

# OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

**Monday, 7 February 2022 at 6.30 p.m., Room C1, 1st Floor, Town Hall,  
Mulberry Place, 5 Clove Crescent, London, E14 2BG**

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## **Members:**

**Chair:** Councillor Mohammed Pappu

**Vice Chair:** Councillor Bex White

Scrutiny Lead for Children and Education

Councillor Farouque Ahmed

Scrutiny Lead for Community Safety

Councillor Marc Francis

Councillor Ehtasham Haque

Scrutiny Lead for Housing and Regeneration

Councillor Denise Jones

Councillor Gabriela Salva Macallan

Scrutiny Lead for Health and Adults

Councillor Leema Qureshi

Scrutiny Lead for Resources and Finance

Councillor Andrew Wood

## **Co-opted Members:**

Halima Islam

Co-Optee

1 Vacant Post

1 Vacant Post

## **Deputies:**

Councillor Peter Golds, Councillor Zenith Rahman, Councillor Shah Ameen and Councillor Kevin Brady

[The quorum for this body is 3 voting Members]

## **Contact for further enquiries:**

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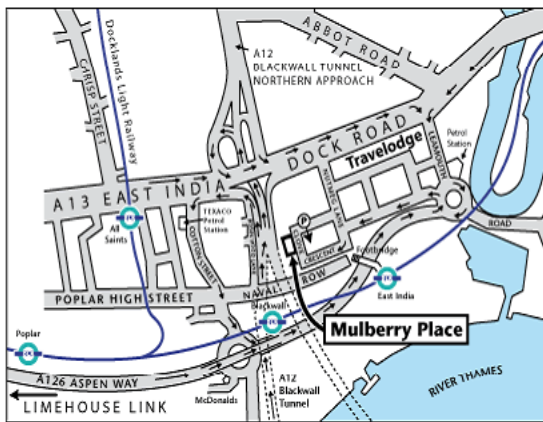
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SECTION ONE	WARD	PAGE NUMBER(S)
1. <b>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</b>		
To receive any apologies for absence.		
2. <b>DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTEREST AND OTHER INTERESTS</b>		7 - 8
Members are reminded to consider the categories of interest in the Code of Conduct for Members to determine whether they have an interest in any agenda item and any action they should take. For further details, please see the attached note from the Monitoring Officer.		
Members are reminded to declare the nature of the interest and the agenda item it relates to. Please note that ultimately it's the Members' responsibility to declare any interests form and to update their register of interest form as required by the Code.		
If in doubt as to the nature of your interest, you are advised to seek advice prior to the meeting by contacting the Monitoring Officer or Democratic Services		
3. <b>REQUESTS TO SUBMIT PETITIONS</b>		
To receive any petitions (to be notified at the meeting).		
4. <b>CHAIRS UPDATE</b>	All Wards	
5. <b>ACTION LOG</b>	All Wards	9 - 58
To note the Committees Action Log.		
6. <b>UNRESTRICTED MINUTES</b>		
6.1 <b>Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 13/12/2021</b>	All Wards	59 - 82
To confirm as a correct record of the proceedings the unrestricted minutes of the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 13/12/2021.		

<b>6.2</b>	<b>Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 24/01/2022</b>	<b>All Wards</b>	<b>83 - 88</b>
	To confirm as a correct record of the proceedings the unrestricted minutes of the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 24/01/2021.		
<b>7.</b>	<b>COMMUNITY SAFETY SPOTLIGHT</b>	<b>All Wards</b>	
	COMMUNITY SAFETY SPOTLIGHT		
<b>7.1</b>	<b>Community Safety Spotlight with Cabinet Member and Borough Commander</b>	<b>All Wards</b>	<b>89 - 100</b>
	The Committee will undertake a Spotlight Session with Borough Commander and Cabinet Member which will outline policing priorities for 2022/23 including an outline of achievements and challenges and a focus on rising youth violence in the Borough and actions taken to address this.		
<b>8.</b>	<b>SPOTLIGHT SESSION</b>		
<b>8.1</b>	<b>Mayors Spotlight</b>	<b>All Wards</b>	<b>101 - 102</b>
	The Committee will consider an overview of the Mayor's priorities, achievements, and challenges.		
<b>9.</b>	<b>UPDATES FROM SCRUTINY LEADS</b>	<b>All Wards</b>	<b>103 - 106</b>
<b>10.</b>	<b>PRE-DECISION SCRUTINY OF UNRESTRICTED CABINET PAPERS</b>	<b>All Wards</b>	<b>107 - 110</b>
	To consider and agree pre-decision scrutiny questions/comments to be presented to Cabinet.		
<b>11.</b>	<b>ANY OTHER UNRESTRICTED BUSINESS WHICH THE CHAIR CONSIDERS TO BE URGENT</b>		
	To consider any other unrestricted business that the Chair considers to be urgent.		
<b>12.</b>	<b>EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC</b>		
	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)**

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

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

#### **Next Meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

Monday, 14 February 2022 (Reserve Budget Meeting) at 6.30 p.m. to be held in Room C1, 1st Floor, Town Hall, Mulberry Place, 5 Clove Crescent, London, E14 2BG

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# Agenda Item 2

## **DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS AT MEETINGS– NOTE FROM THE MONITORING OFFICER**

This note is for guidance only. For further details please consult the Code of Conduct for Members at Part C, Section 31 of the Council's Constitution

### **(i) Disclosable Pecuniary Interests (DPI)**

You have a DPI in any item of business on the agenda where it relates to the categories listed in **Appendix A** to this guidance. Please note that a DPI includes: (i) Your own relevant interests; (ii) Those of your spouse or civil partner; (iii) A person with whom the Member is living as husband/wife/civil partners. Other individuals, e.g. Children, siblings and flatmates do not need to be considered. Failure to disclose or register a DPI (within 28 days) is a criminal offence.

Members with a DPI, (unless granted a dispensation) must not seek to improperly influence the decision, must declare the nature of the interest and leave the meeting room (including the public gallery) during the consideration and decision on the item – unless exercising their right to address the Committee.

**DPI Dispensations and Sensitive Interests.** In certain circumstances, Members may make a request to the Monitoring Officer for a dispensation or for an interest to be treated as sensitive.

### **(ii) Non - DPI Interests that the Council has decided should be registered – (Non - DPIs)**

You will have 'Non DPI Interest' in any item on the agenda, where it relates to (i) the offer of gifts or hospitality, (with an estimated value of at least £25) (ii) Council Appointments or nominations to bodies (iii) Membership of any body exercising a function of a public nature, a charitable purpose or aimed at influencing public opinion.

Members must declare the nature of the interest, but may stay in the meeting room and participate in the consideration of the matter and vote on it **unless:**

- A reasonable person would think that your interest is so significant that it would be likely to impair your judgement of the public interest. **If so, you must withdraw and take no part in the consideration or discussion of the matter.**

### **(iii) Declarations of Interests not included in the Register of Members' Interest.**

Occasions may arise where a matter under consideration would, or would be likely to, **affect the wellbeing of you, your family, or close associate(s) more than it would anyone else living in the local area** but which is not required to be included in the Register of Members' Interests. In such matters, Members must consider the information set out in paragraph (ii) above regarding Non DPI - interests and apply the test, set out in this paragraph.

### **Guidance on Predetermination and Bias**

Member's attention is drawn to the guidance on predetermination and bias, particularly the need to consider the merits of the case with an open mind, as set out in the Planning and Licensing Codes of Conduct, (Part C, Section 34 and 35 of the Constitution). For further advice on the possibility of bias or predetermination, you are advised to seek advice prior to the meeting.

**Section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act, 1992 - Declarations which restrict Members in Council Tax arrears, for at least a two months from voting**

In such circumstances the member may not vote on any reports and motions with respect to the matter.

**Further Advice** contact: Janet Fasan, Divisional Director Legal, Governance and Monitoring Officer, Tel: 020 7364 4348.

## **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	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. This includes any payment or financial benefit from a trade union within the meaning of the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992.
Contracts	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— (a) under which goods or services are to be provided or works are to be executed; and (b) which has not been fully discharged.
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	Any tenancy where (to the Member's knowledge)— (a) the landlord is the relevant authority; and (b) the tenant is a body in which the relevant person has a beneficial interest.
Securities	Any beneficial interest in securities of a body where— (a) that body (to the Member's knowledge) has a place of business or land in the area of the relevant authority; and (b) either—  (i) the total nominal value of the securities exceeds £25,000 or one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that body; or  (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.



## Scrutiny Action Log 2021-22

### Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Reference	Action	Assigned to	Scrutiny Lead	Due Date	Response
<b>24/05 Meeting</b>	1. <u>BAME inequalities Commission Report</u> Note to be provided to O&S Committee on details of any allegations (individual claims of discrimination) presented to the Commission and how this has been taken forward.	Sharon Godman	OSC Chair	28/06	See attached appendix 1 for response (June OSC papers)
	2. <u>Air Quality Action Plan Report</u> Add an air quality monitoring station for the Council's Blackwall Depo due to Euro 6 Vehicle emission standards in the area (as part of Air Quality Report Recommendation	Dan Jones & Dave Tolley	OSC Chair	28/06	Set up an air quality monitoring station for the Council's Blackwall Depot due to Euro 6 Vehicle emission standards in the area. This to take the form of an additional NOx tube to be included near the depot site. Completion date: 31 Aug 2021
<b>26/07 Meeting</b>	<u>Strategic Target Setting Briefing Session</u> 1. Submit recommendations from target setting briefing to Mayors Office. Mayor and IP officers to provide a response to committee comments/recs.	Mayor & Thorsten Dreyer	OSC Chair	13/08	Response received and circulated (via email) to O&S Members 29.01.2021
<b>28/07 Meeting</b>	1. <u>Safer Neighbourhood Ward Panel Action Plan</u> Request a copy of the letter from the Mayor to the Home Office lobbying for further resources to 101 service	Ann Corbett & Stephen Bramah	OSC Chair	13/08	Complete
	2. <u>Outturn Budget 2020/21 Report</u> Request a briefing note on the ongoing squeeze on expenditure through the HRA and THH management fee	Ann Sutcliffe	OSC Chair	13/08	Complete

## Scrutiny Action Log 2021-22

20/09 Meeting	<u>Strategic Performance and Delivery Reporting Q1 2021-22</u>				
	1. The committee requested a written response to their recommendations/ comments from the target setting briefing session held in July 2021	Sharon Godman & Thorsten Dreyer	OSC Chair	Sep 2021	Response sent to OSC Members via email on 29.09.2021
	<u>Budget Monitoring Report period 3 2021/22</u>				
Page 10	1. Analyses on the impact a rise in inflation will have on council contracts	Hitesh Jolapara	OSC Chair	25/10	<p>The current estimate for the annual costs of contract inflation for the General Fund is £3.1m. This includes an allowance for 2% on adult and children's social care spot placements (for London Living Wage and Ethical Care Charter increases).</p> <p>If inflation was between 3% and 5%, this could increase the cost of inflationary increases to between circa £5m and £8m for the General Fund, depending on contract negotiations and individual uplift clauses in block contracts (which can reference increases to CPI/RPI of specific months).</p> <p>Please note that there are currently price pressures in the market across various service areas which could be experienced as block contracts come up for retender/extension, including pressures relating to increases in wage levels, fuel costs and food costs.</p>
	2. What will the impact be of the NI increase for Health & Social Care have on the Council both as an employer and as purchaser of services?	Hitesh Jolapara	OSC Chair	25/10	<p>The one-off increased cost in 2022-23 of the NI increase (health and social care levy announced 7/9/21) for the Council as an employer is estimated at £1.4m for the General Fund. The government indicated that funding would be provided to public sector bodies for the extra cost burden.</p> <p>Providers of adult social care residential and community-based services could request funding from the Council of</p>

## Scrutiny Action Log 2021-22

Page 11	3. What assumptions have other authorities made in the MTFS on the use of New House bonus?	Hitesh Jolapara	OSC Chair	25/10	<p>circa £1m for the extra NI cost of providing care (cost for the request estimated as 1.25% NI increase on an assumed 80% staffing component of the £94m annual spend). Similarly, providers of children's social care may request an estimated circa £0.3m for the extra cost of providing care. It is unclear whether the government will provide funding through Councils to support social care providers directly for the extra NI cost or indirectly through allocation from the income raised from the health and social care levy.</p> <p>Providers of other services purchased by the Council could also request an increase of funding, especially for non-block commissioned services and the extra cost could be included in contract bids by providers for contracts coming up for retender/extension.</p> <p>See appended table for response</p>
	4. A number of assets have lost income or have occurred additional costs. The Committee requested further information on what the council is planning to do with their physical assets and what the costs of these are (either direct costs or income forgone)	Ann Sutcliffe & Vicky Clark	OSC Chair	25/10	Response submitted to OSC Members via email.

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Page 12	25/10 Meeting	<u>Cumulative Impact Assessment Report (Licensing)</u> 1. To provide a written note for Members on how they raise issues with licensed premises to enable a review	Dave Tolley & Dan Jones	OSC Chair	12/11	"Note for Members will be provided by end of next week (19.11.2021) and will be shared via email." Sent out to OSC Members via email on 15.11. 2021
		2. <u>Liveable Streets Programme Spotlight</u> (a) Following the spotlight, OSC to write to the Mayor with their recommendations/ actions for	Cllr Mohammed Pappu	OSC Chair	11/11	Letter sent out to the Mayor, Cabinet lead and council officers (see appendix 2)
		(b) The Mayor to provide a written response to OSC's recommendations on Liveable Streets Programme	Mayor's Office		10/12	See attached Mayors response to OSC recommendations on Liveable Streets Programme (Appendix 4) – received 14.12.2021
	22/11 Meeting	1. <u>Waste and Recycling Service</u> To provide a written response to the following Recommendations: a. The service must investigate the contamination of waste and recycling (not just in instances where URS vehicles breakdown). This impacts on residents confidence and behaviour and we must better communicate to residents what happens with contaminated waste. b. The service must improve the communications around recycling champions and raise awareness that small electrical items can be disposed at Ideas	Cllr Asma Islam & Dan Jones	OSC Chair	20/12	See attached response from service (Appendix 5)

## Scrutiny Action Log 2021-22

Page 13	<p>Stores</p> <p>c. The service needs to provide clarity on what additional costs RPs are incurring on waste which is being charged to leaseholders and this needs to be communicated to residents.</p> <p>d. To mitigate the issues caused by URS vehicles on estates, the council must support investment in vehicles to increase capacity. This must consider our growing population and regeneration and therefore needs to consider future need.</p> <p>e. The service must look at the impact of Northumberland Wharf on residents and strengthen the contract with the provider and explore what mitigation is needed.</p> <p>f. Explore how we can improve and expand the enforcement procedures we have in place. This may include publicising court cases where successful so people are aware that severe penalties may be given.</p> <p>g. The recent introduction of food waste recycling into the Bow Quarter has worked well. The council should continue to monitor the implementation at Bow Quarter and explore introducing more food waste recycling in other similar developments across the borough.</p> <p>h. There needs to be a greater focus and monitoring on whether contaminated recycling wheelie bins are being followed up within 24/48 hours to ensure it's been carried out effectively.</p>				
	<p>2. <u>Budget Monitoring Report – Period 6 as at 30<sup>th</sup> September 2021</u></p>	<p>Cllr Candida Ronald, Kevin</p>	<p>OSC chair</p>	<p>03/12</p>	<p>Attached appendix 3 for response</p>

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Page 14	Breakdown of the recent Autumn Budget and Spending Review announcement and the projected implications for Tower Hamlets	Bartle & Nisar Visram			
	Leisure Centre review report to be provided to OSC	James Thomas & Judith St John	OSC Chair	03/12	Circulated to OSC Members via email on 03.12.2021
	Provide a written note explaining why the decision to agree the extension of AEG wasn't a key decision	James Thomas & Judith St John	OSC Chair	03/12	<p>Explanation as to why the decision to agree the extension of AEG wasn't a key decision:</p> <p><i>The key decision was taken by Cabinet (January 2021) when approval was obtained in order to change the event capacity, maximum number of events per year and to further extend the contract. Cabinet authorised the Divisional Director – Legal Services, after consultation with the Corporate Director for Children and Culture, to execute and enter into all necessary agreements.</i></p>
13/12 Meeting					
	<p>1. <u>Cabinet Spotlight on Housing</u></p> <p>(a) Data on outcomes from homeless prevention work particularly around employment and housing;</p> <p>(b) Provide details of rough sleeping plan;</p> <p>(c) Provide details of companies who are delivering number of schemes under Council Companies</p>	Ann Sutcliffe, Karen Swift and Rupert Brandon	OSC Chair	27/01/21	<p>(a) The Homelessness Transformation Programme is a programme of service change, and we are in the first 8 months of that. The first year is primarily about internal system change and new ways of working. In 2022/23 and 2023/24 we will hopefully see this impacting on better outcomes for homeless people by way of preventing and relieving more homelessness and also reducing the Council's temporary accommodation costs.</p> <p>Consequently there will be beneficiaries of the programme, i.e. more people who keep their home or find a new one, fewer people in temporary accommodation, etc., in future years rather than in</p>

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<p>Page 15</p>	<p>(d) Provide details on the buybacks on postcode, bed size and pricing;</p> <p>(e) Provide stats on Housing Management Panel in terms of No of cases, who sits on the panel, decisions upheld/ not upheld, and case examples of decisions made; and</p> <p>(f) Model (as it stands at the point of information) that supports to HRA Business Plan.</p>				<p>2021/22.</p> <p>On a point of clarity, preventing and relieving homelessness is the Council's statutory duty. The Homelessness Transformation Programme uses service change to improve our statutory outcomes in this area. It is not a programme or a course that people are enrolled on and put through to achieve other discrete and separate ends.</p> <p>(b) The Cabinet report from October 2021 sets out details of the programme:  <a href="https://democracy.towerhamlets.gov.uk/ielIssueDetails.aspx?Ild=117212&amp;PlanId=0&amp;Opt=3#AI124056">https://democracy.towerhamlets.gov.uk/ielIssueDetails.aspx?Ild=117212&amp;PlanId=0&amp;Opt=3#AI124056</a> The Objectives of the programme as per the Report are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase 'upstream' early homeless prevention. Upstream prevention includes undertaking mediation with landlords and hosts to help households retain their existing home, minimising disruption to schooling and employment, and enabling households to benefit from ongoing support from local community, personal networks and local service provision. It also reduces the use of costly temporary accommodation.</li> <li>• Increase the use of the Private Rented Sector (PRS) which is often the most viable option, given the acute shortage of social housing or alternative housing options, to help households whose homelessness isn't prevented to settle into a new home suitable to their needs, and keep to a minimum the upheaval and stress that comes with being homelessness and the uncertainty of not having a place to call home.</li> <li>• Improve timely decision-making and case</li> </ul>
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Page 16					<p>management to provide clarity and certainty to those who require housing support, achieve better outcomes and minimise unnecessary time spent for applicants in temporary accommodation. At present, there are circa 1000 households in temporary accommodation awaiting a decision.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduce the use of the most expensive TA, and increasing income collection, and the rate of move-on from TA. There are at present circa 1800 households in temporary accommodation to whom the Council owes the 'main homeless' duty. 90% of this cohort, through the use of the Council's powers under homelessness legislation, could potentially have the homelessness duty discharged by the offer of suitable accommodation in the PRS.</li> <li>• Examples of some of the service changes being implemented thus far can be found in the Report, paras. 3.33-3.34.</li> </ul> <p>(c) For Mulberry Homes and Seahorse, the answer is zero.</p> <p>(d) See appendix 6</p> <p>(e) See appendix 7</p> <p>(f) Awaiting response</p>
	(g) OSC chair to write to the Mayor and Cabinet Member asking them to set out any organisations not fulfilling the majority of the 12 Covenant objectives and what actions does the Mayor intend to take including whether he would be referring such	OSC Chair and response by Mayor	OSC	27/01/21	See appendix 8 and 9 for response



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Page 17	organisations to ministry for housing, regulator or national housing of federation.				
	<p>2. <u>Youth Justice Plan 2021/22</u></p> <p>(a) Quantify number of children and young people that have gone through the restorative justice approach as part of the rehabilitation.</p>	James Thomas	OSC Chair	27/01/21	<p>It is difficult to quantify children that have gone through the RJ process so provided an overview of the approach below:</p> <p>In terms of children that have gone through RJ (restorative justice) approach, each child/young person who has a victim related offence, whether that be a direct or indirect victim will be encouraged to take part in victim awareness work. This can lead to indirect RJ as a result of introducing and discussing restorative language/approaches in a broad way with children and young people.</p> <p>Over the past year, our Victims/RJ worker had a significant period away from work, which impacted our service delivery on this, however the worker has now returned and improving our RJ offer to victims and children who have committed victim-based offences is a priority going forward.</p> <p>Additionally in line with the rest of the council, YJS staff have received restorative training and deliver this approach when working with each other, children and families.</p> <p>With regards to data, I have attached the most recent data report which gives a more up to date overview of KPI's and additional data.</p> <p>See attached appendix 10</p>
	<p>3. <u>AEG contract extension (follow up)</u></p> <p>In relation to AEG contract - The change of date will have a significant impact on local residents.</p>	James Thomas/ Judith St John	OSC Chair	27/01/21	<p>The original contract, approved by Cabinet in January 2017, included a clause relating to the Event Days.</p>

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Page 18	We believe this is a key decision and meets the criteria for key decisions. Can you clarify why this is not deemed a key decision?	& Janet Fasan			<p>It would have not been feasible for bidders (during the tender exercise) to provide/predict Event Days for all contract years. In fact bidders, under their Method Statement, provided an event days plan only for the first year of contract. Therefore, a provision was inserted in the original contract to ensure that the Council is informed on time on the relevant event plan for the year (31<sup>st</sup> October of the year preceding the relevant year of the Contract Period).</p> <p>In essence communication of the dates by AEG does not constitute a contract variation (as event dates were not “fixed” under the contract) and therefore this matter does not meet the threshold for a key decision.</p> <p>It is also noted that further Cabinet approval (January 2021) was obtained in order to change the event capacity, maximum number of events per year and to further extend the contract to accommodate consequences of the pandemic. Approval in this case was sought because these variations constituted a key decision (key decisions are all those decisions which involve major spending, or savings, or which have a significant impact on the local community).</p>
07/02 Meeting					
21/02 Meeting					

## Scrutiny Action Log 2021-22

07/03 Meeting					

## Scrutiny Action Log 2021-22

### Appendix 1: New Homes Bonus Benchmarking

London Borough	What assumptions have you made in your MTFS on the use of New Homes Bonus (NHB)?	Are you holding any unallocated NHB as a reserve	If yes to question 2, what is the value of that reserve?
1	Currently only legacy, less than £2m	No	n/a
2	Loss of £2m pa (so, -£2m, -£4m, -£6m, -£8m across MTFS; will leave final value at nil	No	n/a
3	Assumption is payment for the fourth year of payments from 2019-20. Not assumed yet that there will be any additional funding in 2022-23 although this assumption will be revised before setting the budget. SR/Budget will make this clearer.	No	n/a
4	Assuming that NHB is no longer available from 2024/25.	No	n/a
5	No assumption of NHB in our 22/23 MTFS. Historically we had quite significant NHB payments which have now all dropped out. We will receive a small amount of legacy NHB + any award this year or returned NHB. We will treat this as one off so are not including in the MTFS	No	n/a
6	Currently use NHB to reduce general revenue costs, which would indirectly include offsetting costs around housing related expenditure. MTFS assumes that NHB will gradually reduce by the legacy payments and we will receive no more payment by 2023/24. However, we have assumed that we will continue to receive funding in future years from the new scheme which the government is currently working on but this will only be a fraction of what we have received in the past, i.e. 1 payment each year compared to 4-6 legacy payments each year	No	n/a
7	Use NHB as part of the total revenue funding.	No	n/a
8	NHB is baked into the base budget and we are forecasting a reduction in line with the model produced at Settlement last year.	No	n/a
9	Nil	allocated previously some NHB monies to	n/a

## Scrutiny Action Log 2021-22

		support housing initiatives (earmarked reserve)	
10	Only assuming legacy payments from previous years allocations and no further new funding. Therefore, we have built-in £0.565m in 21/22 which we are due this year and £0.492m for 22/23. Without any further info, we have assumed that the NHB will cease and be wrapped up in the fair funding review for now. Have not always met the threshold to receive NHB in recent years, so have made no assumption for receiving an additional allocation in 23/24 at this stage.	No	n/a
11	21/22 - £5.168m, 22/23 - £7.595m, 23/24 - £9.363m This is being reviewed in light of Housing Ministry changes.	Yes	£11.3k
12	We build out NHB into our MTFs and it just helps out the bottom line. We based the calc on the govt calculator.	No	n/a
13	Does not form a significant element of the financial resources and at this stage have rolled over the current funding as per the expected distribution under the current scheme.	No	n/a
14	Full use in year of receipt to fund revenue spend. To run down to zero in 2023/24 (as 2022/23 is the last year in the NHB calculator)	No	n/a
Tower Hamlets	Given the uncertainty in the amounts to be received and that payments in future will be significantly lower, the Council prudently reduced its reliance on NHB as a funding source in support of its general revenue budget and allocated £10.0m in 2021-22 to the revenue budget with the additional sum of £7.6m received placed into earmarked reserves.	Yes	£40m (31/3/20)

### Appendix 2

4 February 2022

#### **Overview & Scrutiny Committee: Liveable Streets Recommendations**

Dear Mayor Biggs

Thank you for attending the Overview & Scrutiny Committee meeting on Monday 25 October to discuss the Liveable Streets programme. It was a very productive discussion, and the Committee welcomes further engagement on the programme as we enter a period of review and consider how we can amend the programme to best meet the needs of all our residents.

The Committee encourages the council to really listen and respond to what our residents are telling us and this needs to be an iterative process given the nature of this programme and the wider perception of what other boroughs are doing. We must ensure that as we move through each stage of the programme, we are taking our residents with us and guiding them through what are transformative changes to their habits and behaviours.

We appreciate getting the balance right is always going to be challenging but keeping our residents and other stakeholders informed in a timely manner (not just through consultation) will be critical to the delivering the programme successfully.

It's clear to the Committee that we need to move swiftly to find a resolution to address the concerns our residents have raised, and this programme has become very polarising and damaging for our community. To this end, the Committee strongly suggests the following recommendations to help tackle and progress some of the key issues emerging from the programme.

The Committee recommends the following:

- R1.** That the council investigates the use of capital for a local green transition fund to support delivery of the wider agenda.
- R2.** That the Committee be provided with a copy of the letter from the Chief Executive of London Ambulance Service and a response to this in writing to understand how the issues have been addressed.
- R3.** That the council establish a mechanism for speedy and transparent responses to unforeseen negative impacts of the schemes when these are brought to our attention by residents and businesses.
- R4.** That the council establish a reporting facility for persistent speeding and provide a quick way for residents to report hotspots
- R5.** That the council establish a policy on resident exemptions so that future schemes and those currently being designed can take this into account. Need to be clear on what this means for residents in

## Scrutiny Action Log 2021-22

- car free developments.
- R6.** That the council open an ongoing, borough wide, listening platform (outside of specific consultations) so there is an ongoing process for residents to communicate with the council.
- R7.** That the council increase cycle parking provision in the borough and provide the committee with a note in writing with details how this will be delivered.

Thank you for consideration of the Committee's recommendations. We would be grateful if you can provide us with a written response which details how the recommendations will be addressed.

Yours Sincerely

**Cllr Mohammed Pappu**

Chair of Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Mohammed.Pappu@towerhamlets.gov.uk

### Appendix 3

**Briefing note:** MTFS 2022 25 further update and future outlook

**Date:** 1 December 2021

**Author:** Nisar Visram, Director Finance, Procurement and Audit (Deputy s151 Officer)

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## **Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) Update Summary**

This briefing note is designed to bring members up to date following the Spending Review 2021, announced by the Chancellor on 27 October, which set out departmental budgets up to 2024-25.

The Spending Review stated that departments would receive an increase in real terms funding over the three-year period 2022-23 to 2024-25. Core Spending Power (CSP) for local authorities is estimated to increase by an average of 3% in real terms each year over the period, which will **include** the proposed investment in Adult Social Care reform (including funding the Care Cap).

The Government Spending Power calculation assumes local authorities will enact the maximum available increases for Council Tax and the ASC Precept. The Spending Review has suggested a referendum level of 2% for Council Tax increases and an ASC Precept of 1% to be levied in each of the three years, however this will be confirmed in the provisional Local Government Finance Settlement (LG

The fair funding review and the business rates reset were not mentioned in the Spending Review so are likely to be delayed and the impact on the income for the Council is, therefore, unclear.

The provisional LGFS is expected to be received in mid-December and this will give a clearer view of the distribution of funding for local government and for individual local authorities. The Council's MTFS will be updated following receipt of the provisional LGFS.

The Council's position from the 2021-24 approved MTFS was a budget gap of **£19.1m** for 2022-23, which reduced to **£11m** after the planned usage of **£8.2m** from one-off reserves (we are already using £1.3m of our reserves to balance 2021-22).

The Council's MTFS funding assumptions have improved in three main areas:

- Business Rates - the most recent intelligence continues to suggest that the planned Business Rates reset is more likely than not to be delayed by a further year from 2022-23 to 2023-24. (£14.5m one off benefit in 22-23). This is a short term gain that helps next year but not the total MTFS, as the reset is just slipping a year.
- Revenue Support Grant – a net forecast increase to include assumed recycling of New Homes Bonus funding (replacing the previous grant). (£2.8m in 22-23 and £4.8m in 23-24). We have had no confirmation of what the Government intends to do with New Homes Bonus – a consultation was completed in early 2021 and it is forecast that funding could be repurposed as part of the settlement.
- Council Tax – property growth forecast to be 3.5% in 22-23 (rather than 3% originally budgeted) and estimated reduction in LCTRS claimants in future years (following the increase in 20-21 and 21-22 due to the pandemic). (£0.7m in 22-23 and £1.4m in 23-24)

The detailed settlement will be published in mid to late December 2021 and this will outline specifically the funding the council will receive. There is a risk that the Government may vary the distribution of funding as part of its levelling up agenda, with potentially sums being redistributed out of London.

There are unavoidable growth pressures and savings delays/write off currently under review, risks of ongoing costs from the pandemic and from the wider economy which provide a backdrop of uncertainty and caution when setting our Medium-Term Financial Strategy going forward. Further details on these items are outlined below.

## **Review of Savings**

The Council is not introducing new savings for 22-23, however the savings already approved by Council would need to be delivered or the budget gap would increase (and alternative savings would



## Scrutiny Action Log 2021-22

need to be found). Council has previously approved savings totalling £19.5m in 21-22, £9.2m in 22-23 and £7.2m in 23-24.

Officers have carried out a review of existing savings plans to identify savings that could be at risk of delivery or require more time to deliver. This review has identified £2.3m of savings which may be undeliverable and £2.4m of savings which may need to be re-profiled to later years, taking into account the impact of the pandemic on greater commercialisation opportunities (including property rentals), changes to the Idea Store Strategy following stakeholder consultation, and to allow time for service redesign and system improvements in HR and legal services.

### **Review of growth and inflation requirements**

There remain significant risks around the impact of inflation on the council's budgets. The MTFS currently allows for 2% pay inflation (£3.8m per annum) and 2% non-pay inflation (£3.1m per annum). Current inflation is running comparatively higher than recent years (CPI 3.1% & RPI 4.9% in September 2021). At present, above target inflation is expected to be temporary and CPI is expected to return to around the 2% target in the medium term.

Officers are currently also reviewing growth pressures and any growth requests approved would increase the level of planned use of reserves for 2022-23, if compensatory savings are not to be found, and increase the budget gap for future years.

### **Budget Forecast and Covid-19**

The Council's budget monitor is forecasting almost to budget; however this is after the application of £19.6m in one off COVID grant funding to meet pandemic related pressures in year. Although many of the costs are one off in nature, there are potentially ongoing impacts of the pandemic on Care services, temporary accommodation, lower economic activity, and shortfalls in income collection. The full ongoing impact of these costs upon the council's finances have yet to be fully ascertained.

### **Council Tax**

The MTFS assumes a Council Tax increase of 1.99% in each of the next three years 2022-23 to 2024-25, in line with the current expectation of the government's referendum level (and therefore the Core Spending Power calculation for local government funding). The Government set out in the spending review that it expects councils to increase Council Tax by 1.99% and to levy an additional 1% for the Adult Social Care Precept.

The 1.99% increase provides extra income of £2.424m (22-23), £2.760m (23-24) and £3.092m (24-25).

A Band D council taxpayer in Tower Hamlets currently pays £1,476.92 per annum including the GLA element (£1,113.26 Council element and £363.66 GLA element). Each 1% increase in Council Tax, would add approximately 21p extra a week (£11.13 per year) for a Band D property (excluding any increases that could come from the GLA element). This is before any discounts, reliefs or benefits. Those on low incomes would still receive support through the LCTRS, including 100% relief for those on the lowest incomes.

The Covid-19 pandemic has reduced the collection rate and it has increased significantly those claiming benefits including through the Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme (LCTRS). As at the end of September 2021, the Council had collected 45.8% of Council Tax compared to 46.5% over the same period in 2020, with collection levels lower than last year and pre-pandemic levels. The cost of the LCTRS scheme rose from £26.7m in 2019-20 to £31.6m in 2020-21. The level of claimants has remained at the increased pandemic level to date (estimated £33.2m cost in 2021-22).

### **Adult Social Care (ASC) Precept**

The latest iteration of our MTFS assumes an Adult Social Care (ASC) Precept of 1% for each of the next three years and that this will be allocated to support ASC demographic pressures. The LGFS will confirm both the referendum level for Council Tax increases and the maximum level of the ASC

## Scrutiny Action Log 2021-22

Precept. At 1%, the ASC Precept provides extra income of £1.212m (22-23), £1.380m (23-24) and £1.546m (24-25) which is a contribution towards the estimated ASC demographic pressures of circa £5m per annum based on our latest understanding of population and care need trends.

### **Housing Revenue Account (HRA)**

Local authorities are permitted to increase housing rents by a maximum of CPI + 1%. Any rent increase is based on the September CPI figure which has now been announced as 3.1%. The Council will need to consider the increase for 2022-23.

Similarly, tenanted service charges are normally subject to an inflationary increase. A decision will need to be taken on rental increases with consideration of the sustainability of the HRA business plan going forward.

### **Fees and Charges**

The MTFS currently assumes an increase of £420k for 2022-23 which contributes towards the budget gap. Charges are either statutory or discretionary and broadly aim to cover costs.

Inflation from September (CPI 3.1% & RPI 4.9%) have been utilised as a guide for setting charges, together with other factors such as service demand, the cost of providing services, benchmarking with other Councils and the impact on residents. Some figures are rounded for practical purposes.

### **Budget consultation**

The Budget Consultation closed on 15 November 2021. The results will be presented to Cabinet on 15 December. Changes can then be made to the Budget Report prior to its presentation to Cabinet in January 2022.

### **Budget setting timetable**

#### **Budget Consultation Results - Cabinet 15 December 2021**

#### **Budget Report 2022-23 and MTFS 2022-25 - Cabinet 5 January 2022**

- Including Capital, Housing Revenue Account (HRA) and Dedicated Schools Budget (DSB)
- Agreement of Council Tax Base calculation for 2022-23. Delegation will be requested from Cabinet for the S151 Officer to agree future year's calculations.

#### **Fees and Charges Report - Cabinet 5 January 2022**

- Agreement of Fees & Charges (£420k saving already 'baked in' to the approved 2022-23 budget)

#### **Budget Report 2022-23 and MTFS 2022-25 - Cabinet 26 January 2022**

- Including Capital, Housing Revenue Account (HRA) and Dedicated Schools Budget (DSB)

#### **Full Council March 2022**

- Budget Report 2022-23 and MTFS 2022-25 (including Capital, HRA and DSB)
- Treasury Management Strategy Statement, Investment Strategy Report and Capital Strategy Report for 2022-23

### Appendix 4

Mayor's response to OSC Recommendations on Liveable Streets Programme

**R1. That the council investigates the use of capital for a local green transition fund to support delivery of the wider agenda.**

This is beyond the scope of the Liveable Streets project. The delivery of the wider agenda is delivered through the council's various strategies including the Net Zero Carbon Plan, Transport Strategy, Green Grid Strategy. These will all have their associated funding streams which collectively support our local green transition.

**R2. That the Committee be provided with a copy of the letter from the Chief Executive of London Ambulance Service and a response to this in writing to understand how the issues have been addressed.**

This is attached. No formal response was given, but the Council set up regular meetings where plans and proposals were presented to officers representing all the emergency services. This has meant continual engagement and where concerns have been raised, amendments have been made to the address those concerns.

**R3. That the council establish a mechanism for speedy and transparent responses to unforeseen negative impacts of the schemes when these are brought to our attention by residents and businesses.**

Much of the scheme is implemented through experimental traffic orders and this enables the council to make changes in a short space of time when small scale amendments are required. For larger scales changes, these will need to adhere to the council's governance procedures. Where significant changes are required, these will be subject to the formal decision-making requirements. This was the case with the recent Brick Lane review.

From the start of the project, the team have been contactable through a dedicated email ([Liveablestreets@towerhamlets.gov.uk](mailto:Liveablestreets@towerhamlets.gov.uk)). This has allowed us to respond to the concerns of residents and businesses. We will look into how this can be improved and responses that be responded to quicker.

We are seeking reduce reliance on digital channels of input and where we are making changes, we will seek to establish more face-to-face channels of communications. For our recent Bethnal Green review we arranged three drop in sessions in the scheme area to address concerns of digital exclusion.

**R4. That the council establish a reporting facility for persistent speeding and provide a quick way for residents to report hotspots**

This is beyond the scope of the Liveable Streets project.

If residents witness a motorist driving carelessly or dangerously – putting themselves, passengers and other motorists at risk of an accident – and they feel implored to do something about it, they can phone the non-emergency police number by calling 101.

The UK's Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) also keeps tabs on drivers registered in the UK. If the Agency finds that someone has been driving erratically and endangering others on the road, the DVLA can suspend or put points onto the driver's license. Residents can contact DVLA on 0844 453 0118.

**R5. That the council establish a policy on resident exemptions so that future schemes and those currently being designed can take this into account. Need to be clear on what this means for residents in car free developments.**


Officers are developing a resident exemption policy which will apply to closures in some locations. Its will be clear in its implications for all residents including those living in car-free developments

Ref	Recommendations	Officer	Response
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## Scrutiny Action Log 2021-22

1.	The service must investigate the contamination of waste and recycling (not just in instances where URS vehicles breakdown). This impacts on residents confidence and behaviour and we must better communicate to residents what happens with contaminated waste.	Oli Kapopo	<p>This is being discussed and staff have been reminded that collections should be segregated. This will be an area we will continue to highlight on periodically to ensure that the practice is curbed.</p> <p>Waste Operations will work closely with colleagues in the Waste Improvement and Communications Teams to ensure that the message on what happens to contaminated waste is clear.</p>
2.	The service must improve the communications around recycling champions and raise awareness that small electrical items can be disposed at Ideas Stores	Fiona Heyland	<p><b>Recycling Champions</b></p> <p>The recycling champions scheme is a new scheme which began in October 2021. To initiate the scheme a webpage was designed, and an e-form created for residents to complete in order to sign up to become a recycling champion.</p> <p>The scheme has been promoted internally via Yammer, in order to encourage staff who also live in the borough to sign up.</p> <p>A recycling article is currently being developed for the upcoming edition of Our East End and we have asked for the recycling champions scheme to be mentioned in the article and the link to the webpage given.</p> <p>We will also be promoting the scheme via social media</p> <p>We have been discussing with the comms team about the opportunity to have a feature in Our East End that would focus on an individual who has signed up to become a champion. So far we have not had an individual agree to take part but we will continue to explore this opportunity</p> <p>In the new year we would be looking to arrange a site visit for the first cohort of champions to visit the Bywaters MRF.</p> <p><b>Small Electrical Items (Small WEEE)</b></p> <p>Disposal points for small WEEE is advertised on the council website, see screen shot below:</p>

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Page 31			<p><b>Electrical items:</b></p> <p>Any item that takes batteries, has a plug, needs charging or has a crossed out wheelie bin can be recycled.</p> <p>Small portable <b>items</b> such as kettles, small toasters and mixers, cameras, hairdryers, irons, electric toothbrushes, toys, cables, and chargers can be recycled at <a href="#">Idea Stores, Bethnal Green and Cubitt Town Libraries</a> and the <a href="#">Northumberland Wharf Reuse and Recycling Centre</a>.</p> <p>Medium and large items including fridges, freezers, washing machines, tumble dryers, TV's, vacuum cleaners, home printers, microwaves, computers, large food processors, can be taken to the <a href="#">Northumberland Wharf Reuse and Recycling Centre</a>. Larger electricals items can also be collected by the bulky waste collection service.</p> <p>In addition to this we have asked the comms team to include information on social media during the Christmas period.</p> <p>The comms team are currently helping us to develop some graphic posts for social media and we will be looking to include a graphic on disposing of small WEEE for use in the future.</p> 
3.	The service needs to provide clarity on what additional costs RPs are incurring on waste which is being charged to leaseholders and this needs to be communicated to residents.	Oli Kapopo	We have asked RPs to come back to us with costs that they feel they incurred unjustifiably. This was communicated to them by Dan Jones, Director for Public Realm and the quarterly Tower Hamlets Housing Forum meeting held on 12 <sup>th</sup> November 2021. No RP has come forward so far.
4.	To mitigate the issues caused by URS vehicles on estates, the council must support investment in vehicles to increase capacity. This must consider our growing population and regeneration and therefore needs to consider future	Richard Williams	We have committed to additional investment in URS vehicles with our newest vehicle being delivered in January 2022 and one re-furbished vehicle providing a reliable spare at the end of Dec 2021. This will provide 4 URS vehicles in the fleet from Jan 2022 and improve our ability to deliver a reliable service. We will also complete route optimisation work in 2022 to understand the impact of new developments using URS and to produce more efficient future collection routes. An additional new vehicle is expected to be purchased in 2022 to support this growth.

## Scrutiny Action Log 2021-22

	need.		
Page 32	5. The service must look at the impact of Northumberland Wharf on residents and strengthen the contract with the provider and explore what mitigation is needed.	Fiona Heyland	<p>Northumberland Wharf waste transfer station and RRC are the only waste facilities that the council owns and both are necessary for supporting the provision of services that discharge the council's statutory duties as a waste collection and disposal authority. The use of the waste transfer station has allowed the council to move away from landfilling residual waste to energy from waste and allows the residual waste to be transferred via river to the disposal facility, thus reducing road transport.</p> <p>The council is required by legislation to provide a public facility for residents to be able to dispose of waste and recycling, which they have otherwise not been able to dispose of through the waste and recycling collection services. The RRC at Northumberland Wharf allows the council to discharge this duty.</p> <p>Cory Environmental were required under the property leases and contract to obtain the relevant waste permits from the Environment Agency and the Environment Agency now monitors compliance on a regular basis. Cory has an odour suppression system in place in the waste transfer station and undertake an extensive daily cleaning regime. The waste operations team also undertake regular cleaning of Yabsley Street to help mitigate the impacts on the local area.</p> <p>Scrutiny Members will be aware that we are delivering an extensive programme of education and behaviour change activities to encourage residents to look to reuse and recycle more of their waste in order that our residual waste tonnages can be reduced. To support the behaviour change programme we will also be working on a 3 year project to roll out improvements to the recycling infrastructure at blocks of flats and estates.</p>
	6. Explore how we can improve and expand the enforcement procedures we have in place. This may include publicising court cases where successful so people are aware that severe penalties may be given.	Azizul Goni	<p>We have issued 480 Fixed Penalty Notices for fly tipping in the last 12 months, with a 64% payment rate.</p> <p>These £400 FPN's give an offender the opportunity to admit committing the offence, to pay the fine and avoid prosecution. If you disagree that you have committed an offence, you can decide not to pay the Fixed Penalty and the matter will then be decided by a Court.</p> <p>We have 4 cases submitted to the courts so far, with 17 cases being prepared for prosecution. We are working to improve the efficiency of our enforcement procedures and ensure that results of prosecutions are publicised.</p> <p>The aim of our publicity will be to raise awareness that severe penalties may be given by the courts. That fly tippers could face a maximum penalty of £50,000 and 5 years in prison. That we have zero tolerance for those that dump waste illegally and will always take action.</p>



## Scrutiny Action Log 2021-22

			Our Environmental Services Officers are working on improved enforcement processes. To make better use of CCTV and mobile CCTV to detect and provide evidence of fly tipping. To use Body Cams to support evidence gathering. To introduce a new enforcement IT system that will enable improved data entry and FPN processing, including an improved facility to pay FPNs online.
7.	The recent introduction of food waste recycling into the Bow Quarter has worked well. The council should continue to monitor the implementation at Bow Quarter and explore introducing more food waste recycling in other similar developments across the borough.	Fiona Heyland	<p>A monitoring regime for the new flats food waste pilot is being implemented in order that we can work with the two estates to ensure the pilot runs smoothly. We will be monitoring the amount of food waste that is being placed out for collection (fill level of the communal bins), checking the quality, monitoring the collections and checking the condition of the bins to help us learn lessons and plan for a wider roll out of food waste collections in line with the requirements that we are expecting Government to set for mandatory separate food waste collections.</p> <p>Until such time as we are able to implement the expansion programme, we will continue to work with blocks and estates who have an interest in setting up a community composting scheme and will encourage residents to reduce food waste through national campaigns such as “Love Food Hate Waste”</p>
8.	There needs to be a greater focus and monitoring on whether contaminated recycling wheelie bins are being followed up within 24/48 hours to ensure it's been carried out effectively.	Oli Kapopo	The service has a service standard to ensure that bins that are deemed contaminated are collected within 24 hours of reporting. As contamination is self-reporting by crews, we have asked that Environmental Managers to be informed of highly contaminated bins - i.e. with builder's rubble etc so that enforcement action can be taken as well. At present we are working with Registered Housing Providers with a view that their caretakers can “skim” off visible contaminants such as black bags. Crews can then collect all bins that have no visible contamination. Where crews are able to remove contaminants themselves and place them in nearby refuse bins, this is also encouraged. Better monitoring of contamination reports from back-office staff will also improve with the introduction of a new robust back-office team that has been created as part of the restructure. This team takes effect on 4 <sup>th</sup> January 2022 and their role will be to monitor ‘workflow’ on the waste management database called Whitespace. This will improve efficiency and improve response times as actions will be logged, monitored and performance managed.

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### Appendix 6

Acquisitions	Former Council RTB	Poplar HARCA	Out of Borough	Total
<b>Acquisitions per source</b>	173	223	24	420
<b>Cost of Properties</b>	£75,245,000	£74,485,848	£6,615,000	£156,345,848
<b>Average Cost per Property</b>	£435,000	£334,017	£276,000	£372,252
<b>1 Bed</b>	34	95	6	
<b>2 Beds</b>	85	83	12	
<b>3 Beds</b>	48	38	6	
<b>4 Beds</b>	4	1	0	
<b>5+ Beds</b>	2	6	0	
<b>Post Codes</b>	<b>E14=33</b>	<b>E3=109</b>	<b>CR2=1; DA17=4</b>	
	<b>E2=42</b>	<b>E14=114</b>	<b>DA8=4; DN1=1</b>	
	<b>E1W=5</b>		<b>N17=2; SE13=2</b>	
	<b>E3=12</b>		<b>SE8=1; SE28=3</b>	
	<b>E1=81</b>		<b>SE6=5; SE7=1</b>	

## Appendix 7

### **Tower Hamlets Housing Management Panel**

This is a panel of at least three officers, one of whom will be a manager. The Panel will make all decisions on requests for discretionary additional priority unless the case is considered an emergency. In these circumstances a decision can be made by a senior manager before a meeting of the Panel. Panel members are drawn from across Tower Hamlets Common Register partnership. Although three members are required for the Panel to be quorate, there are usually four or five core panel members in attendance subject to availability.

Core members of the panel are

Team Manager, Assessment & Attainment, Housing Option Service

Area Housing Manager, Tower Hamlets Homes

Lettings Manager, East End Homes

Home Services Manager, Southern Housing Group

ASB Community Co-ordinator, LBTH Community Safety Team

The panel meets on the first working Monday of each month.

During the three calendar years 2019, 2020 and 2021 a total of 281 individual referrals were made to panel. 80 of these were refused. 11 of these referrals were reviews of previous decisions.

The applications that were awarded priority fell under the following categories

DV 56

ASB 40

Disrepair 20

Safeguarding 3

Children's Services 11

Discretionary Grant of new tenancy 70 Also referred to as 'Second Successions'

Trauma after incident 1

## Appendix 8

Cllr Mohammed Pappu  
Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee

4 February 2022

Dear Cllr Pappu

### **Tower Hamlets Housing Covenant**

Thank you for your scrutiny work into this important topic for our residents. I appreciate the work you have done.

Most boroughs do not have a forum of this nature and I'm pleased that we have this covenant as a way to try and improve things for our residents. We value this spirit of co-operation. We of course have a single housing register through the co-operation with most Registered Providers in Tower Hamlets, and membership of this is one of the key asks in the charter.

I acknowledge the frustration implicit in your letter and hear it often from residents too. Strangely, perhaps, the charter is I understand one of the more comprehensive agreements between a council and its Registered Providers. Maybe the fact that this is the case illustrates the problem. It is of course a voluntary agreement.

As a council our powers of oversight or for other actions are quite limited and as Mayor, I find this frustrating. I know there has been recent work in Parliament to highlight tenant and leaseholder voices and championing reform to improve regulation, clearly driven by an unease beyond just Tower Hamlets.

Due to government policies, including crucially the current funding framework – perhaps more often better described as a lack of funding – Registered Providers have of course had to diversify their operations and act much more commercially, but we must ensure they remain committed to provide good quality homes for people. There is always more we can try and do despite the limited levers of control we as a local council have, and I am happy to hear your ideas.

The way Registered Social Landlords have developed from, in many cases, quite local organisations, either growing themselves and/or through initial stock transfers through mergers has in some cases made tenants feel removed from their landlord. Locally a lot of Registered Social Landlords do great work but some are of course better than others and we want to drive up standards for all.

As Mayor when I meet with their Chief Executives, and through my casework, I do raise issues of poor service with Registered Social Landlords.


I attach an officer note outlining more information on the work of the covenant.

I am of course happy to continue to work with OSC and engage with you on this important issue

## Scrutiny Action Log 2021-22

and see how we can continue to improve things. The relationship with our social landlords is of course important to us and must be progressed if at all possible in a spirit of partnership. I know that members will broadly recognise this.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'John Biggs', with a stylized, cursive script.

**Mayor John Biggs**

**Appendix 9****BRIEFING NOTE**

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**Title: THHF and Housing Covenant****Date: 17/01/2022**

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**1. Introduction and background**

1. The purpose of this briefing note is to provide information on the Tower Hamlets Housing Forum (THHF) Housing Covenant developed by its members in 2016, and the role of the signatories and the council in ensuring the parties honour the terms contained within it.
2. The Covenant was an attempt by the Partnership to set out a formal agreement between the forum members, as well as a declaration for stakeholders to provide a baseline of service provision that could be expected in the borough irrespective of the landlord providing it.
3. The Consumer Standards developed and monitored by the Regulator of Social Housing provided the blueprint for the evolution of the Housing Covenant.

**2. THHF Forum**

1. The Tower Hamlets Housing Forum remains an exemplary forum of one of which other boroughs endeavour to create yet often failed. The Forum includes 14 membered registered Social Landlords, THH and council representatives headed by an Executive Group and eight supporting subgroups listed as follows:
  - Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy Group
  - Asset Management
  - Benchmarking
  - Common Housing Register
  - Community Involvement Network
  - Development
  - Housing management
  - Public Realm
2. The Landlords have continued to work tirelessly, especially during the pandemic, to offer quality services to residents that deliver on the provisions within the Housing Covenant. For example, maintaining and emergency repairs service during the height of lockdown and where workforce and materials allowed, conducting regulatory fire and Gas safety inspections within health and safety guidelines.
3. The following paragraphs set out activities undertaken by the partnership and how they support the aspirations within the covenant.

**3. Inclusive / partnership working.**

1. The Registered Providers have worked closely with Public Health colleagues and the Lead Members for Housing to develop joint communications during the Pandemic, reinforcing their commitment to maintaining homes, supporting the vulnerable and information sharing. The impact of the Pandemic on residents and how each Provider was delivering on their service commitments has been an ongoing area of discussion for the Executive Group. Approaches to service delivery are constantly being refined as a result. E.g., the provision of enhanced financial and debt advice, welfare phone calls, shopping trips for residents and food parcel/hot meals and vaccine deliveries.

## Scrutiny Action Log 2021-22

2. RP's worked with East End Community Foundation and the council to work collectively at bringing broadband to more families. Working with local schools in Poplar and around Tower Hamlets helped with placing the devices with families who really needed help. Families were able to get practical advice on how to use the device from schools over 200 families in Poplar were supported because of this initiative. In addition, 10% of families were also able to obtain free broadband licenses for a year.
  3. Each landlord has, and actively encourages the formation of Residents Groups and Associations although they remain open to individual engagement through informal and formal methods and the increased use of digital technology has enabled housing providers to engage a much wider scope of residents and tailor services accordingly to achieve better value for money.
- 4. Community work / employment encouragement of activity.**
1. While the above demonstrates strong partnership and community work, THHF continues to encourage support and upskill residents via the Community Involvement Network and provide virtual training programmes for residents during the lockdown.
  2. The joint training programmes have seen a huge spike in interest for accredited courses such as social enterprise supporting people to start their own business. The subgroup alongside WorkPath has engaged with the CVS network to establish a shared partnership approach to boroughwide community priorities.
  3. The subgroup has been exploring avenues to provide activities for the wider community such as "Play Streets" and encourages older residents to partake in physical activity such as walking football. The exploration of new green spaces for food growing to support community cohesion and improve the living environment remain high on the group's agenda.
- 5. ASB / crime intervention.**
1. During the year, the ASB subgroup Strategy group has worked to strengthen the partnerships response to managing Anti-Social Behaviour, and particularly the impact of Covid-19 on changes to patterns of behaviour and crime "hot spots" In addition the group has contributed to the council's Substance Misuse Strategy 2020-25, reviewed the impact of the Nitrous Oxide Public Space Protection Order, and developed multi-landlord approaches to tackling knife crime with the support of the Metropolitan Police.
  2. All members of the ASB subgroup are working to refine the processes and delivery of responses to the LBTH "Community Trigger" that reviews ASB cases and their outcomes to ensure victims are satisfied with how their ASB complaints have been handled.
  3. In addition, the group is working with Swan Housing to support a project called "Street Doctors" helping to train young people with lifesaving medical skills on how to treat and react in the event of a stabbing incident.
- 6. The need for housing supply and demand.**
1. Members of THHF are also members of the Common Housing Register helping to deliver housing and manage the high demand for housing within the borough.
  2. In the past year the group has supported the delivery of 960 affordable homes and 146 new wheelchair accessible homes under Project 120 which has been highly successful in supporting inclusivity for residents that would otherwise be unlikely to move.
  3. The Common Housing Register subgroup lead training for all partners on new Allocations Policy provisions and were instrumental in developing the borough's Local Lettings Plan and Overcrowding Reduction Strategy.
- 7. Members enquires and Benchmarking standards**
1. As part of the benchmarking subgroup, RPs continue to submit 16 quarterly KPI's (voluntarily) with a view to monitoring performance and share good practise as well as highlight issues where performance needs to be remedied.
  2. Throughout the last four quarters RP's have continued to strive for better and improved figures in various aspects of their service delivery. For example, with regards to Member enquiries and repairs, in quarter Two 8 out of 14 RP's had 23 or less ME's for that specific

## Scrutiny Action Log 2021-22

quarter. In relation to resident repair satisfaction RP's have on average achieved 86% on residents being satisfied with the repairs undertaken. Two RP's average relet time reduced from 47 days to 21 and another RP's response to complaints within time improved from 71% to 89% In the same quarter.

3. This is not to say there are no areas for improvement, alive to the fact that there remains some dissatisfaction with ME response rates, THHF partners continue to work alongside the council to ensure member enquiries are dealt with robustly and recently held meetings with senior officers, to devise a process for better accountability. Furthermore, more clarity will be implemented to establish what constitutes as an ME FOI or complaint.
4. In order to drive improvement, the Benchmarking subgroup requests high performing RP's present and share methods which have proven to be successful within subgroup meetings. This in turn helps other RP's follow suit and adopt similar or trial new methods as a result of shared learning. The subgroup currently provides KPI data to the Housing Regen Overview Scrutiny Committee Meeting bimonthly with RPs in attendance and performing presentations upon request.

### 8. Council's stance with THHF / covenant and RP's

1. From the areas outlined above, the THHF and related sub-groups have in place an operational framework which actively supports the TH Housing Covenant. The THHF Executive and subgroups set actions for all stakeholders to deliver on council and partnership aspirations far beyond housing.
2. Whilst the partnership is unique, it is indeed voluntary and thrives on housing partners coming together to share good practise and collaborate to identify new ways of working to deliver outcomes for residents. In being a voluntary partnership to deliver the Housing Covenant via positive relationships to support practise and improvement, the council does not hold regulatory authority over the RP's, this is the responsibility is of the Housing Regulator.

### 9. Regulator of Social Housing and next steps

1. The Regulator of Social Housing monitors Registered Providers of Social Housing to promote a viable, efficient and well governed social Housing Sector able to deliver homes that meet a range of needs.
2. The objectives of the regulator are set out in the Housing and Regeneration Act 2008 (as amended) and includes Economic Standards to assure value for money is achieved to maintain lender confidence and protect the taxpayer. Of equal importance, the regulator sets Consumer Standards and has the power to step in and take action against any Social Landlord where they have breached a Consumer Standard and there is a significant risk of serious detriment to tenants.
3. These Consumer Standards place an obligation on Social Landlords to provide well managed, quality homes where residents have an appropriate degree of choice and protection; opportunities to be engaged in the management of their homes and contribute to the environmental, economic and social well-being of the areas in which they live. They also place a duty on Social Landlords to provide opportunities for tenants to hold their landlords to account. <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/regulatory-standards>
4. While the Social Housing Regulator has the legislative power to hold housing provide to account rather than the council, the council does seek to build on this, positively encouraging opportunities to improve on the outcomes delivered by housing providers for residents and identify areas for improvement.
5. Housing providers are equally keen to work with the council on identifying the opportunities, demonstrated by their attendance to the Housing and Regen Scrutiny Committee to hear any concerns which residents have in relation to performance. As part of this relationship with the committee the council and the housing forum would be keen to explore any particular issues and ensure they are included in the 2022/23 work programme for the committee.





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(Appendix 10)

# **YJS Management Board Data Analysis Report**

**September 2021**

**Stephen Giraud**

**YJS Intelligence & Performance Manager**

**08/09/2021**



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## Key Summary Points

### 1 First-Time Entrants

- Performance: **MEETS TARGET - IMPROVED**
- Our latest MOJ figure shows a rate of 335 for Jan – Dec 2020

### 2 Reoffending

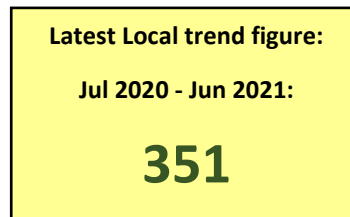
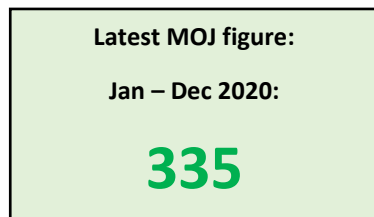
- Performance: **MEETS TARGET - IMPROVED**
- Current latest available MOJ shows rate of 34%. Projection figures currently do not have the rate increasing

### 3 Custody

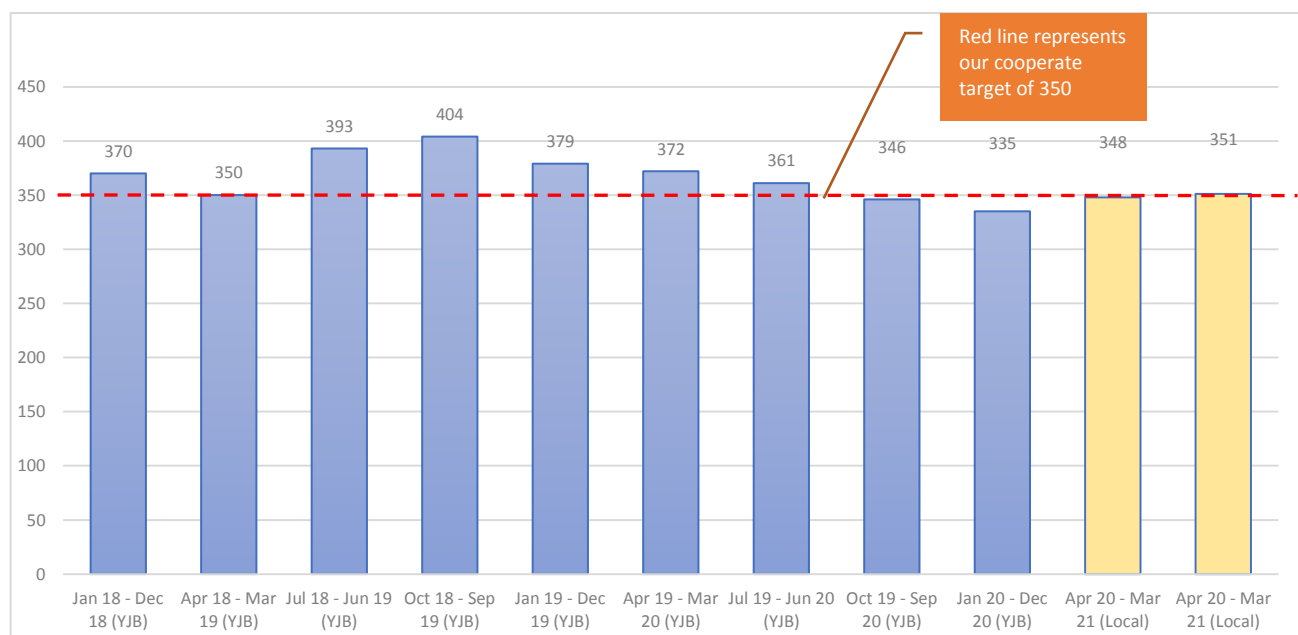
- Performance: **MEETS TARGET - STABLE**
- Latest local data shows a continued low custody rate

# 1 First-Time Entrants (FTE) Analysis

There are still no available YJB data for FTE's. The following is based on local data.



## 1A MOJ & LOCAL First-Time Entrants Trend Data



The chart shows, **in yellow, the local data** that covers the periods where the MOJ (or YJB) will report on in the next 2 national data reports. We can therefore see that currently we can expect our FTE rate to be around 350 for the next 2 MOJ reports, which is hitting our cooperate target.

Based on the local trend data we can still see a **positive direction of travel**. The rate has decreased and is remaining around our current cooperate target

The FTE action plan is now being implemented, with more community resolutions being issued by police within the borough (as of August 2021). This should further reduce the FTE rate.

More information regarding how the rate can be reduced will be analysed in this section.

**1B Latest MOJ First-Time Entrants YOT Family Comparison Data**

YOT Family Comparison	Jan - Dec 2019 (Baseline Data)			Jan - Dec 2020 (Latest Data)			
YOT	Number	2018 Population	Rate per 100,000	Num	2019 Population	Latest Rate per 100,000	RANK
Hammersmith and Fulham	31	14086	220	12	14558	83	1
Luton	34	22776	149	29	23089	127	2
Westminster	23	19014	121	32	20004	160	3
NATIONAL	11087	5360653	207	9136	5466338	170	4
LONDON	2098	806285	260	1831	823431	227	5
Camden	57	21377	267	51	22397	229	6
Manchester	170	47861	354	120	49109	244	7
Family Average	103	34621.9	298	86	35233.7	245	8
Islington	61	16616	367	43	16938	252	9
Haringey	82	24826	330	66	24779	267	10
Birmingham	410	121498	337	328	122952	267	11
Waltham Forest	96	25505	376	77	25674	299	12
Newham	90	33347	270	101	33356	301	13
Hackney	73	24818	294	82	25155	324	14
<b>Tower Hamlets and City of London</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>28247</b>	<b>379</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>29330</b>	<b>335</b>	<b>15</b>

As the above chart shows, although our FTE rate has improved, and we are within our cooperate target. However, we still sit bottom of our YOT family and well below the London average of 227.

Below is a chart showing the percentage of improvement for each YOT in our YOT family:

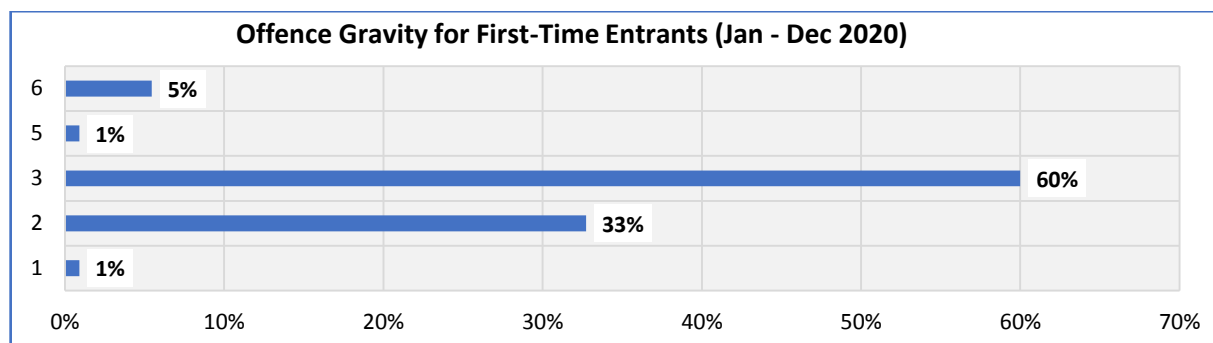
YOT Family FTE Rate Improvement Chart				
YOT	Current (2020)	Baseline (2019)	Comparison %	RANK
Hammersmith and Fulham	83	220	-62.3%	1
Islington	252	367	-31.4%	2
Manchester	244	354	-31.0%	3
Birmingham	267	337	-20.9%	4
Waltham Forest	299	376	-20.5%	5
Haringey	267	330	-19.2%	6
NATIONAL	170	207	-17.9%	7
Family Average	245	298	-17.6%	8
Luton	127	149	-14.8%	9
Camden	229	267	-14.0%	10
LONDON	227	260	-12.7%	11
<b>Tower Hamlets and City of London</b>	<b>335</b>	<b>379</b>	<b>-11.6%</b>	<b>12</b>
Hackney	324	294	10.2%	13
Newham	301	270	11.6%	14
Westminster	160	121	31.9%	15

As the above chart shows, although we have the worst overall rate, we still improved our rate by 11.6% compared with the previous year. This was the 12<sup>th</sup> best within our YOT family.

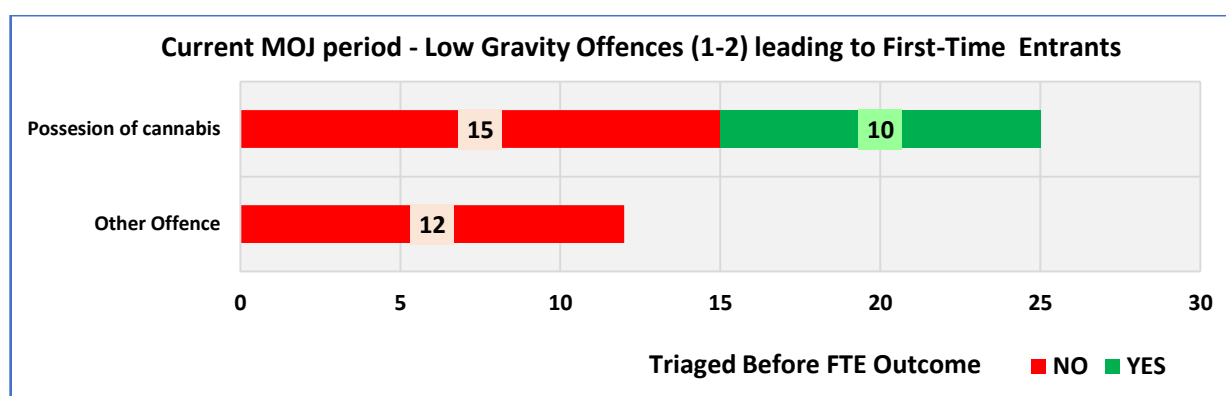
**However, as we can see, Hammersmith & Fulham, Islington, Manchester, Birmingham, Waltham Forest, and Haringey all had major improvements of 19% or more compared to the previous year.**

The board may want to consider contacting some of these YOT's to see if they have implemented anything different during the past 12-18 months to have achieved such improvements.

## 1C Offence Analysis for First-Time Entrants (MOJ latest period - Jan – Dec 2020)



The above chart clearly shows that most first-time entrants in the latest period covered by the MOJ committed gravity 2-3 offences. Potentially, there could be scope for reducing the rate by analysing further those committing gravity 1-2 offences as the chart below shows.



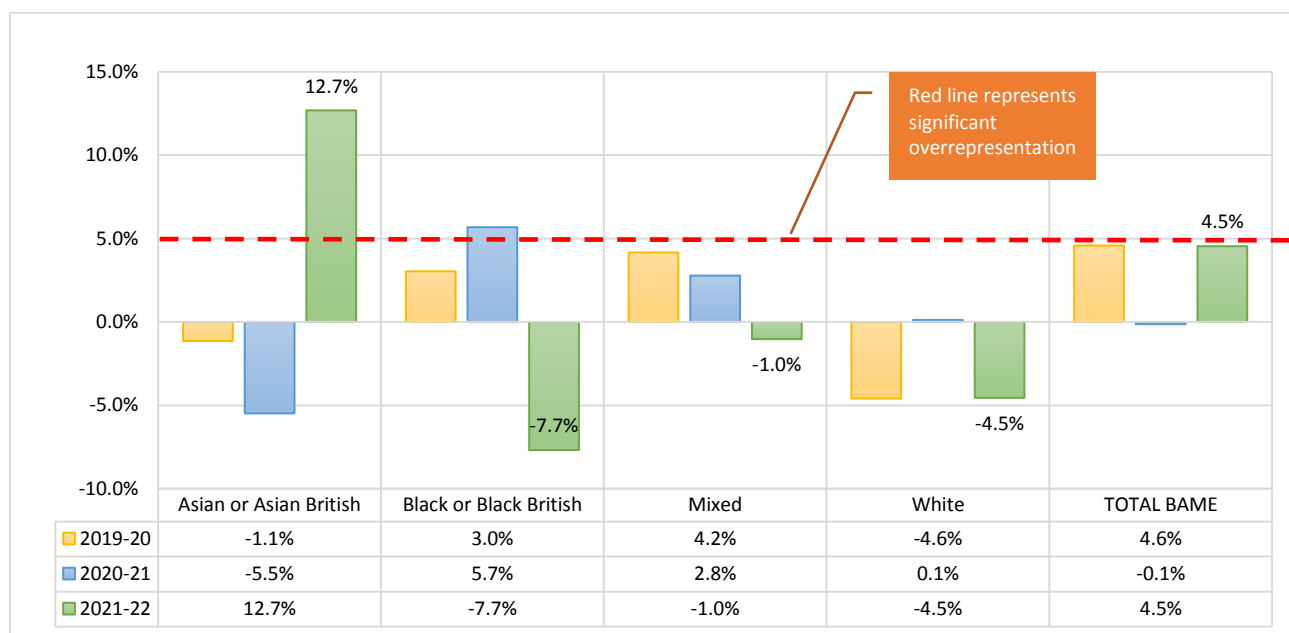
As the above chart shows, 37 young people committed low gravity offences and possession of cannabis clearly is the main low gravity offence for young people in our borough. Also, overall, 27 of these young people were not previously Triaged (73%).

If we concentrate solely on possession of cannabis, we can see that of the 25 young people committing this offence, **15 were not previously triaged**. If these young people were triaged or given another alternative instead of becoming an FTE, the effect on the FTE rate would be as follows:

FTE Rate if Non-Triaged Possession of cannabis cases were Triaged		
	No. of YP's	FTE RATE
Current MOJ (Jan-Dec 2020)	98	335
If above 15 possession of cannabis cases were triaged instead	83	284
Improvement %		15%

As the chart shows, we could potentially have had an improvement of 15% for the latest MOJ first-time entrants' rate by providing a triage or other alternative pre-court outcome to young people committing a possession of cannabis offence, where they had not previously benefitted from a triage. This would have moved us from bottom of our YOT family table to 12<sup>th</sup>.



**1D First-Time Entrants Ethnicity Disproportionality Analysis**

The above chart shows that in 2021-22, there has been a clear shift in ethnicity disproportionality of first-time entrants. Previous trend data had young people of black and mixed ethnicity as disproportionately overrepresented, but now both groups are underrepresented.

The red line represents significant overrepresentation, and we can see that so far in 2021-22, the only group significantly overrepresented are Asian young people. Historically, Asian young people have always been underrepresented.

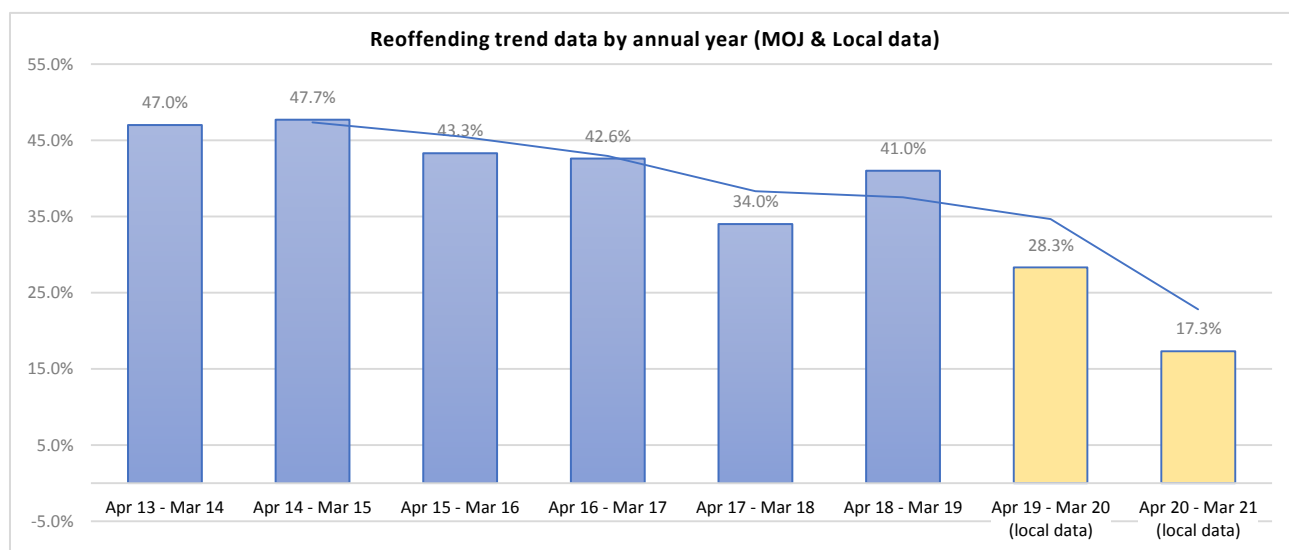
**1E Service Manager Comments**

As outlined in the comments above, the data highlights a significant shift in disproportionality, with Asian young people being the group most overrepresented. Scrutiny panels have highlighted that the YJS is on the whole making the appropriate decisions regarding FTE's, however there are other factors that contribute to this issues that will need to be explored with partners such as the police as why there has been a change in this area.

## 2 Re-offending Analysis

The MOJ has now provided the latest available reoffending data for both 12-month aggregate and 3-month cohorts.

### 2A Reoffending Rate – 12-month cohorts (YJB and LOCAL DATA)



Apart from 2018-19, the trend and forecast for reoffending is very good. For 2018-19, we already know that there was a spike in reoffending for young people on youth conditional cautions, as was revealed by previous analysis. The subsequent work done by the YJS to address seems to have worked as reoffending for conditional cautions has since decreased:

- YCC reoffending rate (2018-19): 45% ↑
- YCC reoffending rate (2019-20): 26% ↓
- YCC reoffending rate (2020-21): 12% ↓

### 2B MOJ latest Annual Cohort Reoffending Data (Oct 2018 – Sep 2019)

MOJ YOT Family Re-offending Cohort (Oct 2018 – Sep 2019)							
YOT	Number in the cohort	Number of reoffenders	Number of reoffences	Reoffences per reoffender	Reoffences per offender	% Reoffending	RANK
Birmingham	689	200	780	3.90	1.13	29.0%	1
Manchester	358	109	597	5.48	1.67	30.4%	2
<b>Tower Hamlets &amp; City of London</b>	206	70	185	2.64	0.90	34.0%	3
Luton	71	25	118	4.72	1.66	35.2%	4
Family Average	191.4	67.8	265.1	3.91	1.39	35.4%	5
NATIONAL	22250	7914	30119	3.81	1.35	35.6%	6
Waltham Forest	197	72	182	2.53	0.92	36.5%	7
Haringey	159	60	208	3.47	1.31	37.7%	8
Hackney	115	45	118	2.62	1.03	39.1%	9
Camden	88	35	158	4.51	1.80	39.8%	10
LONDON	4068	1631	5581	3.42	1.37	40.1%	11
Islington	95	42	119	2.83	1.25	44.2%	12
Newham	194	90	311	3.46	1.60	46.4%	13
Hammersmith and Fulham	79	38	127	3.34	1.61	48.1%	14
Westminster	66	34	115	3.38	1.74	51.5%	15

The latest available annual reoffending data from the MOJ covers Oct 2018 – Sep 2019. As the chart shows, we sit 3<sup>rd</sup> in our YOT family and better than both the London and National averages. As mentioned in the trend analysis, the forecast for reoffending rates looks good. There are no current spikes in reoffending.

**2C Quarterly 3 Month Reoffending Measure and projections**

The MOJ primarily uses a 3-month cohort method for analysing reoffending. This method can result in fluctuating reoffending rates depending on the number of individual reoffenders present in each cohort. However, over time this measure will show a similar trend to the 12-month aggregate cohort.

As a council, we now use the reoffending rate (3-month measure) as one of our outcome-based performance indicators. The following will look at the latest data from the MOJ and YOT family comparison and some current projections for the next two quarterly cohorts.

<b>MOJ 3 month quarterly reoffending comparison data (Jul – Sep 2019)</b>							
YOT	Number in the cohort	Number of reoffenders	Number of reoffences	Reoffences per reoffender	Reoffences per offender	% Reoffending	RANK
<i><b>Tower Hamlets &amp; City of London</b></i>	50	13	23	1.77	0.46	<b>26.0%</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Birmingham</b>	171	46	189	4.11	1.11	<b>26.9%</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Manchester</b>	75	21	147	7.00	1.96	<b>28.0%</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Haringey</b>	37	12	43	3.58	1.16	<b>32.4%</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>NATIONAL</b>	5341	1767	6735	3.81	1.26	<b>33.1%</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Luton</b>	14	5	33	6.60	2.36	<b>35.7%</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Family Average</b>	47	17.2	66.6	3.87	1.42	<b>36.6%</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Waltham Forest</b>	51	20	44	2.20	0.86	<b>39.2%</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>LONDON</b>	996	408	1339	3.28	1.34	<b>41.0%</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Newham</b>	54	26	97	3.73	1.80	<b>48.1%</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Hackney</b>	33	16	35	2.19	1.06	<b>48.5%</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Camden</b>	22	11	30	2.73	1.36	<b>50.0%</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Hammersmith and Fulham</b>	26	13	43	3.31	1.65	<b>50.0%</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Islington</b>	23	13	31	2.38	1.35	<b>56.5%</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Westminster</b>	15	9	18	2.00	1.20	<b>60.0%</b>	<b>15</b>

As the above shows, for the latest 3-month cohort, we have the best reoffending rate in our YOT family.

<b>SB7.7 Reoffending of young people (cooperate target)</b>	<b>33.7%</b>
<b>Variance +10%</b>	<b>37.1%</b>
<b>MOJ Quarterly Reoffending Rate (Jul-Sep 2019)</b>	<b>26.0%</b>

The table above shows the current cooperate target and our current performance. We are well within our target.

Also based on local data, we currently expect the reoffending rates for the next 2 quarters to be:

- Q3 (Oct – Dec 2019): **23%**
- Q4 (Jan 2019 – Mar 2020): **17%**

The above figures will change once reoffences have been proven but we do not expect dramatic increases and thus we expect to meet of current cooperate target for the next 2 quarters.

<b>2D</b>	<b>Service Manager Comments</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The above is really positive data and reinforces that once young people are working with the YJS, there appears to be impactful work that is completed, which is reducing re-offending. This data is taken from a pre covid and restructure period, therefore it will be interesting to assess whether there are any changes in the re-offending picture. However, I think its important to reiterate that this is a really positive picture in terms of re-offending data.</li> </ul>

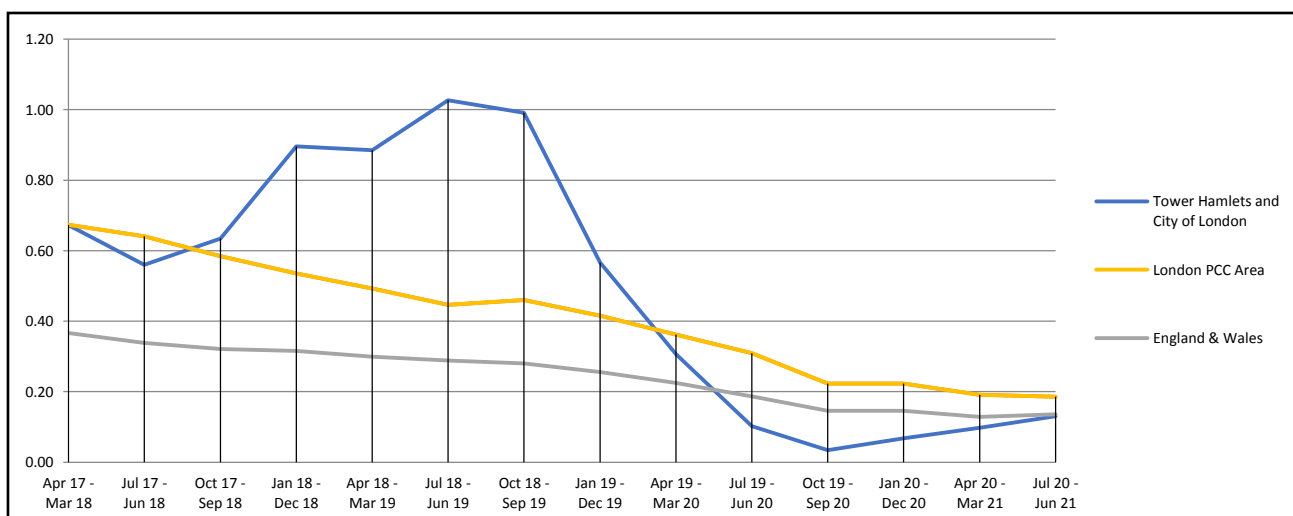
### 3 Custody Analysis

#### 3A MOJ YOT Family, London & National Custody Data

YOT Family Comparison		Jul 19 – Jun 20 (Base-line Data)		Jul 20 – Jun 21 (Latest Data)			
YOT	Number	2019 Population	Rate per 1,000	Num	2020 Population	Rate per 1,000	RANK
Camden	1	22397	0.04	0	23592	0.00	1
Westminster	2	20004	0.10	1	21470	0.05	2
Hammersmith and Fulham	9	14558	0.62	1	15076	0.07	3
Islington	5	16938	0.30	2	17613	0.11	4
Luton	6	23089	0.26	3	23527	0.13	5
NATIONAL	1021	5466338	0.19	756	5600736	0.13	6
<i>Tower Hamlets and City of London</i>	3	29330	0.10	4	30659	0.13	7
Newham	13	33356	0.39	5	33524	0.15	8
Waltham Forest	6	25674	0.23	4	25962	0.15	9
LONDON	255	823431	0.31	161	845463	0.19	10
Haringey	17	24779	0.69	5	24946	0.20	11
Family Average	13.9	35233.7	0.39	9.5	35993.8	0.26	12
Hackney	11	25155	0.44	7	25531	0.27	13
Manchester	19	49109	0.39	16	50750	0.32	14
Birmingham	56	122952	0.46	55	123909	0.44	15

As the chart shows, we have 1 additional custody case compared to the previous 12 months. Overall, our performance is very good. There has only been one additional custody case in July 2021.

#### 3B Custody rates trend data



The above chart shows our custody rates trend data compared with the National and London averages. We can see a steady decrease for both London and National but a much more dramatic decrease for Tower Hamlets & City. Although our rate has increased slightly, in comparison with the other averages and previous history, it is still very good.

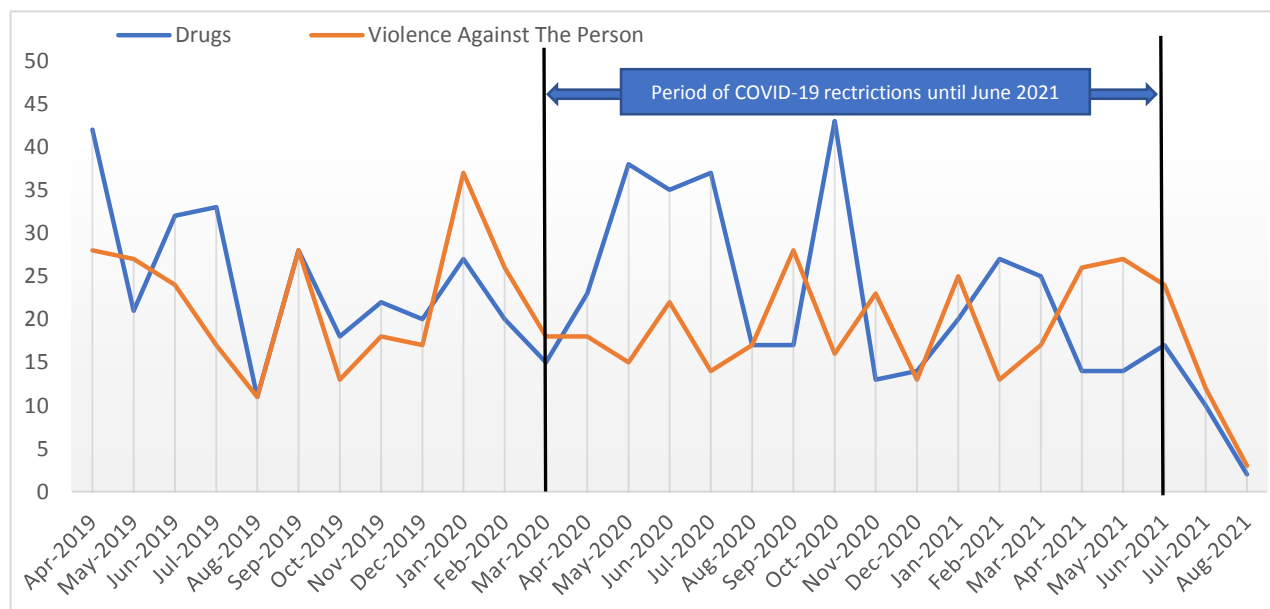
#### 3C Service Manager Comments

Tower Hamlets & the City continues its trend of low custody rates, which is very positive. In addition to this the YJS has been successful in presenting appropriate bail support packages to the Court that would have potentially resulted in custodial remand, which has helped continue our positive custody rate. There is of course a concern that some of our bail support cases could receive a custodial sentence, but this will be monitored in the months to come.

## 4 Offences Trend Analysis

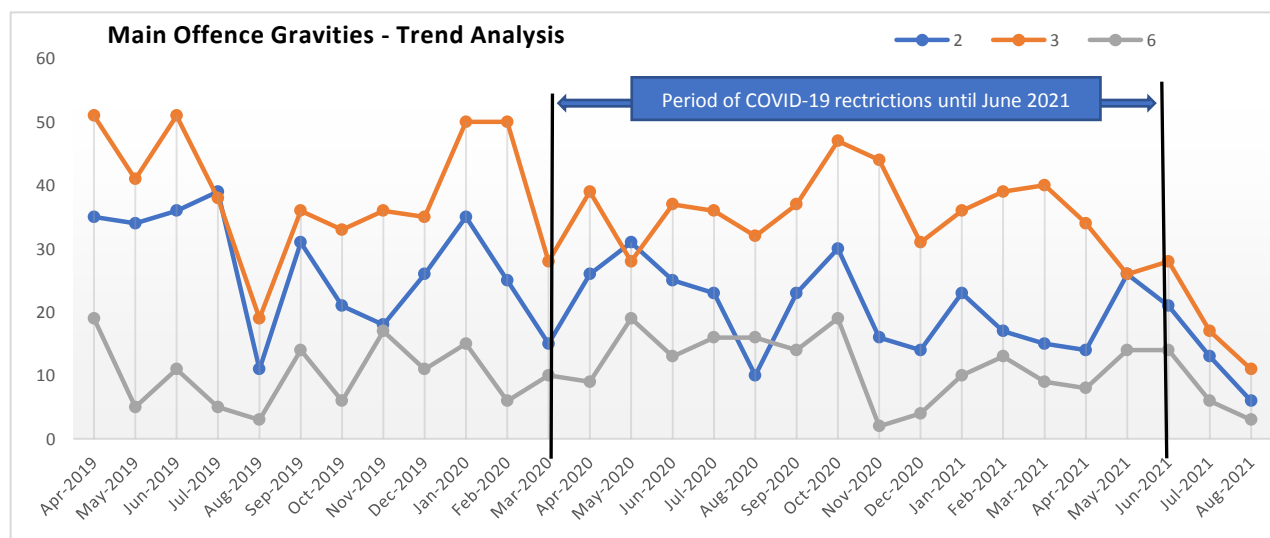
The analysis below is based on offences recorded in the YJS system (Child View) from April 2019 to August 2021. The data does not differentiate between proven and unproven offences but rather the objective of this analysis is to give an overview of the trends the YJS board needs to be aware of.

### 4.1 Main Offence Categories – Trend Data (April 2019 – Aug 2021)



- Drugs & Violent offences remain the main categories in terms of overall numbers, however, there has been a clear decrease in numbers of reported offences since June 2021.
- Drug offences were sporadically very high during the start of the pandemic but have since decreased significantly since March 2021.
- There was a spike in violent offences from April – Jun 2021, but this has since decreased significantly.

### 4.2 Main Offence Categories for April & May 2021



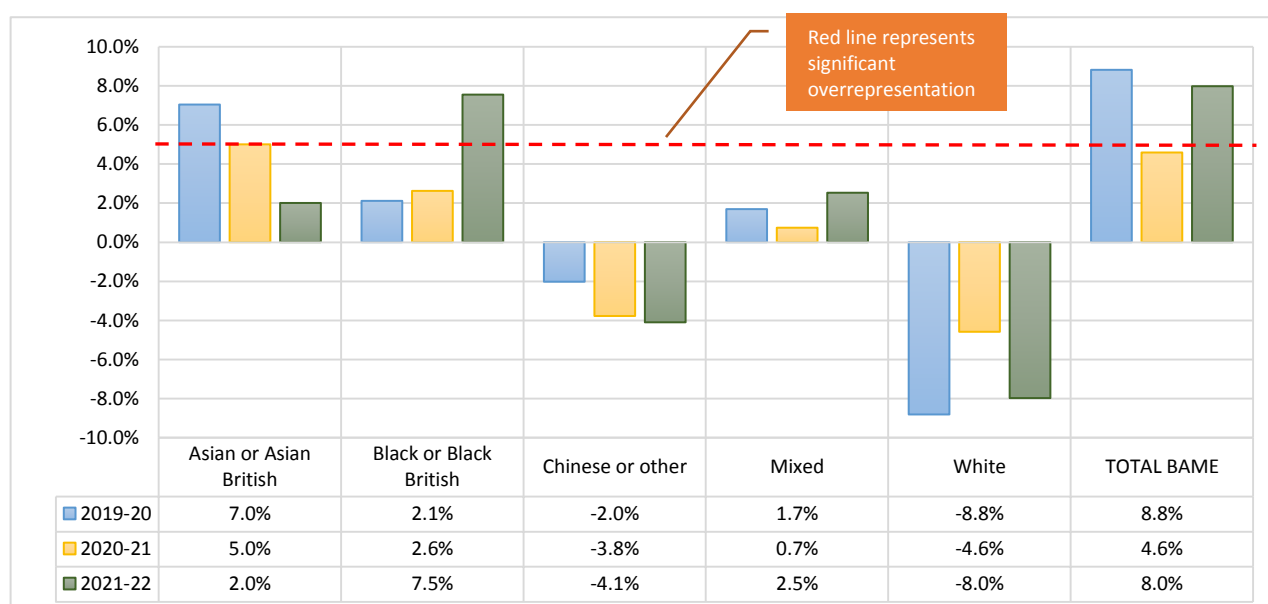
In terms of numbers, offence gravity of 3 is our highest, followed by 2 and then 6. For all these offence gravities the trends are similar, especially gravity scores of 3 and 6, which both likely include linked violent & robbery offences.

#### 4.5 Violent Offences Ethnicity Disproportionality Trend Data



Black young people were previously significantly overrepresented, but in 2021-22 thus far, they have been underrepresented. The opposite is true for white young people.

#### 4.6 Drug Offences Ethnicity Disproportionality Trend Data



Asian young people previously were significantly overrepresented for drug offences, but this is gradually decreasing. The opposite is true for black young people. White and Chinese/other are both consistently underrepresented.

Most of our drug offences are low gravity offences (i.e., possession of cannabis etc), hence the above disproportionality trends may well be linked to the disproportionate police stop & search trends discussed in the disproportionality phase 1 analysis.

## 5 Education, Training & Employment Analysis

### 5.1 ETE YOT family comparison data for young people ending orders – Q1 April – June 2021

YOT Family Comparison Data (Q1 (Apr – Jun 2021))		Total Young People				
YOT	Orders ending	In full time ETE	In ETE but not full time	Not in ETE or ETE status not known	% yp Supervised in full time ETE	% YP Ending NEET
Birmingham	95	1	0	94	1%	99%
Camden	9	7	0	2	78%	22%
Hackney	26	18	3	5	69%	19%
Hammersmith and Fulham	3	1	0	2	33%	67%
Haringey	22	11	0	11	50%	50%
Islington	13	7	2	4	54%	31%
Luton	6	6	0	0	100%	0%
Manchester	45	22	10	13	49%	29%
Newham	32	23	0	9	72%	28%
<b>TOWER HAMLETS &amp; CITY</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>43%</b>	<b>43%</b>
Waltham Forest	20	6	1	13	30%	65%
Westminster	6	3	1	2	50%	33%
YOT Family Average	25	10	2	14	52%	55%
London	544	254	48	242	47%	44%
England	2334	897	244	1193	38%	51%

The above data relates to young people ending Referral Orders, YROs or DTO Licences during April – June 2021. Below is a summary of where we sit in our YOT family for both young people ending in full-time ETE and ending NEET:

Ending in Full-Time ETE – Q1 2021-22		
YOT	% YP in full time ETE	Rank
Luton	100%	1
Camden	78%	2
Newham	72%	3
Hackney	69%	4
Islington	54%	5
YOT Family Average	52%	6
Haringey	50%	7
Westminster	50%	8
Manchester	49%	9
London	47%	10
<b>TOWER HAMLETS &amp; CITY</b>	<b>43%</b>	<b>11</b>
England	38%	12
Hammersmith and Fulham	33%	13
Waltham Forest	30%	14
Birmingham	1%	15

Ending NEET – Q1 2021-22		
YOT	% YP Ending NEET	Rank
Luton	0%	1
Hackney	19%	2
Camden	22%	3
Newham	28%	4
Manchester	29%	5
Islington	31%	6
Westminster	33%	7
<b>TOWER HAMLETS &amp; CITY</b>	<b>43%</b>	<b>8</b>
London	44%	9
Haringey	50%	10
England	51%	11
YOT Family Average	55%	12
Waltham Forest	65%	13
Hammersmith and Fulham	67%	14
Birmingham	99%	15

- We are below our YOT family average and London average for young people ending orders in full-time ETE.
- We are better than both London and YOT family averages for young people ending NEET, mainly because we have more young people ending orders in partial ETE when compared to other YOT's in our family group.
- Newham have similar numbers to us but have a much better percentage of young people ending orders in full-time ETE. *It maybe worth the contacting Newham to understand what they are doing to achieve this.*

## 5.2 ETE quarterly trend data for young people ending Referral Orders, YROs or DTO Licences

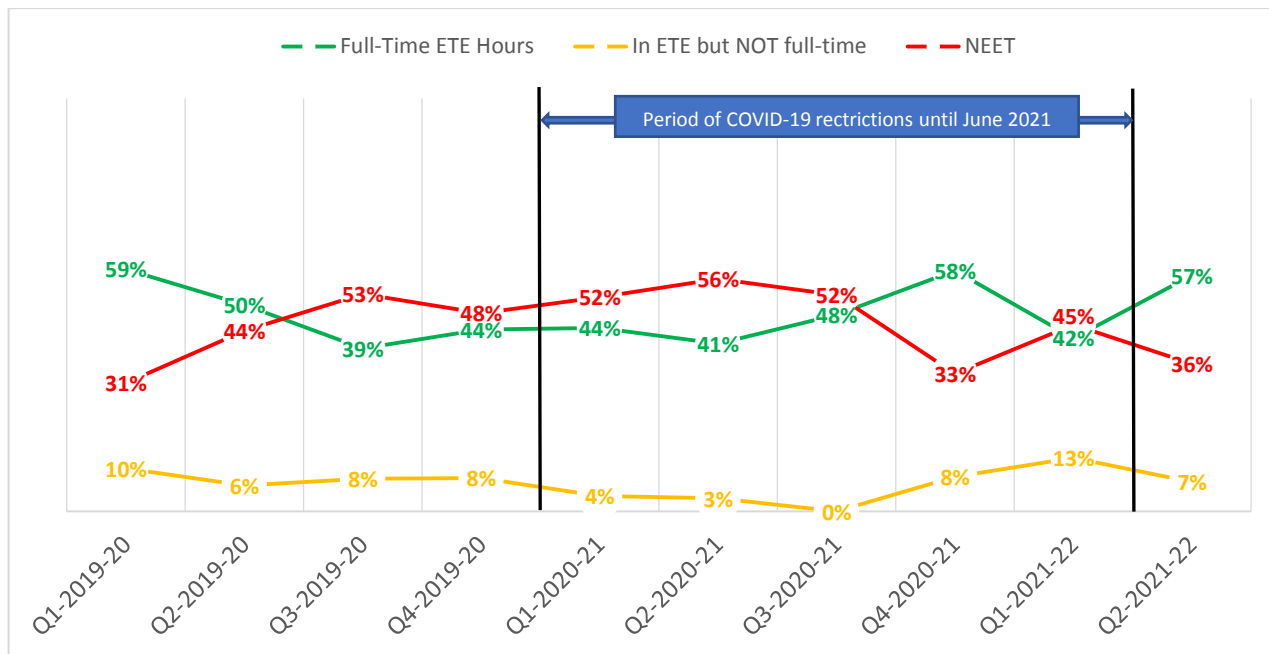
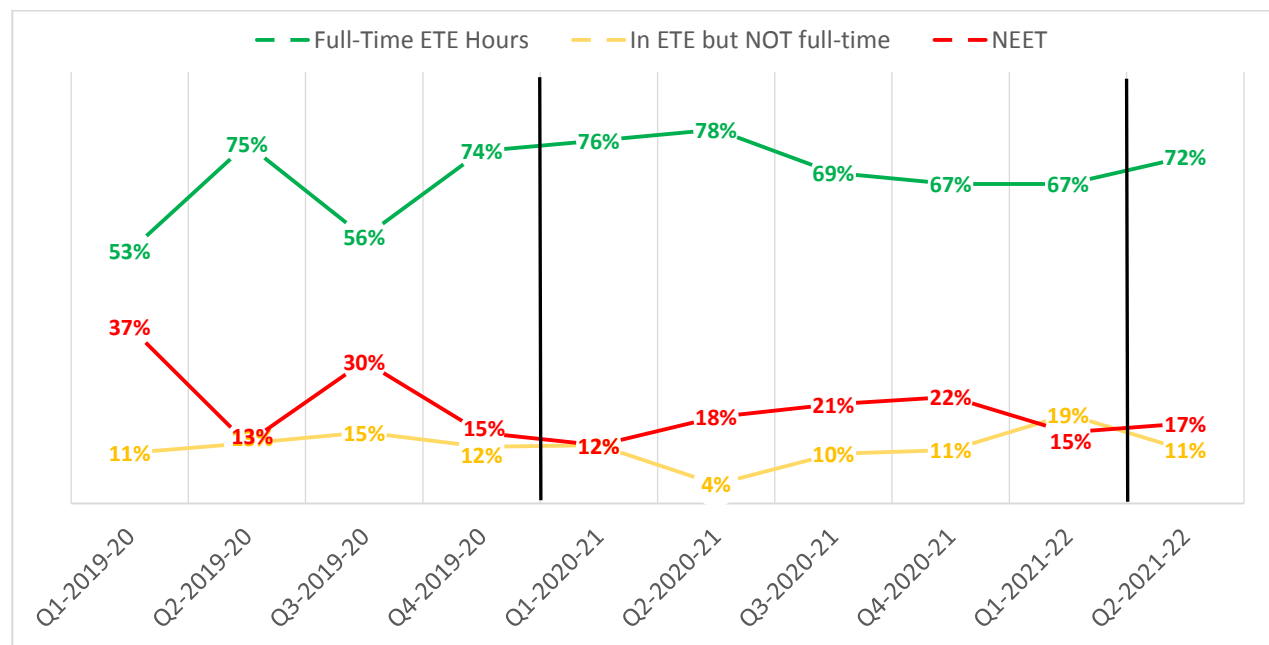


Chart shows that overall trends for young people ending in full-time ETE have improved, especially during the main periods of COVID-19 restrictions. There have been no recent alarming negative trends with regards to young people ending NEET, although we would like to see a lower figure consistently.

## 5.3 ETE quarterly trend data for young people ending Triage & Conditional cautions



The trend for young people ending either a Triage or conditional caution in full-time ETE has been more consistent throughout the pandemic, compared to prior.

Both charts indicate a positive direction of travel in terms of consistency and improvement.



**5.4 Current NEET performance for 2021-22**

Young People Ending NEET	
<b>BENCHMARK: 2020-21</b>	<b>43%</b>
<b>Variance +10%</b>	<b>47%</b>
Latest 2021-22 figure	<b>42%</b>

Ending NEET – School Aged	
<b>BENCHMARK: 2020-21</b>	<b>12%</b>
<b>Variance +10%</b>	<b>13%</b>
Latest 2021-22 figure	<b>0%</b>

Ending NEET – Above School Aged	
<b>BENCHMARK: 2020-21</b>	<b>53%</b>
<b>Variance +10%</b>	<b>58%</b>
Latest 2021-22 figure	<b>45%</b>

The current performance for young people ending NEET is very good compared with last years figures.

The main group pushing the numbers up is young people above school age.

<b>5.6</b>	<b>Service Manager Comments</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The above data provides a promising picture in regard to NEET/ETE performance , particularly during challenges of COVID and highlights the improvements that have been made. The YJS now has an established Education Officer since 2019, which helps provide appropriate support and advocacy for young people in the YJS. There are still improvements to be made and we could explore what has worked well in other local authorities to continue to the positive progress</li> </ul>

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**LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS**

**MINUTES OF THE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**HELD AT 6.33 P.M. ON MONDAY, 13 DECEMBER 2021**

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

**Members Present:**

Councillor Mohammed Pappu (Chair)

Councillor Bex White (Vice-Chair)

Councillor Faroque Ahmed

Councillor Marc Francis

Councillor Denise Jones

Councillor Gabriela Salva Macallan

Councillor Leema Qureshi

Councillor Andrew Wood

- Scrutiny Lead for Children and Education
- Scrutiny Lead for Community Safety
- Scrutiny Lead for Health and Adults
- Scrutiny Lead for Resources and Finance

**Co-opted Members Present:**

Halima Islam

James Wilson

- Co-Optee
- Co-Optee

**Other Councillors Present:**

Councillor Asma Begum

Councillor Mufeedah Bustin

Councillor Danny Hassell

Councillor Candida Ronald

**Apologies:**

Councillor Ehtasham Haque

- Scrutiny Lead for Housing and Regeneration

**Officers Present:**

Kevin Bartle

Rupert Brandon

Vicky Clark

Billy Finnegan

David Freeman

- (Corporate Director, Resources & Section 151 Officer)
- Interim Head of Housing Supply
- (Director of Integrated Growth and Development)
- (Youth Offending Service)
- (Policy and Strategy Manager, Voluntary and Community Sector)

	(VCS)
Afazul Hoque	– (Head of Corporate Strategy & Policy)
David Knight	– (Democratic Services Officer, Committees, Governance)
Filuck Miah	– (Strategy and Policy Officer, Corporate Strategy and Policy Team)
Ann Sutcliffe	– (Corporate Director, Place)
Karen Swift	– (Divisional Director, Housing and Regeneration)
James Thomas	– (Corporate Director, Children and Culture)
Nisar Visram	– (Director of Finance, Procurement & Audit)

## 1. DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTEREST AND OTHER INTERESTS

The following Member for transparency declared a potential interest in relation to:

1. **Item 9 Pre-Decision Scrutiny Questions** Councillor Marc Francis due to his wife Councillor Rachel Blake being the Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Adults, Health and Wellbeing.

## 2. UNRESTRICTED MINUTES

### RESOLVED

That the unrestricted minutes of the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2021 be approved as a correct record of the proceedings and the Chair was **authorised** to sign them accordingly. Subject to the following amendment:

#### Minute 15 Victoria Park

**Delete:** “Therefore, it would be helpful if the Committee could have a note explaining why this was not **seemed** to be a key decision” and **insert:** Therefore, it would be helpful if the Committee could have a note explaining why this was not **deemed** to be a key decision.

### MATTERS ARISING

#### 9.1 Waste and Recycling (22<sup>nd</sup> November 2021)

Noted that following the spotlight on Waste and Recycling services on 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2021 the Chair advised the Committee that he had submitted the recommendations to Councillor Asma Islam (Cabinet Member for Environment and Planning) and (i) had asked for a written response to the

recommendations; (ii) as soon as this is received it will be circulated to the Committee.

### 3. ACTION LOG

The Committee **noted** that it had received the response regarding the Liveable Streets recommendations as detailed in the Action Log.

In addition, it was noted that there were the following action log items:

- ❖ A breakdown of the recent Autumn Budget and Spending Review announcement and the projected implications for Tower Hamlets.
- ❖ A report on the review of Leisure Centres that was to be provided to the Committee; and
- ❖ A written note to be provided with an explanation as to why the decision to agree the extension of AEG was not considered to be a key decision.

### 4. REQUESTS TO SUBMIT PETITIONS

Nil items.

### 5. FORTHCOMING DECISIONS

The Committee **noted** Cabinet forward plan as of 16<sup>th</sup> November 2021 and that for the most up to date version, Members were recommended to check the Cabinet web pages on the [council's website](#).

### 6. UNRESTRICTED REPORTS 'CALLED IN'

Nil Items.

### 7. SCRUTINY SPOTLIGHT

#### 7.1 Housing

The Committee received a presentation that provided an overview of the Council's activities to deliver housing priorities over the last 18 months and covered (i) housing projects delivered; (ii) work in progress; (iii) planned work including the key housing challenges; and (iv) an update on the Housing Revenue Account (HRA). The main points raised because of questioning summarised as follows:

The Committee:

- ❖ Was **pleased** to hear on the progress being made with house building and welcomed the volume of buyback on right to buy properties to house homeless households.
- ❖ **Noted** The buyback scheme has benefits for both the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) and the general fund. In terms of the former,

the additional stock will help to sustain the HRA rental income whilst assisting in mitigating the financial pressure arising from the increased cost and requirements for temporary accommodation to house homeless households in the general fund.

- ❖ **Noted** that many councillors have seen a deterioration in the quality of service being offered by most registered housing providers who are managing and maintaining existing homes, providing associated services within Tower Hamlets e.g., housing repairs and anti-social behaviour (ASB).
- ❖ Was **reminded** that Tower Hamlets Housing Covenant had set out a commitment by the Borough, its ALMO Tower Hamlets Homes and registered providers with homes in the borough to work together to (i) provide quality value for money housing services; (ii) share a commitment to Tower Hamlets residents; and (iii) maximise the supply of affordable housing and housing options.
- ❖ **Noted** that covenant signatories were required to 1 Listen to and respect residents' views; 2 Respect diversity and provide inclusive services; 3 Operate transparently and openly; and work cooperatively with properly constituted and representative resident groups; 4. Respond to Members' Enquiries and information requests within published timescales; 5. Ensure residents live in warm, safe, weathertight, and decent homes; 6. Remedy resident repair requests in an appropriate and timely manner; 7. Actively participate in tackling Anti-Social Behaviour; 8. Be members of the Common Housing Register; 9. Evidence value for money in service provision; 10. Share key performance data to identify and share best practice; 11. Maximise opportunities for residents to take-up work, training and apprenticeships; and 12. Identify opportunities for Right-to-Buy receipts generated in the Borough to be invested in new housing in Tower Hamlets.
- ❖ **Commented** that it would be of use to be able to identify which of the partner housing associations in the Borough are delivering against the twelve objectives.
- ❖ **Noted** that there are number of ways that the Council can collaborate with its partners e.g., the Borough therefore shares and promotes good practice.
- ❖ **Noted** that some registered housing providers are incredibly positive about strong partnerships in the Borough and that they do not see that within all councils. Although not every housing provider is engaging to the same level and there is a challenge there the Lead Member; the Mayor and other ward members have incredibly challenging conversations with housing providers about the quality of their services and plans.
- ❖ **Noted** some of the continuing challenges of rising rent, fuel poverty and the impact of the departure from the European Union on cost of labour, skills, and materials.
- ❖ **Noted** in terms of the winter strategy the Lead Member was happy to share more detail on what the Councils approach has been in terms of its rough sleeping plan and what is being developed in terms of data and outcomes.

- ❖ **Noted** that regarding the data on how the Council are currently performing on the implementation of improvement the last strategic quarterly performance monitoring report submitted to Cabinet showed an increase in kind of work in terms of prevention.
- ❖ **Noted** that the Lead Member had met with an entire range of senior managers from housing providers last week to talk about how the Members enquiry process can be improved with reference to housing issues. The Lead Member indicated that the seniority of those attending illustrated a tangible commitment within these housing providers to make sure that they get the Members enquiry process right. In addition, the Councils own Housing and Regeneration Scrutiny Sub-Committee provides an opportunity for Members to review and scrutinises those decisions made, or actions taken in connection with the discharge of the Council's housing functions.
- ❖ **Commented** that the housing providers should not wait for the new consumer regulation to look at how they can improve their services and engagement with tenants.
- ❖ **Agreed** that the Council needs to be initiative-taking in obliging the regulator and the government to adhere to these very worthy objectives. Housing providers must maintain tenants' homes so that they are safe and of a decent standard and that housing providers provide a quality service. Where things go wrong, complaints must be managed effectively, and things are put right. The relationship between tenants and housing providers should be underpinned by shared expectations of fairness and respect and a shared understanding of their respective rights and responsibilities. Housing providers must demonstrate that they understand the diverse needs of the communities that they serve, and their services must reflect that. Whilst tenants need to understand, use, and have confidence in the recourse that they must get problems resolved.
- ❖ **Stated** that Councillors had to have confidence that housing providers are (i) committed to their tenants as they are responsible for meeting the regulatory standards; (ii) supporting their tenants to shape and scrutinise service delivery, to hold their housing provider to account and for understanding their performance and telling the Council if they are not meeting a standard. Arising from discussions on this matter the Committee **expressed** concern that in October 2021 following receipt of a fire safety report from an engineering advisory consultancy, Clarion Housing Group had permanently moved all 120 households out of Clare House with immediate effect. Clarion had it was felt not managed this serious situation effectively and the relationship between tenants and Clarion had been compromised and that this will need to be addressed.
- ❖ **Noted** that the Council has a number of incentive schemes designed to help tenants to downsize to smaller homes when their household needs change. These tenants can access an entire range of incentives depending on what is most appropriate for them on a kind of sliding scale according to the size of the property as well as what becomes available. Whilst in terms of "knock throughs" to create one home out of two adjoining properties this needs to be considered very carefully

because whilst it may help solve an immediate families housing issue. It does take a property out of circulation therefore stopping another family on the waiting list being able to get a property. Therefore, the Council primarily considers a “knocking through” to increase the available room by utilising that which is considered to be “Dead Space” in a property (**e.g.**, old storerooms) and not consider knocking through two properties unless there was a set extenuating circumstance, such as a severe medical need.

- ❖ **Considered** waiting lists for larger families, roof top scheme potential, incentives for rationalising and obtaining a better understanding of the housing management panel process and decisions.

Following a full and wide-ranging discussion, the Chair thanked all those Committee Members in attendance together with (i) Councillor Danny Hassell (Cabinet Member for Housing); (ii) Karen Swift (Divisional Director, Housing and Regeneration); and (iii) Rupert Brandon (Interim Head of Housing Supply) for their contributions to get a sense on what has been delivered to date, the future and the challenges that the Borough continues to face.

Accordingly, the Committee asked that the Cabinet Member for Housing to consider the above comments and the following recommendations.

1. It would continue to monitor this area via the Housing and Regeneration Sub-committee and look forward to re-visiting how the Council has taken on board the Committees feedback in 2022.
2. Having raised concerns about the lack of accountability for many of the housing providers who are signatories to the Tower Hamlets Housing Covenant felt that more affirmative action was required from the Council to hold these signatories to account. Accordingly, members indicated that it **wished** to know what sanctions can be used to get the covenant signatories to delivering against the twelve objectives.
3. Having heard the progress of the Councils Housing Options service on its work with the Homeless transformation programme and the rough sleeping delivering plan and **recommended** using the opportunity to follow up on the outcomes on residents who are experiencing homelessness but remain housed in hotels.

## 8. BUDGET & POLICY

### 8.1 Budget Consultation

The Committee noted that in March 2022, the Council will agree its budget for 2022-23 and in line with previous years, the Council has conducted consultation with residents, businesses, and other key stakeholders to help inform the budget setting process. The results of the Council's 2022-23 budget consultation conducted from October to November 2021 were outlined in the report. The key points of the discussion may be summarised as follows:



The Committee:

- ❖ **Welcomed** that budget consultation undertaken earlier this year and noted that the findings from the consultation will be incorporated into the budget setting process.
- ❖ **Noted** that the headline findings from the budget consultation highlighted Community Safety as the top concern for residents which is a shift from the previous year which had been on Public Health.
- ❖ **Noted** on the top line analysis of the settlement but wanted clarity on the potential £18 million extra available to the Council than originally assumed as result of government delays on the business rate re-set and felt that the historical underestimation on budget setting often posed unnecessary risks to cutting services.
- ❖ **Commented** that it had been extremely useful to get a sense of the public mood and expressed the hope that the results from the consultation will play its part on next year's budget.

Following a full and wide-ranging discussion, the Chair thanked all those Committee Members in attendance together with Councillor Candida Ronald (Cabinet Lead Member for Resources and Voluntary Sector); Nisar Visram (Director of Finance, Procurement and Audit Interim); and Kevin Bartle (Corporate Director, Resources & Section 151 Officer) for their contributions to what had provided Members with a sense of the public's mood.

Accordingly, the Committee **resolved** that:

- ❖ It looked forward to reviewing the budget and will seek to understand how the findings from the budget consultation have been taken on board.

## 8.2 Youth Justice Annual Plan

The Committee received a report that outlined the priorities and strategic goals of the Youth Justice Board and as a committee we have an opportunity to review this plan and provide our comments and feedback.

For now, the key points for the Committee are:

- ❖ **Noted** that Young People's service has an ongoing internal auditing processes that are embedded within the services practice, although there are also a number of annual external audits which are commissioned with other local authorities as well as the Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation (HMIP) which makes recommendations to identify and disseminate effective practice, challenge mediocre performance, and encourage improvement.
- ❖ **Noted** that about Tower Hamlets restorative justice practice whilst the performance has been variable over the years the majority are young adults and not children under eighteen. In terms of the custody Tower Hamlets **(i)** has very few young people in custody and maintains a

close working relationship with those institutions holding the young people; and **(ii)** maintains a critical eye on the practices in those settings to ensure that the young people are kept safe and that their offending and education is being addressed.

- ❖ Was pleased to **note** whilst the report stated that reoffending rate was 41% there has been a positive trajectory and currently the rate is between 34% to 35% and this was expected, and it is anticipated this trend will continue. Accordingly, the Committee asked to receive an update on these figures to monitor progress.
- ❖ Expressed **concern** that Black, Asian and minority ethnic young people receive harsher sentences and **noted** that the action plan is designed to target each partner agency. Although the multi-agency panels tasked to scrutinise decisions held in March 2020 and March 2021 had agreed with all but 1 of the decisions that had been made, suggesting that the right decisions as a service in terms appropriate disposal have been made.
- ❖ However, **agreed** that attention needs to be considered to the disproportionate representation of young black people in the criminal justice system and welcomed the ongoing work being done to address this.
- ❖ **Welcomed (i)** the regular dialogue and early engagement with statutory partners including voluntary sector and young people through a series of workshops with the purpose of developing the vision and strategy for this plan; **(ii)** that First Time Entrants (key performance indicator) continues to decrease and recent data suggests this has been the lowest in the last three years; **(iii)** that the service continues to track and monitor the Boroughs young people in custody and whilst holding a critical eye, maintain a healthy relationship with the custodial establishments; and **(iv)** the preparations being undertaken for the Youth Justice Service Inspections (expected in early 2022) including setting outcomes to measure the effectiveness of the Youth Justice Board.

As a result of discussions on the report, the Chair (i) thanked all those Committee Members in attendance together with Councillor Asma Begum (Statutory Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Children, Youth Services, Education & Equalities); James Thomas (Corporate Director for Children & Culture) and Billy Finnegan (Acting Head of Youth Justice & Young People's service) who had provided an overview of the Annual Youth Justice Plan. (ii) indicated that it had been useful for the Committee to get a sense of the travel of direction and the report itself had outlined some of the progress that has been made, some of the key challenges and priorities going forward.

Accordingly, the Committee having reviewed the report on the Annual Youth Justice Plan 2021-22 **(i)** welcomed the service's partnership approach to developing the plan for 2021-2022; and **(ii)** would be submitting a report to Cabinet on this item which would incorporate the Committees comments and feedback for consideration. These are outlined below:

1. **Resolved** to support the priority around restorative justice and has asked for further details on number of children and young people benefiting from this approach as part of their rehabilitation process.
2. **Expressed** concern on the report's conclusion about the ethnic disproportionality in remand and sentencing in youth justice system thus highlighting a number of inequalities for groups.
3. **Recommended** that addressing disproportionality should be reflected in the vision of the plan given the significant inequalities that exist.

## 9. SCRUTINY CHALLENGE SESSION

### 9.1 Community Buildings

The Committee received a presentation that provided an update on progress being made about progress on addressing the recommendations from the Premises Charges and Community Benefit Rent Reduction Scheme Challenge Session which had been undertaken in November 2019 and chaired by Councillor Tarik Khan former scrutiny lead for Resources and Finance. The main points raised because of questioning is summarised as follows:

The Committee:

- ❖ **Observed** that in relation to community hubs agreeing their own pricing whilst the Council can guide and advise it is down to the organisations running the hubs to make sure that those hubs are used and utilized by the community. However, if no Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) organisation is identified to run these hubs, then the Council will have to take on the cost of maintaining; servicing and managing those hubs.
- ❖ **Noted** on the issue of pricing whilst the VCS organizations that operate the hubs will have the freedom to set their own pricing, as part of the lease arrangement the Council will **(i)** have some degree of oversight on that pricing to ensure that the pricing is fair; **(ii)** expect premises to be accessible to organisations; and **(iii)** presume that the organisations managing the community hubs are essentially going to aim and operate on a cost recovery basis.
- ❖ **Noted** that business rate relief is a critical advantage to VCS organizations operating these buildings which enables them to run the premises on a more cost effectively basis than the Council could and therefore potentially to pass those savings onto those organisations that want to hire space in the buildings.
- ❖ **Noted** that the most significant challenge is that of fairness because space is one of the Borough's most scarce resources as highlighted in the earlier part of the committee meeting tonight regarding the Scrutiny Spotlight on Housing.
- ❖ **Acknowledged** that for many community hubs just starting up one of the most challenging issues that they need to address is identifying their individual business activities and responsibilities **e.g.** duties around health and safety and managing a facility can become very challenging and an organisation does not have any experience in the

management of such facilities then it can be really time-consuming and if an organisation gets it wrong that can have serious consequences for that organisation.

- ❖ **Commented** that the Council have the experience and understanding of those complications to ensure those buildings are run safely and legally that can be shared with VCS organisations (**e.g.**, policies in relation to health and safety).
- ❖ **Acknowledged** that the presentation had illustrated how the outcomes that were included in the Cabinet report on 24<sup>th</sup> March 2021 will be addressed in the future management of the community hubs.
- ❖ **Noted** the Council in November 2016, agreed a scheme to reduce the rent payable for third sector organisations who meet specific criteria relating to the community benefit of their activities and their organisational governance and management, the Community Benefit Rent Reduction Scheme (CBRR). These new arrangements initially affected organisations in buildings in the council's community premises portfolio but have since been extended to existing VCS occupiers of other council premises.
- ❖ **Commented** that there has been noteworthy progress since scrutiny undertook the challenge session and anticipated that the Council will continue to develop its response to the scrutiny challenge session on the Boroughs premises charges and community benefit rent reduction scheme.

Following a full and wide-ranging discussion, the Chair thanked **(i)** Councillor Mufeedah Bustin (Cabinet Member for Social Inclusion) for providing the Committee with the progress on the recommendations together with David Freeman (Corporate Strategy and Policy Manager) and Vicky Clark (Director of Integrated Growth and Development); and **(ii)** stated that the Committee are pleased with the progress made on the recommendations and hope those areas where on-going work needs to take place continues.

## 9.2 Scrutiny challenge session report: The extent to which the council's parking permit policy influences people's behaviour

The Committee reviewed the Parking Challenge Session report that outlined the findings and recommendations on the extent to which the Council's parking permit policy influence's people's behaviour. The Report set out eight recommendations for agreement by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. The Challenge Session considered how **(i)** will the Council manages the demand for parking provision with the projected population growth to reach 361,400 by 2027 and supports post pandemic business growth; **(ii)** will the Council continue to maintain its current levels of parking surplus given the extrinsic change factors such as **(a)** the Mayor of London's Ultra Low Emission Zone (ULEZ) expansion scheme that came into force on 25th October 2021; **(b)** more planned car free dwellings; **(c)** drop in footfall from passing trade for businesses; **(d)** the development of the work from home culture; and **(e)** inflationary costs to public transport; **(iii)** the Council will encourage residents and businesses to switch to EV (Electric Vehicle)'s and ensure that they understand the implications for ULEZ expansion scheme;

and **(iv)** to capture any insights that help to understand residents behaviour and receptiveness to change, particularly those from lower economic background. This challenge session provided the Committee with a chance to scrutinise the Council's current approach to its parking permit policies and how it influences resident's behaviour. The main points raised because of questioning summarised as follows:

The Committee:

- ❖ **Noted** that it was clear from the evidence heard that parking is an integral element of not only the transport strategy but many of the other council's priorities and aspirations.
- ❖ **Acknowledged** that striking the right balance for parking to accommodate the diverse needs of the Borough is an ongoing challenge.
- ❖ **Welcomed** the Council's ambition to reduce petrol and diesel vehicles to protect the environment and to facilitate the uptake of electric vehicles.
- ❖ **Recognised** that there is an immediate need to manage the current demand for parking and align this with future demand.
- ❖ **Thanked** Councillor Ahmed for taking the initiative to undertake this challenge session, which had examined an aspect of the Council services that warranted scrutiny.
- ❖ **Encouraged** officers; the Lead Member and the Mayor to consider not just to read the recommendations but also the narrative as it **(i)** explains the reason why those that were able to attend reached those conclusions; and **(ii)** is evidence of the extent of the problem.
- ❖ **Noted** the challenges faced by residents and business including the number of empty parking bays that are not being fully utilised, that could be cascaded down to local businesses and residents.
- ❖ **Noted** that about the permit transfer scheme it is essential that more flexibility is introduced as the system is not working in a way that is fair and transparent to residents. In addition, the current the policy seems to discriminate against smaller families and those who want to downsize into smaller accommodation.
- ❖ **Agreed** that the report's recommendations are **(i)** not there to provide an answer to all the current challenges; and **(ii)** a starting point to begin to develop a fair and transparent policy.
- ❖ **Noted** the recommendations within the report to **(i)** improving capacity where demand is great, **(ii)** a review of the Permit Transfer Scheme, **(iii)** a review of long-term pricing, **(iv)** enhancing the use of car clubs, and EV charging points.

Following a wide-ranging discussion, the Chair thanked (i) Councillor Faroque Ahmed (Scrutiny Lead for Community Safety) for presenting the report and those councillors in attendance for their contributions to what had been a constructive discussion on this critical issue.

Accordingly, the Committee:

- (i) **Resolved** to agree the report and recommendations of the Parking challenge session held in November 2021.
- (ii) **Noted** that the service will now develop an action plan response to be agreed by Cabinet; and
- (iii) **Invited** the Cabinet Lead Member back to provide an update on progress next year.

#### 10. UPDATES FROM SCRUTINY LEADS

The Committee received and noted the updates submitted and received the following verbal update from Councillor Marc Francis on behalf of Councillor Ehtasham Haque (Housing & Regeneration Scrutiny Sub Committee) regarding the Housing & Regeneration Scrutiny Sub Committee – held on Thursday, 2nd December 2021 6.30 p.m. It was **noted** that:

The Sub-Committee had (i) **considered** a report on the performance of social housing landlords; (ii) **received** representations from the Tenants and Residents Association of Clare House, (**as referenced in Minute 7.1 above**); (iii) **noted** that the invitations to Spitalfields Housing Association (SHA) to attend both the 9<sup>th</sup> September and this 19<sup>th</sup> October meetings of the Sub-Committee had been declined, and that there were SHA residents in attendance who wished to raise concerns with their housing provider. Accordingly, it had been **agreed** to ask the Mayor what he intended to do about the ongoing situation with SHA and it is hoped that the sub-committee get a quick response on this issue.

#### 11. PRE-DECISION SCRUTINY OF UNRESTRICTED CABINET PAPERS

Following comments by the Committee the Pre-Decision Scrutiny Questions (PDSQ) Members **agreed** the questions/recommendations that they wanted to raise with Cabinet on the 15<sup>th</sup> of December 2021 (**See attached appendix**).

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

The Committee **noted** that:

- ❖ With no other business to discuss, the Chair called the meeting to a close; and
- ❖ The next meeting will be on Tuesday, 11<sup>th</sup> January 2022 on scrutinising the budget.

Finally, the Chair thanked scrutiny members, for their attendance and participation tonight and wished everybody a good festive break.

#### 13. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

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

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

Nil items.

**The meeting ended at 9.03 p.m.**

**Chair, Councillor Mohammed Pappu  
Overview & Scrutiny Committee**

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## Overview & Scrutiny PDSQs 13.12.2021

Questions	Response
<b>Item 6.1 Net Zero Carbon Partnership Action Plan</b>	
<p>1. Appendix 2 "Quick wins by May 2021" marked in yellow - were these delivered by May 2021?</p>	<p>The quick wins are designed to be delivered in the first 6 months of the plan (November 2021 – May 2022).</p> <p>As an update to the highlighted 'quick wins':</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It has been agreed the Climate Alliance to be set up, a meeting with the taskforce members has been scheduled for January 2022 to agree the terms of reference, operating model and membership.</li> <li>• Good practice and projects were shared during COP 26, we will continue to share good practice on our council website, partner websites and newsletters.</li> <li>• Council officers sit on the NHS North East London Sustainability Working Group and will continue with this engagement.</li> <li>• Carbon accounting tool has been developed and is currently being tested by selected organisations and will be rolled out after the successful pilot testing.</li> <li>• The 3-part youth challenge is being delivered by the Youth Council.</li> <li>• Council and partners applying for external funding, where the Council have made successful bids for the Public Sector Decarbonisation Fund and Local Authority Delivery Fund</li> </ul>
<p>2. The Climate Change Emergency was announced 2 1/2 years ago (the Paris Agreement was 6 years ago) - where is the list of tasks already completed?</p>	<p>We committed to becoming a Net Zero Carbon Council by 2025, and a Net Zero Carbon Borough by 2045</p>

key achievements:

### Buildings & Energy

- Installed heat pumps across four Council buildings
- Since 2019 the council purchases 100 per cent renewable electricity
- 98 per cent of our street lighting upgraded to LED.
- Removed all plastic cups from our offices

Delivery of grants programmes:

- 100% grant funded 26 schools with a total of £618,000 to carry out energy efficiency works saving 348 tonnes carbon.
- 50% match grant funded 87 small businesses with a total of £403,000 to carry out energy efficiency works saving 198 tonnes carbon
- 100% grant funded 96 low-income households with a total of £264,000 to replace old inefficient boilers reducing carbon emissions and helping to alleviate fuel poverty
- Completed Bio-solar retrofit feasibility study of council housing stock to deliver renewable energy generating technologies (photovoltaics)
- We are part of the Solar Together London, a group buying scheme for London Councils for purchasing solar panels and battery storage for homeowners

### Transport

- Adoption of Tower Hamlets Transport Strategy which sets out our vision and priorities for travel in Tower Hamlets from 2020 –

2041 through sustainable means of transport

- We have installed 99 electrical vehicle charging points across the borough
- Launched Liveable Streets programme.
- Planted 700+ street trees and working towards delivering 1000 street trees by 2022. 5,518 trees in total delivered across the borough since May 2018.
- Rolling out electric vehicle charging points across the borough against a target of 300 by 2022. On track to install 350 by February 2022.
- Breathe clean campaign tackling idling and air pollution

### Waste

- Through a recycling incentive scheme pilot by using comms and other behaviour change initiatives we aim to encourage better recycling behaviour on housing estates
- We provide community composters to council, social housing and private estates and blocks, with the resultant compost product used in communal garden space or to aid food growing projects. We support groups in developing and implementing composting schemes
- We offer a full recycling service to businesses and have been working to encourage businesses to recycle more of the waste they produce.
- We delivered a pilot scheme to inform development of a toolkit that businesses can use to implement their own reusable cup scheme.
- Waste and recycling supplementary planning document ensuring schemes have internal space for waste and recycling facilities
- We will install c.8-10 drinking fountains within parks across the

## Overview & Scrutiny PDSQs 13.12.2021

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borough

### Procurement

- The pensions fund is on a journey towards decarbonisation of their investments.
- Adopting new green procurement policies

### Land use and other

- Adopted Local Plan policies that require all new developments to achieve net zero carbon status.
- Lifecycle carbon assessments required for major planning development.
- Environmental impact assessments which include consideration of climate change resilience and adaptation.
- Local biodiversity action plan to protect, create, and enhance biodiversity.
- Scrutiny review to improve health, environmental quality, economic and social outcomes through Housing Open Spaces.
- Open spaces strategy to achieve quality parks and open spaces that are safe and accessible to residents and visitors.

### London Environment Directors Network

- The Council is the chair of the London Environment Directors Network (LEDNet) Climate Change Cluster.

## Overview & Scrutiny PDSQs 13.12.2021

<p><b>Scheme 1/ School Streets</b> - I note that there was some proposals for changes to the timings of operation.</p> <p>1. Please confirm if the hours of operation is consistent for all school streets across the borough or are there variances?</p>	<p>There are sometimes variances depending on the circumstances of and requests from the school but the closure times between 8.15am to 9.15am and 3pm to 4pm on school days are the most common times used for school streets in Tower Hamlets.</p>
<p><b>Scheme 4/ Cable street Traffic management</b> - It is proposed that some right turns from the highway will be banned.</p> <p>2. What impact will these have on residents from Wapping?</p>	<p>These banned right turns are timed to address rat running and have been timed to minimise disruption to residents.</p> <p>However, Wapping residents approaching these roads from the west and wishing to turn left into these roads will be able to do so. For example, if a Wapping resident wanted to drive north on Garnet Street or Wapping High Street, they could turn right onto the highway and left into King David Lane, Glamis Road or Brodlove Lane during the restricted hours.</p>
<p>3. Appendix D - The bar graphs on pages 25 &amp; 27 show the same results - disabled and BAME - this is improbable - can you check?</p>	<p>There seem to be some duplication here. Officers will need some more time to identify the source of the error.</p>
<p>4. Appendix D - What were the businesses / workers response to the consultation?</p>	<p>Before the consultation project team officers undertook face-to-face engagement with location businesses.</p> <p>In the main consultation, there was a total of 592 respondents to the consultation of which 328 were received online and the remaining 264 were paper responses. From these responses 8 were from business owners and 37 from market traders.</p>
<p>5. Appendix D - Why are the responses by ethnic group so different?</p>	<p>It has been an ongoing challenge to ensure the ethnic breakdown of consultation responses reflects the same breakdown of the consultation area. This has been the in consultation of this project and previous projects.</p> <p>Consultation packs, containing an information booklet (including a link to online survey) hard copy survey and freepost return envelope, were</p>

## Overview & Scrutiny PDSQs 13.12.2021

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delivered to the 5,613 residential and business properties within the consultation area. There were 264 hard copy surveys received by return post.

There was an opportunity for those within the community who did not have English as a first language to request translated documents. Through local knowledge of the area, it was identified that Shadwell has a high population of Bengali speakers, therefore, the consultation document and survey were available in this language to download from the website. The English version of the consultation document also included a sentence in Bengali advising residents, visitors, and businesses on how to request a full Bengali copy of the consultation document.

Officers are actively reviewing our consultation methodology for future projects to see if we can improve participation from all ethnic groups.

### Item 6.4 Harriott, Apsley & Pattison (HAP) Houses Regeneration Scheme

#### **Decant status to be approved.**

1. How will this impact those who are on the CHR already waiting for years?

The award of decant status will give priority to the 34 secure tenants and their households for rehousing. However, each of these tenants also have the offer of a replacement home within the new scheme, so we expect the vast majority will chose to remain living in their current home until their replacement home is completed. On top of the replacement homes, the scheme will also create 90 additional affordable rented homes and 20 new Shared Ownership properties for low-cost home ownership. The additional 90 rented homes will be available to those registered on the Common Housing Register. The scheme also makes provision for those hidden households within the

## Overview & Scrutiny PDSQs 13.12.2021

	existing estate who are in housing need. They will have the option to bid for a home elsewhere in the borough, or to take up one of the additional new homes if they would prefer to stay in their local community.
<p><b>Landlord offer for current parking permits guaranteed.</b></p> <p>2. Is this any different to the current policy for car free homes? If so, why and how?</p>	One of the Council's guiding principles for estate regeneration is to ensure existing residents are not put in a worse position than they currently enjoy. It has therefore been the council's practice with previous regeneration schemes to protect the existing rights of council tenants and leaseholders who currently benefit from the right to have a parking permit(s). This scheme is no different, so whilst the planning application proposes a car-free development for all new residents of the homes, an exemption is proposed for those existing residents moving into the new scheme.
<p>3. £215 million / 400 homes = £537,500 per home - this seems high compared to various new private sector developments i.e. Westferry £14k agreed earlier this year with the Council's consultants - what cost analysis has been done?</p>	The council has used external cost consultancy services to estimate the total scheme costs, which include the costs of buying back leaseholder properties, Home Loss and disturbance payments, other costs with achieving vacant possession of the site and contingency. In deducting these costs, reduces the cost per unit to £417k.
<p>4. What is the legal basis for agreeing a new lease for RCCM of 125 years given that their existing lease will have less than 15 years remaining by the time work starts? what is the likelihood that a primary religious building will be required for that length of time?</p>	In re-providing space for the mosque the Council is acknowledging the importance of prayer space to the current population of the area. While we cannot predict the future demographics of the borough, it is not unusual for faith organisations to request and be granted long tenures reflecting the enduring role they expect to play in the life of the community. The price set for disposal reflects the length of the lease. In the event that a mosque is no longer required on this site, future community use will be safeguarded by the planning designation of the space and under the terms of the proposed lease, there is a requirement to seek the landlord's approval for a change of use. LBTH may use the requirement for consent to safeguard the space for the community.

## Overview & Scrutiny PDSQs 13.12.2021

5. What is the cost of building the new mosque and how much of the cost is being contributed to by RCCM?

The build cost for the community building is £3,000 per sqm. In selling a long lease for the building at market value to RCCM, the council will be recovering the cost of providing the community space

### Item 6.8 Disposal of Bromley Hall School and Associated land at Aberfeldy

1. Will the Council's responsibility for security cease?

Once the property has been transferred over to the purchaser then the Council's security responsibility will cease

### Item 6.9 Canon Barnett primary school academy conversion

1. To whom will the capital from the playground swap be remitted? (Sections 3.4 and 3.5)

The capital from the playground swap will be received by the council and ring-fenced for capital investment in schools





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**LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS**

**MINUTES OF THE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**HELD AT 6.32 P.M. ON MONDAY, 24 JANUARY 2022**

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

**Members Present:**

Councillor Mohammed Pappu (Chair)

Councillor Marc Francis

Councillor Denise Jones

Councillor Gabriela Salva Macallan

Councillor Leema Qureshi

- Scrutiny Lead for Health and Adults
- Scrutiny Lead for Resources and Finance

Councillor Andrew Wood

Councillor Zenith Rahman

- Present as substitute

**Co-opted Members Present:**

Halima Islam

- Co-Optee

**Other Councillors Present:**

Mayor John Biggs

Councillor Candida Ronald

**Apologies:**

Councillor Bex White

Councillor Faroque Ahmed

Councillor Ehtasham Haque

- Scrutiny Lead for Children and Education
- Scrutiny Lead for Community Safety
- Scrutiny Lead for Housing and Regeneration

**Officers Present:**

Daniel Kerr

Nisar Visram

Kevin Bartle

Afazul Hoque

David Knight

- (Strategy and Policy Manager)
- (Director of Finance, Procurement & Audit)
- (Corporate Director, Resources & Section 151 Officer)
- (Head of Corporate Strategy & Policy)
- (Democratic Services Officer, Committees, Governance)

Sharon Godman

– (Director, Strategy, Improvement  
and Transformation)

Denise Radley

– (Corporate Director, Health, Adults &  
Community)

## 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Nil items

## 2. DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTEREST AND OTHER INTERESTS

The following Member for transparency declared a potential interest in relation to:

1. **Items 4.1 and 4.2** Councillor Marc Francis due to his wife Councillor Rachel Blake being the Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Adults, Health and Wellbeing.

## 3. REQUESTS TO SUBMIT PETITIONS

Nil Items

## 4. REPORT/PRESENTATION FOR CONSIDERATION

### 4.1 The Council's 2022-23 Budget Report and Medium-Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) 2022-25

The Committee received and reviewed the Council's 2022-23 Budget Report and Medium-Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) 2022-25 as part of the 2022-23 budget setting process. The Committee examined the key issues and pressures facing the Council such as the growth pressures and the need for efficiencies to ensure financial sustainability going forward. The main points of the discussion may be summarised as follows:

The Committee:

- ❖ **Noted** that despite the Chancellor announcing departmental spending limits for Government departments on 27<sup>th</sup> October 2021 for three years, 2022-23 to 2024-25, the Local Government Finance Settlement (LGFS) was only announced for a single year covering 2022-23. Accordingly, the funding landscape for Local Government over the medium term remains highly uncertain.
- ❖ **Noted** that Core Grants such as the Revenue Support Grant, New Homes Bonus and the Improved Better Care Fund have been rolled forward for 2022-23, with additional funding received via the Social Care Grant, with much of this expected to contribute to additional costs arising from Adult Social Care Reforms. In addition, there was also a

one-year one-off Services Grant distributed to Local Authorities for 2022-23.

- ❖ **Indicated** that it want to be provided with modelling on the possible impact of any changes to income in the future will have on the Council's finances, this would need to include insight of the (i) worst-case, (ii) medium case, and (iii) best case scenarios. Thereby avoiding having poor-quality decisions that are based on inferior quality information.
- ❖ **Noted** that the pandemic continues to have a significant adverse effect on the Council's cost of services and reductions in income. Whilst with the Omicron Variant, the pandemic shows no sign of abating. Current pandemic pressures are being met by one-off Covid grants. However, the ongoing scale of the impact on society, the economy and public finances resulting from Covid-19 in the medium to long term is at this point unknown.
- ❖ **Stated** that the Council needs to act prudently in setting aside funding as a reserve to (i) protect the Council against drops in income, or (ii) allow it to take advantage of new opportunities.
- ❖ **Agreed** that it must (i) not operate in isolation, (ii) be integrated; (iii) reflect on past projections.
- ❖ **Agreed** that consideration needed to be given to those savings that have had the greatest impact on (i) access frontline services; and (ii) vulnerable residents with particular reference to Libraries and Ideas Stores; Children with Special Education Needs and Disabilities; Drug and Alcohol Treatment Services; Day Opportunities Centre; Discretionary Housing Payment; Cost of energy; Utilities allowance (on social care charging); Contributions to food banks; Telecare services; and Support for residents to access services to help mitigate the move to digital services.
- ❖ **Agreed** that the Council should restructure its budget setting process having a greater focus on delivering priorities and asking the Borough's communities what they think about the Council's proposed budget spending at the beginning of each municipal year.
- ❖ **Stated** that it wanted to see an appraisal of modelling for income projections and expenditure assumptions to ensure income growth is more accurately reflected.
- ❖ **Agreed** that the Council should (i) have a more ambitious income generation strategy that cut across all the Councils departments, not just Assets; and (ii) undertake and publish an assessment of the cumulative impact of proposals using those models evaluated across Local Government
- ❖ **Agreed** that given the additional resources available that (a) fees and charges for market traders should be reduced as this will have a significant impact on the market traders livelihood (**e.g.** Watney market, Columbia road, Whitechapel market, and Bethnal Green Road); and (b) review the fees and charges for hiring of venues such as community hubs, ideas store, Brady Centre to make them more affordable and accessible for local voluntary and community sector organisations.

Accordingly, as a result of discussions on the Council's 2022-23 Budget Report and Medium-Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) 2022-25 report the Overview and Scrutiny Committee **agreed** that:

1. It wished to be provided with modelling of what impact changes to income in future years will have on the council's finances, providing insight of worst-case, medium case, and best-case scenario.
2. A funding approach should be established that includes a refreshed Reserves' Policy – so that it does not operate in isolation and is integrated; attach confidence levels/levels of assurance against items and aspects projected to happen and reflect on past projections to learn from that previously predicted/assumed that have not eventuated.
3. There should be a review modelling for income projections and expenditure assumptions to ensure income growth is more accurately reflected.
4. In the light of the additional £5.4m, previously agreed savings should be reviewed alongside the equalities impact assessment and to identify where additional funding can be allocated. In particular savings which have or will have the greatest impact on access to frontline services and vulnerable people must be reviewed.
5. That the Council restructures its budget setting process so that it has a greater focus on delivering priorities and measuring impact through (i) conducting the Budget Consultation (which gauges public priorities) at the beginning of the municipal year; (ii) a restructuring by the Council of its budget setting process so that it has a greater focus on delivering priorities and measuring outcomes.

#### **4.2 Fees and Charges 2022-23**

The Committee considered a report that detailed the proposed changes to fees and charges across the Council for the budget year 2022-23. The main points arising from considering the Cabinets deliberations and decisions on 18<sup>th</sup> January 2022 may be summarised as follows:

The Committee **noted**:

- ❖ that the level of inflation (Consumer Price Index - CPI 3.1% & Retail Price Index RPI 4.9% in September 2021), along with rounding up of the charge to the nearest 5p, 10p or other whole number for practical purposes have been key factors in determining the recommended changes.
- ❖ other factors such as service demand, the projected cost of providing the different services, benchmarking with other local authorities and the impact of general economic factors including Covid-19 on the Council's residents have also been considered.
- ❖ that fees and charges are reviewed annually as part of the Council's budget setting process. This ensures that they are set at the appropriate level for the prevailing economic conditions and represent good practice in terms of the Council's aim to provide value for money.

Accordingly, as a result of discussions the Overview and Scrutiny Committee **agreed** to recommend:

1. A reduction in the level of increase to market trader fees and charges which will have a significant impact on people's livelihood and ability to stay in employment i.e. charges impacting market traders at Watney market, Columbia Road, Whitechapel market, and Bethnal green road.
2. That there should be a review the fees and charges for hiring of venues such as community hubs, ideas store, Brady Centre to make them more affordable and accessible for local community organisations and groups.
3. The provision of a link on the fees and charges for community based social care services and residential care services within the fees and charges report.

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

With no other business to discuss the Chair called this meeting to a close; thanked all those attending for their contributions and informed the Committee that the next meeting would be on Monday, 7<sup>th</sup> February 2022.

**6. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

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

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


Nil items

**The meeting ended at 8.29 p.m.**

**Chair, Councillor Mohammed Pappu  
Overview & Scrutiny Committee**





<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Overview and Scrutiny Committee</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>7<sup>th</sup> February 2022</b></p>	 <p style="text-align: center;"><b>TOWER HAMLETS</b></p>
<p><b>Report of:</b> Borough Commander Marcus Barnett</p>	<p><b>Classification:</b> Unrestricted</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Community Safety Spotlight with Borough Commander and Cabinet Member</b></p>	

<b>Wards affected</b>	All wards
-----------------------	-----------

## Summary

Community Safety Spotlight with Borough Commander and Cabinet Member which will outline policing priorities for 2022/23 including an outline of achievements and challenges and a focus on rising youth violence in the borough and actions taken to address this.

## Recommendations:

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee is recommended to:

1. Review and note the Borough Commander policing priorities for 2022/23, and an overview of achievements and challenges.
2. Consider any areas of concern in developing pre-decision scrutiny questions.

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# Tower Hamlets Overview & Scrutiny Committee Feb 2022

## BCU Cmdr Marcus Barnett

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### Central East BCU



# Tower Hamlets Scrutiny Panel Identified Areas for Discussion

- Overview of Tower Hamlets policing priorities for 2022-23
- Operation Continuum including arrests made, convicted and rehab
- Hotspots and measures to address issues including PSPO's, Section 60 powers, patrols carried out.
- Focus Youth Violence (enforcement from policing and safer neighbourhood board perspective) including ASB



# CE BCU Priorities 2022

- Street & Youth Based Violence (Gangs & Weapons)
- VAWG
- Drugs and Anti Social Behaviour
- Burglary
- Public Protection (Hate Crime, Domestic Abuse & Sex offences)
- Trust, Confidence & Engagement 'getting closer to the community'
- Strengthening Partnerships



# Priority Crime and Detection Figures for FYTD as of 03/02/2022

Crime Type	Tower Hamlets		MPS	
	Volume	Detection %	Volume	Detection %
<b>Kiv U-25's (Not VWI)</b>	66 (+3%)	-	1024	-
<b>Robbery</b>	898 (-30%)	8	20521 (-40%)	8
<b>Knife Crime</b>	446 (-18%)	18	9421 (-31%)	16
<b>Weapon (Possession)</b>	200 (-17%)	72	4961 (-17%)	66
<b>Lethal Barrel Discharges</b>	3(-)	-	176 (-27%)	-
<b>Burglary</b>	2141 (-24%)	8	45841 (-32%)	5
<b>Domestic Abuse</b>	3731 (+22%)	16	82513 (+17%)	11
<b>Hate Crime (exc. DA)</b>	1117 (+42%)	17	22043 (+23%)	13
<b>Sexual Offences</b>	963 (+40%)	6	21222(+25%)	6
All data rounded up or down to the closest number. () -% shows drop, +% shows increase. Volume is compared to Financial year 2019/20 pre Covid.				

# We're cracking down on drug dealing

## Operation Continuum 2021

Tower Hamlets Council is working with the police in Tower Hamlets to crack down on drug dealing and make your neighbourhood cleaner and safer. In 2021, working together has resulted in:



[www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/OperationContinuum](http://www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/OperationContinuum)

### Convictions

- Due to delays created by Covid the number of conviction is hard to quantify currently due to impending cases still to be heard at Crown Court. Arrests/charges made in 2021 will likely be heard at court sometime in 2022
- Ranked no.1 in the MET for charges in relation to drug trafficking offences – increase of 151% from 2019

### Rehabilitation

- All drug users are offered the opportunity to speak to a drugs worker in custody and can be referred to external agencies
- Those involved in drug dealing/youth violence and/or are on the gangs violence matrix are followed up with intervention visits
- Partner units engage with probation around management of offenders upon release
- Operation Adder; strengthening dip/drug testing on arrest with a widening use of out of court disposals. Increasing IOM capacity and co-ordination to meet demand
- Knife crime prevention orders being utilised
- Substance & misuse outreach teams
- 18 – 24 year olds identified through Continuum now followed up by ADDER Community Navigator
- TH residents identified within prison and due for release supported by ADDER 'Through the Gate' workers into community support



# ASB Interventions in 2021

Intervention	Total issued
ASB Warning	4,996
Intervention Letter	606
Home Visit	119
Live CPNW	236
Live CPN	11
CBO	41



# Anti-social-behaviour in Tower Hamlets 2021

## Highlights;

- Number of ASB calls is decreasing as a snapshot In July we had 1871 calls and in December 911 showing a 50% reduction. Largest reduction in the MPS over that time period.
- Over 100 active CPW/CPN's through the early intervention scheme; live on PNC. More in place than the rest of the MPS combined.
- PSPO's – Council based Nitrous Oxide PSPO in place; enforced by the funded teams along with partners.
- Problem areas remain; Whitechapel, Bethnal Green, Weavers field in particular.
- ASB car and enhanced VA desk is being utilised to target ASB in problem areas.
- Over 250 Licensed Premises visited in the last 3 months by the late night levy team resulting in 30 further visits from the CE Licensing Team. Pub Watch meetings held and several licenses reviewed.
- Dispersal zones are being utilised to prevent ASB including UME's
- Closer links with partners utilising joint intel to target specific issues in geographical locations
- Test Purchasing Operations with Cadets
- Joint work with the Council to Launch “No Laughing Matter Campaign” to target NOX related ASB
- Repeat Callers are identified; Marac referrals are completed for intervention to take place
- Repeat Venues and locations are highlighted at partnership tasking meetings and addressed

# Stop & search Tower Hamlets

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## Stop and search figures

	Volume	Positive outcome	Arrests total
2020	16926	3709	1910
2021	12273	3208	1453

## Section 60 authorisations (totals)

	Authorisations	Searches	Pos. Outcomes	Arrests
2020	23	216	25	14
2021	12	57	12	4

## Learning/development

- Increased Authorising Inspector training.
- Section 60 review panel formation.
- We now have young person scrutiny in the South of the BCU.
- Anecdotal feedback is that YP go to ground when authorisation publicized.
- All in all, evidence shows we are being more considered in our approach around authorisations.
- Work already completed - continuing to work with partners in the form of; Account and Voyage.

# Tackling Youth Violence

## Activity:

- Intel led Stop and Search and Patrols
- Intel led investigations of gangs
- Targeting Drug Supply and possession through OP Adder and County Lines
- YOT intervention schemes
- Working with Partners – Key4Life, No Place for Hate, Cadets, Voyage, Summer sport programmes, Sexual Offence workshops, Trading Places, Schools Officers., My Endz, Osmani Centre, Faith Groups
- Addressing ASB problem areas
- Challenging CPS decisions to take dangerous individuals off the street
- Utilising new legislation around the Offensive Weapons Act
- Listening and engaging with young people
- Weapon Sweeps

## Resources being Utilised:

- Wider MPS assets – TSG, VCTF
- Integrated Gangs Unit
- Robbery Task Force
- Partnership Task Force
- Violence Suppression Units
- Tower Hamlets Home Team
- VAWG – specially trained officers to support victims of sexual offences
- More robust Missing Person reporting with Inspector level oversight to safeguard vulnerable youths
- Other forces through county line investigations

# Public Spaces Protection Order – Tackling Nitrous Oxide Abuse



- The LBTH Partnership Intelligence Team actively monitor reports of ASB related to the misuse of nitrous oxide (Nox). This in turn informs the analysis of hotspots and the taskings that are assigned to THEOs, Police and other council teams to tackle this issue.
- Where officers, both council and police have been able to engage with suspects (groups that are mainly aged over 24) they have advised them on the dangers of using psychoactive substances and issued information about support available to those with a substance misuse problem.
- However, the misuse of Nox often results in ASB and unacceptable levels of disturbance to residents and so in appropriate circumstances, officers have also dealt with any related ASB by issuing FPNs. Police and THEOs work closely together and to date, 57 FPN's have been handed out and this number is increasing. Action against misuse of Nox using this PSPO has included the seizure of large quantities of cannisters, The spotlight remains on this issue with particular recognition of its likely increase in the coming warmer months.
- To tackle the supply element of this issue, THEOs and police work alongside LBTH Trading Standards and this has resulted in a number of test purchasing operations and several prosecutions against shops are pending.



<b>Overview and Scrutiny Committee</b> <b>7<sup>th</sup> February 2022</b>	 <b>TOWER HAMLETS</b>
<b>Report of:</b> Mayor John Biggs	<b>Classification:</b> Unrestricted
<b>Mayor's Spotlight on priorities, achievements and challenges</b>	

<b>Originating Officer(s)</b>	Thorsten Dreyer, Head of Strategy and Improvement
<b>Wards affected</b>	All wards

## Summary

Mayor's Spotlight: an overview of the Mayor's priorities, achievements, and challenges

## Recommendations:

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee is recommended to:

1. Review and note the Mayor's priorities, achievements and challenges

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## **SCRUTINY LEADS UPDATES OSC MEETING 7<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2022**

### **COUNCILLOR BEX - SCRUTINY LEAD FOR CHILDREN AND EDUCATION**

- ❖ Prior to Christmas 2021 the Chair submitted written enquiries on preparations for possible school closures, although in the event these did not happen. The Sub-Committee will continue to have a Covid impact update as a standing item on the agenda, and at the next meeting will investigate the impact of the Omicron wave on education and children's social care.
- ❖ On Monday 17th January 2022 the Chair met with the Cabinet Member and Corporate Director for a departmental update.
- ❖ The Written Statement of Action in response to the recent Ofsted/CQC inspection of our SEND service has been accepted by Ofsted. This will be the main item on the agenda for February's Sub-Committee.
- ❖ The Sub-Committee agreed to move the meeting to 4:30-6:30 on a permanent basis, as this makes it easier for children, young people, and external partners to attend. The Sub-Committee has had its most valuable contributions when they hear directly from those on the front line, so this change is welcomed.

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## **SCRUTINY LEADS UPDATES OSC MEETING 7<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2022**

### **COUNCILLOR GABRIELA SALVA - SCRUTINY LEAD FOR HEALTH & ADULTS**

As Chair of Health Scrutiny I have attended the following meetings:

- ❖ 16th December 2021 INEL JHOSC Meeting
- ❖ 7th January 2022 met with the Director of Adult Social Care to discuss adult social care charging and waiver panel
- ❖ 12th January 2022 COVID-19 Local Engagement Board
- ❖ 1st February 2022 Tower Hamlets Health and Wellbeing Board

Following the Health and Care Bill published on 6 July 2021, Tower Hamlets is moving to adopting the integrated care systems (ICSs) on 1st April 2022. This means an Integrated Care Board (ICB) – taking on the NHS Commissioning functions of CCGs which are to be legally abolished and transferred into these new ICBs and Integrated Care Partnership. In so doing the Government seeks to bring together a wide range of organisations and representatives concerned with improving the care, health, and wellbeing of the population to develop a strategy to address the health and care needs of the system. The Board heard that Tower Hamlets Together (THT) will take on a Place-based Partnership within the North East London Integrated Care System. The Chair made representation at the meeting, that as the plans progress the scrutiny function of the Council and the voices of residents will need to be reflected in the partnership. It was confirmed that there is an expectation that THT meetings will be public meetings and will report to Tower Hamlets Health and Wellbeing Board.

Forthcoming meeting for the Health & Adults Scrutiny Sub-Committee is on 8th March 2022 – the agenda is as follows:

1. Review full action log.
2. Spotlight Impact of Long Covid.
3. Adults Learning Disability Scrutiny Action Plan; Update on scrutiny recommendations; Update on LD provision focusing on health outcomes, employment, and accommodation.
4. Annual Review.

As always, please do get in touch with any questions or comments on the agenda – we are keen to hear from the committee and residents.

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Questions	Response
<b>Item 6.1 Delivery Report – Housing and Homes</b>	
<b>Housing Delivery and Supply page of presentation</b>	
1. 827 new homes - completed and occupied. These are a combination of new build and purchases” can we have a breakdown between s106 new build purchases, purchases of pre-built properties, and genuinely new homes commissioned and built by LBTH?	
2. of the other 1,219 properties adding up to 2,046 how many will have been commissioned and built by LBTH as opposed to others?	
3. CBP's have delivered 1,613 new homes (905 rented**, 705 intermediate) since 2020/21” how many these were s106 properties in new private developments?	
<b>Annual Delivery Report – Housing &amp; Homes</b>	
4. Housing Management – Tower Hamlets Homes What is the number of stage one and stage two complaints received in 2020/21?	
<b>Housing Supply and Delivery</b>	
5. Considering the council utilise a matrix/model which Savills independently verify – when was Cabinet last able to review the Savills analysis underpinning the housing delivery and supply assumptions?	
b. Have the assumptions regarding projected impact to the HRA been back	

tested? And if so, when and who reviewed the back testing?	
<b>Item 6.2 Delivery Report - Community Safety</b>	
<p><b>Reducing Violence and safeguarding those at risk of violence and exploitation</b></p> <p>1. Have we done enough through the council's housing options –</p> <p>(a). when will the Draft Domestic Violence Housing Protocol for officers be published?</p> <p>(b). When will the draft be updated (and published) in line with the requirement from the recent Domestic Abuse Bill?</p>	
<b>Item 6.3 The Council's 2022-23 Budget Report and Medium-Term Financial Strategy 2022-25</b>	
<p>Ref: 6.3k Appendix 7B Capital Budget Detail , item 6.3</p> <p>1. Can we have a more detailed breakdown of this as not enough detail to fully understand what the spend is on. For example Basic Needs/Expansions £119 m does not match known school projects</p>	
2. How much is Liveable Streets / Healthy Streets?	
3. Can we have a column added for total project costs including historical spend so that we know total costs per project i.e. new Town Hall, South Dock Bridge - which can also be done on the main summary where the row is for a single project?	

### Item 6.5 Leisure Estate Investment Plan

1. "There is a backlog of condition issues, with an estimated total cost of £11.3m needing to be funded over the next decade" why is there a backlog and who was responsible for the structure of St Georges Baths for example?
2. "The cost of remedial works to allow the existing St George's building to reopen has been estimated as £9.9m" can we have a breakdown of these costs and why they differ so much from re-opening costs at Tiller for example.
3. Why does it "looks very unlikely for multiple reasons" that the Tiller road redevelopment could be included in the OHG redevelopment next door?
4. Has the plan taken in the major works which will be needed to maintain the boiler system at York Hall?

### Item 6.9 Disposal of property at 53 Antill Road, E3 5BT

1. Why did we pay £825k for a derelict property? which was not materially different in value from other properties sold on that street in recent years in I assume better condition?

### Item 6.10 Future of Commercial Road Car Pound

## Overview & Scrutiny PDSQs 07.02.2022

1. Why did we pay £825k for a derelict property? which was not materially different in value from other properties sold on that street in recent years in I assume better condition?	
2. Why won't Tower Hamlets Council develop this site itself or with a housing association partner? it is smaller than Blackwall Reach for example	
3. As the feasibility study included options for a scheme to deliver 120 residential units, what were the reasons for the site not being utilised for the council's house building programme?	
<b>Item 6 LGA Corporate Peer Challenge Re-Visit Findings and Action Plan</b>	
1. Which opposition Councillors met the LGA?	