

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Monday, 28 June 2021 at 6.30 p.m., Committee Room 1

SUPPLEMENTAL AGENDA – PDSQ’s

Due to ongoing Covid-19 restrictions, the press and public are encouraged to watch the meeting remotely through the <https://towerhamlets.public-i.tv/core/portal/home> site

Contact for further enquiries:

David Knight, Democratic Services
1st Floor, Town Hall, Town Hall, Mulberry Place, 5 Clove Crescent,
London, E14 2BG
Tel: 020 7364 4878
E-mail: david.knight@towerhamlets.gov.uk
Web: <http://www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/committee>

Scan this code for
the electronic
agenda:



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

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

All Wards

3 - 8

To consider and agree pre-decision scrutiny questions/comments to be presented to Cabinet. With particular reference to the **Annual Delivery and Performance Report 2020/21** [Link to Cabinet Report](#)

(Time allocated – 30 minutes).

Overview & Scrutiny PDSQs 28.06.2021

Item 6.1 Annual Council Performance & Delivery Report 2020/21	
Questions	Response
1. Outcome 5: Proportion of the population who live in LTN the target was not met. Are there likely to be further delays with the project (as it progresses, and residents continue to oppose)?	
2. Outcome 9-11: Staff sickness - With people working from home in future could this target change to improve sickness and absence rate?	
3. Page 40: Of the 260 people provided with emergency accommodation, how many are still in emergency accommodation? Are all 180 with a positive move on still in secure accommodation?	
4. Page 53: What was the number of increase in hospital discharges and what measures are being put in place to address the increased need?	
5. Page 58: Is there a breakdown of where in the borough the 119 residents supported with their Universal Credit application live?	
6. It is to be expected that Covid-19 has had significant impact on the council's performance. What steps have been taken to strip out Covid effects from the data to assess underlying performance? Two specific questions may help focus this: A) On school attendance, are absences related to Covid-19 recorded differently from other absence? Are we therefore able to see the rates of non-Covid-19 absence?	

Overview & Scrutiny PDSQs 28.06.2021

<p>B) Where Covid-related reasons for underperformance have been given, have these been accepted at face-value, or has evidence been presented? For example, where staff absence levels have been higher due to Covid, do these correspond with areas of lower performance?</p>	
<p>Item 6.2 Covid-19 Response – Annual Report 2020-21</p>	
<p>7. Can we have an update of the Appendix C: 2020-21 Covid-19 Financial Forecast Summary at 22 February 2021 provided to the 3rd March 2021 Cabinet meeting to understand the financial impact of COVID on the Council</p>	
<p>8. Page 7 of the report is unclear did LBTH provide 530 laptops + £50k in total?</p>	
<p>9. Page 97: Is the Covid-19 Response – Annual Report 2020-21 able to address the deaths in our care homes and the subsequent investigation into care home provision and its findings?</p>	
<p>10. Page 101: Parks and open spaces – Victoria Park was closed for a short time: could the dates of park closure be circulated as well as a confirmation of the reasons why the decision was made to close the park at that time?</p>	
<p>Item 6.3 Covid Recovery Fund</p>	
<p>11. Appendix 1 proposes £17,400 to the London Buddhist Centre for Mindfulness/Meditation. This seems to contradict the council's commitment/duty not to fund specific religious activities. Further, residents who belong to other faiths might be unable to engage in spiritual activities at a centre explicitly linked to a particular faith. If a mindfulness service is</p>	

<p>necessary, can a secular delivery partner be found so that residents of all faiths and none can access council-funded well-being services?</p>	
Item 6.4 Additions to Approved Capital programme 2020-21 to 2023-24	
<p>12. 5.1 <i>In September 2020, Cabinet approved a budget of £232.768m for 2020/21 – 2022/23 to contribute towards the delivery of the first 1,000 council homes. The first 1,000 council homes programme is shown in Table 2 below.</i></p> <p><i>Table 2 – First 1,000 council homes programme</i></p> <p>Appendix 2 only shows the budget for part of the 1,000 homes programme i.e. the Council built homes and the S106 homes at Barchester Court</p> <p>Where is the budget for the stock acquired from Poplar Harca 147 homes, and the budget for Property purchases (including out of borough) 249 homes?</p>	
<p>13. Where is the budget or the cost of the purchase of Angela Court on Burdett road?</p>	
<p>14. Two of the new community centres being built have a primarily religious purpose, how are we ensuring under our Equalities Duty under religion that all religious groups (or none) have equal access to local government built buildings? for example the church displaced by the construction of Blackwall Reach?</p>	
<p>15. Can we have a map of where the 3 bridges will go (Mayer Parry Bridge, Lochnagar Bridge, Poplar Reach Bridge) as not clear which ones</p>	

Overview & Scrutiny PDSQs 28.06.2021

they are?	
16. Page 121: Why is the 'Additions to Approved Capital programme 2020-21 to 2023-24' being presented at this stage and not updated as part of the Quarterly Monitoring Report prepared by Corporate Finance for July?	
17. Page 124: How was the figure of 2.980 for the Buy-back programme loan reached? Has the council considered transferring the released funds from the Modular homes to the Buy-back programme?	
18. Page 125: The Savills report was sent to officers in August 2020 and the contents updated with the Mayor and Lead member for Housing in September/October 2020. Overview and Scrutiny have requested copies of these reports for a number of months. Has the cabinet reviewed the draft reports? If not, what is the reason for the delay?	
19. Page 125: If the full scheme-specific budget approvals have not been presented to Cabinet since September 2019 is there a risk that the full impact to the HRH needs to be urgently considered by cabinet?	
20. Page 132: Regarding the changes to the Modular homes potential loan to PLACE Ltd, has the risk to the council been reviewed by the audit committee?	
21. Page 133: Have the risk management implications of the HRH spend listed in Appendix 2 as of March 2021 been reviewed by the audit committee?	
22. What are the reasons for the contingency increase from 1.837 to 20.992 listed in Appendix 2	

This page is intentionally left blank