

**LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS**

**MINUTES OF THE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**HELD AT 5.32 P.M. ON MONDAY, 26 APRIL 2021**

**ONLINE 'VIRTUAL' MEETING - [HTTPS://TOWERHAMLETS.PUBLIC-I.TV/CORE/PORTAL/HOME](https://towerhamlets.public-i.tv/core/portal/home)**

**Members Present:**

|                                    |  |
|------------------------------------|--|
| Councillor James King (Chair)      |  |
| Councillor Bex White (Vice-Chair)  |  |
| Councillor Faroque Ahmed           | – Scrutiny Lead for Community Safety & Environment |
| 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             | –  |

**Officers Present:**

|                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| Dr Somen Banerjee | – (Director of Public Health)                           |
| Adam Boey         | – (Senior Strategy & Policy Manager - Corporate)        |
| Sharon Godman     | – (Director, Strategy, Improvement and Transformation)  |
| Afazul Hoque      | – (Head of Corporate Strategy & Policy)                 |
| Will Tuckley      | – (Chief Executive)                                     |
| David Knight      | – (Democratic Services Officer, Committees, Governance) |

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

It was noted that apologies for lateness had been received from Councillor Denise Jones.

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

The following Members for transparency declared a potential interest in relation to Item 9 Pre-Decision Scrutiny Questions:

- I. Councillor Marc Francis due to his wife Councillor Rachel Blake being the Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Adults, Health and Wellbeing; and
- II. Councillor Ehtasham Haque due to wife Councillor Sabina Akhtar being the Cabinet Member for Culture, Arts and Brexit.

### **3. UNRESTRICTED MINUTES**

#### **3.1 18th March, 2021**

The Chair **Moved** and it was: -

#### **RESOLVED**

That the unrestricted minutes of the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 18<sup>th</sup> January 2021 be approved as a correct record of the proceedings and the Chair was authorised to sign them accordingly.

#### **3.2 22nd March, 2021**

The Chair **Moved** and it was: -

#### **RESOLVED**

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

- |                |            |
|----------------|------------|
| ❖ Halima Islam | – Co-Optee |
| ❖ James Wilson | – Co-Optee |

### **4. REQUESTS TO SUBMIT PETITIONS**

Nil items

### **5. FORTHCOMING DECISIONS**

Noted

### **6. COVID-19 UPDATE**

The Committee received an update from Covid-19 from Somen Banerjee – Director of Public Health, the main points of the questioning maybe summarised as follows:

The Committee:

- ❖ Observed that Tower Hamlets GP Care Group has worked hard to ensure that any unused supplies of vaccine are use appropriately

especially with the Pfizer vaccine where there is an issue about shelf-life once unfrozen, to maximise the people who are vaccinated.

Accordingly the **GP Care Group** have a process whereby they have a set of contacts that they have identified (e.g. those in the highest need groups) are able to access unused vaccines. Therefore, people should not show up to a vaccination centre without an appointment as they would not be seen.

- ❖ Were advised that people have expressed uncertainty about getting a jab, or who were unwilling or unable was because they did not trust the vaccines; they did not feel the vaccines were necessary for them and the ease of access to vaccination centres. Therefore the **GP Care Group and the Council are reaching out to** non-responders, ramping up promoting of the vaccine programme and establishing walk in centres.
- ❖ Heard that whilst reactions to the AstraZeneca vaccine have been very rare and this includes when blood clots and low levels of platelets occur between four and 28 days after the jab. Therefore, some residents are now expressing reluctance to have their next jab although overwhelming message is this is a safe and effective vaccine whereas the risk of getting severely ill from the coronavirus, or of being hospitalised in intensive care, is much higher.
- ❖ Was informed that LBTH have set up a network of Covid Champions who will help residents to stay up to date with the latest advice about Covid-19. Covid Champions provide a trusted source of information and will help to dispel myths and avoid confusion. They help their family, friends, and the wider community to make sense of the latest advice and information, to make sure we all stay safe and alert to the risks of the virus. The Champion are sent regular updates on Covid-19 and they aim to get the right information to local residents, to keep themselves, their family, and community safe.
- ❖ Was advised that regarding the Indian variant it is one of four mutated versions of coronavirus which have been designated as being "of concern" by UK public health bodies, with others first being identified in Kent, South Africa, and Brazil. The Indian variant has mutated to become less recognisable to neutralising human antibodies and therefore allows it to get past the first line of immunological defence in people who have been vaccinated or previously infected, enabling the virus to carry on circulating.
- ❖ Wanted to receive localised data regarding household infection rates, positive cases by age group and ward and hospital admission rates in the Borough by age group.
- ❖ The Committee indicated that it would wish to be updated on the knowledge surrounding the role of children in the transmission Covid-19 and the role of schools during the pandemic, based on the experience in the Borough this data should include transmission to and from staff in school settings, school-related mitigation measures including risk communication, testing, contact tracing and the efficacy of partial and full school closures.
- ❖ Noted in terms of numbers there is not any significant increase in numbers of cases in schools.

- ❖ Noted that Tower Hamlets Council, NHS Test and Trace is providing additional testing and genomic sequencing in targeted areas which follows the identification of multiple confirmed cases of the variants first identified in South Africa and Brazil. All the confirmed cases will be self-isolating.
- ❖ Was advised that any resident over 11 years of age and live, work or are educated in an E1 postcode are being encouraged to take a Covid-19 polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test which is a type of coronavirus test you do at home and send back to be processed in a laboratory. The results are sent by text and email.
- ❖ Noted that enhanced contact tracing will be used for individuals testing positive with a variant of concern (VOC). In these instances, contact tracers will look back over an extended period to determine the route of transmission.
- ❖ Was advised if a resident has symptoms, they then need to book a free test online or by phone so they can be tested at a testing site or have a testing kit sent to their home. Residents should also continue using twice-weekly rapid testing alongside the PCR test as part of surge testing.
- ❖ Noted that local data is being used to target roadshows in those areas of low uptake so as to promote the vaccination programme and this will be shared with Members.
- ❖ Was informed that going forward it is intended that the vaccination need to be part of the Borough's health and care system as with Influenza Vaccination Programme and this will enable the Borough to achieve heightened levels of uptake.

In conclusion, the Chair:

1. Thanked Somen Banerjee for his regular updates and contributions that have been really insightful and helpful to understand the scale of the threat posed to the Borough by Covid-19; and
2. Indicated that Members will discuss how take this forward into the next municipal year.

## **7. MAYORS SPOTLIGHT**

### **7.1 Executive Mayor's Priorities**

The Chair introduced the main substantive item this evening that will focus on the Mayor's Spotlight.

He (i) thanked the Executive Mayor John Biggs and the Chief Executive Will Tuckley for, attending this evenings meeting; and (ii) indicated that that the Committee wished to understand:

- ❖ Council's Response to Covid-19.
- ❖ Pandemic Recovery Priorities; and
- ❖ Achievements of this past year and any Non Covid challenges and situations for Tower Hamlets.

The key themes arising from the questioning on the presentation may be summarised as follows:

The Committee:

- ❖ Enquired what the Council and its partners would be doing to address residents' concerns (i) following the murder investigations that are underway following fatal stabbings in Poplar and Canning Town; and (ii) in regard to addressing the high incidence anti-social behaviour in Tower Hamlets.
- ❖ Noted that as a consequence of these fatal stabbings a section 60 notice had been issued.
- ❖ Noted that whilst police-recorded crime had seen its biggest annual decrease since 2010 with robbery and theft having dropped dramatically during 2020 as people have not been in as many situations where they felt they had to pull a knife or a gun because people have not been gathering at places like they used to before lockdown, but with restrictions being lifted there are concerns of a spike in knife and gun crime as venues re-open and groups begin to mix again in public places - increasing the potential for conflict.
- ❖ Noted that there are two types of people who tend to carry weapons – criminals for threats and their protection because of their lifestyle choices and young people who believe that every other young person is carrying a knife. The police can tackle the first group by concentrating on organised gang crime, but a lot needs to be done to help the young people change their mindset so that they realise that not everyone carries a knife despite what they are led to believe.
- ❖ Was advised that the recent stabbings in Poplar and Canning Town have led to a renewed focus on knife crime and how to reduce it. One power available to the Police Service being a Section 60 notice and understood that a significant percentage of older people in the Borough feel if its use means that lives can be saved, then these residents feel it is a very good thing.
- ❖ Noted the increased activity of local policing teams in the Bethnal Green; Spitalfields and Whitechapel wards these officers are made up of officers based in the area, supported by additional officers from the wider area who are working closely with LBTH, organisations, partners to address local problems.
- ❖ Was pleased to be informed about the crackdown on antisocial behaviour including the use of nitrous oxide, with police officers undertaking foot patrols and the Council's Trading Standards Officers working with the police and residents to tackle retail outlets that sell gas to people who misuse it. In addition, it was noted that residents can report discarded canisters so the Council can clean them up. Whilst residents can also report retail outlets selling nitrous oxide to Trading Standards.
- ❖ Noted the Isle of Dogs programme that aims to provide centre-based and detached community outreach through mentoring, courses

providing qualifications and other support tailored to meet the needs of young people on the Island.

- ❖ Welcomed the Mayors offer to attend future Scrutiny meetings to ensure in a consistent and objective scrutiny of the work being done to add social value by contributing to the long-term wellbeing and resilience of residents, communities, and the Borough.
- ❖ Noted that the Council is looking closely at the wider financial and non-financial value through its day to day activities in terms of the wellbeing of individuals and communities, social capital created and the environment **e.g.** to look beyond the financial cost of a contract and consider how the services commissioned and procurement can improve the economic, social and environmental well-being of Tower Hamlets. As the Council is becoming increasingly financially self-reliant, it has considered how to make its limited resources go ever further while still maintaining the quality and breadth of services. As such, it can be seen as a complementary activity to other strategies such as crime reduction.
- ❖ Commented that there are a range of entrenched social problems that the Council has to address, including children in care, homelessness, youth unemployment or long-term health issues. The traditional models have failed to deliver the results needed to make inroads with these issues. Therefore, the Council is looking at Social Impact Bonds (SIBs) bring together the public, private and voluntary sectors to solve these challenges by having a clear and relentless focus upon delivering the desired outcomes and to make funding for services conditional on achieving results. Social Investors pay for the project at the start, and then receive payments based on the results achieved by the project. Therefore it would be logical for such Social Investors to be invite to scrutiny meetings to provide an opportunity for such projects to be subject to wider scrutiny.
- ❖ Commented that it was important to invest in community sport and that physical activity plays an important role in boosting the local economy and will provide an opportunity to help level up inequalities within the Borough, and build a healthier, happier, and more prosperous Tower Hamlets.
- ❖ Noted the anxieties of communities in regard to the Liveable Street Scheme which aims of the Scheme to produce safe streets, vibrant public spaces that connect people to the places where they live, work, but some residents feel that it may actually divide neighbourhoods, communities, and people. It was felt that a more transparent approach was needed around the consultations on the proposals to introduce such schemes **e.g.** all residents should have a have a say in decisions that affect their communities.
- ❖ Commented that 2020-21 has seen an unprecedented and unforeseen growth in the digital and e-commerce sectors, which have been beneficial for council services. However, some have not capitalized on pandemic-induced shift to digital platforms due to persistent barriers.
- ❖ Noted that people may be digitally excluded for multiple reasons, including not having access to the required infrastructure and/or devices, lack of skills, or lack of motivation to use technology.

- ❖ Commented that the main factors that influence the digital divide in London include age, region, socioeconomic status and whether a person has a disability.
- ❖ Indicated that there have been particular concerns raised about the digital divide during the Covid-19 pandemic, as people have been more reliant on the internet to access services and health information and socialise with friends and family.
- ❖ Was concerned that digital exclusion may make it more difficult for adults to access support services, medical appointments, and welfare activities. Also those adults who do not have sufficient internet safety skills may be at higher risk of online harms such as misinformation, fraud, and computer viruses. In addition, digitally excluded people may not be able to use contact tracing apps and may experience negative health impacts. Therefore, finding ways to address the digital divide in the Borough has never been more important. As families that are unable to access the internet find themselves cut off from access to services, advice, and information, contact with loved ones and in the context of the pandemic, crucial education resources for their children.
- ❖ Noted that school closures and absences during COVID-19 have necessitated home-schooling and online distance learning. However, as not all children have access to the devices and internet connections they need support for remote schooling. Therefore, the Council is working with partner agencies to provide devices, good quality internet connection and training for parents. The aim being to prevent children with poor access to online learning falling further behind as home-schooling continues during the pandemic.
- ❖ Commented that Tower Hamlets has a very diverse population, and this is one of the Borough's strengths and it means that the Council needs to be at the forefront of the equality agenda. The Council has an integral role advancing equality of opportunity, fostering good community relations, and eliminating unlawful discrimination and harassment. It also has a key role in enabling those who are disadvantaged to reach their full potential. Therefore, it was important to really look at and reflect on what is being done to accelerate the pace and scale of achievement to have a workforce that reflects the Borough's community. Especially increasing the proportion of (i) BAME staff overall in the workforce, to reflect the working age population of Tower Hamlets; (ii) BAME staff given fair opportunity to progress to managerial roles and particular senior management posts; (iii) of staff with disabilities overall and in senior management positions.
- ❖ Was reminded that the Council's equality policy sets out a clear commitment to ensure equality is at the heart of everything it does from the money it spends and the people they employ, to the services we provide. The policy applies to all aspects of the Council's functions including recruitment, employment, training, and development of staff
- ❖ Commented that diversity is one of the Borough's greatest strengths and the Council works with its partners to provide accessible and responsive services that enable it to improve outcomes for local people. Through ensuring the Council meets local needs helps to

deliver value for money, improve customer services and reputation, and to enable the empowerment of local people to lead fulfilling lives.

- ❖ Observed that equality in Tower Hamlets is first and foremost addressed through the Tower Hamlets Strategic Plan which sets out the strategic direction for the Council and its partners. Equality being embedded throughout this plan and is a key driver for everything the Council does.

In conclusion, the Chair:

Thanked Mayor Biggs and Will Tuckley for their presentation and that the key points the Committee considered included

1. The importance of reflecting on what is being done to accelerate the pace and scale of achievement to have a workforce that reflects the Borough's community.
2. What the Council is doing with partner agencies to provide good quality internet connection to ensure that children with poor access to online learning do not fall further behind as home-schooling continues during the pandemic.

## **8. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY ANNUAL REPORT 2020-21**

This report provides a summary of the work that Overview and Scrutiny Committee (OSC), its sub-committees and scrutiny leads delivered in 2020-21 municipal year. The main points of the discussion and the question raised may be summarised are follows:

The Committee:

- ❖ Agreed that benchmarking is an extremely effective tool for Members to observe, analyse and comment on performance over a given time frame. Benchmarks help Members to scrutinise the key performance drivers for the Council's contained within the Strategic Plan and how realistic are the objectives set out in that document. Therefore it was felt that it was important to (i) obtain such information in a timely manner; and (ii) follow up on the Executive reports and the action plans that do get created in response to Scrutiny reports to help in demonstrating the impact of the Committee.
- ❖ Discussed the importance of the culture shift within the Council that needs to happen around scrutiny so that the Council would be ready to have discussions about those areas that are harder to investigate or to review or where problems might be arising and that the Scrutiny Process is properly valued.

### **Recommendations:**

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee:

1. Noted the attached Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2020-



21, comment and agree the report for submission to Full Council in the new municipal year; and

2. Authorises the Divisional Director Strategy, Policy and Performance to amend the report following comments by the committee before submission to Full Council.

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

Following comments by the Committee the Pre-Decision Scrutiny Questions (PDSQ) were agreed for submission to the Cabinet on the 28<sup>th</sup> of April 2021 (See attached appendix).

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

Nil items

**11. ACTION LOG**

Noted

**12. 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.

**13. PRE-DECISION SCRUTINY OF EXEMPT/ CONFIDENTIAL) CABINET PAPERS**

Nil items

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

Nil items

**Chair, Councillor James King  
Overview & Scrutiny Committee**

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Meeting of the

# CABINET

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Wednesday, 28 April 2021 at 5.30 p.m.

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## TABLED PAPERS

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**PAGE  
NUMBER**

**5. OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**5.1 Chair's Advice of Key Issues or Questions**

Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Committee (OSC) to report on any issues raised by the OSC in relation to unrestricted business to be considered.

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| Item 6.1 Strategic Plan 2021-24  |  |
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| Questions  | Response   |
| 1. When and how will targets for the Strategic Plan be created?  | The council's target setting principles are set out in target setting guidance agreed as part of the Performance Management and Accountability Framework in August 2020. The approach adopted allows for sufficient flexibility so that we can take into account factors that may be affecting local government including the impact of the pandemic and expected budget constraints. The Mayor, Members and the Corporate Leadership will review and agree targets by 2 <sup>nd</sup> June 2021.  |
| 2. Page 8 - Tower Hamlets is now the densest Borough since mid-2019 see ONS - 16,427 people per square km - can this be corrected<br><br><a href="https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/populationestimates/bulletins/annualmidyearpopulationestimates/mid2019estimates">https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/populationestimates/bulletins/annualmidyearpopulationestimates/mid2019estimates</a> | The statistic will be amended to reflect the most recent population estimates published in June 2020.  |
| 3. Page 9 - why have ASB rates not been added - we have highest in the country ?   | The number of ASB reports is closely monitored by operational teams and at directorate level in the council. Number of cases of ASB reported per month is a key community safety operational performance metric and reported monthly at a divisional and directorate level. In 2020/21 there were 3,200 reports of ASB which is nearly double the number of reports in 2019/20 (1696). The number of ASB reported cases does not appear in the strategic plan as it is operational data. The metrics in the strategic plan are designed to report progress against our priority areas and outcomes, in other words, to measure if anyone is better off due to the work the council carries out. Outcome 7 is about resident perceptions about how ASB is being addressed and how safe they feel in their localities. Perceptions of the council and partner responses to ASB are included in Outcome 10 which focuses on the effectiveness of the council's partnership working. |

## Overview & Scrutiny PDSQs 26.04.2021

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| 4. Page 9 - see Internal Report that suggests numbers on housing waiting list maybe materially overstated ? Can this be minuted?  | The data in the report is a snapshot for the period to the end of 2019 and was the most up to date data available at the time of drafting the Strategic Plan. Recent internal reports may reflect more up to date data available to the service.   |
| 5. Page 9 - 2019 NOX Diffusion Tube results suggest that 40% is overstated - where does this stat come from?  | There is an error with the 40% figure/box in the table – this is incorrect, with the 77% figure being correct – this will be amended for the final version. The data provided is from the London Atmospheric Emissions (LAEI) the key tools for air quality analysis and policy development in London. The most up to date data provided is for 2019.  |
| 6. Page 12 - where is additional COVID funding in this table?   | Covid grant funding allocations are announced throughout the year and are not, therefore, included in the Council's medium term financial strategy (MTFS) budget. The Mayor has, however announced his intention, to create a £3m Covid Recovery Fund using part of its New Homes Bonus grant in 2021-22. To date MHCLG has announced a 2021-22 Covid-19 expenditure pressures grant allocation of £12.985m and a part-year extension to the reimbursement scheme for lost sales, fees and charges income. Further announcements for Covid grant funding will be reported as part of the 2021-22 budget monitoring process.  |
| <b>Item 6.2 Tower Hamlets Plan Annual Report and priorities going forward</b>   |  |
| 1. Page 10 of 31 draws on data from 2017/18 – 2019/20. However, the infographics' data spans is inconsistent. For example, 77% of residents exposed to N02 levels that exceed the EU limit and 45.5% of children and young people accessing timely mental health support - refers to data from 2017/18 only. Can you clarify the reasons for the above?<br>2. As a measure of 'the percentage | 1.1 The data provided is from the London Atmospheric Emissions (LAEI) the key tools for air quality analysis and policy development in London. The most up to date data provided is for 2019. The infographic will be amended to include reference the 2019-20 time period.<br><br>1.2 Due to pressures resultant from the Covid-19 pandemic we are currently unable to obtain up to date, validated data for this measure due to partner (CCG) capacity reasons. We expect to be able to restart reporting against this measure once these capacity pressures ease. Unvalidated data available suggests more children and young people (1,278 children from April to October 2020) were |

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| <p>residents exposed to N02 levels that exceed the EU limit' and 'children and young people accessing timely mental health support' could you provide the context as to why there is not data available?</p> | <p>accessing mental health services than projected for the period.</p> <p>Projections completed by the service in Q3 estimated that by 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2,527 children and young people would have accessed Mental Health services which is in line with the target (35%) though currently we are unable to validate this figure to provide assurance.</p> <p>In 2019/20 2,072 children and young people with diagnosed mental health conditions accessed treatment. The annual performance target (34%) was exceeded.</p>   |
| <p>3. Regarding the '% of clients using social care who receive self-directed support (up to 2014/15 also included carers) – Snapshots'. Please could you confirm further details of the Snapshot?</p>       | <p>This figure is drawn from the Adult Social Care Outcome Framework (ASCOF) which all councils with Adult Social Care Commissioning Responsibilities have a statutory obligation to provide local data for. Figures are benchmarked at a regional and national level. The measure relates to how well our Adult Social Care (ASC) service is doing as regards a key duty in the Care Act 2014; to ensure that all service users in the community have their needs assessed and are informed that they have in place a direct payment or personal budget which has involved an assessment and support plan which is clear about the outcomes to be achieved and the funding allocated. In 2019/20 the national benchmark figure for this measure was 91.9% and 94.6% in the London region. In Tower Hamlets, performance on this measure had been lagging for the last few years compared to other councils. As part of our continuous improvement work, starting in 2019 we looked into the data and why our performance was below our peer authorities and put in place a plan to drive up performance. Much of this was about ensuring front line staff recorded data correctly on our systems so that this came through in our reported outcomes. Having delivered on our improvement plan our performance currently exceeds the national and regional benchmark levels.</p> |

## Overview & Scrutiny PDSQs 26.04.2021

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| <p>4. Measure of 'Number of affordable homes built' – could this include a breakdown of social and Tower Hamlets Living rent?</p>   | <p>A breakdown of the number of affordable homes by rent product is available and can be included in the Annual Report.</p>  |
| <p>5. As access to Food is such an important part of Better health and wellbeing could a key measure be included so that this work can be measured effectively?</p>   | <p>The council currently is in receipt of DfE funding to support children at risk of food poverty during the school holidays. An additional measure will be added so that we can track the numbers of children benefiting from this funding during 2021/22.</p>  |
| <p>6. Regarding the adoption of the NEL ICS Anchor Charter, to what extent are the Charter's ambitions around '2) Procurement for social value 3) Maximising the social value of our buildings and land', reflected in the Tower Hamlets Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2021-25?</p> | <p>The Tower Hamlets Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2021-25 has been in development with partners since winter 2019. The latest draft has emerged from a series of interviews, engagements and reviews of relevant data and strategies and is currently undergoing public consultation.</p> <p>Procurement for social value:</p> <p>While it is beyond its scope to address procurement more broadly, a priority of the draft Health and Wellbeing Strategy is to work with employers across the borough (particular Small and Medium Enterprises) to improve the health of current employees and workplaces and to advise on tackling health inequalities. Additionally, one of the underlying principles of the strategy is to put equalities and anti-racism at the heart of everything we do, including in our working with partners, and organisations in the borough.</p> <p>Maximising the social value of our buildings and land:</p> <p>One of the draft Health and Wellbeing Strategy's 5 Ambitions is that 'We can all access safe, social spaces near our homes'. This ambition and its underlying principles have significant overlap with the North East London Integrated Care System Anchor Charter's ambition. The principles and actions in the draft strategy relating to this ambition include working with residents in planning, design and development; strengthening communications and engagement with underserved</p> |

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|   | <p>communities, as well as empowering the views of children and young people to create sustainable change to the environment; and making use of unused open spaces;</p>  |
| <b>Item 6.3 Future of the Private Rented Sector Housing Selective Licensing Designation</b> |  |
| <p>1. What are the measures of success for this policy?</p>                                 | <p>The scheme has enabled the Council to identify where the private rented properties are in this part of the borough, this has been critical during the pandemic as we have been able to communicate with tenants and landlords directly in regards to protection against eviction. The scheme has also set the standard that landlords must achieve when renting out their property and informs the tenant who is responsible for managing their property. As of March 2021, the Selective Licensing scheme has achieved the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Properties licensed: 8146</li> <li>• Total number of visits and surveys undertaken: 3105</li> <li>• Property conditions improved: 924</li> <li>• Enforcement Notices served: 320</li> <li>• Civil Penalty Notice fines issued: £83,374.27</li> <li>• Prosecutions for failure to licence and Management Regs: 10</li> <li>• Rent Repayment Orders (RRO) claimed: £91,000 from May 2019 to date in the Selective Licensing area only.</li> </ul> <p>Total RROs for the whole borough (inc. SL area):<br/> <b>Claimed:</b> £210,125 (78 applicants)<br/> <b>Claims filed and awaiting decision:</b> £267,062 (61 applicants)<br/> <b>Claims to be filed:</b> Approx. £160,000 (50 applicants)</p> |
| <p>2. Can it be reiterated why this area focuses on Whitechapel, Spitalfields &amp;</p>     | <p>Based on the Mayhew Report which reviewed ASB across the Council it was noted that these ward areas have the higher amounts of ASB which is one of the</p>  |

## Overview & Scrutiny PDSQs 26.04.2021

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| Banglatown and Weavers wards?  | key criteria for introducing the scheme  |
| 3. Have other parts of the borough been considered for such a scheme?  | Yes, as detailed in the Mayhew report in relation to ASB. However, the Additional Licensing Scheme, which captures all small HMOs, is currently in force throughout the rest of the borough.   |
| <b>Item 6.4 Proposal for the introduction of the borough wide Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) to deal with the possession and use of psychoactive substances (e.g. nitrous oxide) and associated Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)</b> |  |
| 1. When will the PSPO be legally enforceable from?   | If Cabinet agree the decision the Order will come into force immediately. We have planned for sufficient signage to be placed around the borough, particularly in those hotspot areas from 3 <sup>rd</sup> May 2021 onwards. Once signage is in place, the order will become legally enforceable.  |
| 2. Have we ensured that every Met Police officer & THEO in Tower Hamlets is aware of the PSPO and is ready and able to issue FPN ?   | The turnover of police officers that may be working within the Central East Basic Command Unit is high. Therefore the Council ensuring every Met Police Officer in the BCU is aware of the Order and able to issue an FPN is not practical. We have discussed the Order and enforcement of it with police partners. They have been consulted on the Order as part of the formal consultation. We have taken a targeted approach. We anticipate that the vast majority of enforcement by members of the MPS will be undertaken by Neighbourhood Police Officers, Police Community Support Officers and our council funded police teams within LBTH & THH. As part of our commitment to enhance partnership working, and ensure a better overall service offer for our residents, we have committed to delivering regular bite-size workshops to ensure those neighbourhood police officers are fully versed with all council services, including the powers that exist within the (if the NOX PSPO is agreed) three PSPOs in the borough. All Tower Hamlets Enforcement Officers are familiar with PSPO enforcement, have had regular training, are aware of the proposed introduction of this PSPO and already have what they need to enforce where appropriate. |
| <b>6.7 – GP Enhanced Public Health Services – Direct Award</b>   |  |

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Public Health GP Enhanced Services – the contract awarded to Tower Hamlets GP Care Group is welcomed and they are active partners in Tower Hamlets Together. However, could the Council outline where and how the governance and oversight of the contract is undertaken by the TH Council directly, including quarterly monitoring?

Contract monitoring meetings are conducted quarterly between the Tower Hamlets Public Health and GP care group, attended by the associate director of Public Health and two Public Health programme leads (commissioners) and representatives from GP care group including clinical leadership (provider). In these meetings, the usual agenda items are quarterly performance report, finance/invoicing, contractual issues, staffing issues, risk log, action plan/recovery plan if underperformance. Moreover, the commissioners have access to the monthly/quarterly dashboards provided by clinical effectiveness group (CEG) which enables early identifications of issues or lower/higher activity.

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