

Meeting of the

CABINET

Wednesday, 21 October 2020 at 5.00 p.m.

TABLED PAPERS

	PAGE NUMBER
5.1 Chair's Advice of Key Issues or Questions	
Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Committee (OSC) to report on any issues raised by the OSC in relation to unrestricted business to be considered.	3 - 10

If you require any further information relating to this meeting, would like to request a large print, Braille or audio version of this document, or would like to discuss access arrangements or any other special requirements, please contact:

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Item 6.1 Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2019-20	
Questions	Response
<p>Safeguarding Adults Reviews 2019-20 page 16</p> <p>Some of these cases are quite old i.e. one individual died in 2014, only two of seven more recent from 2018</p> <p>Question 1 - will we get more timely reports from safeguarding reviews in future especially on COVID related deaths at home and in care homes?</p>	<p>The Board acknowledges that some of the Safeguarding Adult Reviews we have published have taken a significant amount of time to conclude and we know from London and national reviews that this is an issue experienced by other local authorities. We aim to complete reviews within 6 months which is generally accepted as best practice. However, there are some factors not fully in our control that can prolong timescales for example establishing contact with the family, the circumstances of the independent review authors, delays in partners providing information or new information which comes to light requiring additional investigation. We recognise the importance of conducting reviews not only efficiently but also in a way that adds value. We therefore conducted two thematic reviews and published them last year and are aiming to utilise different methodologies to carry out more rapid reviews. Learning from cases is identified and shared in a dynamic way (not solely at the conclusion of a Safeguarding Adult Review) and often cases will have been through other processes to identify learning and improvement. The action plans and learning from each Safeguarding Adult Review is reported to the Safeguarding Adults Board on a regular basis.</p> <p>Safeguarding concerns are screened by the Local Authority when received and decisions are made regarding whether or not cases require a full safeguarding enquiry (known as a Section 42 enquiry). Such enquiries would consider all presenting concerns inclusive of any issues relating to Covid. Safeguarding Adult Reviews are only carried out in certain circumstances and at the current time we have none which relate to Covid.</p>

Item 6.2 (Appendix 1) to Children's Safeguarding Board Report	
Questions	Response
<p>Page 3 "I am overseeing the collection and the use of information and data through my chairing of the Quality Assurance and Performance Group."</p> <p>Question 1 Will Councillors be shown detailed data from children's service as well? as one of the key lessons from failing OFSTED is that we had data problems.</p>	<p>Yes, Councillors will be shown detailed data from Children's Services – a report on Children's Social Care is being prepared for Cabinet in the new year and this will include the most up to date data set.</p>
<p>Map of TH page 4</p> <p>Question 2 What does this map on p4 represent, what is the source? most deprivation maps show high levels of deprivation in for example the Samuda Estate. This does not.</p>	<p>The map is taken from page 36 of the published "Deprivation in Tower Hamlets: Analysis of the 2015 Indices of Deprivation Data" and represents the Crime Domain Lower Super Output Areas. https://www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/Documents/Borough_statistics/Incomd_poverty_and_Welfare/Indices_of_Deprivation_High_Resolution.pdf</p>
Item 6.3 Cubitt Town Schools	
Questions	Response
<p>Question 1 - When will new staffing structures be agreed and managed?</p>	<p>If, following the statutory notice, a decision is made for the schools to amalgamate the governing body will begin managing the process for establishing the new staffing structure. Should it be necessary to consider a reduction in staff numbers, this will be undertaken in accordance with the Council's School Organisational Changes Procedures, which are included as an appendix to the cabinet report.</p>

Item 6.4 Proposal to close Shapla primary school				
Questions	Response			
Question 1 - What support will be in place for transition for those with SEN?	The Council is very mindful of the support necessary for SEN children. The Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator (SENCO) at Shapla School is compiling information about children with Education Health and Care Plans and other SEN needs. This will be discussed with neighbouring SENCOs. If a statutory notice to close Shapla is issued the SENCO will then arrange 1 to 1 Review meetings for all children with EHCPs, so that appropriate placements can be identified and transition plans drawn up.			
Question 2 - What support will be in place for those with siblings into one school?	When making arrangements for the Shapla children to transfer to other nearby schools the Council will endeavour to ensure that siblings remain together, and there is facility for this under each schools' admission criteria.			
Question 3 - Is amalgamation with another school an option? To avoid disruption to families?	Regrettably, there is not really the option to amalgamate/federate Shapla with a nearby school as this would not achieve the necessary reduction in the number of surplus school places for the area.			
Question 4 - Will the local schools all be able to accommodate those from Shapla without being oversubscribed?	Yes, there are enough places available at neighbouring schools, to enable a reasonable degree of choice. During the Summer Term 2021 the Council's Pupil Services Team will work with the Shapla School to allocate places for the children at nearby schools for September 2021, using a parental preference system and applying the existing school admission criteria. If parents are interested in moving their children before July 2021, they can do so under the Tower Hamlets 'In-Year Admission' procedure.			
Question 5 - What was number of consultation responses compared to other school closure/amalgamation consultation response numbers?		Schools	Written responses	Informal meetings (Face to face / virtual)
	Amalgamation	Redlands and Smithy	62	Attended by parents and staff Total not specified
		St Anne's and Guardian Angels	79	Attended by parents and staff 93 in total
		Cubit Town Inf/Jun	0	Attended by parents and

				staff 4 in total
	Closure	St Matthias	44	Attended by parents and staff 72 in total
		Shapla	15	12 Headteachers 15 Parents 5 Staff
Question 6 - Will the following be available at the next stage of this process in March?				
- Deficit recovery plan		If, following responses to the statutory notice, the recommendation is for Shapla to close the next cabinet report will provide details of the School's budget position and how this will be managed through to closure.		
- Details of how pupils are moving to other schools		The March cabinet report will provide an update on the number of pupils remaining at Shapla as well as information on the alternative schools available nearby. It will also explain the arrangements in place for these pupils to change schools, should the decision be made for Shapla to close.		
- Details of how staff movement/redundancy/TUPE		<p>If the recommendation is for Shapla to close a separate consultation will then be undertaken with staff, in accordance with the School's Organisational Change Policy (See Appendix 4).</p> <p>Staff will be supported with training and other opportunities to help them to be redeployed to other vacancies in Tower Hamlets and voluntary redundancy options will be available. A formal Organisational Business Case will be developed in January/February and will be available for consultation from March 10th.</p> <p>The impact of TUPE provisions may also need to be considered depending upon the final recommendation.</p>		
- Details of future of building		A review on the future use of the building is being undertaken, in advance of the possibility for the School to close. If it is decided that the site is no longer required for educational purposes, approval will be sought (from the		

	Department for Education) for the site's change of use or disposal. Any proceeds from the disposal of school land must be reinvested for the purpose of improving the schools estate, so this would benefit pupils at other schools in the borough.
Item 6.5 Covid 19 Volunteer Hub - Grant Variation for Capacity Building and Infrastructure Grant Programme	
Questions	Response
Question 1 - How will the impact of the Volunteer Centre Tower Hamlets be assessed and how will it be presented?	<p>The Council will monitor VCTH's progress in delivering agreed outcomes, KPIs and targets for the Hub contained in the revised funding agreement (and contract, for the Council volunteering part of the hub). KPIs will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Number of new volunteer registrations with the Hub - VCS organisations supported to advertise their volunteering roles through the Hub - Number of residents of Tower Hamlets match to volunteering roles with the Council. <p>The Council will receive quarterly monitoring returns and have regular monitoring meetings. It will report to the Council's Grant Determination (Cabinet) Sub Committee at six monthly intervals on the Programme's progress in achieving the outcomes in relation to VCS volunteering. The volunteer hub also regularly reports to the Local Outbreak Control Plan Silver Group and Safe Individuals Bronze group.</p>
6.6 Approval of Procurement of Electric Vehicle Charge Points	
Questions	Response
Question1 - how many street level parking permits has LBTH issued (of all types not just residents)? what % of those vehicles will have access to a street level charger at the end of 2021?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Residents – 23864 • Business – 605 • Contractors – 165 • Public Service - 856 <p>Total: 25,490</p>

	<p>By the end of 2021, we anticipate that there will be a total of 224 street level electric vehicle charging points in Tower Hamlets that will be able to charge electric and hybrid electric vehicles.</p> <p>Therefore around 0.9% of those vehicles will have access to a street level charger at the end of 2021.</p>
Question 2 - how many new LED streetlights & therefore new lamp posts have been installed on TH streets in the current programme?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9,028 LED currently installed • 3,884 columns
Question 3 - what were the reserves at the end of March in the Parking Control reserve, and can this money be spent on new EV chargers?	<p>Reserve at end of year was £3.2m.</p> <p>Yes, this money can be used for new EV chargers.</p>
Question 4 - what happens to the income from those new chargers i.e. the profit from charging vehicles to use the chargers?	<p>The Council uses grant funding to install electric vehicle charging infrastructure on its public highway network. One of the conditions attached to the grant funding is that the EV charging infrastructure must be supplied via suppliers appointed by the funding authority secured via a procurement they have carried out that has ensured the best value for money Pay-As-You-Go rates to the end user. The charges are levied by the operator of the charging infrastructure who receive the payments by users to cover the ongoing administrative and maintenance costs. The Council does not receive any of this income.</p>
Question 5 - how many LBTH owned / leased vehicles road licensed vehicles are electric only?	<p>We currently have two fully electric vehicles and two Plug In Hybrids which can be operated in fully electric mode, with plans to be developed to increase this over next 3 years.</p>

6.7 Extension of housing repairs and maintenance contract	
Questions	Response
<p>If Mears is not part of the procurement, could this have an impact on their performance during this consultation period and until new contracts are in place?</p> <p>If so, how will this be managed as this will not be value for money?</p>	<p>This is not a consultation period. This is an extension period, following on from Mears existing 10-year contract, with the same terms and conditions as currently, thereby offering consistent value for money.</p> <p>The extension is requested, to allow continuity of service delivery until the new contracts can be procured and implemented.</p> <p>Any alternative service delivery options we may use would likewise have been through relevant procurement processes and demonstrated their VFM.</p> <p>Whilst often performance can deteriorate towards the end of any contract (particularly where the incumbent is not successful in winning the ongoing contract), that is not specific to the extension, but rather something we would have to closely monitor and manage anyhow.</p> <p>Mears will most likely wish to tender for some or all of the new contracts, therefore it remains in their best interests to perform well.</p>
<p>What was the process for THH informing LBTH of the need to extend this contract and was it conducted in a timely manner?</p>	<p>THH Repairs Team and Procurement Team have been in regular and ongoing dialogue with LBTH counterparts, both prior to the pandemic and since.</p> <p>Pre-pandemic joint working had already led to Cabinet agreeing to commence procurement of a new repairs contract in 4 separate lots. The necessity for the extension became apparent during the summer months due to market conditions. This was raised with the Council.</p> <p>Government guidance has been followed and market conditions monitored, which have helped to shape the timeline.</p>

	<p>We believe the delay, and therefore resulting extension period, have been minimised as much as possible.</p>
<p>When will procurement work starts for a new contract beginning in November 21</p>	<p>Procurement is already well underway for all four replacement contracts, which will be implemented between July and November 2021.</p> <p>A significant amount of preparatory work has already been completed and the first stage (SQ stage) of the procurement process for the first contract (gas) is being published to the market this week.</p>
<p>If Mears is not part of the procurement, could this have an impact on their performance during this consultation period and until new contracts are in place?</p>	<p>As Q1 above.</p>
<p>If so, how will this be managed as this will not be value for money?</p>	<p>As Q1 above.</p>