

**Executive Decision  
Individual Decision Notice**



**Decision Maker:** Cabinet, 25 Nov 2020

**Classification:**  
Unrestricted

**Voluntary and Community Sector Strategy 2020-23**

Under the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012 – notice is required to be given of the intention to take Executive Key Decisions.

Notice is given either through an Individual Decision Notice or through the Forward Plan. Notice must normally be given 28 Days' before the decision can be taken.

<b>Key Decision?</b> No	<b>Ward(s)</b> All Wards
<b>Summary of Decision</b>	The Voluntary and Community Sector Strategy 2020-23 builds on foundations of the current strategy due to expire in 2020. It is about the VCS in its broadest sense – including registered charities, faith groups, unregistered and informal community groups and social enterprises. It is a partnership strategy – developed as part of a joint effort between partners and will feed into all policy affecting the local sector. The strategy is informed through various engagement with stakeholders as well as learnings from the Covid-19 Pandemic.

<b>Community Plan Theme</b>	<b>A dynamic outcomes-based Council using digital innovation and partnership working</b>
<b>Cabinet Member</b>	Cabinet Member for Resources and the Voluntary Sector (Councillor Candida Ronald)
Who will be consulted before decision is made and how will this consultation take place	See above. Consultees will include but are not limited to Voluntary and Community Sector organisations, council partners and elected members  Prior to the Covid-19 pandemic a number of engagements were undertaken contributing to the development of this strategy as outlined below: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Creation of cross-sector Steering Group (comprising Tower Hamlets homes, Tower Hamlets Together/CCG, Tower Hamlets Council for Voluntary Service, THCVS) to manage strategy development process</li> <li>• Series of workshops at voluntary sector forums and meetings including Voluntary Sector Children and Youth Forum, Training Employment and Enterprise Forum, Coproduction Network, Health and Wellbeing Forum</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Four open consultation events aimed at local organisations</li> <li>• Research interviews with residents conducted via Community Insights Team,</li> <li>• 2 x online surveys aimed at residents and local organisations</li> <li>• Presentations and workshops at key stakeholder meetings, including Tower Hamlets Partnership Exec, Tower Hamlets Together</li> </ul> <p>Following the pandemic, further engagement will be undertaken and will continue to inform the strategy further in light of the new landscape the voluntary and community sector and council are operating. These will include but are not limited to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Teleconference between the Mayor and VCS Organisations;</li> <li>• Engagement with VCS Organisations (Recovery Forum);</li> <li>• Engagement with Tower Hamlets CVS;</li> <li>• Learnings about the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the VCS; and</li> <li>• Mutual Aid Groups</li> </ul>
Has an Equality Impact Assessment been carried out and if so the result of this Assessment?	An equality impact assessment checklist has been completed and this indicates that a full Equality Impact Assessment may be required during the development of the strategy in order to assess the equality impact of the strategy on groups who share a protected characteristic.
Contact details for comments or additional information	Sharon Godman (Divisional Director, Strategy, Policy and Performance) sharon.godman@towerhamlets.gov.uk
What supporting documents or other information will be available?	N/A
Is there an intention to consider this report in private session and if so why (Paragraph number – see notes section)?	No, Unrestricted

## NOTES

### Advance notice of Key Decisions

Key decisions are all those decisions which involve major spending, or savings, or which have a significant impact on the local community. The precise definition of a key decision adopted by Tower Hamlets is contained in Article 13.03 of the [Constitution](#). Key Decisions are taken by the Mayor, or the Mayor in Cabinet.

Individual notices of new Key Decisions will be published on the website as they are known, whilst a Forward Plan collating these decisions will be published 28 days before each Cabinet meeting. The Forward Plan will be published on the Council's website and will also be available to view at the Town Hall and Libraries, Ideas Centres and One Stop Shops if required. [The Committee pages](#)

on the Council website include copies of the Forward Plan, Cabinet and other meeting dates and the publication dates of the Forward Plan.

If, due to reasons of urgency, a Key Decision has to be taken where 28 days' notice have not been given. Notice will be published (including on the website) as early as possible and Urgency Procedures as set out in the Constitution will have to be followed.

The most effective way for the public to make their views known about the issues listed in the Forward Plan is to examine the consultation column of the Forward Plan, and/or contact the report author or Cabinet Lead Member as soon as possible, and no later than 10 working days before the decision is expected to be taken.

Reports, appendices and background papers will be available on the Council's website 5 clear working days before the Cabinet meeting. For all other information or to submit documents in relation to any issue, please contact the relevant officer.

#### **Notice of Intention to Conduct Business in Private**

**The Council is also required to give at least 28 days' notice if it wishes to consider any of the reports on the agenda of an Executive meeting (such as Cabinet) in private session. The last row of each item below will indicate any proposal to consider that item in private session. Should you wish to make any representations in relation to an item being considered in private please contact Democratic Services on the contact details listed below. Note that this applies to Cabinet but not to Individual Mayoral Decisions outside of Cabinet.**

The notice may reference a paragraph of Section 12A of the 1972 Local Government Act. In summary those paragraphs refer to the following types of exempt information (more information is available in the Constitution):

1. Information relating to any individual
2. Information which is likely to reveal the identity of an individual
3. Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority handling the information)
4. Information relating to any consultations or negotiations, or contemplated consultations or negotiations, in connection with any labour relations matters arising between the authority or a Minister of the Crown and employees of, or office holders under, the authority.
5. Information in respect of which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained in legal proceedings.
6. Information which reveals that the authority proposes:-
  - a) to give under any enactment a notice under or by virtue of which requirements are imposed on a person; or
  - b) to make an order or direction under any enactment.
7. Information relating to any action taken or to be taken in connection with the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime.

#### **Democratic Services Contact Details:**

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