are needed to bring it in line with other Borough's;
- **Chair** this is a budget about changes in behaviour of providers and users;

The Chair moved and it was:-

RESOLVED that the:

1. Council reviews its modelling for income projections and testing expenditure assumptions to ensure income growth is more accurately reflected;
2. Council develops an ambitious income generation strategy in collaboration with partners, businesses, residents and the Overview and Scrutiny Committee;
3. Overview and Scrutiny Committee is provided with the Council's assumptions in modelling increases in fees and charges above the rate of inflation;
4. Council measures the cumulative impact of proposals, including increases in Council Tax and fees and charges to better understand the impact of multiple decisions on particular groups of residents;
5. Council more proactively monitors how partners and service providers (i) address inequality; (ii) support access to employment; and (iii) support progression into leadership roles for groups, such as BME residents and women.
6. Council explores the option of means-testing Community Language Services;
7. Executive refer savings proposals staggered over a three year period back to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to contribute to the development of savings proposals in year;
8. Council ensures it uses empirical evidence to assess the equalities impact of remodelled services on service users; and
9. Council develops its budget and engages the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, businesses and local residents earlier in the year to more effectively scrutinise and contribute to development of budget proposals.

**4. ANY OTHER UNRESTRICTED BUSINESS WHICH THE CHAIR
CONSIDERS TO BE URGENT**

Nil items

5. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC


The agenda circulated contained no exempt/ confidential business and there was therefore no requirement to exclude the press and public to allow for its consideration.

**6. ANY OTHER EXEMPT/ CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIR
CONSIDERS URGENT**

Nil items

The meeting ended at 9.35 p.m.

**Chair, Councillor Abdal Ullah
Overview & Scrutiny Committee**

<p>Non-Executive Report of the:</p> <p>Overview and Scrutiny Committee</p> <p>28 January 2019</p>	 <p>TOWER HAMLETS</p>
<p>Report of: Asmat Hussain, Corporate Director Governance</p>	<p>Classification: Unrestricted</p>
<p>Cohesion Challenge Session progress update</p>	

Originating Officer(s)	Iqbal Raakin, Strategy and Policy Manager
Wards affected	All wards

Executive Summary

This report follows up from the scrutiny challenge session on the Council's community cohesion services, which went to Overview and Scrutiny Committee (OSC) on 12 April 2017 with 6 recommendations. This report reviews the progress against the recommendations.

Recommendations:

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee is recommended to:

1. Note the updates in the report.

1. DETAILS OF THE REPORT

- 1.1. The Scrutiny Lead for Governance, Councillor Muhammad Ansar Mustaquin as part of his work programme for OSC for the municipal year 2016/17 agreed to Chair a scrutiny challenge session on community cohesion. The session considered the implications of the national review by Dame Louise Casey on opportunity and integration, in the borough.
- 1.2. This challenge session offered the opportunity to review the work that the Council and its partners have undertaken or commissioned to deliver improved cohesion outcomes and to understand the impact of

this work. Members wanted to understand what the important issues are related to community cohesion in the borough and what can be done further to enhance community cohesion.

1.3. The review specifically looked at:

- The definition of community cohesion.
- National reviews related to cohesion.
- The key findings from the Casey Review and to establish to what extent those findings were prevalent in Tower Hamlets by considering and comparing factual and statistical evidence.
- The Council's Cohesion Programme which included a prima facie review of existing projects and funding
- The Council's approach to grants and the associated impact on improving cohesion outcomes.
- Language as driver of cohesion, including a consideration of the effectiveness of English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) provision.
- The impact of council policies on cohesion such as the school admissions, housing and planning policies.
- A consideration of the social and economic data and trends and the consequential impact on the gentrification of the borough.
- The context of the Equalities Act 2010 and the Public Sector Equalities Duty on the Council to foster good relations between people and the Council's leadership role on cohesion.

1.4. The report with recommendations is attached as Appendix 1. There are six recommendations arising from the challenge session held on April 12th 2017. It is useful to note that the report reflects the discussion from a two hour challenge session. The report recognises the limited amount of time that was available to cover such a wide ranging topic as cohesion. The report therefore focusses on the particular aspects of cohesion that the challenge session felt was important for Tower Hamlets. A recommendation has been made to consider setting up a taskforce that looks at cohesion in more detail to address this.

1.5. The report also highlights that the Council is leading on best practice in this area, as an example its role and involvement with London Councils to help develop the future approaches is noted and recognised. The report also recognises the range and scale of projects being undertaken by the Council, addressing cohesion in Tower hamlets. The report makes recommendations which aim to further enhance cohesion outcomes for the borough.

1.6. Findings from the challenge session discussion, which included qualitative evidence from professionals both internally and external to the Council and councillors' practical experience in the field, have been supplemented by additional secondary sources. These include review of population statistics and trends, ward data, as well as consideration of the impact of legislation and findings from national reviews. The

recommendations arising from this range of evidence sources are outlined below.

- 1.7. Recommendation 1:** The Council develops an approach and action plan to: mainstream cohesion across Council services and activities, explore external funding opportunities and develop a robust evaluation, review and reporting process for all cohesion activities and initiatives
- 1.8.** Update from service 11 January 2019: In order to mainstream community cohesion across Council services the Council is currently developing a Community Cohesion Framework which will reflect local as well as national and regional priorities. The Framework will help shape development of Council strategies, policies and services.
- 1.9.** The Framework will set out cohesion outcomes and what the Council is doing to achieve the outcomes grouped within the themes of:
- Relationships
 - Participation
 - Equality
- 1.10.** An early draft of the Framework has been produced and will begin going through the committee process beginning with the Governance Directorate Leadership Team meeting on 24 January 2019.
- 1.11.** The Council has also secured approximately half a million pounds of funding from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government's 'Controlling Migration Fund' to deliver the 'Welcome to Tower Hamlets Programme' for newly arrived migrant which has within it the following elements:
- Production of a Welcome to Tower Hamlets welcome pack for newly arrived migrants
 - ESOL programme focusing on pre-entry level learning for migrants
 - Community volunteering
- 1.12.** The funding also covers one full-time programme manager and one part-time research officer.

The Council has also applied for the second round of funding of the Controlling Migration Fund and is awaiting the outcome.

- 1.13.** As part of the evaluation of the Community Cohesion Pilot Programme (a programme of community cohesion projects in the Mile End and Aldgate East areas) the Council commissioned Carney Green and the New Economics Foundation to produce a Cohesion Evaluation Framework which sets out cohesion outcomes, indicators and tools to measure the delivery community cohesion services. The Evaluation Framework was finalised in May 2018 and is being utilised for the

evaluation of the Community Cohesion Pilot Programme and will be used to inform the evaluation of future community cohesion services.

1.14. Recommendation 2: Idea Store Learning should explore a common assessment process between internal and external providers of ESOL in the borough to ensure appropriate analysis of user needs and better matching to course places.

1.15. Update from Idea Store service 11 January 2019:

Idea Store Learning has led on:

- Launch of an online platform, the ESOL Hub (can be found at www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/ESOL)
- Launch of the monthly ESOL bulletin for ESOL providers/practitioners which provides information on new course openings and enrolment information

1.16. Recommendation 3: The Council should commission more projects which tackle isolation and encourage strong positive relations and friendship between different groups in the borough.

The Council co-designed a cohesion outcomes framework with the local Voluntary and Community Sector in 16/17. Following this, in September 2017, the Council commissioned eight community cohesion projects were across the borough that meet these outcomes which include establishing strong positive relationships between different groups in the borough, increasing participation in public life and promoting equality.

As part of this, Age UK was commissioned to recruit to and organise an intergenerational forum which meets on a weekly basis and where participants can share skills, knowledge, participate in social activities and deliver small local projects together, such as the creation of a mural or a short film on ageism. One of the outcomes from this project is to tackle isolation.

Another project commissioned to Stifford centre included running a residents' and neighbours' club and holding fortnightly coffee mornings for residents aged 55+. During the coffee morning presentations are delivered by local service providers on their respective services provisions as well as training and information and advice.

Other projects included Migrant women's projects (with a focus on citizenship, local volunteering and sharing of skills) and food exchange from different cultures. All eight projects are running until the end of September 2019.

In April 2018, as part of the Community Cohesion Pilot Programme two projects under the themes of nature and food from different cultures were commissioned in Mile End and three projects under theme of nature, enlivening public spaces and visual arts were commissioned in Aldgate East with an aim to establish strong and positive relationships between different groups and facilitate community volunteering

in the two area. The projects have had many positive impacts; some examples are provided below (quotations and case studies).

Toyhouse (food from different cultures project) quotes from project participants:

- 'I loved every minute of my involvement! Thoroughly enjoyed meeting everyone & learning about everyone's background/ cultures through talking and making the food. I only wish it was every Friday for ever! Thank you so much for this opportunity!'
- 'I feel more involved with the community, including different people's cultures and values.'
- 'It was really nice to meet some different people and to listen, talk and discuss'
- 'I feel more confident now to interact with others'
- 'I feel like after discussing things with the group, I was able to go and discuss similar topics with friends, family and neighbours to see what they felt and experienced. It has made me think a lot about our community.'
- 'Well I now feel part of the community & I would like to help and take part in future events.'
- 'I think I can now go out and interact with other people from different backgrounds.'

Case study of female, aged 18 years who has special educational needs (SEND) and took part in the Creative Communities (enlivening public spaces) project delivered by Societylinks:

X's sister signed her up to attend the Christmas party. She had finished secondary school and is now spending a lot of time at home. She is disengaged from other local young people because of her SEND. The party gave her something to look forward to and provided her with a safe, fun outing with other young people. She is reluctant to go into situations that are new to her, which limits opportunities for her to go out and socialise. She was included in the gift-distribution at the party and was very happy when her name was called out to receive her present from Father Christmas. Her mother attended the party with her to reassure her but left her to enjoy the event independently because she knew she was in a safe environment.

Case study submitted by Four Corners for their 'My Neighbourhood Arts' project:

Manny is just one of the regular visitors to the Toynbee Hall Wellbeing center, one of our partners on the Aldgate East My Neighbourhood Project. Toynbee Hall puts people like Manny at the heart of their work and now he is a member of their Wellbeing Center Member's Board, that works to design and improve what Toynbee Hall can offer older people.

This year Manny celebrated his 100th birthday and here's what he has to say...

I was born here, about a mile away in Jamaica Street. When I was younger I used to go to Toynbee Hall because they had meetings there

and tea dances, that sort of thing. I used to go there about 80 years ago.

I started coming to the Wellbeing Centre 3 years ago; Helena, who is one of the Toynbee Hall's outreach workers in the City of London, introduced me to it. She would come to where I used to live and suggested that I come along. She brought me down and I've been coming regularly ever since, 2 or 3 times a week.

She asked what I liked doing, and I said I like mixing with people. She suggested that I try coming along to the centre where I could meet people, so I gave it a go. There are people here from all over the world. It's quite international. I enjoy that, you know. I get involved with a few things, I play chess, cards, dominos and we have a music class. It's my social life.

With the Aldgate East My Neighbourhood project, I could tell the others about the Whitechapel Boys (a loosely knit group of Anglo-Jewish writers and artists of the early 20th century. It is named after Whitechapel, which contained one of London's main Jewish settlements and from which many of its members came. These members included Mark Gertler, Isaac Rosenberg, David Bomberg, Joseph Leftwich, Jacob Kramer, Morris Goldstein, Stephen Winsten, John Rodker, Lazarus Aaronson and its only female member, Clara Birnberg) when we were discussing the "Stories we wanted to tell", Mary can tell you more, she an artist.

There are not a lot of things to improve, but I like that they ask my opinion. I get a chance to do lots of things here. I'm not very mobile and I can't get around too far so this is quite easy distance for me. I don't know what I would do if the wellbeing centre wasn't here.

1.17. Recommendation 4: The Council reviews the Grant and Commissioning Policies to ensure that there is a stronger focus on cohesion.

The current mainstream grants programme (MSG) will be replaced by the Local Community Fund (LCF) from 1 October 2019. There will also be a new grants programme alongside the Local Community Fund which will bring together current small grants programmes, the Events Fund and the Ageing Well Fund, and parts of the former MSG programme relating to community cohesion and voluntary and community sector (VCS) infrastructure support. These programmes have been developed in close discussion with the VCS during 2018. The themes, priorities and higher level outcomes for these programmes were agreed at Cabinet in October 2018. The reports can be found at <http://democracy.towerhamlets.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=720&MIId=8828>.

Community cohesion is a cross cutting theme in both the LCF and the grants programme. Organisations bidding to these programmes will be

required to demonstrate that their proposals contribute towards the Council's Community Cohesion Outcomes Framework and this will be reflected in the assessment proposals when they are finalised.

Community cohesion is also one of the main themes of the new small grants programme. The policy underpinning the new grants programme requires that each grant theme meets some or all of six specific criteria which make grants a more appropriate funding method than commissioned contracts. These are:

- Empowerment - responsive to new and emerging needs
- Innovation - provides the financial means for communities to do things for themselves
- Flexibility - can adjust to meet changing needs
- Reach - can be accessible to groups which would not otherwise be able to get funding through contractual arrangements
- Risk - shares the risk of new innovation between the provider and the funder
- Cost effective - can lever in other resources to support community activity

The innovation and reach were considered to be particularly important criteria for funding community cohesion activities. Full details of the Community Cohesion Theme can be found in the 31st October 2018 Cabinet reports referred to previously.

The former MSG budget for community cohesion amounting to £105k annually will become part of the new small grants budget. It is also anticipated that, as some existing contracts for community cohesion activities come to an end, they will also move to the small grants programme.

The new funding arrangements come into place on 1 October 2019. Both the LCF and small grants programmes will be reported to the Grants Determination (Cabinet) Sub-Committee on a regular basis and the Grants Scrutiny Sub Committee will continue to provide input into the monitoring and evaluation process as these programmes develop.

1.18. Recommendation 5: Explore how leadership on cohesion can be developed by the Council through the delivery of specialised training for Councillors, senior officers and community leaders.

We are taking a phased approach to the delivery of the equalities and cohesion training programme. Phase 1 consists of training on the Equalities Act 2010, the legislation which underpins the community cohesion agenda.

Following the 2018 local elections, mandatory training sessions on the Equality Act and the Council's equalities processes were provided to members on:

- 5 September 2018
- 3 October 2018

Training to staff (including senior leadership) on the Equality Act and processes will follow the completion of an equalities review which the Council is currently undertaking where we are undertaking a rapid appraisal against the Local Government Association's 'Equalities Framework for Local Government'.

The second phase of the training will comprise of a more in-depth focus on the principles and priorities of community cohesion. This will be delivered after the development of the Community Cohesion Framework which will incorporate the national and regional social integration priorities as set out in the Government and Greater London Authority's social integration strategies as well as local cohesion priorities.

1.19. Recommendation 6: Explore setting up a taskforce to consider the impact of gentrification on cohesion in the borough.

As part of a test as to whether a taskforce was required to consider the impact of gentrification on community cohesion, in the development of the Community Cohesion Pilot Programme, we consulted with the community on key cohesion priorities in their local area through online and offline surveys and stakeholder sessions (which included local residents, business, voluntary and community sector organisations and public services) and discussed ways that these can be addressed. The feedback that we received from stakeholders indicated that although there was some local concern regarding the lack of mixing from different socio-economic backgrounds there are other cohesion priorities in the areas, such as the mixing of people from different cultural backgrounds and ages, which were deemed equally as important.

In order to address this we commissioned projects as part of the CCPP which seek to address all of these priorities. The Community Cohesion Framework will also incorporate these local priorities and will set out the council's strategic approach in addressing these challenges as well as other community cohesion challenges.

Furthermore, since this recommendation was made, there has been no hate incidents locally where anti-gentrification was a clear motivator. The biggest motivator for hate crime in the borough is race and this follows the national trend.

It is for these reasons that a taskforce looking at the impact of gentrification on cohesion is not thought to be required at this stage. The Council, through the No Place for Hate Forum and the Tension Monitoring Group, will continue monitoring this and if it is perceived that the impact has increased then will assess and address this issue through these two partnership forums.

4. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1. In carrying out its functions, the Council must comply with the public sector equality duty set out in section 149 Equality Act 2010, namely it must have due regard to the need to eliminate inequalities, the need to advance equality of opportunity and to foster good relations between persons who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- 4.2. The community cohesion touches on the need to eliminate inequality and address in the main the need to advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between people of different backgrounds.

5. OTHER STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 This section of the report is used to highlight further specific statutory implications that are either not covered in the main body of the report or are required to be highlighted to ensure decision makers give them proper consideration. Examples of other implications may be:
- Best Value Implications,
 - Consultations,
 - Environmental (including air quality),
 - Risk Management,
 - Crime Reduction,
 - Safeguarding.

- 5.2 None to note.

6. COMMENTS OF THE CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER

- 6.1 [Financial implications to be prepared by Directorate Finance Manager and agreed with Corporate Finance]

7. COMMENTS OF LEGAL SERVICES

- 7.1 The Council has a legal duty to foster good relations between persons who share a protected characteristic and persons who do not when carrying out its functions.
- 7.2 Protected characteristics include age, disability, race, and religion or belief amongst others. Therefore, the improvement of cohesion outcomes is central to this legal duty.
- 7.3 The compliance by the Council of this legal duty is reliant on taking into account the community cohesion outcomes and recommendations detailed in this report when subsequently carrying out its legal functions in the borough

Linked Reports, Appendices and Background Documents

Linked Report

- List any linked reports
-
- State NONE if none.

Appendices

- Appendix 1 – A More Cohesive Borough: A Scrutiny Challenge Report

Local Government Act, 1972 Section 100D (As amended)

List of “Background Papers” used in the preparation of this report

List any background documents not already in the public domain including officer contact information.

- These must be sent to Democratic Services with the report
- State NONE if none.

Officer contact details for documents:

Or state N/A

A More Cohesive Borough: A Scrutiny Challenge Report



June 2017



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The Chair's Foreword

The London Borough of Tower Hamlets has always had a rich history of diversity, with over a 130 languages spoken in our schools. We have always been a welcoming borough, for hundreds of years new communities have settled in Tower Hamlets because of the opportunities available here. Our Council has always reflected the ethos of diversity and inclusion in its work.

However modern day challenges do exist with an increase in terrorism and hate crime, it is now more important than ever that our community is less divided and more cohesive. The Casey Review made a number of suggestions to help foster a better relationship between different groups, to promote the mixing of different groups, this report takes that into account. On the other hand, the borough has challenges that were not addressed in the report such as the fast pace of development and its impact on segregation and exclusion of the settled communities.

There is an opportunity to take a more holistic approach to how cohesion work is carried out in the future. This report has tried to provide the initial impetus for this work. The Council has a strong track record on tackling inequality and has made good progress even though those challenges still continue today. We need to make a distinction between cohesion and equalities, the former is focused on people of different backgrounds interacting with each other and the latter on specific protected characteristics. Under the Equalities Act 2010 the Council and its partner service providers have a responsibility to foster good relations between people and improve cohesion in the borough. Whilst the latter may have a positive impact on cohesion there is a need to have a stronger focus on cohesion especially at this time.

With limited resources we need to be assured that cohesion is being delivered in the right way to achieve positive outcomes for all. Within the context of this report as a community leader I have been thinking about how we can develop strong leadership focused on cohesion with Members, senior officers, and community leaders to ensure that as leaders we understand its importance and are promoting the right messages.

I am grateful to the challenge session members for their passion, time, energy, thoughts, and insights which really drove our discussion and were instrumental in producing this valuable report.

Councillor Muhammad Ansar Mustaqim
Scrutiny Lead, Governance

Summary of Recommendations

Recommendation 1: The Council develops an approach and action plan to: mainstream cohesion across Council services and activities, explore external funding opportunities and develop a robust evaluation, review and reporting process for all cohesion activities and initiatives.

Recommendation 2: Idea Store Learning to explore a common assessment process between internal and external providers of ESOL in the borough to ensure appropriate analysis of user needs and better matching to course places.

Recommendation 3: The Council should commission more projects which tackle isolation and encourage strong positive relations and friendship between different groups in the borough.

Recommendation 4: The Council reviews the grant and commissioning policies to ensure that there is a stronger focus on cohesion.

Recommendation 5: Explore how leadership on cohesion can be developed by the Council through the delivery of specialised training for councillors, senior officers and community leaders.

Recommendation 6: Explore setting up a taskforce to consider the impact of gentrification on cohesion in the borough.

1. Introduction and Rationale

The reason for the challenge session

- 1.1 Dame Louise Casey was asked to undertake a major review of integration in Britain to consider what could be done to boost opportunity and integration in our most isolated and deprived communities. The Scrutiny Lead for Governance as part of his work programme for 2016/17 agreed to hold a challenge session to consider the implications of the Casey Review in the borough.
- 1.2 This challenge session offered the opportunity to review the work that the Council and its partners have undertaken/commissioned to deliver improved cohesion outcomes and to understand the impact of this work. Members wanted to understand what the important issues are related to cohesion in the borough and what can be done further to enhance cohesion. The findings and recommendations from the session have been conveyed in this report.

The challenge session panel membership

- 1.3 The following Members and officers attended the challenge session held on 12th April 2017:

Name	Title	Organisation
Councillor Muhammad Mustaquim	Chair, Cllr Independent Group, St Peter's ward	LBTH
Councillor Shiria Khatun	Cabinet Member for Community Safety & Cohesion	LBTH
Councillor Amina Ali	Cllr, Labour, Bow East	LBTH
Fokrul Hoque	Chair	Safer Neighbourhood Board
Gemma Cossins	Acting CEO	THVCS
Sadia Ahmed	Deputy Young Mayor	LBTH
Emily Fieranreed	Cohesion, Community Engagement & Commissioning Manager	LBTH, Strategy, Policy & Partnership
Gulam Hussain	Senior Strategy, Policy & Performance Officer	LBTH, Strategy, Policy & Partnership
Iqbal Raakin	Strategy, Policy & Performance Officer	LBTH, Strategy, Policy & Partnership
Muhibul Hoque	Strategy, Policy & Performance Officer	LBTH, Strategy, Policy & Partnership
Simon Leveaux	Deputy Head of Idea Store Learning	Idea Store Learning, LBTH
Leanne Chandler	Skills for Life Manager	Idea Store Learning
Paul Jordan	Prevent Co-ordinator	Community Safety, LBTH

2. The National & Legislative Context

The Definition of Community Cohesion

- 2.1. Community cohesion has been defined by the government as going beyond race equality and social inclusion. A cohesive community is where: there is a common vision and sense of belonging by all communities; the diversity of people's backgrounds and circumstances is appreciated and valued; similar life opportunities are available to all; and a society in which strong and positive relationships exist and continue to be developed in the workplace, in schools and in the wider community.¹

National Reviews Related to Cohesion

The Cantle Report (2001)

- 2.2. In the wake of a series of race riots in 2001 in Bradford, Burnley, Leeds and Oldham the then Home Secretary, David Blunkett commissioned Professor Ted Cantle to deliver the Cantle Report (2001) which discussed segregation and integration in these communities.. He found that the communities in each of these areas were so segregated and polarised that residents led 'parallel lives'. He also noted that mutual ignorance of inward-facing communities can easily turn to fear of one another and then violence.

The All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on Social Integration Report (August 2016)

- 2.3. The APPG on Social Integration Chaired by Chuka Umunna MP also considered these issues and published an interim report in August 2016 (final report to be published in July 2017) which considered how the UK's immigration system could more effectively promote integration. The report partly reflected similar points made by the Casey Review but it also saw integration as a two-way street (i.e. the responsibility for integration sits with the host community as well as newcomers).

The Casey Review (December 2016)

- 2.4. The Casey Review considered which actions were required to boost opportunity and integration in our most isolated and deprived communities. The review was published by the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) in December 2016.
- 2.5. In summary the report identified a number of challenges to integration including:

- Net migration figures rising continuously;

¹ This definition is based on the Government and the Local Government Association's definition first published in *Guidance on Community Cohesion*, LGA, 2002 and resulting from the *Cantle Report in 2001*.

- Ethnic groups being dispersed in some areas whilst also being concentrated and segregated from other groups in other areas across the UK, leading to a lack of diversity in schools and wards;
- Lack of English language aptitude amongst specific ethnic groups constraining social and economic integration and worsening inequalities particularly for ethnic minority women.

2.6. The findings of the Casey Review² focused particularly on Bangladeshi and Pakistani communities, and set up a dichotomy between Bangladeshi and Pakistani communities against other communities such as African and White British. The report focused on northern towns and cities such as: Blackburn, Bradford, Burnley, and Birmingham. The review concluded that segregation exists where high proportion of ethnic minority groups are concentrated in particular wards; to improve social and economic integration it suggested that more social mixing of groups is required.

2.7. It linked segregation to economic exclusion, so for example the report linked a high concentration of ethnic minority population to social economic exclusion such as unemployment, lack of disposable income and discrimination towards women and it noted the cultural barriers which were the drivers of this.

2.8. In terms of recommendations the report suggested:

- Building community resilience by empowering marginalised women and promoting social mixing
- And putting greater emphasis on 'British' values

2.9. The report further suggested that approaches to reducing economic, inequalities, segregation and social exclusion should include;

- Increasing integration in schools;
- Having more English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) provision;
- Overcoming cultural barriers to employment
- Amending housing and regeneration policies;
- Providing better leadership and integrity in public office.

2.10. The government was due to publish a response to the Casey Review in Spring 2017 and had indicated that there will be an integration plan to address the recommendations in the report however no response has been forthcoming and it is unclear when this is likely to be.

The Legislative Context

2.11. Under the Equalities Act 2010³ there is a Public Sector Equalities Duty (PSED). This duty requires the Council and its partner providers to evidence 'due regard'. This means that the Council has to consider how they can

² <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-casey-review-a-review-into-opportunity-and-integration>

³ <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2010/15/section/149>

positively contribute to the advancement of equality by eliminating discrimination and fostering good relations between those with protected characteristics and those with not, thereby having a positive impact on cohesion. Protected characteristics include: age, disability, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation, marriage, civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity. The duty requires equality considerations to be reflected into the design of policies and the delivery of services, including internal policies, and for these issues to be kept under review.

3. The Regional Context

- 3.1. At the 'Social Integration Event' organised by London Councils on 6th April 2017 a number of key London local authorities such as Westminster, Hackney, Lambeth and Tower Hamlets engaged on emerging regional and national priorities and shared best practice taking place regionally on cohesion.
- 3.2. At this event Matthew Ryder, the Deputy Mayor for Social Integration at the Greater London Authority (GLA) referred to work he is leading on in developing an integration strategy for London and discussed measures which can be used to assess change (e.g. on cohesion).
- 3.3. Developing an effective measure of cohesion was raised as an issue in the Casey Review, it was suggested that the Government should establish a clear measure for tracking progress on cohesion. Due to the absence of national indicators in this area, measuring and comparing the impact of work to improve cohesion has been a difficulty for local authorities. Local authorities and the GLA are awaiting a response from the Government to the Casey Review to see if any such national measures will be outlined.
- 3.4. The GLA indicated that its objective is to 'mainstream' the cohesion agenda across all areas of its work and this is closely linked to a new community engagement strategy also being developed for London. Work to develop this strategy is in the early development phase.
- 3.5. Currently the Council is using the Annual Resident Survey (ARS) to measure the levels of cohesion in the borough. In the 2016 results, 87% of people said that they got on well together with people from different backgrounds. This was found to be on par with neighbouring borough Hackney. In 2013 (the latest data available) an Ipsos MORI survey in Hackney found 90% of residents felt that people from different backgrounds got on well together. There is no benchmarking information on this across London and therefore it is not known how other London authorities are faring in this regard.

4. The Local Context

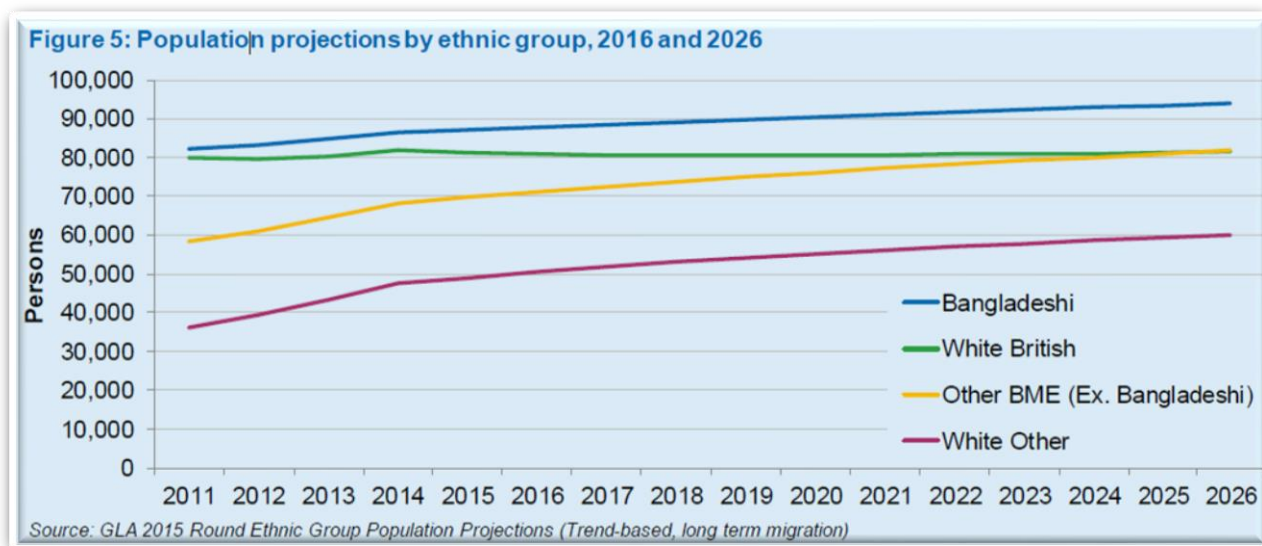
Tower Hamlets Population Demographics

4.1. Tower Hamlets has a population of 284,000, and over the last decade the population has increased by 34.5%, the largest increase of all the local authorities in England and Wales. By 2026 the borough's population is expected to increase by a further 26% to 374,000. These changes are likely to have significant cohesion related impact such as further segregation of specific communities in specific wards, further segregation in schools and further division of the community on class basis.

4.2. The three biggest ethnic groups in Tower Hamlets are:

- Bangladeshi, who make up 32% of the population;
- White British, making up 31% of the population;
- And White other which make up 12.5% of the population.

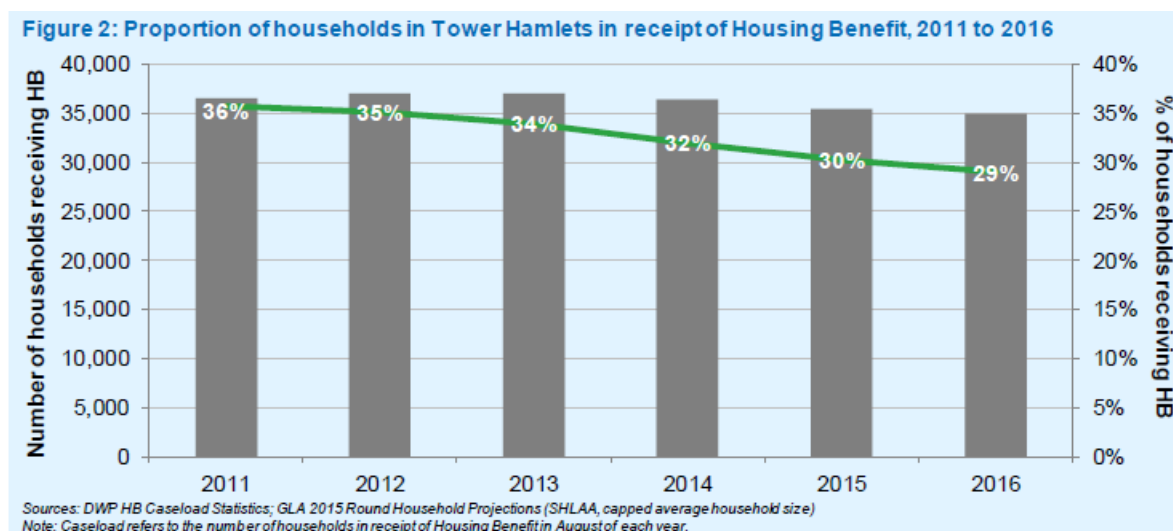
4.3. GLA population projections from 2016 and 2026 suggest that BME groups will continue to make up the majority of residents of Tower Hamlets. The White British population is projected to increase with only 1% growth over the next ten years. The Bangladeshi population is projected to grow by 7%; Other BME (excluding Bangladeshi) population will rise by 15 %. The White Other population will rise by 19%, the largest increase for any of the group (see the graph below).⁴



4.4. It should be noted that a large proportion of the White Other group is made up of EU nationals and it is not yet known to what extent this will be impacted by the decision of the UK to leave the European Union.

⁴ http://www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/lgnl/community_and_living/borough_statistics/population.aspx

- 4.5. There has also been a significant change in the socio-economic makeup of the borough. 36% of people belong to social grades A higher/intermediate managerial and grade B - professionals, which is an increase of 6% on last year and better than the national average of 30%.
- 4.6. There is a decrease in people on benefits. As figure 2 below suggests that the proportion of households in the borough in receipt of housing benefit has fallen over time, from 36% of residents in 2011 to 29% in 2016 suggesting that residents were increasingly moving away from welfare.



- 4.7. In the latest Annual Resident Survey (2016) 87% of residents feel their local area is a place where people from different backgrounds get on well together which is up 6 points on 2015 and is at an all-time high suggesting that on the face of it the borough is cohesive.

School Pupil Demographics

- 4.8. The number of pupils who have English as a second language is 46% which is the 8th highest in London. In terms of languages there are 130 languages spoken in the borough's schools. Whilst this demonstrates diversity in the borough's schools to what extent have schools promoted the mixing of pupils from different backgrounds?
- 4.9. In primary schools 61% of the population are of Bangladeshi origin and in secondary this is 67%. 44% of the borough's schools have a far higher proportion of Bangladeshi pupils (70% or more) and 28% have higher than 80% of Bangladeshi population. According to the Casey Review the concentration of pupils of a specific community may lead to a lack of integration and segregation. Casey states "One striking illustration of such segregation came from a non-faith state secondary school we visited where, in a survey they had conducted, pupils believed the population of Britain to be between 50% and 90% Asian, such had been their experience up to that

point”.⁵ Casey suggests school admissions policy should be changed to reflect these concerns however currently existing legislation limits what the Council can do to influence school admissions policy e.g. the Council only controls admissions policy for specific maintained schools but not foundation schools, academies and free schools. It would require changes to primary legislation in order to influence admission policy either locally or regionally and therefore a response from Government is required.

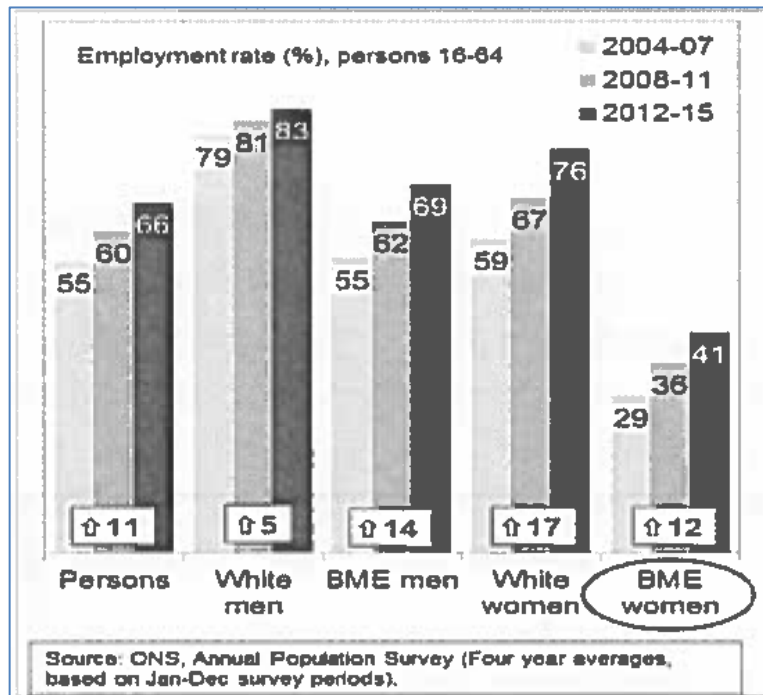
Employment figures for BME women

4.10. Paragraph 6.46 which represents a breakdown of the borough’s wards by ethnicity establishes that there are parts of the borough which are segregated at least on geographical lines. According to Casey, segregation and lack of integration can be linked to economic exclusion this can be particularly seen in the lower employment rate of ethnic minority women.⁶

4.11. The borough has low levels of employment of BME women which includes a high proportion of Bangladeshi women. During 2012 – 15 it is estimated that around 41 per cent of working age BME women were in employment in Tower Hamlets – 35 percentage points lower than the employment rate for White women (76%) and 28 points lower than the rate for BME men (69%). Comparing this to Casey’s findings which found low levels of economic inactivity amongst women from Pakistani and Bangladeshi ethnic groups – she found that 57.2% are inactive in the labour market compared with 25.2% of White women and 38.5% of all ethnic minority women. It would then seem that as Casey says in relation to social and economic integration “there is a strong correlation of increased segregation among Pakistani and Bangladeshi ethnic households in more deprived areas, with poorer English language and poorer labour market outcomes, suggesting a negative cycle that will not improve without a more concerted and targeted effort”.

⁵ https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/575975/The_Casey_Review_Executive_Summary.pdf , page 14.

⁶ https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/575975/The_Casey_Review_Executive_Summary.pdf , page 14.



The life experiences, decisions and choices that lie behind these figures are complex and multiple, ranging from high levels of unpaid care for children and adults with poor health, low level skills, lack of access to support and experience of discrimination.

- 4.12. In the 'Breaking Barriers' research conducted by the Economic Development Team in the Council found that women of Bangladeshi and Pakistani heritage found discrimination was present at every stage of the recruitment process when assessing applications during interviews, at recruitment process when assessing applications during interviews with recruitment agencies and also the workplace itself. In 2005 the Equality and Human Rights Commission found that 1 in 5 Bangladeshi women under 35 experienced negative comments about wearing religious dress suggesting that barriers were not solely based on cultural influences.
- 4.13. We know that the above factors affect women from all backgrounds but some groups are more likely than others to be workless particularly Bangladeshi and Somali women. The Council's Economic Development Team has found that affordable and accessible childcare remains a significant barrier to work for these women. Furthermore it is not clear to what extent these women have intentionally chosen to raise a family over entering the workforce. Therefore the evidence suggests that in this case the findings of the Casey Review is similar i.e. the finding of low levels of employment of BME women but it was debatable whether this was specifically due to cultural barriers as Casey focussed on. Evidence locally suggests that there are combinations of barriers which prevent these women from entering the workforce they include: responsibility for raising a family, access to affordable child care, low grasp of the English language, and discrimination which were stronger barriers to work.

5. The Council's Cohesion Programme

5.1 The Council's Strategy Policy & Partnership Team (The service) manages a number of activities, funds and commissioned projects which build cohesion in the borough. The challenge session discussed the activities of the service and the range of activities was recognised as positive. The borough has an extensive programme in summary this includes:

Partnership working

5.2 The Tension Monitoring Group (TMG) is made up of Council services, the Police and community and voluntary partners. The group responds to tensions which arise within the borough that impact negatively on community cohesion. Specific examples in 2017 include alleged incidents of acid/liquid attacks leaving victims with burns which could possibly be classed as hate crime. In 2016 partners held emergency meetings to discuss and address tensions following;

- Britain First visits outside the East London Mosque
- Alleged incident of police brutality outside Arbour Youth Club

5.3 The group works by establishing a multi-agency partnership approach to share information and intelligence, and develop early interventions to manage imminent and current tensions or cohesion related issues. The TMG meets quarterly and can be convened at any other time in response to major incidents in the borough.

5.4 The Cohesion Working Group, Chaired by the Cabinet Member for Community Safety & Cohesion is comprised of local service providers and stakeholders, and was launched on 20th April 2017, with an aim to:

- To take a more strategic and long term approach to cohesion
- To have an oversight of cohesion work to enable better coordinated and joined up approaches between partners and identify gaps in activity

5.5 The Tower Hamlets No Place for Hate Forum launched the No Place for Hate (NPFH) Campaign which aims to prevent all forms of hate through promoting awareness, encouraging reporting and building community cohesion across all communities. The Council has used a variety of methods to communicate the right messages such as bus stop campaigns and outreach events at hotspot areas, and with many outreach stalls around the borough. To promote a stronger partnership stand against hate and all forms of hate in Tower Hamlets, the Council launched the No Place for Hate Pledge in December 2008, to date:

- 1482 No Place for Hate Personal Pledges and 121 Organisational Pledges have been signed

- NPFH Champions have been recruited and trained, this is made up of 12 local people that deliver hate crime awareness activities which include challenging prejudice and hate

Funding and grants

5.6 The Council's mainstream grants programme spends £105,000 per annum funding a number of small grants for local community organisations to undertake cohesion projects. A good example is the 'Equal Voices Project' delivered by East London Advanced Technology Training which aimed to enable newly-arrived migrant women to be empowered, by engaging with equal participation on local issues that are important and meaningful to them.

5.7 ELATT delivered:

- 37 Citizenship sessions with 296 participants
- 18 Participation in skills workshops
- 10 participants involved in community volunteering

5.8 The Council commissions a number of community forums and large projects which deliver, promote and enhance cohesion in the borough as an example of such a project:

5.9 Section 106 monies from two developments have been used to fund the delivery of a Cohesion Programme focussing on developing and delivering cohesion projects in Mile End and Aldgate East Master plan areas. These projects will be commissioned by the Council and will aim to build local neighbourhood groups that bring people from different backgrounds together to hold events that increase cross cultural understanding and to increase participation in local community activities.

Cohesion offer in Schools

5.10 In order to promote community cohesion amongst young people in schools, the Council has commissioned the HEC Global Learning Centre to deliver a number of initiatives for schools. These include: helping schools develop innovative lesson plans. Delivering 'Train the Trainer' Training Materials for School Council, pupil and staff, that will help develop thinking tools, and raise awareness and understanding amongst young people around issues of community cohesion, equality and hate crime.

6. Findings and Recommendations

Approach & summary of findings

- 6.1 The challenge session considered the key findings from the Casey Review and sought to establish to what extent those findings were prevalent in Tower Hamlets, by considering and comparing factual and statistical evidence. The session also considered those issues which are specific to Tower Hamlets and not necessarily addressed by the Casey Review such as the impact of rapid housing and business development on community cohesion.

Introduction

- 6.2 The challenge session provided an opportunity to take a strategic perspective on cohesion and avoid a silo'd approach to ensure that it is not seen as the responsibility for one team or one department but all relevant council services. It was recognised the efforts and the range of work being undertaken or commissioned by the Council including:

- Funding cohesion projects through the mainstream grants programme;
- Commissioning larger pilot projects such as s106 funded cohesion project for Aldgate and Mile End areas;
- The Council's work with various forums to tackle cohesion issues such as the TMG, community engagement forum, and refugee forum.

It was however noted that there is an absence of an overall cohesion strategy to pull all the Council's activities in this area together.

- 6.3 The session looked at a range of issues to consider the overall approach to community cohesion, including whether the Council's housing/regeneration policies are both designed to improve integration and reduce segregation. It was also considered whether the Council's planning department takes into account how spaces and housing is designed to encourage interaction of different groups. In the Idea Stores the challenge session spoke about the 2 million residents visiting the stores and the spaces that they use and interact with in the stores. There was an identified opportunity to make better use of the 'third space' and how that can be designed better to promote interaction between residents. They also considered the effectiveness of ESOL provision as they recognised that having a good command of the English language is important for integrating into society and accessing economic opportunities.

Mainstreaming cohesion in everything the Council does

- 6.4 Challenge session members felt that when a planning application comes to committee, Members should be asking questions around cohesion and how it will be impacted. It was felt through existing housing development policy the Council was perpetuating the segregation of communities. The session concluded that shared facilities between private dwellings and social tenants in developments were a way of encouraging interaction.

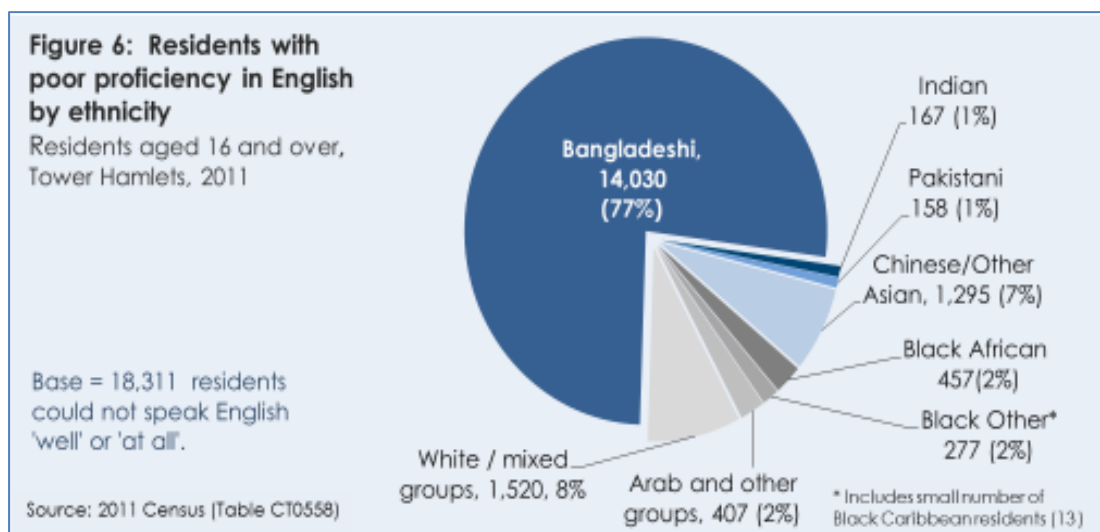
- 6.5 The session discussed how the Council's overall number of Council policies do not support and encourage community cohesion. As an example the Housing and Planning Policy which promotes the division of private dwellings and social housing could lead to segregation and division of communities. In addition school admissions policy does not take into account the mixing of pupils from different backgrounds. There was an identified need of further work to analyse to what extent this occurs in other areas of Council business.
- 6.6 The session looked at an example of the use of S106 development money for the delivery of a projects focussing on aiming to improve cohesion in the Mile End and Aldgate East Master Plan areas. The two projects will be significant in terms of scale, will generate wider interest and could potentially gain recognition as a pathfinder in the local government and voluntary sectors. The two projects aim to increase participation in the local community, build local neighbourhood groups that bring people from different backgrounds together and hold events that increase cross-cultural understanding. The challenge session recommended that the Council undertake similar initiatives and reviewed and documented the lessons learned from this project.
- 6.7 It was also identified that there was limited cross council work on cohesion and that more needed to be done to address the impact on community cohesion of council and partner activities. The session was told about the 'Social Integration Event' organised by London Councils on 6th April 2017. There the GLA said that its objective is to 'mainstream' the cohesion agenda across all areas of its work, Therefore, there is precedence at the regional level that this is the best approach to take.
- 6.8 On funding it was reported that the Council had a fund of 150k to commission cohesion work. The challenge session questioned whether this was enough to deliver cohesion work that would have a lasting impact on the borough. Therefore there was an identified need to maximise the use of external funding and to mainstream cohesion considerations across council services so that funds across the council could be leveraged.

Recommendation 1: The Council develops an approach and action plan to: mainstream cohesion across Council services and activities, explore external funding opportunities and develop a robust evaluation, review and reporting process for all cohesion activities and initiatives.

ESOL provision and language as a driver of cohesion

- 6.9 The Casey Review identified that English language proficiency was a key barrier to integration and it noted that lack of proficiency of the language was an issue which prevented ethnic minority communities fully integrating. The challenge session found that the Council's Idea Store Learning Service's (ISL) ESOL provision was already delivering provision to many ethnic minority group as can be seen in para 6.17.

6.10 In the 2011 census responders who could not speak English 'well' or 'at all' 77% of them were Bangladeshi. The next largest group at 8% was White/mixed groups most likely to predominantly be EU nationals.⁷ A breakdown is provided below:



6.11 ESOL is part of the ISL's delivery of community learning. There are a number of goals and aims in delivering learning to the community which is universal. Idea Stores are required to promote social cohesion in their work as they receive funding from the Skills Funding Agency and in the contract there is a legal requirement to address cohesion.

6.12 The ISL's provision is significantly more targeted towards the lowest 30% of the equalities deprivation index. Neighbouring local boroughs also use Idea Stores and the stores receive 2m visitors a year. National FE choices survey indicated that the Idea Stores were the second highest scoring library and learning service in England. There are two types of ESOL provision delivered: Accredited which involves exams and Non-Accredited which involves informal class room learning.

6.13 ISL's ESOL provision offers:

- A range of accredited and non-accredited ESOL provision from Pre Entry to Level 1.
- Delivery takes place in Idea Stores and outreach centres including schools, Job Centre Plus and children's centres.
- Upon completion of Level 1 ESOL, learners are given the option to progress to Functional Skills English and Maths. This is the first this has been piloted as an internal progression route.
- 13 learners progressed to this and are currently awaiting exam results for Level 1 (there is an aim to progress them to Level 2, which is equivalent to GCSE, and sit these exams in July).

⁷ http://www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/Documents/Borough_statistics/Diversity/Language_proficiency_in_Tower_Hamlets.pdf

- Learners can then use their Level 2 qualification to apply for further courses/jobs e.g. teaching assistant training or apply for jobs.

6.14 The challenge session discussed the need to progress more people from ESOL provision on to Level 1 and Level 2 of the Functional Skills English and Maths. It was noted speaking to learners this jump was quite significant and that course hours needed to be extended to further support learners which ISL service has already taken steps to address.

6.15 ISL has recently started offering English conversation clubs in an informal setting – this will help to develop people’s confidence to speak English. Native English speakers come in from local community to support conversation clubs this includes mainly volunteers e.g. an oxford lecturer was supporting these clubs and people from all walks of life thereby supporting positive cohesion outcomes.

6.16 In terms of the numbers using the provision:

- 735 learners attended ESOL programmes in Idea Stores
- 140 learners accessed outreach ESOL provision
- 115 learners enrolled on IT for ESOL courses.
- A further 140 residents attended informal English Conversation Clubs in Idea Stores (co-facilitated by Idea Store staff and volunteers).
- 71% of ESOL learners were female (in line with national averages).
- 360 ESOL learners on accredited programmes in 2015-16 completed ESOL qualifications. The overall pass rate in these exams was 84%.

6.17 The ethnicity of the learners is included in the table below:

ESOL Ethnicity Breakdown 2015-16	% of Total
Asian or Asian British - Bangladeshi	65.53%
White - Other	20.03%
Black or Black British - African	3.68%
All Other	10.77%

Achievement Breakdown	2015-16
Attendance	92%
Retention	85%
Achievement (Accredited & Non-Accredited)	93%

6.18 Ofsted rated the service as good in November 2016 and stated: “*Staff members ensure that British values are embedded into the core values of the Idea Stores*”.

- 6.19 ISL used the Council's core values such as valuing diversity by being inclusive and valuing others' contribution and engaging others by showing respect, listening and building relationships and partnerships to define British Values for its learners. Respecting and tolerating others, listening to others and observing classroom rules. All learners are encouraged to speak English in lessons so the English language becomes the common factor in their interaction.
- 6.20 There is an opportunity to make the operation of ESOL courses in the borough more efficient, ESOL is 40% of budget for the service. There is a need for sustainable programmes as the service is on a year by year funding from the Skills Funding Agency. It is important to address the funding question. How can funding from the different sources be maximised to make ESOL programmes sustainable?
- 6.21 ISL spoke about working in partnership with other providers of ESOL courses in the borough it recognised that this was needed to ensure better use of resources and deliver cohesion outcomes. Tower Hamlets College is one of the major providers of ESOL in the borough. It has become the project leader for North East London's Basic English Language for the Unemployed Project after being awarded £2.1 million in funding from the European Social Fund. The project focuses on pre-entry ESOL to support progression to further skills training, and employment through sessions set up to teach important job searching skills such as cv writing and job application.
- 6.22 ISL recognised the need to work in partnership with ESOL providers across the borough. The challenge session identified that the development of a borough wide assessment process would help to ensure a more efficient and best use of funding to deliver ESOL classes across the borough. The borough has numerous providers delivering ESOL however it appears that this is not co-ordinated efficiently in a central way. The result is that funding is not being used efficiently to fill course places as there may be courses that are not running at full capacity.
- 6.23 The challenge session also determined that there is a need to work in partnership with all providers. One of the ways this might work is that by using a uniform needs assessment process. All partners can assess what people's needs are and assess where there is capacity in the borough to deliver courses so for example if an ESOL class was oversubscribed at an Idea Store, learners could be slotted into an ESOL place that is being run by partners elsewhere in the borough such as Tower Hamlets College or other smaller providers. This would be aligned to the Casey report recommendation on encouraging learners to access ESOL provision and learning the language as a driver for positive cohesion in the community.

Recommendation 2: Idea Store Learning should explore a common assessment process between internal and external providers of ESOL in the borough to ensure appropriate analysis of user needs and better matching to course places.

Commissioning for cohesion outcomes

- 6.24 The challenge session reviewed and contrasted various acute cohesion related issues that were specific to Tower Hamlets, and the extent to which the observations and findings of the Casey review mirrored these issues and social demographic conditions.
- 6.25 The Casey review linked segregation to economic exclusion (e.g. where there is high proportion of ethnic minority in wards it was also found that there was high levels of unemployment amongst women often due to cultural barriers to work). The challenge session found that the dynamics identified in northern towns and cities in the Casey report were not as applicable to Tower Hamlets a borough based in a cosmopolitan city environment in inner London.
- 6.26 There are many different ways social mixing takes place but the Casey report was focussed primarily on schools. There was an identified need to promote cohesion beyond the school and therefore the challenge session felt that Tower Hamlets should go beyond the Casey review recommendations and also consider the level of social mixing that takes place in the borough outside the school environment. They felt that in their experience of working in the community, that this was minimal.
- 6.27 The challenge session asserted that that Tower Hamlets schools are extremely segregated but recognised that this reflected where people had located in the area. There is a perception of deep segregation in the community as an example the session referred to the trend of the white affluent population sending their children to schools outside the borough.
- 6.28 The Deputy Young Mayor mentioned that at her school, approximately 75% of the school population was Bengali but that this mix in itself did not prevent cohesion... She quoted "I was part of Cambridge maths competition where we got to mix with other people of different backgrounds over a period of time" she felt that schools were not required to have a mixed population to be cohesive but that what was needed was more opportunities for people to meet and interact.
- 6.29 In order to promote community cohesion amongst young people in schools, the Council has commissioned the HEC Global Learning Centre to: develop innovative lesson plans, 'Train the Trainer' Training Materials for School Councils, pupil and staff, that will help develop thinking tools, and raise awareness and understanding amongst young people around issues of community cohesion, equality and hate crime. The challenge session

recognised that work was taking place with schools to promote British values and community cohesion however it was felt that more work needed to take place with cohorts outside of the school such as in youth centres.

- 6.30 The challenge session was of the view that the Annual Resident Survey (ARS) measure which suggested that 87% of people in the borough got on well with each other was not an adequate indicator of cohesion in the borough. The challenge session was not sure how this question was phrased but felt the reality did not reflect this. The challenge session recognised that integration and segregation issues were not as polarising as some of the areas mentioned in the Casey review e.g. the tension and violence in northern cities but nevertheless believed there to be divisions in the borough between some BME and non BME groups.
- 6.31 The challenge session recognised the great number of equalities and cohesion related initiatives that have taken place in the borough and the associated positive outcomes and impact. However the challenge session questioned whether the Council considered in its thinking the long term impact of not focussing on Cohesion (i.e. segregation and lack of integration in communities). There was a view expressed that like it was identified in the Casey Review many residents in the borough have developed 'parallel lives' to each other and that more projects needed to focus on bringing people of different backgrounds together to facilitate sustained contact.
- 6.32 One of the points that Casey review raises is the value of friendship. In order to have true cohesion you have to have activities that ensure regular contact and share space together. The session identified the need to provide an environment where social interaction between communities can take place, beyond the school to develop friendships in the community.

Recommendation 3: The Council should consider commissioning more projects which tackle isolation and encourage strong positive relations and friendship between different groups in the borough.

Approach to grants and delivering cohesion

- 6.33 The challenge session found that the council has not developed an overarching approach or cohesion strategy to pull everything together in relation to cohesion. In this financial year the Council through the Cohesion Working Group will be working with partners and stakeholders to determine the borough's cohesion priorities and agree a comprehensive approach to cohesion across the borough. It was also recognised that this strategy should align/follow the Government's response to Casey and any regional response such as from the GLA.
- 6.34 The challenge session noted that that there were notable strengths in the borough. These include; evidence that people want to get involved and are passionate about where they live and there is a demonstrable desire to take

part in community events. It was mentioned that through the Voluntary Community Sector there were hundreds of community organisations carrying out cohesion work in the borough. The challenge session discussed the legacy of the 1990s; it is quite natural that people will come to organisations for support from different communities and that there is a natural tendency by the VCS to support migrant communities.

- 6.35 The challenge session suggested that it is important that the Council challenges outcomes of third sector organisations and make sure that they are truly opening up VCS event to others and promoting cohesion.
- 6.36 It was the experience of the Council through the Tension Monitoring Group that most of the racial and other tensions and incidents in the borough are as a result of non-residents coming into the area to stir up discontent such as Britain First coming from outside the borough and causing tension with local residents and that it was rare that major tensions were displayed between residents in the borough. It is however recognised there have been recent alleged incidents of acid/liquid attacks by alleged perpetrators in the borough from a White British background against victims who have a BME background which is currently being investigated.
- 6.37 The challenge session referred to the Old Ford Housing organisation who received an award for the Trinity Community Centre which brought different communities together(e.g. the White British, Somali and Bengali group). The centre achieved cohesion by providing a single venue for these various charitable organisations and their clients to interact. This took away suspicion and fear between these communities leading to a more open and honest relationship. It was suggested that the Council ought to review its community building policy in relation to VCS organisations to see how it can further promote cohesion and to learn from this example.
- 6.38 The session identified a need to ensure VCS partners understood how important cohesion could be in securing future grants and that the Council policy needed to emphasise its importance more strongly in future funding and commissioning activity.

Recommendation 4: The Council reviews the grant and commissioning policies to ensure that there is a stronger focus on cohesion

The Councils' leadership role

- 6.39 The challenge session stated that Councillors need to be able to effectively scrutinise and appreciate the impact of cohesion in their Council and community roles i.e. when sitting on planning committees scrutinising new development proposals. The Council needs to ensure that the leaders in the community understand the importance of the impact on cohesion and promote the right messages in their day to day role in public office and when interacting with the community. Under the Council's public sector equalities

duty the Council has to foster good relations between those with a protected characteristics and those with not. Therefore the Council developing a leadership role in ensuring cohesion is being considered in its policies and decision making would demonstrate it meeting this duty.

- 6.40 The challenge session queried whether there was training for Senior Staff, Members and Community Leaders, the service suggested that it has carried out training but not for this audience. The challenge session felt that strong leadership on cohesion with Members, senior officers, and community leaders needed to be developed. In order to develop leadership on cohesion leaders needed to be informed on cohesion.

Recommendation 5: Explore how leadership on cohesion can be developed by the Council through the delivery of specialised training for councillors, senior officers and community leaders.

Social and economic impact

- 6.41 In the discussion there were a number of challenges to cohesion identified in the borough. The impact of new development on established communities e.g. the rapid regeneration introducing segregation issues, such as, class issues. The challenge session felt that developments are being designed in a way that is perpetuating segregation e.g. social and private housing are being designed in way that physically separates living accommodation between the two groups which results in people not meeting or interacting, not feeling a sense of being part of the community. It was also noted that often children from such gated communities were being sent to schools outside the borough, possibly encouraging further future segregation. It was also noted that there was an absence of shared facilities between these groups such as community centres.
- 6.42 The challenge session stated that change comes from the top. There was a need to understand the divisions that exist in the community and what can be done about them. There was a need to understand the impact of development and gentrification on existing established communities and how various socio-economic groups live 'parallel and segregated' lives in the borough. There was also a need for the Council to consider its Local Plan and whether community cohesion is being considered in the future development of the borough. The challenge session suggested that the Mayor to consider convening a taskforce that looks into Community Cohesion to address those types of issues.
- 6.43 According to the census the Bangladeshi population makes up almost one-third (32%) of the borough's population. A breakdown of ethnicity of the population by ward is included below in para 6.47.
- 6.44 It is useful to note that the Shadwell Ward has a higher than average Bangladeshi population at 52% where the White British population is 20%.

The St Dunstan's Ward also has similar demographics with a 51% Bangladeshi population against 23% of White British Population. On the other hand the White British residents comprise 31% of the borough's population and in Bow East Ward; White British make up 50% of the population against 17% of Bangladeshi Population in the Ward. This is also the case in Bow West Ward where there is a 50% White British population and a 21% Bangladeshi population,

6.45 It is therefore evident that at least on geographical lines there is segregation in Tower Hamlets. According to Casey, concentration of people from specific communities can lead to high levels of segregation in schools where the ethnic make-up mirror residential areas and this can lead to a lack of integration into wider society due to not interacting with people of different backgrounds. However, the Council does not have any evidence that such segregation was intentional. Even with segregation, it has not had any records of disturbances within the borough between these different groups. There is recognition by the Council that this may be the unintended consequences of Housing Policy in terms where housing was available to place residents rather than an intentional choice of residents to reside in specific wards.

6.46 The make-up of the other wards is contained in the table below:

WARD	BME %	ETHNIC GROUP		
		BANGLADESHI %	WHITE BRITISH %	WHITE OTHER %
Bethnal Green	53	32	37	11
Blackwall and Cubitt Town	50	15	32	18
Bow East	40	17	50	10
Bow West	41	21	50	9
Bromley North	68	42	25	7
Bromley South	69	44	23	7
Canary Wharf	51	15	29	20
Island Gardens	42	14	39	19
Lansbury	64	39	28	8
Limehouse	41	17	41	18
Mile End	65	42	25	10
Poplar	67	41	23	10
Shadwell	71	52	20	9
Spitalfields and Banglatown	58	41	27	16
St Dunstan's	70	51	23	7
St Katharine's and Wapping	29	13	50	21
St Peter's	53	34	35	13
Stepney Green	64	47	27	8
Weavers	48	29	38	14
Whitechapel	59	38	26	14

From the Census 2011

Recommendation 6: Explore setting up a taskforce to consider the impact of gentrification on cohesion in the borough.

7. Conclusion

- 7.1 The challenge session has established that there are areas of segregation such as in specific wards in the borough and in some of the borough's schools. However, there is no evidence to suggest that this segregation has been intentional rather it is thought that this is purely accidental and may be a result of the unintended consequences of Housing Policy. This is one of the reasons why the challenge session focused on developing recommendations relating to mainstreaming cohesion across Council services as they believed cohesion wasn't being considered in the decision making process and policies of the Council.
- 7.2 Furthermore, the report has extensively tested the argument that segregation and lack of integration is linked to economic exclusion particularly of BME women. The evidence in the borough is that there are many other reasons for the economic exclusion of BME women rather than segregation or integration for example discrimination by employers and lack of accessible and affordable child care preventing women from entering the workforce.
- 7.3 The challenge session however did find that the lack of English Language proficiency was a barrier to integration and therefore has made recommendations to address the efficiency and effectiveness of ESOL provision in the borough.
- 7.4 The challenge session discussed the need for Councillors to be able to effectively scrutinise and appreciate the impact of cohesion in their Council and community roles i.e. when sitting on planning committees scrutinising new development proposals, or in their interactions with the community. Therefore the session discussed targeted training for Members and community leaders.
- 7.5 It was also observed that the rapid development of the borough and the gentrification of Tower Hamlets have had a negative impact on community cohesion. It was felt that this is already creating segregation and lack of integration between classes. The challenge session felt that in the absence of cohesion considerations in planning policy this is likely to make this trend more entrenched through further developments e.g. by physically separating private dwellings and social housing thereby physically separating new communities with settled communities. The session found examples of newcomers sending their children to schools outside the borough as another manifestation of this segregation.

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THE FORWARD PLAN

Published: 24 December 2018

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The Forward Plan is published 28 days before each Cabinet meeting.

In addition, new issues and changes to existing issues will be published on the website as soon as they are known.

The web pages also contain past Forward Plans and publication deadlines for future Plans. To visit the web pages go to <http://democracy.towerhamlets.gov.uk/mgPlansHome.aspx?bcr=1>.

Tower Hamlets Council **Forthcoming Decisions Plan**

What is this document?

The Forthcoming Decisions Plan (or 'Forward Plan') contains information on significant decisions that the Council expects to take over the next few months.

As a minimum this will include notice of:

- All **Key Decisions** to be taken by the Mayor, Cabinet or Cabinet Sub-Committees
 - This could include decisions taken at public meetings or taken individually at other times.
- Budget and Policy Framework Decisions (for example the Budget Report itself and major policies to be agreed by Council as set out in the Constitution)

Key Decisions

The Council is required to publish notice of all key decisions at least 28 days before they are taken by the Executive or Commissioners. Key decisions are all those decisions which involve major spending, or savings, or which have a significant impact on the local community. The precise definition of a key decision adopted by Tower Hamlets is contained in Article 13.03 of the [Constitution](#). Key Decisions can be taken by the Mayor outside of meetings, the Mayor in Cabinet or by a Cabinet Sub-Committee.

Publication of Forthcoming Decisions

Individual notices of new Key Decisions will be published on the website as they are known on the 'Forthcoming Decisions' page, whilst this 'Forward Plan' collating these decisions will be published regularly, as a minimum at least, 28 days before each Cabinet meeting. The Plan will be published on the Council's website and will also be available to view at the Town Hall and Libraries, Ideas Centres and One Stop Shops if required.

Urgency

If, due to reasons of urgency, a Key Decision has to be taken where 28 days' notice have not been given. Notice will be published (on the website) as early as possible and Urgency Procedures as set out in the Constitution have to be followed.

Make your views known

The most effective way for the public to make their views known about a Forthcoming Decisions is to contact the lead officer, or Cabinet Member (where stated), listed. You can also view the Council's [Consultation Calendar](#), which lists all the issues on which the Council and its partners are consulting.

Information about the Decision Makers

Further information on the Mayor and Members of the Cabinet can be found on the Council [website](#).

Notice of Intention to Conduct Business in Private

The Council is also required to give at least 28 days' notice if it wishes to consider any of the reports on the agenda of an Executive meeting (such as Cabinet) in private session. The last row of each item below will indicate any proposal to consider that item in private session. Should you wish to make any representations in relation to item being considered in private please contact Democratic Services on the contact details listed on the front page.

The notice may reference a paragraph of Section 12A of the 1972 Local Government Act. In summary those paragraphs refer to the following types of exempt information (more information is available in the Constitution):

1. Information relating to any individual
2. Information which is likely to reveal the identity of an individual
3. Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority handling the information)
4. Information relating to any consultations or negotiations, or contemplated consultations or negotiations, in connection with any labour relations matters arising between the authority or a Minister of the Crown and employees of, or office holders under, the authority.
5. Information in respect of which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained in legal proceedings.
6. Information which reveals that the authority proposes:-
 - a) to give under any enactment a notice under or by virtue of which requirements are imposed on a person; or
 - b) to make an order or direction under any enactment.
7. Information relating to any action taken or to be taken in connection with the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime.

Contact Details for this Plan

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Forward Plan December 2018

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Contracts Forward Plan 2018/19 – Quarter Three	19/12/18	22
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Disposal of Land at Mantus Road E1	Not before 19/12/18	18
Disposal of residential property at 34 Mount Terrace, E1 2BB	30/01/19	14
Fees & Charges 2019/20	30/01/19	26
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Homelessness Scrutiny Review Report and Action Plan	Not before 19/12/18	21
LBTH Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy - 2018 - 2023	Not before 19/12/18	19
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*Mudchute Farm, Park and allotments, Pier Road E14, Grant of long lease	27/02/19	26
*Mulberry Place, 5 Clove Crescent, London E14 2BG - New Lease	09/01/19	8
*Public Space CCTV Strategy	Not before 30/01/19	6
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*Tower Hamlets Waste Management Strategy	27/02/19	9
*Transport Strategy (IO 83455)	27/02/19	10
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Withy House Tenant Management Organisation Termination Notice – outcome of independent assessment	19/12/18	23

* New Issues published since the last Forward Plan

Title of Report	Grant of a lease for first floor of Bethnal Green Library, Cambridge Heath Road E2 0HL	Ward Bethnal Green	Key Decision? Yes
Summary of Decision	This report seeks approval for the grant of a lease of the first floor of Bethnal Green Library following various works to upgrade it.		

Decision maker Date of decision	Cabinet 30/01/19		
Community Plan Theme			
Cabinet Member	Mayor		
Who will be consulted before decision is made and how will this consultation take place	<p>It is likely that the selected provider will do further consultation once approval has been granted for the new lease.</p> <p>AM has worked closely with Whitechapel Delivery Team in sourcing a work space provider.</p> <p>The manager of the IDEAS store has been consulted on the proposed use for the upper floor.</p>		
Has an Equality Impact Assessment been carried out and if so the result of this Assessment?	No		
Contact details for comments or additional information	Richard Chilcott (Acting Divisional Director, Property and Major Programmes) richard.chilcott@towerhamlets.gov.uk		
What supporting documents or other information will be available?	N/A		
Is there an intention to consider this report in private session and if so why?	Partly Exempt (Part of the report will be exempt) Yes The financial appraisal The financial offer of applicants		
Title of Report	Public Space CCTV Strategy	Ward All Wards	Key Decision? Yes
Summary of Decision	To develop a compliant and transparent Public Space CCTV system which is fit for purpose, lean and meets the changing needs of the community.		

Decision maker Date of decision	Cabinet Not before 30/01/19
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Forward Plan December 2018

Community Plan Theme	A borough that our residents are proud of and love to live in		
Cabinet Member	Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Equalities		
Who will be consulted before decision is made and how will this consultation take place	<p>Consultation with the Metropolitan Police has taken place as they are the primary recipient of the product from the system.</p> <p>Consultation meeting with a number of internal departments and electronic circulation of the document.</p>		
Has an Equality Impact Assessment been carried out and if so the result of this Assessment?			
Contact details for comments or additional information	<p>Karen Proudfoot (Interim Head of Communities and Enforcement) karen.proudfoot@towerhamlets.gov.uk</p>		
What supporting documents or other information will be available?	All included in the report		
Is there an intention to consider this report in private session and if so why?	No, Unrestricted		
Title of Report	Ailsa Street Land Disposal - Revised Terms	Ward Lansbury	Key Decision? Yes
Summary of Decision	The Mayor will be asked to agree to variations to the terms of the disposal of Council-owned land, from those agreed at cabinet in November 2017		

Decision maker Date of decision	Cabinet Not before 30/01/19
Community Plan Theme	A borough that our residents are proud of and love to live in
Cabinet Member	Mayor
Who will be consulted before decision is made and how will this consultation take place	<p>Public meetings, exhibition, usual planning consultation system</p> <p>The development proposals have been subject to public consultation including statutory planning consultation. The Council has resolved to grant planning permission for the redevelopment</p> <p>The wider Poplar Riverside Housing Zone objectives have been subject to consultation with local stakeholders</p>

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	Discussions will be held with the Mayor and Lead Members prior to the report going to MAB		
Has an Equality Impact Assessment been carried out and if so the result of this Assessment?	no		
Contact details for comments or additional information	Richard Chilcott (Acting Divisional Director, Property and Major Programmes) richard.chilcott@towerhamlets.gov.uk		
What supporting documents or other information will be available?	Cabinet report on Ailsa Street land disposal, November 2017		
Is there an intention to consider this report in private session and if so why?	Partly Exempt (Part of the report will be exempt) Part of the report will set out financial elements of the proposed revised terms.		
Title of Report	Mulberry Place, 5 Clove Crescent, London E14 2BG - New Lease	Ward All Wards	Key Decision? Yes
Summary of Decision	The report recommends that the Council enters into a surrender of its current lease of the Town Hall and simultaneously takes a new lease until 24 th March 2023.		

Decision maker Date of decision	Cabinet 09/01/19
Community Plan Theme	A dynamic outcomes-based Council using digital innovation and partnership working; A borough that our residents are proud of and love to live in; People are aspirational, independent and have equal access to opportunities; TH Plan 2: Good jobs and employment
Cabinet Member	Mayor
Who will be consulted before decision is made and how will this consultation take place	The Mayor and Chief Executive have been consulted on the options set out in the report. 1-1 meeting took place on 18 th December.
Has an Equality Impact Assessment been carried out and if so the result of this Assessment?	No
Contact details for comments or additional information	Richard Chilcott (Acting Divisional Director, Property and Major Programmes) richard.chilcott@towerhamlets.gov.uk

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What supporting documents or other information will be available?	None		
Is there an intention to consider this report in private session and if so why?	Partly Exempt (Part of the report will be exempt) The commercial terms agreed as part of the transaction are exempt until such time as the new lease is completed and registered with HM Land Registry.		
Title of Report	Tower Hamlets Waste Management Strategy	Ward All Wards	Key Decision? Yes
Summary of Decision	The report will present the findings from the public consultation on the draft Waste Management Strategy and will set out the policies, services standards and action plans that the Council will need to adopt to deliver improved waste services		

Decision maker Date of decision	Cabinet 27/02/19
Community Plan Theme	A borough that our residents are proud of and love to live in
Cabinet Member	Cabinet Member for Environment
Who will be consulted before decision is made and how will this consultation take place	Residents Registered Social Landlords Businesses Schools GLA Public consultation
Has an Equality Impact Assessment been carried out and if so the result of this Assessment?	Being developed
Contact details for comments or additional information	Fiona Heyland (Head of Waste Strategy Policy and Procurement, Public Realm, Communities Localities & Culture) fiona.heyland@towerhamlets.gov.uk
What supporting documents or other information will be available?	Waste Management Strategy
Is there an intention to consider this report in private session and if so why?	No, Unrestricted

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Title of Report	Transport Strategy (IO 83455)	Ward All Wards	Key Decision? Yes
Summary of Decision	Outlines the scope, approach and objectives of the Transport Strategy for the borough that will provide an overarching strategic transport vision and key commitments for transport until 2030.		

Decision maker Date of decision	Cabinet 27/02/19		
Community Plan Theme			
Cabinet Member			
Who will be consulted before decision is made and how will this consultation take place	<p>Stage1: Mayor, Cabinet members, Ward Councillors, TFL, Emergency services, Health Partnerships, Business partnerships, Local community groups. Stage 2: Public consultation, residents, local businesses and other transport network.</p> <p>Stage 1 consultation will be via engagement workshops. Stage 2 will be via a)local leaflet distribution b)local newsletter/papers and c) web based consultation</p>		
Has an Equality Impact Assessment been carried out and if so the result of this Assessment?	<p>Yes. This will be completed as individual Plans supporting the overarching Transport strategy are being prepared and will be reported to Cabinet in due course.</p>		
Contact details for comments or additional information	<p>Margaret Cooper (Section Head Transport & Highways, Public Realm, Communities Localities & Culture) margaret.cooper@towerhamlets.gov.uk</p>		
What supporting documents or other information will be available?	<p>When available, the feedback from the Stakeholder engagement, and public consultation, will be incorporated into the report and details of the full feedback will be appended to the report.</p>		
Is there an intention to consider this report in private session and if so why?	No, Unrestricted		
Title of Report	Revenue and Capital Budget Monitoring (Quarter 3) 2018/19	Ward All Wards	Key Decision? Yes
Summary of Decision	<p>This report details the Quarter 3 (December 2018) monitoring position against the approved budget for the Revenue and Capital Spend for the financial year end 2018-19.</p> <p>The report may also seek approval for any new capital projects that need to be progressed during 2018-19.</p> <p>It also includes information on the councils progress against its saving targets and a number of general financial health indicators.</p>		

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Decision maker Date of decision	Cabinet 30/01/19		
Community Plan Theme	All Priorities		
Cabinet Member	Cabinet Member for Resources and the Voluntary Sector		
Who will be consulted before decision is made and how will this consultation take place	<p>As part of regular monitoring monthly cycle.</p> <p>Directorates have provided projections for their outturn positions and explanations of significant variances and progress on achieving savings.</p> <p>Their capital teams have reviewed the capital programme and adjusted it to reflect new projects as well as developments, and slippage in existing ones.</p>		
Has an Equality Impact Assessment been carried out and if so the result of this Assessment?	N/A		
Contact details for comments or additional information	Kevin Miles (Chief Accountant, Resources) kevin.miles@towerhamlets.gov.uk		
What supporting documents or other information will be available?	None		
Is there an intention to consider this report in private session and if so why?	No, Unrestricted		
Title of Report	An Integrated Information and Advice Plan for Tower Hamlets	Ward All Wards	Key Decision? Yes
Summary of Decision	<p>This report recommends an approach to bring together a number of commissioned services across health and social care in order to provide an integrated information, advice and advocacy offer that is accessible for all residents at the right time.</p> <p>In order to plan, design and deliver an integrated information offer, approval is sought for an eight month extension to an existing contract to align the end date of this contract with a number of other commissioned services which will allow for a borough-wide review and re-design of how information is provided and accessed across the Council, Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and partner organisations.</p>		

Decision maker Date of decision	Cabinet 30/01/19
Community Plan	A dynamic outcomes-based Council using digital innovation and

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Theme	partnership working; TH Plan 3: Strong, resilient and safe communities; TH Plan 4: Better health and wellbeing.		
Cabinet Member	Cabinet Member for Adults, Health and Wellbeing		
Who will be consulted before decision is made and how will this consultation take place	<p>Consultation has taken place with colleagues in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clinical Commissioning Group; • Legal and procurement; • Public Health teams; and • The Third Sector and Community Commissioning Team <p>A number of meetings have taken place, and a working group has been set up with representatives from each of the divisions/teams mentioned above.</p> <p>A meeting with the existing provider will take place once a decision is made.</p>		
Has an Equality Impact Assessment been carried out and if so the result of this Assessment?	Between January and March 2019		
Contact details for comments or additional information	Warwick Tomsett Joint Director, Integrated Commissioning warwick.tomsett@towerhamlets.gov.uk		
What supporting documents or other information will be available?	Cabinet Report: An Integrated Information and Advice Plan for Tower Hamlets.		
Is there an intention to consider this report in private session and if so why?	No, Unrestricted		
Title of Report	Lease renewal of 17-19 Brick Lane, London, E1 6PU	Ward Spitalfields & Banglatown	Key Decision? No
Summary of Decision	Lease renewal of a shop tenancy where the total lease term rent value exceeds delegated authority.		

Decision maker Date of decision	Cabinet 30/01/19
Community Plan Theme	A dynamic outcomes-based Council using digital innovation and partnership working
Cabinet Member	Mayor
Who will be consulted before decision is made and how will this	None

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consultation take place			
Has an Equality Impact Assessment been carried out and if so the result of this Assessment?	No		
Contact details for comments or additional information	Richard Chilcott, Nicol Ruchti (Acting Divisional Director, Property and Major Programmes) richard.chilcott@towerhamlets.gov.uk, (Interim Asset Manager) Nicol.Ruchti@towerhamlets.gov.uk		
What supporting documents or other information will be available?	None		
Is there an intention to consider this report in private session and if so why?	No, Unrestricted		
Title of Report	Contracts Forward Plan 2018/19 – Quarter Four	Ward All Wards	Key Decision? Yes
Summary of Decision	This report presents the contracts being procured during quarter 4. The report also sets out the Contracts Forward Plan at Appendix 1 to the report. 2. The report asks for confirmation that all contracts can proceed to contract award after tender.		

Decision maker Date of decision	Cabinet 27/03/19
Community Plan Theme	All Priorities
Cabinet Member	Cabinet Member for Resources and the Voluntary Sector
Who will be consulted before decision is made and how will this consultation take place	Necessary consultation will be undertaken in accordance with the council's policies and procedures. Where required, consultation with service users and stakeholders will be undertaken as part of the project and budget approval process. Necessary consultation will be undertaken in accordance with the council's policies and procedures. Where required, consultation with service users and stakeholders will be undertaken as part of the project and budget approval process.
Has an Equality Impact	No. Contact specific EQIA is expected to be completed by respective contract

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Assessment been carried out and if so the result of this Assessment?	owners as part of the Directorate approval.		
Contact details for comments or additional information	Neville Murton, Jonathan Fox, Zamil Ahmed (Acting Corporate Director, Resources) neville.murton@towerhamlets.gov.uk, Legal Services jonathan.fox@towerhamlets.gov.uk, (Head of Procurement) zamil.ahmed@towerhamlets.gov.uk		
What supporting documents or other information will be available?	Report and appendices include details of all contracts to be awarded.		
Is there an intention to consider this report in private session and if so why?	No, Unrestricted		
Title of Report	Disposal of residential property at 34 Mount Terrace, E1 2BB	Ward Whitechapel	Key Decision? No
Summary of Decision	To agree that 34 Mount Terrace is surplus to requirements and to dispose of the property on the open market.		

Decision maker Date of decision	Cabinet 30/01/19
Community Plan Theme	A borough that our residents are proud of and love to live in
Cabinet Member	Mayor
Who will be consulted before decision is made and how will this consultation take place	The Strategic Housing Team has provided input as to suitability of using the property for housing delivery. Internal communication:
Has an Equality Impact Assessment been carried out and if so the result of this Assessment?	No
Contact details for comments or additional information	Nicol Ruchti, Richard Chilcott (Interim Asset Manager) Nicol.Ruchti@towerhamlets.gov.uk, (Acting Divisional Director, Property and Major Programmes) richard.chilcott@towerhamlets.gov.uk
What supporting documents or other information will be	

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available?			
Is there an intention to consider this report in private session and if so why?	Partly Exempt (Part of the report will be exempt)		
Title of Report	The Council's 2019-20 Budget Report and MTFS 2019-22	Ward All Wards	Key Decision? Yes
Summary of Decision	To agree a draft budget for the financial year 2019/20 to be put forward for consideration.		

Decision maker Date of decision	Council 20/02/19		
Community Plan Theme	All Priorities		
Cabinet Member	Cabinet Member for Resources and the Voluntary Sector		
Who will be consulted before decision is made and how will this consultation take place	<p>The Mayor, Lead Member for Resources and voluntary sector; and the Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Committee will be consulted.</p> <p>Public Consultation – 29th Oct – 10th Dec 2018.</p> <p>Public consultation on the broad areas of the developing themes and other key considerations such as any changes to the level of the Council tax</p>		
Has an Equality Impact Assessment been carried out and if so the result of this Assessment?	Yes. Initial screening will be completed for savings proposals – Full EA to be completed in advance of implementation		
Contact details for comments or additional information	Neville Murton (Acting Corporate Director, Resources) neville.murton@towerhamlets.gov.uk		
What supporting documents or other information will be available?	N/A		
Is there an intention to consider this report in private session and if so why?	No, Unrestricted		
Title of Report	Quarterly Performance & Improvement Monitoring - Q3 2018-19	Ward All Wards	Key Decision? No
Summary of Decision	This report provides the Mayor in Cabinet with an update on the delivery and implementation of the councils Strategic Plan		

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Decision maker Date of decision	Cabinet 27/02/19		
Community Plan Theme	A borough that our residents are proud of and love to live in		
Cabinet Member	Mayor		
Who will be consulted before decision is made and how will this consultation take place	none None - this is a performance and delivery update		
Has an Equality Impact Assessment been carried out and if so the result of this Assessment?	n/a		
Contact details for comments or additional information	Sharon Godman, Thorsten Dreyer (Divisional Director, Strategy, Policy and Partnerships) sharon.godman@towerhamlets.gov.uk, Strategy & Business Development Manager thorsten.dreyer@towerhamlets.gov.uk		
What supporting documents or other information will be available?	none		
Is there an intention to consider this report in private session and if so why?	No, Unrestricted		
Title of Report	Wayside Gardens, Marsh Wall; Disposal of Land	Ward Canary Wharf	Key Decision? Yes
Summary of Decision	The report recommends that the Council disposes of the land comprising Wayside Gardens to the developer of a wider redevelopment scheme, which has planning permission. It is recommended that the receipt from the disposal is ring fenced to fund improvements to existing parks in the Isle of Dogs area.		

Decision maker Date of decision	Cabinet 30/01/19		
Community Plan Theme			
Cabinet Member			
Who will be consulted before decision is made and how will this	Written material The planning application which included the land went through the normal public		

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consultation take place	consultation process. Internal consultation with Parks, Public Realm and the Mayor's office.		
Has an Equality Impact Assessment been carried out and if so the result of this Assessment?	No		
Contact details for comments or additional information	Caleigh Freeman (Business Management Support) caleigh.freeman@towerhamlets.gov.uk		
What supporting documents or other information will be available?	None		
Is there an intention to consider this report in private session and if so why?	Partly Exempt (Part of the report will be exempt) Yes. Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority handling the information)		
Title of Report	Site at 20 Alton Street E14 6BZ	Ward Lansbury	Key Decision? Yes
Summary of Decision	The report will cover the grant of a new long lease for the site at 20 Alton Street.		

Decision maker Date of decision	Cabinet Not before 19/12/18		
Community Plan Theme	A borough that our residents are proud of and love to live in		
Cabinet Member	Mayor		
Who will be consulted before decision is made and how will this consultation take place	<p>There has been consultation with the Mayor LEMA has consulted the users of the facility LEMA has been in liaison with the council for several years over this matter. There has been consultation with the Mayor. LEMA has consulted the users of the facility and the surrounding community. The report author had consulted Legal Services and Finance as part of preparing the report that was presented in July. There has also been liaison with Housing Regeneration and the Major projects team.</p> <p>Written reports</p>		
Has an Equality Impact Assessment been carried out and if so the result of this Assessment?	No		
Contact details for comments or additional information	Meloneze Wynter, Anaclette Austrie, Nicole Layton (Senior Strategic Asset Manager) meloneze.wynter@towerhamlets.gov.uk, (Executive Assistant, Corporate Director) Tel: 020 7364 4096 anaclette.austrie@towerhamlets.gov.uk, PA to Mark Baigent		

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	Nicole.Layton@towerhamlets.gov.uk		
What supporting documents or other information will be available?	There is an electronic case file.		
Is there an intention to consider this report in private session and if so why?	No, Unrestricted		
Title of Report	Disposal of Land at Mantus Road E1	Ward Bethnal Green	Key Decision? Yes
Summary of Decision	Cabinet members are asked to approve the disposal of the land at Mantus Road to Tower Hamlets Community Housing. Receive 6 housing units from THCH in exchange for the land at Mantus Road.		

Decision maker Date of decision	Cabinet Not before 19/12/18
Community Plan Theme	A borough that our residents are proud of and love to live in
Cabinet Member	Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Air Quality
Who will be consulted before decision is made and how will this consultation take place	<p>Planning consultation is over several weeks</p> <p>The project is part of the Councils initiative to establish a pipeline development programme including estate regeneration scheme and infill sites. The pipe line programme is to be established in consultation with the Mayor and Cabinet and the programme has been discussed with Cabinet members.</p> <p>THCH has obtained planning permission and would have undertaken consultation as part of that process.</p>
Has an Equality Impact Assessment been carried out and if so the result of this Assessment?	No
Contact details for comments or additional information	Jane Abraham, Ralph Million (Housing Project Manager) jane.abraham@towerhamlets.gov.uk, (Senior Strategic Asset Manager, Place)
What supporting documents or other information will be available?	N/A
Is there an intention to consider this report in private session and if so why?	Partly Exempt (Part of the report will be exempt) The appendices as will contain commercially sensitive information

Title of Report	LBTH Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy - 2018 - 2023	Ward All Wards	Key Decision? Yes
Summary of Decision	The report recommends the adoption of a new Homelessness Strategy to run from 2018 to 2023. The Strategy will set out how the Council will tackle homelessness with emphasis on fulfilling the Council's duties under the 2017 Homeless Reduction Act, reducing Rough Sleeping in line with national and regional targets, increasing the supply of available housing and meeting the needs of specific groups impacted by homelessness.		

Decision maker Date of decision	Cabinet Not before 19/12/18
Community Plan Theme	People are aspirational, independent and have equal access to opportunities
Cabinet Member	Statutory Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Housing
Who will be consulted before decision is made and how will this consultation take place	Through key Homeless Service provider via the Homelessness Partnership Board Mail out and Presentation to all Registered Providers through the Tower Hamlets Housing Forum Bespoke workshops with residents directly impacted by Homelessness On line Consultation with the general public with draft document and survey Internal briefings including Health, Adults and Communities DLT
Has an Equality Impact Assessment been carried out and if so the result of this Assessment?	Yes - by 17 September 2018
Contact details for comments or additional information	Mark Baigent (Interim Divisional Director, Housing and Regeneration) mark.baigent@towerhamlets.gov.uk
What supporting documents or other information will be available?	Appendices: Homelessness Evidence Base Evaluation of Consultation Equality Impact Assessment Details of Homelessness Partners and Board Overview and Scrutiny – Effectiveness of Health and Social Care provision for homeless residents – 2018 Health and Homelessness Scrutiny Review
Is there an intention to	No, Unrestricted

consider this report in private session and if so why?			
Title of Report	Adopt London East Regional Adoption Agency – Business case	Ward All Wards	Key Decision? Yes
Summary of Decision	<p>It is proposed that a new East London Regional Adoption Agency (RAA) is created through combining the adoption services for the five East London Boroughs of Havering, Tower Hamlets, Newham, Barking and Dagenham and Waltham Forest.</p> <p>The cabinet report will set out the case for the region with a specific focus on the implications for Tower Hamlets</p>		

Decision maker Date of decision	Cabinet Not before 30/01/19
Community Plan Theme	A dynamic outcomes-based Council using digital innovation and partnership working
Cabinet Member	Cabinet Member for Children, Schools and Young People
Who will be consulted before decision is made and how will this consultation take place	<p>The business case has been produced in on going consultation with the staff groups below. The project team will continue to consult with the staff groups below through the same channels ahead of a formal decision.</p> <p>Strategic leads Service Leads Frontline social work staff Voluntary adoption agencies Legal services, commissioning, HR, performance and finance leads Local adopters Elected members Trade unions</p> <p>Through project board meetings, task and finish groups, workshops, staff engagement and consultation events, pan-London elected member and trade union events and other face to face meetings / contact.</p>
Has an Equality Impact Assessment been carried out and if so the result of this Assessment?	Yes
Contact details for comments or additional information	<p>Richard Baldwin, Sarah Steer (Divisional Director, Children's Social Care) richard.baldwin@towerhamlets.gov.uk, Business and Admin Services Manager sarah.steer@towerhamlets.gov.uk</p>

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What supporting documents or other information will be available?	n/a		
Is there an intention to consider this report in private session and if so why?	No, Unrestricted		
Title of Report	Homelessness Scrutiny Review Report and Action Plan	Ward All Wards	Key Decision? Yes
Summary of Decision	<p>Homelessness is a growing and complex problem which reaches right across health, public health, and social care. The Health Scrutiny Sub-Committee was concerned that health and social care provision for homeless residents is not as effective or as efficient as it is for other groups.</p> <p>This report submits the report and recommendations of the Health Scrutiny Sub-Committee review and the action plan for implementation.</p>		

Decision maker Date of decision	Cabinet Not before 19/12/18
Community Plan Theme	A dynamic outcomes-based Council using digital innovation and partnership working; People are aspirational, independent and have equal access to opportunities; TH Plan 3: Strong, resilient and safe communities; TH Plan 4: Better health and wellbeing.
Cabinet Member	Cabinet Member for Adults, Health and Wellbeing
Who will be consulted before decision is made and how will this consultation take place	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health, Adults, and Community DLT • CLT • Homeless Partnership Forum (forum includes representatives from Barts Health, Tower Hamlets CCG) • LBTH Housing Options Service <p>The health scrutiny sub-committee report and accompanying action plan was presented for comments and sign off.</p>
Has an Equality Impact Assessment been carried out and if so the result of this Assessment?	No
Contact details for comments or additional information	Sharon Godman (Divisional Director, Strategy, Policy and Partnerships) sharon.godman@towerhamlets.gov.uk
What supporting documents or other information will be	

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available?			
Is there an intention to consider this report in private session and if so why?	No, Unrestricted		
Title of Report	Contracts Forward Plan 2018/19 – Quarter Three	Ward All Wards	Key Decision? Yes
Summary of Decision	<p>To note the Contracts Forward Plan at Appendix 1 to the report.</p> <p>2. To confirm that all contracts can proceed to contract award after tender.</p> <p>3. To authorise the Divisional Director, Legal Services to execute all necessary contract documents in respect of the awards of contracts referred to in recommendation 2 above.</p> <p>4. To note the procurement forward plan 2018-22 schedule detailed in Appendix 2 to the report</p>		

Decision maker Date of decision	Cabinet 19/12/18		
Community Plan Theme	A dynamic outcomes-based Council using digital innovation and partnership working		
Cabinet Member	Cabinet Member for Resources and the Voluntary Sector		
Who will be consulted before decision is made and how will this consultation take place	Where required, consultation with service users and stakeholders will be undertaken as part of the project and budget approval process. Necessary consultation will be undertaken in accordance with the council’s policies and procedures.		
Has an Equality Impact Assessment been carried out and if so the result of this Assessment?	No. Contact specific EQIA is expected to be completed by respective contract owners as part of the Directorate approval.		
Contact details for comments or additional information	Ekbal Hussain, Zamil Ahmed (Financial Planning Manager, Resources) ekbal.hussain@towerhamlets.gov.uk, (Head of Procurement) zamil.ahmed@towerhamlets.gov.uk		
What supporting documents or other information will be available?	Report and appendices include details of all contracts to be awarded.		
Is there an intention to consider this report in private session and if so why?	No, Unrestricted		
Title of Report	Withy House Tenant Management Organisation Termination Notice – outcome	Ward Bethnal Green	Key Decision? No

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	of independent assessment		
Summary of Decision	[Cabinet on 17th December 2017 deferred a decision to terminate the Management Agreement with Withy House Tenant Management organisation pending an organisational review by an independent professional assessor. This review has now been completed and the matter is brought back to Cabinet for final decision		

Decision maker Date of decision	Cabinet 19/12/18		
Community Plan Theme	A borough that our residents are proud of and love to live in		
Cabinet Member	Councillor Sirajul Islam, (Statutory Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Housing) Cllr.Sirajul.Islam@towerhamlets.gov.uk		
Who will be consulted before decision is made and how will this consultation take place	N/A N/A		
Has an Equality Impact Assessment been carried out and if so the result of this Assessment?	No		
Contact details for comments or additional information	John Kiwanuka (Housing Partnerships Manager, Housing Strategy Regeneration and Sustainability, Development & Renewal)		
What supporting documents or other information will be available?	Appendix 1 Independent Assessors Report		
Is there an intention to consider this report in private session and if so why?	No, Unrestricted		
Title of Report	Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme 2019-2020	Ward All Wards	Key Decision? Yes
Summary of Decision	Each financial year, the council is required by law to consider whether to revise its scheme or replace it with a different scheme. Following a full public consultation, this report recommends changes to the council's Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme 2019-2020.		

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Decision maker Date of decision	Council 23/01/19		
Community Plan Theme	People are aspirational, independent and have equal access to opportunities		
Cabinet Member	Cabinet Member for Resources and the Voluntary Sector		
Who will be consulted before decision is made and how will this consultation take place	All households were contacted and invited to participate in the consultation. A full public consultation on the changes to the Local Council Tax Reduction scheme (LCTRS) has taken place.		
Has an Equality Impact Assessment been carried out and if so the result of this Assessment?	The LCTRS was subject to a full equalities analysis when the scheme was introduced in 2017.		
Contact details for comments or additional information	Neville Murton, Steve Hill (Acting Corporate Director, Resources) neville.murton@towerhamlets.gov.uk, (Head of Benefits Services, Resources) steve.hill@towerhamlets.gov.uk		
What supporting documents or other information will be available?	N/A		
Is there an intention to consider this report in private session and if so why?	No, Unrestricted		
Title of Report	Report of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee: Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme scrutiny challenge report	Ward All Wards	Key Decision? No
Summary of Decision	Following the Overview and Scrutiny challenge session on the council's Local Council Tax Reduction scheme, this report contains the findings and recommendations from the scrutiny challenge, officers response and an action plan for the Mayor in Cabinet to consider.		

Decision maker Date of decision	Cabinet 09/01/19		
Community Plan Theme	People are aspirational, independent and have equal access to opportunities		
Cabinet Member	Cabinet Member for Resources and the Voluntary Sector		
Who will be consulted before decision is made and how will this	All households were contacted and invited to participate in the consultation. A full public consultation on the changes to the Local Council Tax Reduction		

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consultation take place	scheme (LCTRS) has taken place.		
Has an Equality Impact Assessment been carried out and if so the result of this Assessment?	The LCTRS was subject to a full equalities analysis when the scheme was introduced in 2017.		
Contact details for comments or additional information	Neville Murton, Steve Hill (Acting Corporate Director, Resources) neville.murton@towerhamlets.gov.uk, (Head of Benefits Services, Resources) steve.hill@towerhamlets.gov.uk		
What supporting documents or other information will be available?	N/A		
Is there an intention to consider this report in private session and if so why?	No, Unrestricted		
Title of Report	Council Tax Report 2019/20	Ward All Wards	Key Decision? Yes
Summary of Decision	To set the Council Tax base for the financial year 2019/20.		

Decision maker Date of decision	Cabinet 09/01/19
Community Plan Theme	All Priorities
Cabinet Member	Cabinet Member for Resources and the Voluntary Sector
Who will be consulted before decision is made and how will this consultation take place	The Mayor, Lead Member for Resources and voluntary sector; and the Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Committee will be consulted.
Has an Equality Impact Assessment been carried out and if so the result of this Assessment?	N/A
Contact details for comments or additional information	Neville Murton (Acting Corporate Director, Resources) neville.murton@towerhamlets.gov.uk
What supporting documents or other information will be available?	N/A
Is there an intention to consider this report in private session and if so	No, Unrestricted

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why?			
Title of Report	Fees & Charges 2019/20	Ward All Wards	Key Decision? Yes
Summary of Decision	Fees and charges are reviewed annually as part of the financial and business planning process. This ensures that they are set at the appropriate level for the prevailing economic circumstances and represents good practice in terms of the Council's aim to provide value for money.		

Decision maker Date of decision	Cabinet 30/01/19		
Community Plan Theme	All Priorities		
Cabinet Member	Cabinet Member for Resources and the Voluntary Sector		
Who will be consulted before decision is made and how will this consultation take place	The Mayor, Lead Member for Resources and voluntary sector; and the Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Committee will be consulted.		
Has an Equality Impact Assessment been carried out and if so the result of this Assessment?	Yes, on 11/12/2018		
Contact details for comments or additional information	Neville Murton (Acting Corporate Director, Resources) neville.murton@towerhamlets.gov.uk		
What supporting documents or other information will be available?	N/A		
Is there an intention to consider this report in private session and if so why?	No, Unrestricted		
Title of Report	Mudchute Farm, Park and allotments, Pier Road E14, Grant of long lease	Ward Blackwall & Cubitt Town; Island Gardens	Key Decision? Yes
Summary of Decision	The report recommends that the Council Grants a long lease of the land comprising Mudchute Farm, Park and allotments to the Mudchute Association. At the same time the Association will grant a sub-lease of the two allotments areas to the Isle of Dogs Allotments Society.		

Decision maker Date of decision	Cabinet 27/02/19		
Community Plan	A borough that our residents are proud of and love to live in		

Forward Plan December 2018

Theme	
Cabinet Member	Mayor
Who will be consulted before decision is made and how will this consultation take place	Internal consultation with Parks and the Mayor's Office. Written material
Has an Equality Impact Assessment been carried out and if so the result of this Assessment?	No
Contact details for comments or additional information	Richard Chilcott, Alan McCarthy, Ralph Million (Acting Divisional Director, Property and Major Programmes) richard.chilcott@towerhamlets.gov.uk, (Asset Strategy Capital Delivery & Property Services) alan.mccarthy@towerhamlets.gov.uk, (Senior Strategic Asset Manager, Place)
What supporting documents or other information will be available?	None
Is there an intention to consider this report in private session and if so why?	No, Unrestricted

