

CABINET

Wednesday, 28 July 2021 at 5.30 p.m.

TABLED PAPERS

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5. OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	
5.1 Chair's Advice of Key Issues or Questions	
Pre-Decision Scrutiny Questions and officer responses	3 - 12

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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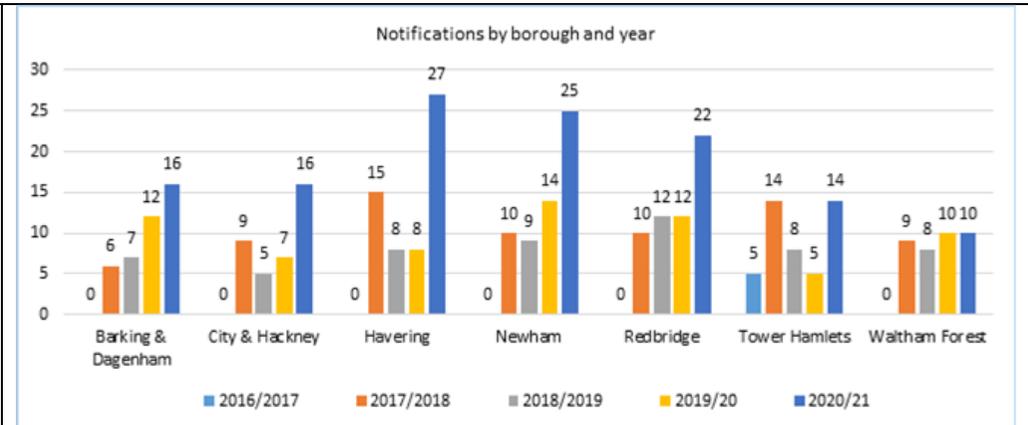
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Questions	Response
Item 6.1 Tower Hamlets Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2020-21	
<p>Ref: Learning Disability Mortality Reviews (LeDeRs) Across North East London (NEL) boroughs, Tower Hamlets trends on average in regard to the number of deaths being recorded</p> <p>1. How does the number of deaths of people with a learning disability in Tower Hamlets compare to other local authorities in and outside of London in terms of absolute numbers and life expectancy?</p>	<p>Reviewing the deaths of people known to have had a learning disability helps identify avoidable factors that lead to early deaths and supports services to improve their quality of care. Providing good quality care to people with learning disabilities and improving their health and wellbeing is a major step forward towards tackling inequalities within health and social care provision. Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCG), local authority and NHS Trust are expected to ensure LeDeR reviews are completed, and changes are put in place to improve services and reduce early deaths for people with learning disabilities.</p> <p>North East London (NEL) has received 333 death notifications since 2017. 87% (290) deaths were reviewed and closed by end of March 2021; 38 were in progress and 12 were awaiting allocation once reviewers become available. Of the 290 completed reviews, 25 were child deaths aged between 4 to 17 years old, whilst 265 were adults over 18 years old. The national team are compiling their report and we are currently awaiting narrative around comparison to other London Boroughs and the national picture.</p> <p>People with learning disabilities face more challenges than the general population and this was no exception during the COVID-19 pandemic. In March 2020, NEL recorded the first COVID-19 death. Since then more than twice the number of deaths were reported this year compared to the same period in the year before. In all boroughs in NEL except one, there was an increase in the number of death notifications during this current year due to COVID-19 as shown below.</p>

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According to Mencap (2021) and NHS Digital (2017) people with a learning disabilities have worse physical and mental health than people without a learning disability. On average, in the UK, the life expectancy of women with a learning disability is 18 years shorter than for women in the general population. The life expectancy for men with a learning disability is 14 years shorter than for men in the general population.

Life expectancy will vary amongst different communities and different populations, work is ongoing within this area to understand the complexities between life expectancy, learning disabilities and the population demographic of Tower Hamlets. Life expectancy will also vary between people with learning disabilities, this complex group have a wide spectrum of conditions between mild and profound learning disability which impacts on health and different population groups. The new LeDeR policy has recognised that more needs to be done to understand the needs of BAME population and to work with this group to improve access and equity in health outcomes hence reduced health inequalities.

Item 6.4 Adoption of the South Poplar Masterplan SPD

1. Given that LBTH part owns the largest site in the SPD area where is the new large green park going to be given the known open space deficiencies in the local area which are getting worse with every new planning application?

The masterplan proposes the delivery of a total of 1.8 hectares of new public open space in accordance with the Local Plan's site allocation requirements for the sites of North Quay (0.4 ha), the Billingsgate Market (0.4 ha) and Aspen Way (1 ha). This significant provision of new publicly accessible open space will assist in meeting the needs and demands of existing residents and the anticipated residential population that will come forward in the future. All sites within the masterplan area will be expected to contribute towards the creation of these allocated new public open space areas.

New open space to be made up of a series of public spaces, landscaped routes and pocket parks. The masterplan proposes the delivery of these spaces in locations along key connections and routes to ensure that access is efficient and equitable. The location of these spaces can be found on figure 39 (page 33) of the masterplan SPD. These new public spaces would be delivered across various areas of the masterplan to meet the need of existing and future residents.

It should be noted that the masterplan also seeks to deliver improved access over Aspen Way with improved and new bridge connections. This will create increased opportunity for the populations of Poplar to more freely access the public open space offerings within Canary Wharf and the Isle of Dogs whilst the populations within Canary Wharf and the Isle of Dogs will be able to access the public open space offerings north of Aspen Way in Poplar and beyond.

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Each individual residential-led development application will further be subject to existing local plan requirements relating to the creation of on-site communal open space and child play space areas.

Item 6.6 Adoption of the Central Area Good Growth Supplementary Planning Document

1. Given that LBTH has been missing its housing targets since February 2020 why was no opportunity been made in the SPD to encourage more growth in the central area (compare & contrast the language in this SPD to the South Poplar masterplan)?

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The SPD has taken the opportunity to facilitate the delivery of new homes on small sites (up to 0.25 hectares), while responding to, and enhancing, the area's distinctive and valued character. The expectation is that there will be a significant amount of development in the area, and with an understanding the character of the different parts, the capacity for individual development sites to change can be determined. There is potential for higher densities and this is specifically noted under the character-based growth principle of Reinvention, where it states "Developments should reinvent sites by introducing new building types with scope to creating a new street pattern/frontage and higher densities."

The guidance provides the planning process with greater certainty so that applicants have a clear idea of what is considered acceptable in this area and there are no delays in the decision making process.

The housing target for every borough in London is defined by the London Plan. Under the recently adopted London Plan (2021), Tower Hamlets has the highest housing target in London. In order to manage this growth and to ensure that it is delivered in a sustainable way and that it respects existing residents, the Tower Hamlets Local Plan 2031, defined 4 sub-areas: City Fringe; Lower Lea Valley; Isle of Dogs and South Poplar; and Central. The first three areas are also Opportunity Areas, which are defined by the Mayor of London as areas which have

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significant capacity for development.

The Central Area is not an Opportunity Area and it has a well-established, mostly low-rise residential character. It includes several listed buildings and conservation areas. Drawing from these considerations as well as a robust evidence-base (which can be accessed here), the Tower Hamlets Local Plan 2031 defined the expected housing growth for each of the 4 sub-areas. The minimum number of additional homes for the Central Area under the Local Plan is 7,597 or 14% of the borough's total.

There are a number of actions being taken by the council to ensure that it meets its housing need. The preparation of this and a number of SPDs to support the Local Plan is one of these actions, as they help to add more clarity to existing policies and to de-risk the development process. Moreover, Tower Hamlets is consistently one of the largest deliverers of affordable housing in London. In 2019/20 Tower Hamlets delivered 1,562 affordable homes in the year. This level of delivery for the year was the highest in London, by a large amount (Greenwich and Ealing following with 962, and 596 affordable homes respectively).

Item 6.7 Adoption of Reuse, Recycling and Waste SPD

1. Given the difficulties LBTH has had with URS collections over the last year are we still sure we want to recommend them?

Yes, we still recommend them. URS systems are used effectively across London and many European cities and LBTH's issues are temporary, relating to operational matters. These issues relate to the reliability of the two vehicles in the fleet, which are relatively new. The service resilience is immediately compromised if they breakdown, because the spare vehicle that the council had on the fleet is not ULEZ compliant. A viability assessment relating to its upgrade and return to the fleet is currently being undertaken. The Council has a new vehicle on order, which was scheduled to arrive in July but is has been delayed by the manufacturer until November. Increasing the fleet to 4 vehicles

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will provide the resilience the service needs to maintain collections going forward. We are also in the processes of purchasing a 5th vehicle to provide extra resilience and prepare for future increases in demand.

Once the servicing vehicle issues have been resolved, they will be running as they should. Additionally, the public realm department keeps track of the best practice waste management systems available to the council. The SPD provides sufficient scope for approaches to be tailored to the appropriate circumstances, while ensuring there is an overall clear guidance of what the Council expects. Any future versions of the SPD will incorporate the best approaches and understanding at that time.

There is a focus in the guidance that URS serves as an alternative to traditional bin stores; however, it is not the only other option. Aside of the AWCS type system there is the opportunity for developers to bring forward the use of chutes and compactors, or compactors serviced by another other means such as a concierge service. An example of this is part of the Wood Wharf development. This is using compactor skips with a chute system and this seems to be working well.

A key aim of the SPD is to introduce guidance on appropriate technology approaches, particularly important given the wide range of scales and types of development that characterise the borough. In addition to the guidance on improvements to residents, understanding and use of systems, moving away from a proliferation of bin stores, particularly on our largest developments, is an important objective.

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<p>1. Can we have a summary of interest earned in 2020/21 by category, as we only see total average income return of 0.89% number on p7 of Appendix A i.e. lending to other local authority earned x%, overnight deposits y%</p>	<p>As these are detailed questions/answers – responses will be provided by the close of 30 July 2021.</p>
<p>2. Inflation loss - can we have a calculation of the net effect of inflation on ALL reserves p7 of Appendix A?</p>	<p>As these are detailed questions/answers – responses will be provided by the close of 30 July 2021.</p>
<p>3. Balance sheet presented to the Audit Committee on Thursday has Internal Borrowings of £342 million, Useable Reserves £578 million + Working Capital £37 million - how do these numbers reconcile to the reserves in section 5 & 6 of Appendix A? how useable are our useable reserves or how liquid are they?</p>	<p>As these are detailed questions/answers – responses will be provided by the close of 30 July 2021.</p>
<p>4. What is Internal Borrowing and how do we calculate the interest earned and inflation that we see on section 7 of Appendix A?</p>	<p>As these are detailed questions/answers – responses will be provided by the close of 30 July 2021.</p>
<p>Item 6.12 Contracts Forward Plan 2021/22 – Quarter One</p>	
<p>1. DR5025 Energy Supply 01/09/2016 31/08/2021 60 36,000,000 PL - was this contract solely from non-renewable sources? Is the replacement for this contract going to be electricity solely from renewable sources?</p>	<p>From 2017 all half hourly electricity was backed by REGO's (renewable energy guarantee origin) certificates. From October 2021 all council electricity will be obtained from renewable sources backed by REGO's.</p>
<p>2. P5602 Supply Waste and Recycling Sacks and Starch Liners 15/06/2020 14/02/2022 20 415,000 PL - Given that most households do not get recycling sacks/starch liners it is unclear why this contract is so expensive? what do we actually purchase?</p>	<p>In order to deliver the in-house waste and recycling collections and street cleansing services the council utilises a variety of different types or sacks and starch liners.</p> <p>The council continues to provide household recycling sacks to approx. 24,000 street level properties on a twice yearly basis (104 sacks per property are provide through this twice yearly delivery). Supplies of recycling sacks are also provided to the Ideas Stores, which can be collected by residents. The provision through the Ideas Stores is</p>

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	<p>anticipated to be up to 220,000 rolls of 26 sack per annum.</p> <p>In addition to the household recycling sacks, the service also purchases colour coded residual waste and recycling sacks for the commercial waste service, sweeper sacks that are used in the street cleansing service and a supply of black sacks for the service's own use.</p> <p>Starch liners are purchased to support the kerbside food waste collection service and are also used by schools that are provided with a food waste collection.</p>
<p>3. P5601 Supply and Repair of Wheeled Bins, Euro Bins and Food Waste Gaddies 29/09/2020 28/03/2022 18 375,000 PL - Since you cannot currently order new household black and recycling bins from the LBTH website exactly what kind of categories of bins does LBTH supply or repair under this contract?</p>	<p>In order to deliver the in-house waste and recycling collection services the council utilises a wide range of bins and requires spare parts for those bins in order to maintain them in a satisfactory condition. The contract also includes the provision for the factory refurbishment of the Euro bins which restores damaged bins to as new condition.</p> <p>The contract allows the service to purchase steel wheeled bins (Euro bins) in sizes ranging from 660 litres to 1280 litres. Bins are used for both the household and commercial waste services.</p> <p>A number of RSL's in the borough rent residual waste bins from the service, the rental includes the repair and maintenance of those bins. Commercial waste customers pay a rental charge for the bin as part of their commercial waste contract. The rental charge also includes the service for repair of the bins.</p> <p>The spare parts purchased include replacement lids, lid assembly kits, lid licks, castors (wheels) and drain plugs.</p>

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In order to support the kerbside food waste service the council purchases two types of food caddies, 5 litre kitchen caddies and 23 litre collection caddies.

Plastic wheeled bins are purchased under a separate contract due to no suppliers having bid for the plastic wheeled bin Lot tendered under contract P5601.

Plastic wheeled bins for recycling are still supplied to suitable kerbside properties and plastic wheeled bins are used for commercial waste customers.

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