

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Monday, 25 January 2021 at 6.30 p.m., Online 'Virtual' Meeting -
<https://towerhamlets.public-i.tv/core/portal/home>

SUPPLEMENTAL AGENDA PACK C

This meeting is open to the public to attend.

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Scan this code for
the electronic
agenda:



For further information including the Membership of this body and public information, see the main agenda.

- 7.1 ASB - Review the effectiveness of partnership response to ASB and the quality of service residents and victims of ASB receive** **All Wards** **3 - 14**

A copy of the presentation is attached.

- 9. PRE-DECISION SCRUTINY OF UNRESTRICTED CABINET PAPERS** **15 - 18**

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

(Time allocated – 30 minutes).

ASB – SPOTLIGHT Overview and Scrutiny Committee 25th Jan 2021

Page 3

Agenda Item 7.1



The London ASB Landscape



- **How do we compare and where do we rank?**
- We have the highest level of reported ASB in London
- LB Westminster currently has the second highest level
- LB Hackney and LB Newham are 4th and 6th highest in London

Page 4

Borough	ASB Nov 20 Rolling 12 months	Percentage (volume) change from previous year
Tower hamlets	27,594	+61.5% (10,505)
Westminster	22,072	+27.3% (4,738)
Hackney	20,125	+95.4% (9,827)
Newham	18,859	+88.2% (8,836)

<https://data.london.gov.uk/snb-dashboard/>



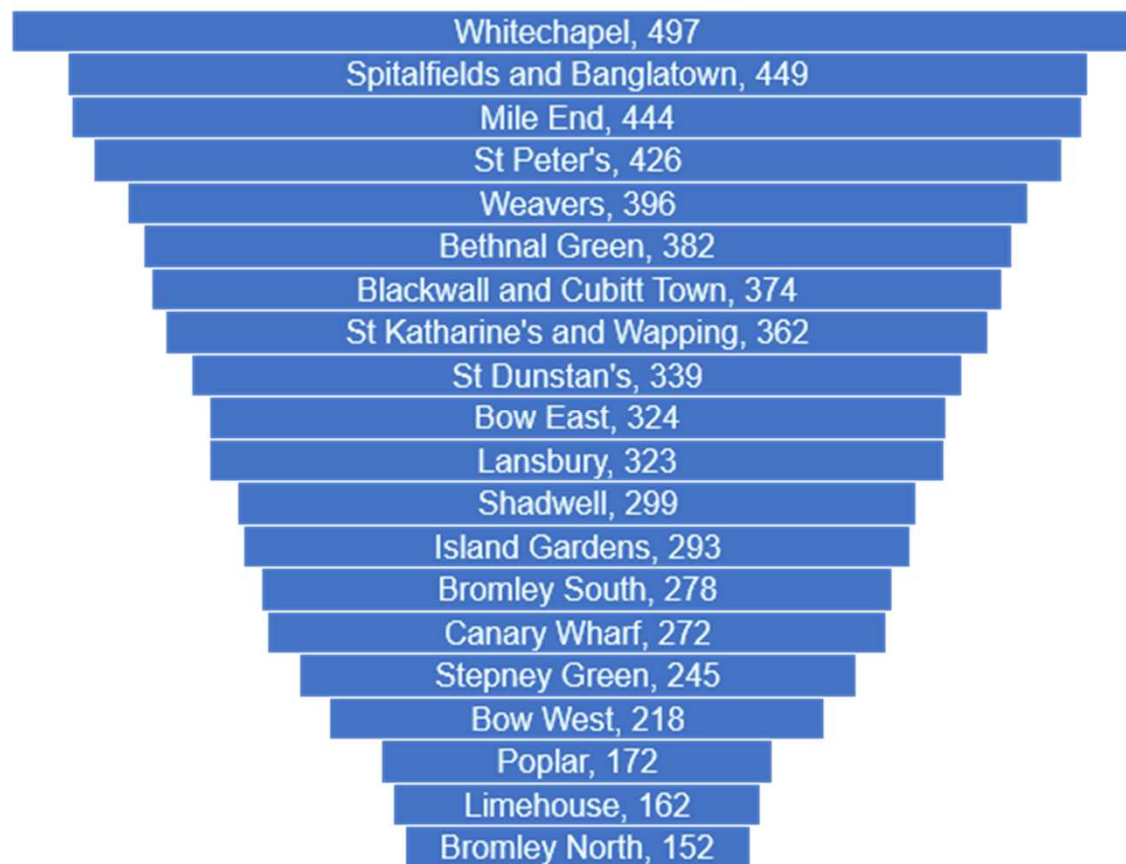
The Local ASB Context



ASB	Rank
Whitechapel	1st
Spitalfields and Banglatown	2nd
Mile End	3rd
St Peter's	4th
Weavers	5th
Bethnal Green	6th
Blackwall and Cubitt Town	7th
St Katharine's and Wapping	8th
St Dunstan's	9th
Bow East	10th
Lansbury	11th
Shadwell	12th
Island Gardens	13th
Bromley South	14th
Canary Wharf	15th
Stepney Green	16th
Bow West	17th
Poplar	18th
Limehouse	19th
Bromley North	20th

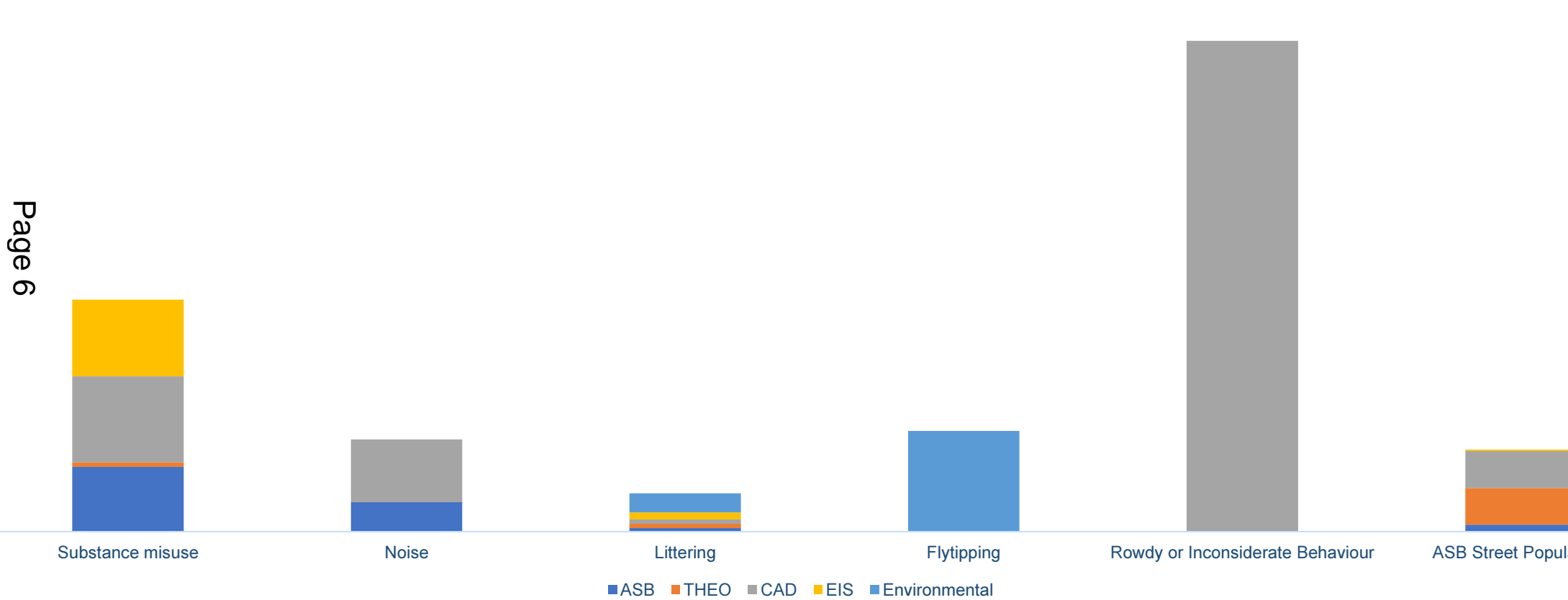
Page 5

ASB Ward Ranking



ASB - Drivers of Demand

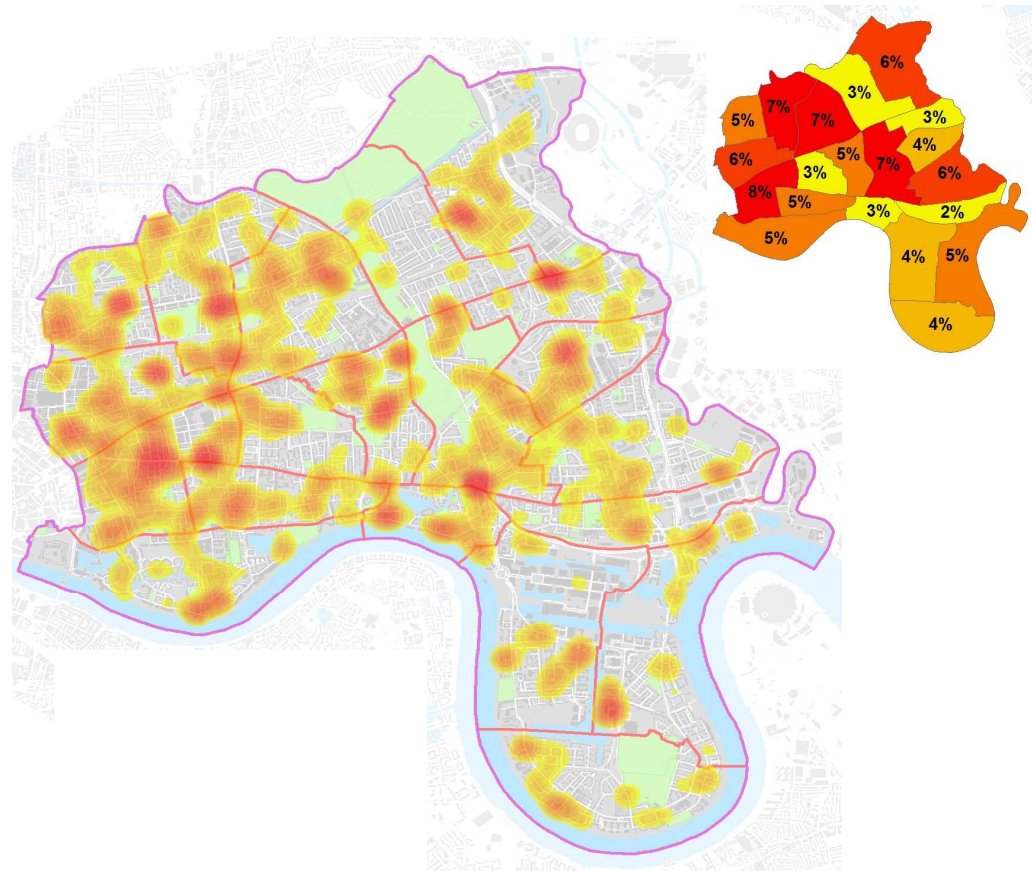
ASB Demand



Data range-Oct 2018- September 2020



Where is it happening Geographic Hotspots



- ❖ The hotspot map is reflective of ASB demand for the period relating to November 2019 up to October 2020.
- ❖ The volume of reported ASB is highest in the north west wards of Tower Hamlets.



Slide 5

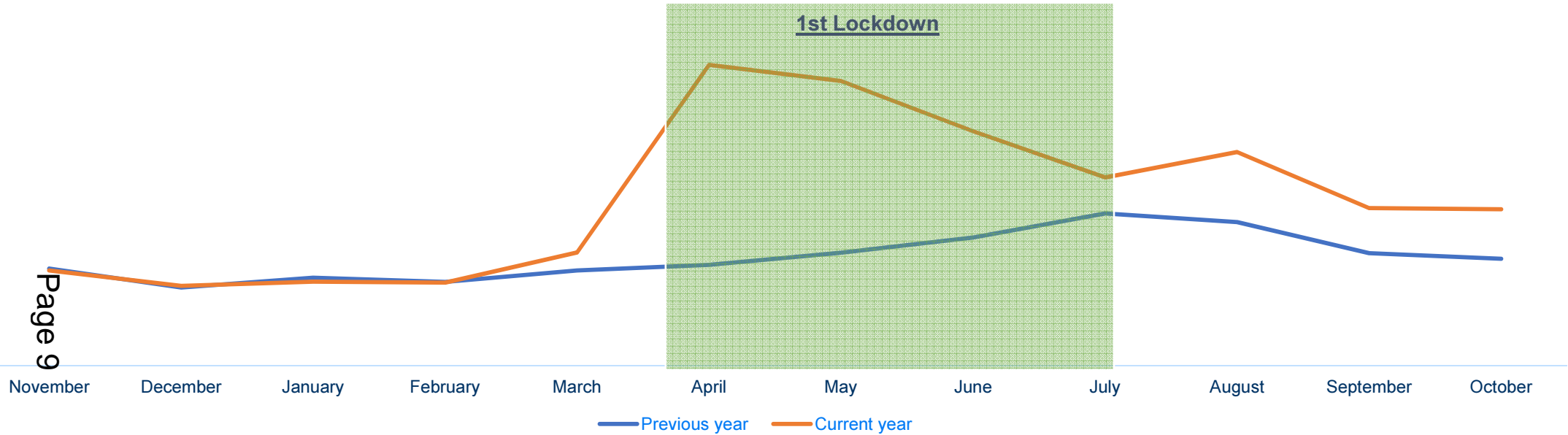
KS1

Not sure where this has come from Barry can you label this ?? its not clear

Kerrith Stewart, 08/01/21

ASB trends – COVID impact

Page 9



ASB demand has continued to increase - 53% in the last year

Some lockdown months saw the biggest increases, likely due to COVID19 related ASB reports

ASB reports are likely to have increased also due to the lockdown – “pent up” demand



Slide 6

KS2

tower hamlets is a very micro dense borough and we have alot more highrise residency than other boroughs.

Kerrith Stewart, 08/01/21

Community Safety Partnership Resident's Feedback 2020



83% think ASB is a serious problem

49% reported ASB as a “very significant issue”. This is in comparison to 42% of respondents reporting crime is a serious problem.

83% think noise nuisance is a big problem

Almost half of respondents felt noise nuisance was a big problem. The majority of respondents reported that it wasn't “noisy neighbours” that were the issue, but rather groups of youths congregating late into the night, often driving cars dangerously and revving engines loudly. Speeding or abandoned cars (66%) were reported as being a problem.

83% think Drugs & Drug dealing are a serious problem

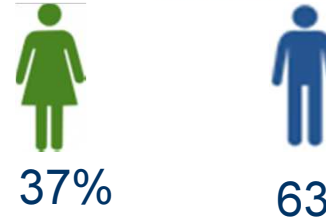
Drug use and drug dealing (88% of respondents), Nitrous Oxide (79%), were overwhelmingly identified as the main issues people had in terms of ASB. , Groups of youths congregating late into the night, partying on the street and making noise was also referenced by large cohort of respondents, as was ‘dog fouling’ and ‘Fly tipping’.



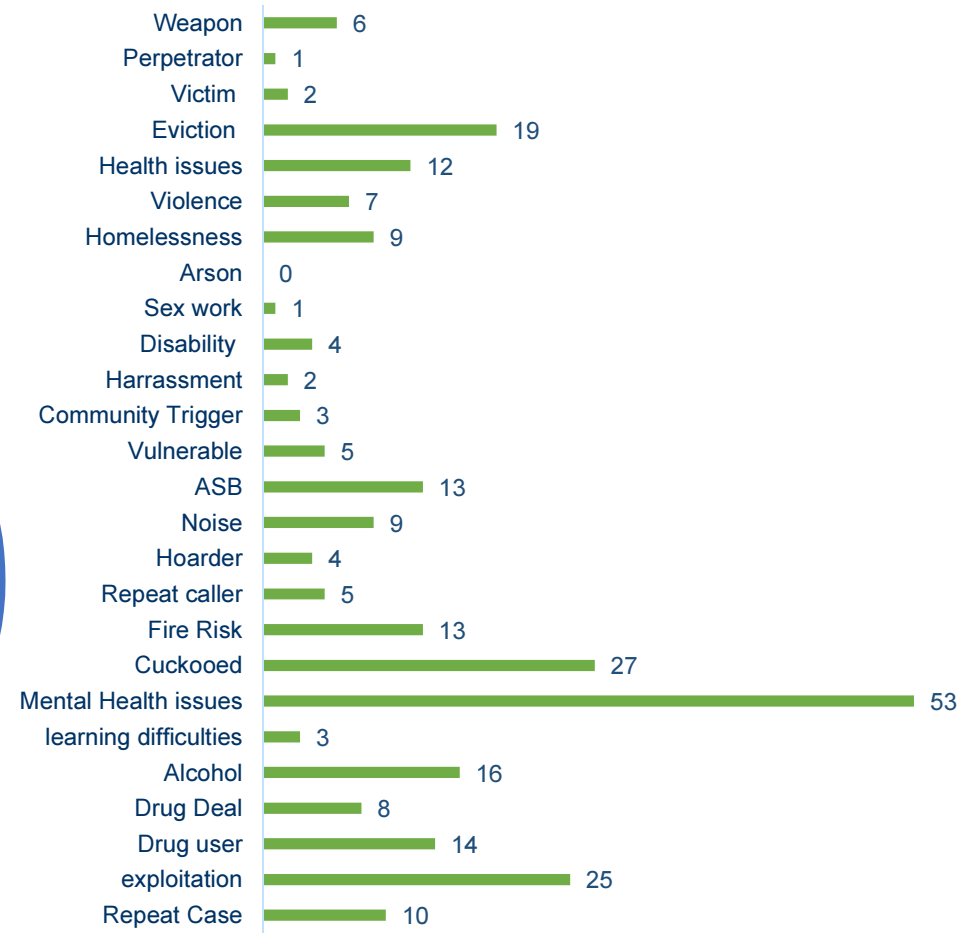
Safeguarding victims of ASB.



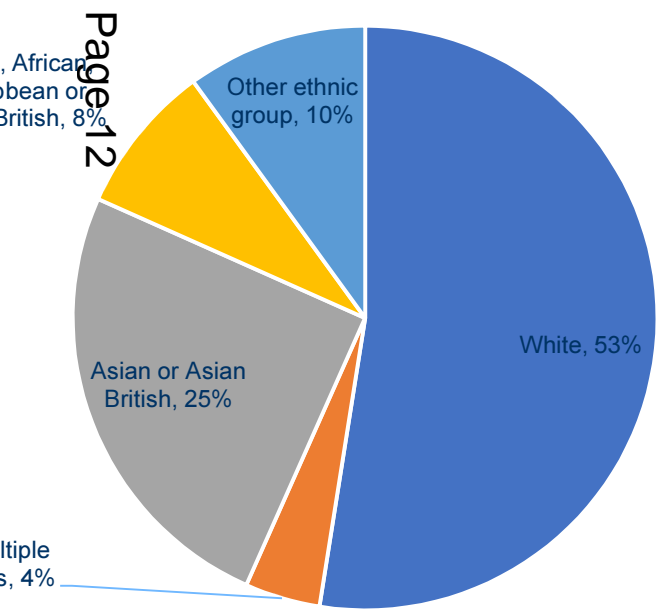
TOWER HAMLETS



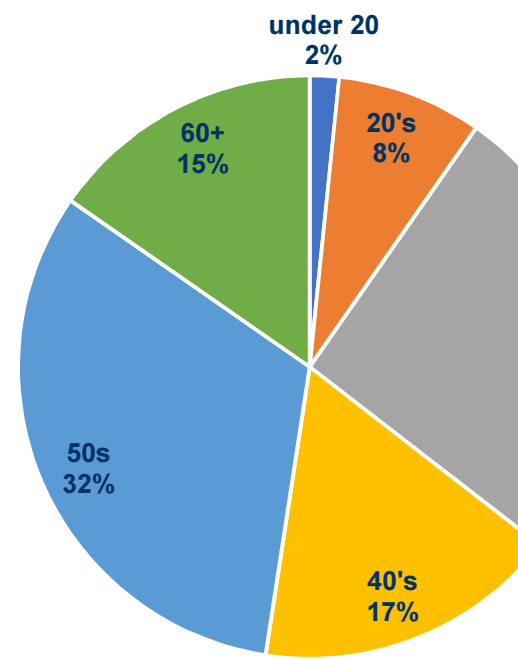
Vulnerabilities



Ethnicity



Ages



Tackling Perpetrators of ASB



- The 4 most prolific perpetrators of ASB known to various council services and agencies had a total of 304 incidents between them – substance misuse is a common factor.
- “Support /Enforcement Model” for those engaged in substance misuse particularly including those engaged in using drugs.
- Diversionary programmes for women involved in prostitution and “kerb crawling”.
- Council staff trained and able to use a broad range of enforcement powers to solve problems and deal with perpetrators.

Page 13



What are we doing – The Partnership Response



Project 14

Developing the Community Safety Partnership Plan – ASB priority
Revised Governance - Police, Council and Tower Hamlets Homes
Re-designed council offer (Safer Neighbourhood Operations) – localities
based teams to partner the ward panels,
Council Funded Police teams – tackling drugs
Neighbourhood Management roll out to worst affected wards
Customer Journey – improved online reporting and community trigger
review
Tackling the “middle issues” – crime and grime i.e. NOX
Improved criminal justice pathways – substance misuse
Better use of tools and powers and revised neighbourhood tasking
arrangements



Item 6.1 The Council's 2021-22 Budget Report and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2021-24	
Questions	Response
In the Capital Programme it puts £15m aside for purchase of housing for Temporary Accommodation. Is this a new fund or the continuation of an existing programme/agreement?	
Section 3.10.8 Allowing for the stated 8% increase to the High Needs Block what is the accrued deficit that will be bought forward?	
Section 3.10.10 As the Schools Forum confirmed some areas will not be de-delegated, such as SLS, as part of the formal budget setting process when and where will the Council confirm the budget arrangements for those non de-delegated areas of budget?	
Section 3.11.27 states “No further additions to the HRA will be considered until the two reports that Savills are working on are completed” However, the Council appointed Savills in January 2020, “to review the borrowing and investment capacity within the Housing Revenue Account (HRA), and other opportunities available to deliver affordable housing, in the light of the abolition of the HRA debt cap and potential introductions of new flexibilities for the reinvestment of Right-to-buy receipts. The primary driver was to establish if additional new homes could be delivered alongside investment in the existing stock including fire safety and energy efficiency works.” Could some of the draft finding be shared with the Cabinet and O&S committee so to consider how realistic the figure of £232.768m is for the delivery of the first 1,000 council homes programme?	
On the 23 September 2020 the Cabinet heard that “11.3.7 The HRA Business Plan Review, which has recently been completed, has established that there is sufficient funding available, for the capital works identified through the existing stock condition surveys, the anticipated costs of fire and building safety works that are expected from new regulations and the delivery of the first 1,000 council homes.” Could the updated HRA Business Plan Review be circulated with the budget papers? https://democracy.towerhamlets.gov.uk/mgConvert2PDF.aspx?ID=172684	
Regarding section “3.11.74 The cumulative impact on the HRA will not be clear until the various reforms all take effect. Provision has been made within the HRA MTFP for an increase in bad debts” could the Council outline the provision that has been made?	
Considering the highlighted areas of the Social Housing White Paper in the Cabinet report, is the Council reconsidering bring Tower Hamlets Homes ‘in house’ and if so, what is the timeline that the Council is working towards?	
Capital works to Parks 3.12.43 “Capital works are proposed for Victoria Park in 2021-22” has the Bonner Gate been included in the capital works proposal?	

Pre-decision Scrutiny Questions – responses requested by 12pm 27 January 2021

3.12.51 What level of funding review is needed for Seahorse Homes Ltd? When will the report go to Cabinet? And is the impact on the future supply of housing likely to be considerable?	
Has the “Income Through Housing Companies - reprofile of agreed saving RES08/18-19 SAV / COP 001 / 21-22 (250)” been identified by Savills? If so, please could the report be circulated to the committee?	
Is there a concern that with the financial pressures and changes to CCGs that the Council’s reliance on the staffing reduction outlined in the Integrated Commissioning staffing reductions SAV / HAC 004 / 21-22 may increase the risk to adult social care delivery in the borough?	
Could the committee see the list of the VCS organisations referred to in SAV / HAC 007 / 21-22 (i.e. organisations that have been identified as providing services to violence victims who are admitted to the Royal London Hospital)?	
What has changed between the 6th January and 27th January version of the report (for the General Fund)?	
Given that Tower Hamlets has the worst ASB rates in the country and that in the last Residents Survey it was the issue with the highest concern where is the additional capital funding to help with this? (the current £3.4 m is largely an upgrade of the existing CCTV network not an expansion of it)	
Q3 The GLA Isle of Dogs and South Poplar Development Infrastructure Funding Study assumed that all CIL and s106 earned in the Isle of Dogs and South Poplar area had be spent in that area in order to minimise infrastructure funding deficits for that area, is that the assumption guiding the allocation of CIL and s106 monies?	
6.1.6 Projected Movement in Reserves , item 6.1	
Q1 New Homes Bonus - substantial reserves are due to be maintained £37.8 million by March 2023, what is the long term plan, if any for this money?	
Q2 What is the estimated loss now in 2020/21 between inflation and interest earned on these reserves? (historically our reserves lost value as inflation exceeded interest earned)	
Appendix 8F Capital Potential Assets For Disposal	
Q1 The list does not include Jack Dash House, which in various previous documents had been listed as an asset the Council wish to sell, what is the plan now for Jack Dash House?	
Q2 How confident are we in these values given the changes in the market since the pandemic struck?	
Q3 What do the colours mean, green, orange, red on the report?	

Pre-decision Scrutiny Questions – responses requested by 12pm 27 January 2021

Item 6.3 Procurement of the Leisure Management Contract	
Questions	Response
Are there any financial risks to the council, if the contact was extended for a further 2 years until 2024?	
What happens if the management fee cannot be paid?	

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