

# Overview & Scrutiny Committee

**Monday, 11 December 2023 at 6.30 p.m.  
Council Chamber - Town Hall, Whitechapel**

## Supplemental Agenda

**6. PRE-DECISION SCRUTINY OF UNRESTRICTED CABINET PAPERS  
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**Pre-Decision Scrutiny Questions and responses from 29 November  
2023 meeting of Cabinet.**

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Questions	Response
<b>6.1</b>	
<p>In what ways do hostels contribute to the Council's statutory duties regarding housing provision, and how do they fit into the broader strategy for preventing homelessness and improving outcomes?</p>	<p>Single homeless hostels are one of several types of accommodation in the housing pathway and are designed to provide a temporary stay pending a longer-term solution to meet housing need. They are one way that the Council can fulfil its statutory homeless duty. People who are placed in hostels are supported via a pathways coordinator to plan for their future housing need and a coordinated partnership approach is taken to ensure that they are well supported with a wide range of health and care needs. Hostels fit into the wider Homeless and Rough Sleeping Strategy as part of the housing pathway and provide an option for those in need of temporary accommodation who also have additional support needs.</p>
<p>Can you elaborate on the proposed "Care Coordination pilot" and its expected impact on the health, independence, and overall quality of care received by hostel residents?</p>	<p>The proposed care coordination multi-disciplinary team meetings will bring together partners across the system as a mechanism to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase and improve access to comprehensive care</li> <li>• Improve health and wellbeing through joined-up support planning and personal care (including end of life care)</li> <li>• Identify and support people before they reach crisis</li> <li>• Work with complex individuals to reduce hospital attendance, crisis and death</li> <li>• Offer holistic approaches to address mental and physical health issues in partnership with all stakeholders involved in support and care provision.</li> </ul>
<p>What metrics are being used to measure the success of the proposed Care Coordination pilot, and how will improvements in health, independence, and care quality be quantified?</p>	<p>In the first 12 months the Care Coordination pilot for Homelessness and Rough Sleepers living in Hostels will aim to -</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduce emergency attendances and other related emergency calls by <b>50%</b> against previous years</li> <li>• Fast track safeguarding process and further reduction of safeguarding through proactive integrated care coordination across partners, reducing unnecessary safeguarding alerts by <b>50%</b> against previous years</li> <li>• Manage and reduce high risks to individuals by <b>30%</b> (for example by reducing hospital attendance, crisis and death against previous years)</li> <li>• Improve partners' relationships through bringing multi-disciplinary team approaches to tackling health and care inequalities for those who are in hostels <b>[measured by survey]</b></li> <li>• Improve communications and coordination of care, reducing unnecessary administrative work through the help of care coordinators <b>[measured by survey]</b></li> <li>• Improve the experience of people who are homeless and rough sleepers who are currently in the hostel provision <b>[Using focus groups and other engagement tools]</b></li> </ul> <p>The pilot is being funded by the NHS. Further analysis will be undertaken at the end of the pilot to better understand potential savings to the wider health and social care system including exploring options for "invest to save" Business Cases to expand the project.</p>
<p><b>6.2</b></p>	
<p>How was the value of £675,892.43 for the direct contract award determined, and what factors were considered in reaching this amount?</p>	<p>The value of £675,892.43 for the requested direct contract award was determined and calculated based on the current contract value of the contracts in place. This amount is required for the providers to deliver the service, keep staff in place and continue to deliver a quality and safe home for our young people.</p>

<p>Why did the service not go out to tender within the contracted period (ending 30th July 2023), and what steps have been taken to address the delay and prevent such occurrences in the future?</p>	<p>As per the report, there have been capacity issues in the commissioning team which contributed to the tender not being published within the contracted period. This has been addressed through recent permanent recruitment. Alongside this, the service has put robust governance in place including the Young People's Placement Pathway Board, Task &amp; Finish groups and monthly update reporting.</p>
<p>How will the proposed four-month implementation period (1st February to 1st June 2024) impact the lives of young people in the pathway, and what specific steps are being taken to minimize disruption during this transition?</p>	<p>The implementation of the new pathway will inevitably cause change for a number of young people, however, a robust implementation period of four months will enable all stakeholders (Children's Social Care, Housing, Commissioners, incumbent providers, new providers and landlords) to work closely together to minimise the impact on our young people and coordinate young people's moves in an open, transparent manner ensuring our young people have a choice and voice in where they will be moved to in the new pathway. Stakeholders have already started mapping out the needs of our young people in the current pathway and what kind of accommodation and support they will require in the new pathway from June 2024 onwards.</p>
<p>How will the council ensure that young people are consulted and given a choice during the transition to the new pathway, and what steps are being taken to address the diverse needs and preferences of the current young people placed in the pathway?</p>	<p>As above, stakeholders have started to map out the needs of our young people ensuring they have a choice in what accommodation and support will be offered to them in the new pathway. Moreover, commissioners will ensure young people's voices are listened to and will guide the implementation of the new pathway using a variety of methods; sharing updates and getting feedback through their social workers and personal assistants, attending house meetings at their current homes, surveys, focus groups and inviting young people to participate at implementation meetings/ events.</p>
<p><b>6.7</b></p>	

<p>What estimate has been made of the number of additional days a large part of the eastern half of Victoria Park will be out of bounds for residents of Tower Hamlets as a result of the increase in the number of commercial events?</p>	<p>A potential additional two major event days per annum could be considered through the proposed policy.</p> <p>For a major events programme, the build period is approximately two weeks, with a further additional week for event take down.</p> <p>It is anticipated that major events will, due to the logistics and costs for setting up a major event site, programme several event days back-to-back. This reduces impact on the park and the total number of days that an area of the park is out of use.</p> <p>The current major events programme holds 10 event days consecutively.</p> <p>Two thirds of the park remain available to park users during event occupation periods. To minimise disruption to park users, the Council works with event organisers to provide pedestrian cross paths during periods of the event occupation.</p>
<p>What assessment has been made of the impact of increasing the number of days of commercial events on organised sports activity in Victoria Park, including football and cricket?</p>	<p>The major events programme does not impact on the sporting pitches in Victoria Park.</p>
<p>What has been the total revenue expenditure on the management and maintenance of Victoria Park in each years since 2010?</p>	<p>The Council's current financial system was introduced in 2013/14. Therefore, we are unable to provide any information prior to this financial year. Details are provided below of the total revenue spend for Victoria Park from this period.</p> <p>2013/14: £1,712,658  2014/15: £1,768,671  2015/16: £1,776,180  2016-17: £1,650,791  2017/18: £1,653,521  2018/19: £1,820,153  2019/20: £1,857,127  2020/21: £1,590,954  2021/22: £1,590,954</p>

	2022/23: £1,295,310 (note this figure is lower as support services costs were transferred to another cost centre)
What consultation Tower Hamlets Council has had with the Heritage Lottery Fund about the Mayor's proposed increase in the amount of commercial activity in Victoria Park?	There is no requirement for the Council to consult with the HLF about the events programme.
If the Mayor will meet with the Friends of Victoria Park to explain the rationale for his proposed increase in the number of commercial events in Victoria Park and listen to their concerns?	<b>For the Mayor's Office to Answer.</b>
<b>7.1</b>	
Can Officers confirm if this policy will help address residents that have raised concerns over the last few years or will this only be for new applicants?	This policy will support new applicants in that it will allow the ability to move into a two bedroom property (previously Three) and apply for a permit, but will also give more flexibility to residents already on the scheme and currently living in a car free development.  However, it will not be applied retrospectively.

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