



Meeting of the

Tower Hamlets Council

Agenda

Wednesday, 18 January 2023 at 7.00 p.m.

VENUE

Council Chamber, 1st Floor,
Town Hall, Mulberry Place,
5 Clove Crescent,
London E14 2BG

Meeting Webcast

The meeting is being webcast for viewing through the Council's webcast system.
<http://towerhamlets.public-i.tv/core/portal/home>. The press and public are encouraged to watch the meeting on line.

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Chief Executive's Office

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To the Mayor and Councillors of the London Borough of Tower Hamlets

You are summoned to attend a meeting of the Council of the London Borough of Tower Hamlets to be held in **THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, 1ST FLOOR, TOWN HALL, MULBERRY PLACE, 5 CLOVE CRESCENT, LONDON, E14 2BG** at **7.00 p.m.** on **WEDNESDAY, 18 JANUARY 2023**

Will Tuckley
Chief Executive



Public Information

Viewing Council Meetings

Except where any exempt/restricted documents are being discussed, the public are welcome to view this meeting through the Council's webcast system.

Meeting Webcast and Public attendance

The meeting is being webcast for viewing through the Council's webcast system. <http://towerhamlets.public-i.tv/core/portal/home> The press and public are encouraged to watch this meeting on line

Please note: It is also possible to attend meetings in person. Places in the public gallery are allocated on a first come, first served basis from the reception at the Town Hall on the day of the meeting.

Electronic agendas reports and minutes.

Copies of agendas, reports and minutes for council meetings can also be found on our website from day of publication.

To access this, click www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/committee and search for the relevant committee and meeting date.

Agendas are available on the Modern.Gov, Windows, iPad and Android apps.



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Public Information

The meeting is being held at the Council's Town Hall.

Full Council is made up of the Mayor and the 45 Councillors. It's responsibilities include: deciding the Council's overall policies and setting the budget for the year. It also appoints the Council's Committees at the Annual Meeting. In addition, the Council provides opportunities to discuss local issues and is a means by which the Mayor and Cabinet can be held to account in public

The agenda for this ordinary Council meetings comprises:

- Apologies for absence from Members
- Declarations of Interests.
- Minutes of the previous meeting.
- Announcements from the Speaker or the Chief Executive of the Council.
- Petitions for presentation (over 30 signatures) or for debate (over 2000 signatures). A maximum of 4 Petitions that meet the criteria may be discussed taken in the order of receipt.
- Mayor's report followed by Opposition Leader's response. Written report (if any) to be published shortly before the meeting.
- Main Motion debates (including any amendments received)
- Reports requiring Full Council approval
- Member Questions (30 minutes). Questions not put to receive a written response.
- Motions from Members received on notice (including any amendments received). Consideration of these subject to time constraints.
- Any Urgent motions from Members.

Further details on the process for considering these items is set out on the covering reports in the agenda.

How can I watch the meeting?

Except when an exempt item is under discussion, the meeting will be broadcast live for public viewing via our Webcasting portal <https://towerhamlets.public-tv/core/portal/home>. Details of the broadcasting arrangements will be published on the agenda front sheet.

Public Attendance and Conduct at Meetings

The public may also watch the Council meeting in the public gallery. To attend please collect a ticket from reception at the town hall. We request that you show courtesy to all present and do not interrupt the meeting. The intention is not to specifically webcast members of the public, however, it is possible that you may be filmed in the background. By attending the meeting you are agreeing to this condition.

Please also switch off mobile phones or turn them on silent.

If you are scheduled to present a petition in person at the meeting, please sit in the reserved seating in the front row. You will be called to address the meeting at the appropriate time

If the fire alarm rings please follow the instructions of the Facilities Staff who will direct you to the exits.



Procedure at the meeting.

Just before the start of the meeting, the macebearer will ask everyone to be upstanding for the Speaker. The Speaker of the Council is the Chair of the meeting and is in charge of the debate. Their role is to control the meeting, including the order of speakers, and to ensure that the business is carried out properly. The Speaker will confirm the expected meeting etiquette for Council meeting, including the following:

- The Speaker will determine the order of speakers - usually from a list of speakers.
- That any online participants must mute their microphones when not speaking.
- Such participants should also switch off their cameras when not speaking.
- All Members may contribute to the discussions, but only the Members physically present in the chamber may vote on items requiring a decision.

Order of business

The Speaker may agree to change the order of business at the meeting. In addition, the Speaker may adjourn the meeting for a period of time or agree an extension to the time limit for the meeting (by up to half hour beyond the three-hour limit). To change the order of business, a Member will need to formally move a motion seeking approval for the requested change. Any such motions will be put to the vote.

Voting

The items requiring a decision will normally be determined by a show of hands or an electronic vote (by Members present in the meeting room). If there are an equal number of votes for and against an item of business, the Speaker will have a second or casting vote.

Decisions and Minutes

The decisions will be published on the website 2 days after the meeting. The draft minutes will be published around 10 working days after the meeting.

Publication of Agenda papers.

Electronic copies of the Council agenda will be published on the Council's Website on the relevant Committee pages at least five clear working days before the meeting.

To view meeting papers and to be alerted when agendas have been published visit: www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/committee. Council documents are also available on 'Mod.Gov' iPad, Android and Windows tablet apps downloadable for free from their respective app stores.

Publication of tabled papers

Any additional documents (such as the Mayor's report, amendments to motions and urgent motions) will normally be published on the Council meeting website either shortly before or during the meeting.



London Borough of Tower Hamlets

Council

Wednesday, 18 January 2023

7.00 p.m.

PAGE NUMBER

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

To receive any apologies for absence.

2. DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS AND OTHER INTERESTS

9 - 10

Members are reminded to consider the categories of interest, identified 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, see the attached note from the Monitoring Officer.

Members are also reminded to declare the nature of the interest at the earliest opportunity and the agenda item it relates to. Please note that ultimately it is the Members' responsibility to identify any interests and also update their register of interests form as required by the Code.

If in doubt as to the nature of an interest, you are advised to seek advice prior to the meeting by contacting the Monitoring Officer or Democratic Services.

3. MINUTES

11 - 46

To confirm as a correct record of the proceedings the unrestricted minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council held on Wednesday 16 November 2022.

4. TO RECEIVE ANNOUNCEMENTS (IF ANY) FROM THE SPEAKER OF THE COUNCIL OR THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

5. TO RECEIVE PETITIONS

47 - 48

The Council Procedure Rules provide for a maximum of four petitions to be discussed at an Ordinary Meeting of the Council.

The attached report presents the received petitions to be discussed.



Should any additional petitions be received they will be listed to be noted but not discussed.

6. MAYOR'S REPORT

The Council's Constitution provides for the Elected Mayor to give a report at each Ordinary Council Meeting.

A maximum of six minutes is allowed for the Elected Mayor's report, following which the Speaker of the Council will invite the leaders of the opposition groups to respond for up to two minutes each should they so wish. Following those contributions, the Mayor may reply for up to two minutes.

7. ADMINISTRATION MOTION DEBATE 49 - 52

To debate a Motion submitted by the Administration in accordance with Rules 11 and 13 of the Council's Constitution. The debate will last for a maximum of 30 minutes.

8. OPPOSITION MOTION DEBATE 53 - 54

To debate a Motion submitted by the Opposition Group in accordance with Rules 11 and 13 of the Council's Constitution. The debate will last for a maximum of 30 minutes.

9. REPORTS FROM THE EXECUTIVE AND THE COUNCIL'S COMMITTEES

9.1 Report of the Executive: Youth Justice Board Annual Report 55 - 86

To consider the report of the Executive on the Youth Justice Annual Plan.

10. OTHER BUSINESS

10.1 Members' Allowances Scheme - 2022-23 Uplift 87 - 92

To consider the report of the Director of Legal and Monitoring Officer on the yearly uplift to the Members' Allowances Scheme.

11. TO RECEIVE WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL 93 - 96

The questions which have been received from Councillors to be put at this Council meeting are set out in the attached report. A maximum period of 30 minutes is allocated to this agenda item.



12. TO CONSIDER MOTIONS SUBMITTED BY MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

97 - 102

The motions submitted by Councillors for debate at this meeting are set out in the attached report.



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, Director of Legal and Monitoring Officer, Tel: 0207 364 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.

LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL

HELD AT 7.10 P.M. ON WEDNESDAY, 16 NOVEMBER 2022

**THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, 1ST FLOOR, TOWN HALL, MULBERRY PLACE, 5
CLOVE CRESCENT, LONDON, E14 2BG**

Members Present:

Mayor Lutfur Rahman (Member)	Councillor Iqbal Hossain (Member)
Councillor Faroque Ahmed (Member)	Councillor Kabir Hussain (Member)
Councillor Kabir Ahmed (Member)	Councillor Kamrul Hussain (Member)
Councillor Leelu Ahmed (Member)	Councillor Shubo Hussain (Member)
Councillor Musthak Ahmed (Member)	Councillor Asma Islam (Member)
Councillor Saied Ahmed (Member)	Councillor Sirajul Islam (Member)
Councillor Shafi Ahmed (Member)	Councillor Saif Uddin Khaled (Member)
Councillor Suluk Ahmed (Member)	Councillor Ahmodur Khan (Member)
Councillor Ohid Ahmed (Member)	Councillor Sabina Khan (Member)
Councillor Sabina Akhtar (Member)	Councillor James King (Member)
Councillor Asma Begum (Member)	Councillor Amy Lee (Member)
Councillor Nathalie Bienfait (Member)	Councillor Abdul Malik (Member)
Councillor Rachel Blake (Member)	Councillor Abdul Mannan (Member)
Councillor Mufeedah Bustin (Member)	Councillor Ana Miah (Member)
Councillor Bodrul Choudhury (Member)	Councillor Harun Miah (Member)
Councillor Gulam Kibria Choudhury (Member)	Councillor Amin Rahman (Member)
Councillor Jahed Choudhury (Member)	Councillor Rebaka Sultana (Member)
Councillor Abu Chowdhury (Member)	Councillor Maium Talukdar (Member)
Councillor Mohammad Chowdhury (Member)	Councillor Abdal Ullah (Member)
Councillor Marc Francis (Member)	Councillor Abdul Wahid (Member)
Councillor Peter Golds (Member)	

SPEAKERS ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Speaker of the Council, Councillor Shafi Ahmed in the Chair

The Speaker of the Council provided his update to the Council. He stated he had taken part in a variety of events. The highlights included:

- Attending the National Hate Crime Week at St Paul's Cathedral
- London Mayor's Association Civic Service at Westminster Abbey

- A local badminton tournament
- Opening night of Season of Bangla Drama
- Haileybury Youth Centre
- British Bangladeshi Who's Who
- Armistice Day and Remembrance Sunday Commemoration Services

The Speaker offered his condolences to the Mayor Lutfur Rahman on the sad passing of Mr Mohammed Chand Miah, his uncle and a longstanding community activist, who had been pivotal in establishing the Stepney Shahjalal Mosque.

Procedural Motion

Councillor Mufeedah Bustin **moved** a procedural motion under Council Procedure Rule 11.2 that an urgent motion be considered in relation the LGBTQ+ rights and the Qatar World Cup. The motion was seconded by Councillor Peter Golds.

The Speaker of the Council, on taking advice from the Monitoring Officer, concluded the motion, whilst an important issue, did not meet the threshold to be considered an urgent motion and therefore did not accept the request.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of:

- Councillor Amina Ali
- Councillor Maisha Begum
- Councillor Ahmodul Kabir
- Councillor Ayas Miah
- Councillor Bellal Uddin

Apologies for lateness were received on behalf of:

- Councillor Sabina Khan.

2. DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS AND OTHER INTERESTS

Councillors Nathalie Bienfait, Asma Islam, Shubo Hussain, Rachel Blake and Marc Francis declared non-disclosable non-pecuniary interests in Agenda Item 10.1 'Roman Road Bow Neighbourhood Plan – Post-Referendum Adoption', as they lived within the area covered by the Plan.

Councillors Rachel Blake and Marc Francis declared non-disclosable non-pecuniary interests in Agenda Item 10.1 'Roman Road Bow Neighbourhood Plan – Post-Referendum Adoption', as Councillor Blake's brother and Councillor Francis' brother-in-law was a member of the Roman Road neighbourhood forum.

Councillors Rachel Blake and Marc Francis declared non-disclosable non-pecuniary interests in Agenda Item 8 'Opposition Motion Debate' as their children attended Chisenhale Primary School.

3. MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the unrestricted minutes of the Ordinary Council meeting held on Wednesday 5 October 2022 be approved and signed by the Speaker as a correct record of proceedings, subject to the following amendment:

- Item 8 'Opposition Motion for Debate' to amend the third bullet point under 'The Council Resolves to' to 'To continue providing support for small and medium enterprises, including the recently announced £2million dividend for Tower Hamlets' SMEs in the Mayor's Covid Additional Relief Fund, benefiting 850 businesses across the Borough.'

4. TO RECEIVE ANNOUNCEMENTS (IF ANY) FROM THE SPEAKER OF THE COUNCIL OR THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Announcements from the Chief Executive

The Chief Executive, Will Tuckley provided his regular update to the Council meeting, highlighting the following issues:

- Covid infection rates were low in London, but care needed to be taken as Tower Hamlets has lower rates of childhood immunisation and vaccinations for Covid and flu.
- Denise Radley, Corporate Director, Health, Adults and Community will be taking extended leave in the new year. Directors Somen Banerjee, Warwick Tomsett and Ann Corbett will be covering the post on a rotational basis.
- Mr Kevin Bartle, Interim Corporate Director, Resources and Section 151 Officer will be moving to new challenges in December 2022 new arrangements to cover the S151 role will be announced.
- Victoria Park had won the Green Flags "People's Choice" award.
- The TH_IS campaign had been shortlisted for the City Nation Place award.
- The Regeneration Team for DLR Underline Project had been shortlisted for the New London Awards.
- Young leaders, Maryam Chowdhury founder of Beyond Bias was named London Youth's Young Leader of the Year with Mohammed from Spotlight shortlisted for the Young Leader 2022 awards.
- Carer's Rights Day would be marked on 24th November.

5. TO RECEIVE PETITIONS

5.1 Petition regarding Road Closures

The petition was deferred to a future Council meeting.

5.2 Petition regarding improved street cleaning

Shaheda Najmeen, Saiful Rahman, Yusra Muhammad and Idris Chowdhury addressed the meeting on behalf of the petitioners and responded to questions from Members. Councillor Kabir Hussain, Cabinet Member for Environment and the Climate Emergency responded to the matters raised in the petition. Councillor Kabir Hussain said street cleaning was a top priority for the administration and they were working in partnership to address issues relating to refuse build-up and uncollected bins. He said it was important for residents to report incidences of non-collection so the evidence could be used to identify bottlenecks.

RESOLVED

1. That the petition be referred to the Corporate Director, Place for a written response within 28 days.

6. MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Lutfur Rahman presented his report to the Council.

The Opposition Group Leader, Councillor Sirajul Islam then responded briefly to the Mayor's report.

Mayor Rahman provided concluding remarks

7. ADMINISTRATION MOTION DEBATE

Councillor Maium Talukdar **moved** and Councillor Musthak Ahmed **seconded** the motion as printed in the agenda.

Councillor Sabina Akhtar **moved** and Councillor Sirajul Islam **seconded** the following proposed amendment as set out in the supplementary agenda.

Additions underlined
Deletions struck through

This Council notes:

- That education is something that has always been close to the heart of ~~the~~ current Mayor's everyone's vision for Tower Hamlets, since entering public office, and serves as the bedrock for thousands to progress and escape poverty.

- That during his previous term, the current Mayor introduced free school meals for all primary school children from an initiative spearheaded by the Labour Group at the time; introduced the Mayor's Education Maintenance Allowance; introduce the Mayor's University Bursary; invested millions in extracurricular youth services; and continued and enhanced a community language scheme to promote second language skills across the Borough's communities. Several new schools were also built, including St Paul's Way and Bow School, and countless others were improved as part of the Mayor's £380million Building Schools for the Future programme.
- That Tower Hamlets ~~had~~ has some of the best urban schools in the world due to a strong partnership between school staff, pupils, parents and the Council under the previous Labour administration ~~Mayor's last administration~~, with wholesale refurbishment, expansion and rebuilding taking place.
- ~~That despite this historic investment and prioritisation of education in Tower Hamlets, the previous administration stripped back and reversed several of these initiatives, leaving education services in the Borough under-resourced, lacking in investment and care, and undervalued.~~
- The previous Labour administration oversaw strong investment in schools across Tower Hamlets where the education, development and wellbeing of local children was always Labour's first priority. Under Labour, schools in Tower Hamlets were rated among the best in the country, with 97% of children going to either 'Good' or 'Outstanding' school. This was in large part because of the great work of the school staff and the close partnership between schools and the council. Labour also had a programme called 'Building Schools for the Future' which helped realise the borough's aim of accelerating education across all schools.
- The previous Labour administration also prioritised the health of local children in Tower Hamlets by rolling out the Daily Mile to all schools, an initiative where children run or jog at their own pace for 15 minutes a day to improve the physical and mental health of the schoolchildren. In 2021, the Mayor of London released the latest list of Healthy Schools London award winners which revealed Tower Hamlets to be the most successful borough in London for health and happiness.
- ~~That education in the Borough has not accelerated as it should have over the past seven years. Tower Hamlets is behind Islington, Newham, Southwark, Waltham Forest, Redbridge, Lewisham and Lambeth for the % of students staying in education post-18. This is unacceptable.~~
- That children in Tower Hamlets are so much more than being defined by being sent to either of two universities – Oxbridge and Cambridge – and that the priority should always be the development and wellbeing of the borough's children so they can all be supported in realising their ambition, no matter what they choose to do. That in Newham alone, one school (NCS) sends more pupils to Oxford and Cambridge than all the Schools in Tower Hamlets combined.

- That many of the Borough's best and most promising students are opting to leave the Borough to improve their life chances. This represents a 'brain drain' of the Borough's brightest and best.

- That, ~~for these reasons,~~ education has always been ~~was once again~~ a central tenet of everyone in the borough. ~~Mayor Lutfur Rahman's transformative Manifesto, which was overwhelmingly endorsed by the people of Tower Hamlets in May of this year.~~

- That the Mayor and his administration have already introduced two key pieces of policy – the reintroduction of the Mayor's Education Maintenance Allowance, a policy created by a Labour Government and the Mayor's University Bursary – to accelerate education in Tower Hamlets, as approved at a meeting of the Council's Cabinet on October 26th, and it is important that the criteria that is set out for the allocation of the Mayor's Education Maintenance Allowance and the Mayor's University Bursary is conducted in a fair and transparent way and every child that is eligible should receive the funds and no child who is eligible should be excluded from the process.

- That teachers in Tower Hamlets do a great job in supporting local children during these difficult economic times, and deserve more credit for the hard work they do and less divisive rhetoric. ~~That there is a shortage of teachers in positions of leadership from a background that incorporates protected characteristics, and reflects the social and ethnic diversity of Tower Hamlets.~~

This Council believes:

- That the students of Tower Hamlets are among the hardest working in the whole country, and deserve as much support as is possible.

- That despite the best efforts of teachers, students, parents and schools in the Borough, Tower Hamlets remains somewhat behind other London Boroughs in terms of performance and top-grade attainment but has continued to improve throughout the last seven years with a key mantra being that a Local Authority with its schools, backed by a range of partners, can dramatically improve the life chances of its children and young people. In 2021 the average attainment 8 score was 53.9 in 2021 as opposed to 49.8 in 2019 (National data, on the other hand, indicates that the average attainment 8 score for England was 53.4 in 2021.

- That the Borough's students deserve to realise their dreams and aspirations by having access to the best educational services and facilities on offer, and the remarkable transformation of attainment and achievement in Tower Hamlets education has shown local children that deprivation is not destiny. In December 2021, seven schools in Tower Hamlets were named in the nation's top 500 schools by Parent Power Schools Guide, published in the Sunday Times.

- That the students of Tower Hamlets need to see teachers in positions of leadership that represents the diversity of the Borough.

- That foundational success alone is not sufficient – education must be accelerated to ensure that Tower Hamlet's young people can access the country's top further educational institutions.

- That ~~more~~ continued support is therefore required to ensure that Tower Hamlets students can compete with the best performers, not only in London, but across the UK.
- That this should ~~represent a step change~~ build on the strong work of the previous Labour administration in the leadership and management of the Borough's educational services.

This Council resolves:

- That the acceleration of educational attainment – from GCSE to University admission – will remain one of the key areas for policy development as part of the Mayor and his administration's vision for Tower Hamlets.
- That to hasten the delivery of excellent educational facilities and services, a cross-party working group will be set up to the Mayor's Leadership Team will oversee the development and delivery of a transformation of the Borough's educational attainment to ensure a fair and transparent process for the benefit of Tower Hamlets schoolchildren.
- To request the Mayor's Leadership Team work with the cross-party working group on Education to set up a fair and transparent system for the allocation of the Mayor's Education Maintenance Allowance and University Bursary to ensure that the Mayor and his administration do not handpick recipients, and that all children who are eligible should receive the funds.
- That the Mayor and the Council will establish an Institution of Academic Excellence in Tower Hamlets, to fully support schoolchildren in their education and helping them to realise their ambition in whatever University, apprenticeship or career they wish to progress to, while also noting that no one's worth is measured by going to a particular elite group of universities. ~~accelerate widespread admission to Oxbridge and Russell Group Universities, while raising all other educational services to this benchmarked standard.~~
- That the Mayor and the Council will promote the employment of Teachers with protected characteristics into positions of leadership.
- That Officers are instructed to begin the planning of a project, with the involvement of the cross-party working group on education, to deliver this Institute for Academic Excellence, with a plan to be presented at the first available Cabinet meeting of the Council.

Following debate, the amendment moved by Councillor Sabina Akhtar was put to the vote and was **defeated**.

The motion as moved by Councillor Maium Talukdar was put to the vote and was **agreed**.

RESOLVED

This Council notes:

- That education is something that has always been close to the heart of the current Mayor's vision for Tower Hamlets, since entering public office, and serves as the bedrock for thousands to progress and escape poverty.

- That during his previous term, the current Mayor introduced free school meals for all primary school children; introduced the Mayor's Education Maintenance Allowance; introduce the Mayor's University Bursary; invested millions in extracurricular youth services; and continued and enhanced a community language scheme to promote second language skills across the Borough's communities. Several new schools were also built, including St Paul's Way and Bow School, and countless others were improved as part of the Mayor's £380million *Building Schools for the Future* programme.
- That Tower Hamlets had some of the best urban schools in the world under the Mayor's last administration, with wholesale refurbishment, expansion and rebuilding taking place.
- That despite this historic investment and prioritisation of education in Tower Hamlets, the previous administration stripped back and reversed several of these initiatives, leaving education services in the Borough under-resourced, lacking in investment and care, and undervalued.
- That education in the Borough has not accelerated as it should have over the past seven years. Tower Hamlets is behind Islington, Newham, Southwark, Waltham Forest, Redbridge, Lewisham and Lambeth for the % of students staying in education post-18. This is unacceptable.
- That in Newham alone, one school (NCS) sends more pupils to Oxford and Cambridge than all the Schools in Tower Hamlets combined.
- That many of the Borough's best and most promising students are opting to leave the Borough to improve their life chances. This represents a 'brain drain' of the Borough's brightest and best.
- That, for these reasons, education was once again a central tenet of Mayor Lutfur Rahman's transformative *Manifesto*, which was overwhelmingly endorsed by the people of Tower Hamlets in May of this year.
- That the Mayor and his administration have already introduced two key pieces of policy – the reintroduction of the Mayor's Education Maintenance Allowance, and the Mayor's University Bursary – to accelerate education in Tower Hamlets, as approved at a meeting of the Council's Cabinet on October 26th.
- That there is a shortage of teachers in positions of leadership from a background that incorporates protected characteristics, and reflects the social and ethnic diversity of Tower Hamlets.

This Council believes:

- That the students of Tower Hamlets are among the hardest working in the whole country, and deserve as much support as is possible.
- That despite the best efforts of teachers, students, parents and schools in the Borough, Tower Hamlets remains someway behind other London Boroughs in terms of performance and top-grade attainment.
- That the Borough's students deserve to realise their dreams and aspirations by having access to the best educational services and facilities on offer.
- That the students of Tower Hamlets need to see teachers in positions of leadership that represents the diversity of the Borough.
- That foundational success alone is not sufficient – education must be accelerated to ensure that Tower Hamlet's young people can access the country's top further educational institutions.
- That more support is therefore required to ensure that Tower Hamlets students can compete with the best performers, not only in London, but across the UK.
- That this should represent a step change in the leadership and management of the Borough's educational services.

This Council resolves:

- That the acceleration of educational attainment – from GCSE to University admission – will remain one of the key areas for policy development as part of the Mayor and his administration's vision for Tower Hamlets.
- That to hasten the delivery of excellent educational facilities and services, the Mayor's Leadership Team will oversee the development and delivery of a transformation of the Borough's educational attainment.
- That the Mayor and the Council will establish an Institution of Academic Excellence in Tower Hamlets, to accelerate widespread admission to Oxbridge and Russell Group Universities, while raising all other educational services to this benchmarked standard.
- That the Mayor and the Council will promote the employment of Teachers with protected characteristics into positions of leadership.

- That Officers are instructed to begin the planning of a project to deliver this Institute for Academic Excellence, with a plan to be presented at the first available Cabinet meeting of the Council.

8. OPPOSITION MOTION DEBATE

Councillor Asma Begum **moved** and Councillor Amy Lee **seconded** the motion as printed in the agenda.

Councillor Kabir Ahmed **moved** and Councillor Saif Uddin Khaled **seconded** a proposed amendment to the motion as printed in the tabled papers supplement.

Additions underlined

Deletions struck through

This Council notes that:

- Tower Hamlets has one of the highest levels of motor vehicle traffic in the country, partly due to vehicles travelling through the borough, and the average lung capacity of a child in Tower Hamlets is up to 10 per cent less than the national average. This demonstrates that the imposition of School streets has not directly improved the negative impact of pollution of the children of the Borough.
- The Air Quality Action Plan 2022-2027 was presented at a meeting of the Mayor's Cabinet meeting on Wednesday 26th October 2022 which stated in its research that 'studies, including one carried out in Tower Hamlets, show that children's health is being negatively affected living in highly polluted areas. Children in Tower Hamlets have reduced lung function, which they may never recover.'
- ~~The previous Labour administration introduced 26 School Streets across the borough, an initiative to improve air quality for children by reducing car traffic around schools. This policy was largely successful, resulting in a 30% reduction in pollution near schools and there are now 547 School Streets across nearly every London borough. did little to invest in education.~~
- In his transformative Manifesto, Mayor Lutfur Rahman, pledged to open the roads and get the Borough moving, removing restrictions that impacted the poorest and most vulnerable in Tower Hamlets.
- However, this administration has also demonstrated that it is a listening administration, evident in the decision to retain the Wapping Bus Gate. It will also listen – where there is overwhelming support – to calls to retain the school streets infrastructure.

- ~~After a thorough consultation and a local campaign headed by parents, teachers and young people in the area, a School Street was installed at Chisenhale Primary School in order to prevent excess car pollution and keep the local schoolchildren and residents safe.~~
- ~~Despite the scheme having proved successful with large community support, the Mayor of Tower Hamlets has announced that he will remove the School Streets without prior consultation.~~

This Council believes that:

- ~~The local community has made it clear that they want to keep the School Street at Chisenhale Primary School, and their concerns must be heard.~~
- This overwhelming support for the retention of the Chisenhale school street scheme has not been forthcoming, with a well-organised minority pushing their agenda the hardest.
- That large numbers of residents have contacted the Mayor voicing their support for the Scheme's removal, and that therefore it's removal following the lapsing of the Experimental Traffic Order – which Labour Councillors acknowledged was temporary at the time – is more than justified.

This Council therefore resolves:

- ~~To call on the Mayor of Tower Hamlets to immediately reverse the decision to close the School Street at Chisenhale Primary School.~~
- ~~To call on the Mayor of Tower Hamlets to hold a public meeting with parents, local residents, teachers, Ward Councillors and school children about possible alternatives.~~
- ~~To ensure that in future each School Streets scheme is carefully considered on a case-by-case basis and with thorough consultation with the local community before any action is taken which may cause distress to local residents.~~
- To remove the Chisenhale School Street's scheme with immediate effect.
- To assess all other School Street's schemes on a case-by-case basis and – where wanted – to retain them, if this is the wish of the majority of residents and other stakeholders.
- To build upon the productive meeting with the Mayor of London's Office and other London-wide bodies to improve air quality and educational attainment for all of the Borough's children, not just a select few.

Following debate, the amendment moved by Councillor Kabir Ahmed was put to the vote and was **agreed**.

The motion as amended by Councillor Kabir Ahmed was put to the vote and was **agreed**.

RESOLVED

This Council notes that:

- Tower Hamlets has one of the highest levels of motor vehicle traffic in the country, partly due to vehicles travelling through the borough, and the average lung capacity of a child in Tower Hamlets is up to 10 per cent less than the national average. This demonstrates that the imposition of School streets has not directly improved the negative impact of pollution of the children of the Borough.
- The Air Quality Action Plan 2022-2027 was presented at a meeting of the Mayor's Cabinet meeting on Wednesday 26th October 2022 which stated in its research that 'studies, including one carried out in Tower Hamlets, show that children's health is being negatively affected living in highly polluted areas. Children in Tower Hamlets have reduced lung function, which they may never recover.'
- The previous Labour administration did little to invest in education. They scrapped the Mayor's Education Maintenance Allowance, and the Mayor's University Bursary, removing the little support that many of the Borough's poorest children had to pursue their academic ambition. This Mayor has reinstated these crucial measures of support.
- In his transformative Manifesto, Mayor Lutfur Rahman, pledged to open the roads and get the Borough moving, removing restrictions that impacted the poorest and most vulnerable in Tower Hamlets.
- However, this administration has also demonstrated that it is a listening administration, evident in the decision to retain the Wapping Bus Gate. It will also listen – where there is overwhelming support – to calls to retain the school streets infrastructure.

This Council believes that:

- This overwhelming support for the retention of the Chisenhale school street scheme has not been forthcoming, with a well-organised minority pushing their agenda the hardest.
- That large numbers of residents have contacted the Mayor voicing their support for the Scheme's removal, and that therefore it's removal following the lapsing of the Experimental Traffic Order – which Labour Councillors acknowledged was temporary at the time – is more than justified.

This Council therefore resolves:

- To remove the Chisenhale School Street's scheme with immediate effect.
- To assess all other School Street's schemes on a case-by-case basis and – where wanted – to retain them, if this is the wish of the majority of residents and other stakeholders.

- To build upon the productive meeting with the Mayor of London's Office and other London-wide bodies to improve air quality and educational attainment for all of the Borough's children, not just a select few.

9. REPORTS FROM THE EXECUTIVE AND THE COUNCIL'S COMMITTEES

9.1 Report of the Executive: Gambling Policy 2022-2025

The Council considered the report of the Executive setting out a proposed gambling policy for 2022-2025.

RESOLVED

1. To Approve and adopt the Gambling Policy for 2022-25.

9.2 Report of the General Purposes Committee: Recommendations on Implementation of Special Severance Payments Regulations

The Council considered the report of the General Purposes Committee setting out recommendations for implementation of special severance payments.

RESOLVED

1. To note the revised process for Special Severance Payments.
2. To consider the revised 2022/23 pay policy statement and agree the policy for adoption.
3. To delegate to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Director of Workforce, OD and Business Support and the Chair of the General Purposes Committee and Monitoring Officer, any further minor changes to the 2022/23 pay policy statement.

10. OTHER BUSINESS

10.1 Roman Road Bow Neighbourhood Plan – Post-Referendum Adoption.

The Council considered the report relating to Roman Road Bow Neighbourhood Plan.

RESOLVED

1. To note the result of the Roman Road Bow Neighbourhood Plan referendum and adopt the neighbourhood plan, in line with the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, Section 38A.

10.2 Update of the Protocol for the Identification of Contaminated Land 2022

The Council considered the report relating to the identification of contaminated land.

RESOLVED

1. To adopt the strategy for the identification of contaminated land.
2. To delegate to the Corporate Director of Place authority to make any amendments to the policy deemed necessary following consultation with the Director of Legal.

10.3 Appointment of Co-Optees of the Standards Advisory Committee

The Council considered the report proposing nominations to the Standards Advisory Committee.

RESOLVED

1. Appoint Elizabeth Marshall and Syed Uddin as Co-opted Members of the Standards Advisory Committee for four-year terms, expiring on 17 November 2026.

10.4 Amendments to the Member Allowances Scheme

The Council considered the report relating to the Member Allowances Scheme.

RESOLVED

1. To Agree the following changes to the Member Allowances Scheme for 2022-23 effective immediately.
 - i. Removal of the Mayoral Advisors Special Responsibility Allowance
 - ii. Clarify that a maximum of one Deputy Mayor Special Responsibility Allowance can be allocated.

10.5 Report under Section 5 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989

Ms Janet Fasan, Director of Legal and Monitoring Officer explained this urgent report had been added to the agenda, as it required the decision notice issued on the 2nd November 2022 to be quashed because the planning decision had not followed due process.

The Council considered the urgent report relating to the Local Government and Housing Act 1989.

RESOLVED

1. To seek the quashing of the Decision Notice issued on 2nd November 2022, in respect of planning application PA/21/02703.

11. TO RECEIVE WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

No questions were put due to lack of time.

Due to the lack of time, the questions were not considered and written responses will be provided. The written responses are attached at **Appendix A**.

12. TO CONSIDER MOTIONS SUBMITTED BY MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

No motions were considered due to lack of time.

The meeting ended at 10.10 p.m.

Speaker of the Council

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Item 11: Member Questions and Answers

11.1	Councillor Musthak Ahmed	<p>Can the lead member update the chamber on where we are with the council's accounts? These accounts have been left unsigned for the past 6 years thanks to the previous administration.</p> <p>Response</p> <p>Both KPMG in issuing certificates for the years 2016/17 and 2017/18 and Deloittes in issuing their audit opinions for 2018/19 and 2019/20 are undergoing their internal review processes prior to sign off. The Council are continuing to work with both audit firms to progress sign off as soon as possible.</p> <p>Once Deloittes sign off the 2018/19 and 2019/20 accounts, they will commence work on the 2020/21 audit followed by 2021/22.</p>
11.2	Councillor Asma Begum	<p>The Mayor's Air Quality Action Plan 2022-2027 contained a study which showed that children's health is being negatively affected living in highly polluted areas and that children in Tower Hamlets have reduced lung function, which they may never recover. It also states that "Reducing pollution in and around schools, and extending school audits to other schools in polluted areas" is a priority for the administration.</p> <p>Can the Mayor explain how his decision to remove School Streets fits in with this priority?</p> <p>Response</p> <p>The Mayor is fully committed to ensuring that Tower Hamlets becomes a net zero borough as soon as possible, and this is clearly set out in the manifesto and Strategic Plan commitments.</p> <p>Furthermore, the new Air Quality Action Plan clearly sets out a wide range of actions that we intend to undertake in order to deliver better air quality for the borough.</p> <p>We are currently reviewing the School Streets programme to ensure it is achieving the original objectives of the programme.</p>

		<p>The Mayor and the Council take the safety of children extremely seriously, and have therefore asked officers of the Council to examine alternatives to experimental traffic orders, including (though not limited to) the possibility of introducing zebra crossings in the immediate vicinity of the school, as well as increasing the number of traffic wardens, yellow lines, 'do not stop' signages, and traffic management personnel – such as school crossing patrols – outside of the school. The Mayor has also repeatedly stated that he will be looking at each school street scheme on a case-by-case basis. Further updates will be provided once these options have been properly assessed by officers.</p>
<p>11.3</p>	<p>Councillor Bodrul Choudhury</p>	<p>At our last Full Council meeting the lead member for resources explained action was being taken following a catalogue of council failures under the previous Mayor. Can he be more precise about Council's progress in appointing a diagnostic consultant to investigate every department and function in the council?</p> <p>Response</p> <p>While progress is being made in the appointment of this diagnostic consultant, it is not at the pace that the Mayor or this Administration would like. As we have seen from today's Full Council, failings that were tolerated under the previous Administration for seven years will not be tolerated by this one. Dirty streets will not be tolerated. Unsigned accounts will not be tolerated. Any failure in the delivery of a service is a failure of the residents of this Borough, and will not be tolerated by this Administration. The Mayor continues to liaise with the Chief Executive concerning the appointment of this consultant, and is confident that an appointment will be made in the immediate future. Until then, the Mayor will continue to work with Officers to ensure that intermediate solutions are found to these issues in the meantime. The residents of Tower Hamlets deserve the best services, and this is an Administration that is commitment to ensuring these are delivered.</p>
<p>11.4</p>	<p>Councillor Asma Islam</p>	<p>As the Lead Member for Housing and the Mayor knows, the Housing Crisis is one of the biggest issues facing families across London and especially Tower Hamlets.</p> <p>As Aspire voted against the Canal Club development last month and rolls back on the much-needed Council home programme from the previous Labour administration, what has your administration done so far to achieve your high aims of building Council homes?</p> <p>Response</p>

		<p>The scheme at Waterloo Gardens, which includes the Canal Club, is being re-designed to increase the number of larger homes.</p> <p>We are committed to increasing the overall supply of affordable homes and have an ambitious target of 1,000 homes a year. Delivering more housing for our residents and reducing overcrowding is a key priority for the Mayor and his administration.</p> <p>508 affordable homes have already completed this financial year, of which 13 are council homes. Another 538, of which 66 are council homes, are on site and 528 of these are due to complete this year.</p> <p>Over 6,000 more, of which 770 are council homes, are in the pipeline over the next three years.</p>
<p>11.5</p>	<p>Councillor Amin Rahman</p>	<p>Could the Mayor provide Council with an update on his pledge to accelerate education in Tower Hamlets?</p> <p>As part of the Accelerate Education – Cost of Living Programme, a joined up approach is being taken to deliver on the following Mayoral pledges:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish a fund to support young people who want to stay in education post 16 (EMA) • Create a fund to provide bursaries for young people who want to go to university • Explore extending universal free school meal provision to secondary schools • Expand Breakfast Club provision in schools and continue to offer a free and healthy school lunch to all primary school pupils, including provision in the school holidays for those most in need <p>Two schemes were successfully launched on 1st November 2022 - The Mayor’s Education Maintenance Allowance and University Bursaries Award. These schemes will be directly delivering on two key educational mayoral pledges for improving and sustaining educational standards in the borough and supporting young people and their families from the impact of the cost-of-living increases.</p> <p>There is work in progress for the Breakfast Clubs and Universal Free School Meals Workstreams, with scoping work underway. The outcome</p>

		<p>of these activities will feed into recommendations and next steps. The joined up approach on these workstreams seeks to ensure that children most in need are provided with healthy meals, which will help improve attainment and progress, and ensure young people are able to fully engage in their learning.</p> <p>And as can be seen from the Administration’s motion, we are committed to raising Tower Hamlet’s schools, sixth forms and colleges to the highest heights of achievement through the establishment of an Institution for Academic Excellence. This reiterates the Mayor’s desire to give all students in Tower Hamlets the tools through which they can achieve their educational dreams and ambitions.</p>
<p>11.6</p>	<p>Councillor Faroque Ahmed</p>	<p>I have been receiving emails regularly from my constituents regarding refuse collection. This has been happening mainly on Whitechurch Lane, Whitechapel Road, Commercial Road and more, and the issue is inconsistent refuse collection. What actions will the Mayor and the lead member take to solve this problem?</p> <p>Response</p> <p>The service is currently under review with the objective to optimise the use of staff and vehicles that promotes a consistent level of service across the borough.</p> <p>The level of missed collections in the borough remains very low with less than 0.05% failures per week, but any missed collection is of course very concerning and officers are working very hard to minimise any issues.</p> <p>We have also been actively addressing high levels of localised fly tipping in the borough through both education and enforcement.</p> <p>In the areas mentioned by Cllr Ahmed, I can confirm that between May 2022 and October 2022, there were a very small number of missed collections:</p>

Roads	Missed Collection - Recycling	Missed Collection - Residual	Grand Total
Commercial Road	15	39	54
White Church Lane		1	1
Whitechapel Road	1		1
Grand Total	16	40	56

11.7

**Councillor
Ahmodur Khan**

Could the Mayor provide an update on the support his administration has given to the Borough's most vulnerable residents during this Cost of Living Crisis?

Response

We have put forward a wide-ranging package of support to both meet the immediate cost of living crisis facing residents and create long term solutions to maximise incomes and maintain the financial wellbeing of people in the borough.

This includes:

- £1m Mayor's Energy Fund, providing grants of up to £300 to the borough's most vulnerable residents
- £2.7m cost of living relief package providing one-off grants of £100 to low- income households, including £100 per Free School Meal-eligible child
- £1m of vouchers to FSM children over the summer
- £600k Resident Support Scheme providing crisis grants to those in need
- Freezing council tax for four years
- Offering a 100% council tax reduction scheme
- Providing free school meals to all primary schools
- School uniform grants
- Introducing seven food pantries across the borough
- Supporting local food banks with supplies through the Tower Hamlets Food Hub
- £1m per year of funding to the voluntary sector to provide welfare and benefits advice

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £1.8m Holiday Activities and Food programme for Free School Meal eligible children, funded by Department for Education <p>This package is accompanied by our Cost of Living Help comms campaign, which is live on our website and has been designed to offer pathways to additional support for income maximisation as well as advice on cutting bills. This campaign will be ongoing over the next few months with specific areas of focus being given attention.</p> <p>Furthermore our outreach team is working hard to help maximise the incomes of vulnerable residents.</p>
11.8	Councillor Rebeka Sultana	<p>There are said to be several illegal clubs on Commercial Road where drugs and gambling are entertained as well as large parties being held. What initiatives are the Mayor or Lead Member taking to tackle these issues which causing severe distress to local residents?</p> <p>Response</p> <p>The Environmental Health and Trading Standards Service along with the Police investigate such matters when they are brought to our attention. We take these matters very seriously.</p> <p>There have been allegations of gambling premises in Commercial Road over the past few years, but these have not been substantiated by Licensing Officers or Police.</p> <p>If residents have concerns, I would strongly encourage them to let our Environmental Health and Trading Standards team know so that they can investigate.</p> <p>In relation to parties, the Environmental Health out of hours Service can investigate if residents contact the team at the time of the nuisance on 0207 364 5000.</p>

11.9	Councillor Jahed Choudhury	<p>Can the Lead Member tell the chamber why a Joint Consultative Advisory Group meeting of officers, unions and the Administration had to be convened in relation to a recent proposed restructure.</p> <p>Response</p> <p>JCAG is the final stage of a process to discuss particular issues of dispute between the Council and its employees which cannot be resolved at Officer level. Such issues do not include ones relating to individual members of staff but they may include ones relating generically to groups of staff, for example those involved in a proposed restructure.</p>
11.10	Councillor James King	<p>The Mayor and his Cabinet recently agreed to a rebuild of St George’s Pool on the Highway, alongside new social housing.</p> <p>Can the Mayor provide an update on initial plans for this work, and give an insight into where the planned social housing may fit onto the site?</p> <p>Response</p> <p>Officers are progressing with the removal of all unfixed furniture, equipment and fittings in St George’s in the near future. In parallel, the Council is developing a planning application for the demolition of the existing building and finalising the specification for appointing a design team to develop detailed proposals for the new leisure and housing facilities. It is anticipated that procurement of this team will commence before the end of this calendar year. The feasibility work undertaken in the summer identified the eastern end of the St George’s site as the most appropriate for housing, which remains the working presumption at present.</p>
11.11	Councillor Muhammad Wahid Ali	<p>Can the lead member explain why hundreds of waste management operatives turned up to protest at Mulberry Place on 12th October?</p> <p>Response</p> <p>Approximately 50 members of staff made representations to the Mayor regarding changes to the allocation of overtime. These changes were introduced to prevent excessive working hours – which is vital to ensure</p>

		<p>the safety of both members of the public and our staff – and to enable a more balanced sharing of overtime across all staff.</p> <p>There has been no reduction in the number of hours available for overtime.</p> <p>Officers and Trade Union representatives are in discussions on the matter so we cannot say more at this time, but we are working hard to address concerns and to ensure that we maintain the three tenets of no 7-day working, no working more than one shift per day and not exceeding 48 hours per week.</p> <p>All of these issues form part of the ongoing review of the waste service and ensuring that it delivers as well as it possibly can for the residents of the borough.</p>
11.12	<p>Councillor Sabina Akhtar</p>	<p>Can the Mayor provide an update on the much-needed regeneration program on Clichy Estate in my ward which the previous Labour administration started and was agreed at Cabinet.</p> <p>Response</p> <p>Delivering this regeneration scheme is a high priority for us.</p> <p>Following the initial planning application, the scheme is being considered for a re-design of the mosque and this work is underway.</p> <p>Officers are in the process of preparing documentation to enable the securing of an appropriate developer partner to deliver the scheme.</p>
11.13	<p>Councillor Harun Miah</p>	<p>Can the lead member provide Council with an update on the high levels of waste across the Borough?</p> <p>Response</p>

		<p>We are committed to improving our waste service and ensuring that residents receive the best possible service.</p> <p>The Mayor's manifesto clearly set out commitments to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Work with the service to deliver further improvements, including education on recycling 2) Encourage our community to become involved in community walkabouts to check standards are being maintained across the borough 3) Wage war on fly tipping, using our boroughwide CCTV and a policy of prosecuting offenders 4) Clean up our borough with more bins, litter sweeps and a mission to drive down missed bin collections <p>These commitments are also set out in the new strategic plan, and we are working hard to deliver them.</p> <p>The service is currently under review with an objective to optimise the use of staff and vehicles across the borough.</p> <p>The levels of missed collections in the borough remains very low and less than 0.05% failures per week but any missed collection causes our residents concerned and officers are working very hard to minimise any issues.</p>
11.14	<p>Councillor Mufedah Bustin</p>	<p>Will the Mayor commit to a monitoring and evaluation scheme to ensure transparency and fairness in the new Education Maintenance Allowance / University Bursaries scheme?</p> <p>Response</p> <p>A monitoring and evaluation scheme will be developed to measure impact of both schemes. The approach and methodology that will be used for this process is currently being worked through. Some of the areas that will be monitored and evaluated, but not limited to, are outlined below:</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Looking at the take up of the schemes and applicants supported to ensure transparency and fairness. • A survey will be conducted with applicants to understand how the schemes have benefited them, the difference that the schemes are having upon the student's attendance levels, withdrawal/drop-out rates, and progression/ destination routes. • Looking at how effectively the schemes are administered and promoted, including the application process, and as part of lessons learned whether there are aspects of the process which could be improved for future years. <p>As the online application process has been automated, there will be additional checks conducted to ensure there are no duplications/multiple applications being made by applicants.</p> <p>Prior to schemes being authorised for payment, these will be subject to attendance requirements being met by applicants.</p>
11.15	<p>Councillor Saif Uddin Khaled</p>	<p>Following revelations, the council is non-compliant with regulations governing its surveillance systems and processes, can the lead member explain how long this has been the case and what action is being taken to address this failure?</p> <p>Response</p> <p>In 2020 all local authorities in the UK were required to take part in a new national survey and submit self-assessments to the Surveillance Camera Commissioner.</p> <p>The Commissioner wrote to all councils following this survey pointing out that the majority of Councils need to do further work in this area. A corporate risk was recorded on the Council's risk register and mitigations and actions put in place.</p> <p>Since then</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All video surveillance systems across the Council have been mapped. • Data Processing Impact Assessments have been undertaken for the use of video surveillance systems and their application. • A new Code of Practice for the use of Video Surveillance Systems is under development. • Procedures for Subject Access Requests, Freedom of Information requests and management of complaints specifically for the use of video surveillance systems is under review. • A draft growth bid to bring in additional technical and specialist expertise to assist with developing and maintaining compliance post March 23 is under consideration through the MTFS budget setting process. <p>Notes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Video Surveillance Systems cover a wide range of systems used across the Council. • The legal obligations are the Protections of Freedoms Act 2012, the Data Protection Act 2018 and General Data Protection Regulations, and the Surveillance Camera Commissioner’s Code of Practice. • Progress on the actions was in part impacted by the pandemic in addition to changes in personnel
11.16	Councillor Sabina Akhtar	<p>Can the Mayor provide an update on the much-needed regeneration program on Clichy Estate in my ward which the previous Labour administration started and was agreed at Cabinet?</p> <p>Response</p> <p>Delivering this regeneration scheme is a high priority for us.</p> <p>Following the initial planning application, the scheme is being considered for a re-design of the mosque and this work is underway.</p>

		<p>Officers are in the process of preparing documentation to enable the securing of an appropriate developer partner to deliver the scheme.</p>
<p>11.17</p>	<p>Councillor Abdul Mannan</p>	<p>Based on complaints from across the community about the effectiveness of drug treatment in the borough, can the lead member outline what is being done to improve services and tackle problematic drug addiction that has blighted Tower Hamlets for so long.</p> <p>Response</p> <p>LBTH commission an integrated substance misuse treatment system for adults branded Reset. The system is comprised of three main providers: Outreach and Referral Service, Treatment Service and the Recovery Support Service. These contracts are supported by contracts with the GP Care Group (primary care), Secondary Care (Barts NHS Trust Specialist Midwife) and Pharmacists. Tower Hamlets has the largest treatment system in London which has supported 2128 residents in the last year, 58% of whom are complex opiate users. The latest Office for Health Improvement and Disparities data indicates the 96.5% of opiate users entering the treatment system are retained for over three months which is the definition of “effective treatment”. The interventions on offer in the treatment system available to residents include harm reduction advice, health checks and medical reviews, prescribing, psychosocial support, group work, education, training and employment support, whole family interventions, access to inpatient detoxification and residential rehabilitation</p> <p>Furthermore, we run a government grant funded Programme called ADDER (Addiction, Diversion, Disruption, Enforcement and Recovery). The local Police also receive additional funds for law enforcement to target criminals and drug dealers and helps deliver the mayor’s dealer a day promise. The grant funds additional valuable local services. They are all helping the local community, adults and young people impacted by substance misuse, crime and criminal exploitation.</p> <p>examples are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commissioned Coffee Afrique (CIC) to deliver a culturally appropriate services for those within the Somali community with substance misuse issues.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improving access to treatment for young adults engaged in drug related ASB and crime particularly Possession with intent to supply. • Tackling the links between drugs and violence. We have a ground-breaking ADDER Hospital Navigator team based at the Royal London Hospital and community navigators that work with young people and adults who access A&E following drugs or violence. They are offered wrap around support in the local community.
11.18	Councillor Sabina Khan	<p>Can the Mayor outline how he will meet his manifesto pledge to work with the Mayor of London to tackle pollution in Tower Hamlets?</p> <p>Response</p> <p>Our new Air Quality Action Plan, recently approved by Cabinet, was developed following statutory guidance issued by the Mayor of London.</p> <p>The Mayor is committed to improving air quality for our borough, and the action plan sets out a wide range of measures that we will undertake to bring about improvements.</p> <p>Our action plan has had formal approval by the GLA and there is also a requirement for an annual status report to be submitted to the GLA on the progress of delivery of our air quality action plan and monitoring data.</p> <p>We will also be working on jointly funded initiatives such as the non-road mobile machinery project and awareness raising of the issues of poor air quality – projects funded via the GLA.</p>
11.19	Councillor Kamrul Hussein	<p>Could the Lead Member explain what provisions have been implemented to aid the Borough’s residents with their energy bills?</p> <p>Response</p> <p>Steep increases to energy bills are one of the sharpest drivers of cost of living issues in our communities – which is why we have made sure that</p>

our cost of living payments reach those who are most vulnerable to that increase.

This includes the Mayor's energy fund payments to our most vulnerable elderly residents, and single people living in either shared accommodation or alone as this group is often missed for provision.

As well as the direct payments, additional funding has been made available through the Resident Support Scheme specifically to support with energy bills, and the grant given for energy has been significantly increased.

These make up part of a multi-million pound package of support for residents that is accompanied by a comms campaign designed to maximise uptake and better signpost residents towards additional support.

On top of these measures and ongoing work to tackle poverty in the medium and long term in Tower Hamlets we continue to support residents to get all of the help that they can from other sources – including claiming the £400 discount from central government's Energy Bills Support Scheme.

This was automatically deducted from the bills of those who pay by direct debit, but left up to residents to claim if they are on a prepayment meter as many of those who live in Tower Hamlets are. That is why we are also launching comms to encourage uptake of these payments, alongside the more than £15million worth of benefits that are going unclaimed per year in our borough.

The Council Tax Team is also working hard to reach all residents entitled to the £150 energy rebate and to administer the discretionary funding to support as many residents as possible.

11.20

**Councillor
Maisha Begum**

I have been receiving a high number of emails from residents regarding their concerns about a lack of action on repairs on the Ocean Estate.

		<p>What work is the Council doing to ensure residents are protected from landlords who do not take their legal responsibilities seriously in regards to repairs?</p> <p>Response</p> <p>We are absolutely committed to standing up for our residents and ensuring that everyone has a well-maintained place to call home.</p> <p>I'm aware that officers have reached out to Cllr Begum to request further details about this enquiry, and which landlord it relates to, as there are multiple landlords on the Ocean Estate.</p> <p>We have also requested information from the THH Repairs Service as to whether there have been any exceptional repair requests to THH from their residents in this area.</p> <p>Officers will respond to Cllr Begum as soon as possible when we can complete this enquiry.</p>
11.21	Councillor Ana Miah	<p>Can the Mayor update the chamber on where he is in relation to increasing the numbers of police and THEOs on our streets.</p> <p>Response</p> <p>Reducing crime & anti-social behaviour (ASB) is one of the top priorities for the Mayor and the Administration.</p> <p>Mayor Rahman has pledged to work with the Metropolitan Police to put more uniformed police officers on the streets. He aims to do this as part of implementing a new "Community Constabulary". Under his previous administration this successfully boosted local policing numbers. These officers will be supported by additional Tower Hamlets Enforcement Officers to provide visibility and deterrence.</p> <p>The costs of additional THEOs and police officers have been scoped and discussions have been had with the Met Police BCU Commander.</p>

A growth bid has been developed for additional officers. This is in the process of going through the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy budget setting process.

Government cuts meant that the MPS was required to make savings of nearly £1bn since 2010 in London. Following 10 years of austerity, the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) across London has significant challenges in the recruitment and retention of police officers. This is a risk to our ambition and the safety of all our residents.

We have supported the MPS with 8 local recruitment events since April to help attract local people into the police service. We will continue to do so. It is vitally important that policing reflects the diversity of our Borough. Over 150 local people expressed an interest in joining the Met Police thanks to a local recruitment day we hosted at East London Mosque.

I have written to the Mayor of London and the new Metropolitan Police Commissioner to express my deep concerns on the closure of the Isle of Dogs Police Station and to ask that they reverse these cuts to vital infrastructure, and to focus on putting frontline community police back on our streets.

We continuously hear that our residents do not see their local police team. I am pleased that certain wards have received additional Dedicated Ward Officers (DWO) officers. I am deeply concerned that these police officers and our local ward-based teams are continuously used to meet other policing demands outside our Borough. I understand the abstraction rates for Tower Hamlets police are some of the highest in London. I have raised this with the BCU Commander, and I will write to the Met Police Commissioner Sir Mark Rowley to express my concerns and ask that they be ring fenced for local duties.

In the meantime, the THEOs are supporting the Safer Neighbourhood Teams and council-funded Police Taskforce, in a local area-based approach to tackle ASB and keep residents safe.”. We continue to utilise


		our extensive CCTV network to support the police and prevent, deter and detect crime & ASB.
11.24	Councillor Sirajul Islam	<p>At a meeting of the Mayor’s Cabinet on 26th October, when discussing the Air Quality Plan Cllr Kabir Ahmed raised his concerns that there was a very high level of air pollution around Bangabandhu Primary School in my ward.</p> <p>Can the Mayor confirm if he will be implementing a School Street outside Bangabandhu Primary School?</p> <p>Response</p> <p>In the lead-up to the mayoral elections in May, several School Streets schemes were paused before their implementation by the previous administration, this included Bangabandhu Primary School.</p> <p>Following the election, this pause was continued pending a review of all the School Streets schemes by the new administration which will take place over the coming months.</p>
11.23	Councillor Abdul Malik	<p>Can the lead member update the chamber on how the redesign of the youth service is coming along?</p> <p>Response</p> <p>The Lead Member and Mayor have held a number of meetings with the Director of Supporting Families and the Head of Service for Youth Justice and Young Peoples Service in relation to shared vision for an improved Youth Service. The Young Peoples Service has completed a mapping exercise of the current provisions in the borough and also looked at the children and youth population for the borough per ward. This will assist in shaping the initial focus of the youth service and increasing provisions. A search for prospective sites is being completed – focusing on unused buildings as well as ones that were previously youth clubs to see if they are able to be re-opened as part of the redesign. The costings for any increase in staffing as well as the buildings will be considered as part of the growth bid process. We</p>

		anticipate being in a position to announce the details of the Mayor's ambitious plans for the youth service in the new year.
11.24	Councillor Nathalie Bienfait	<p>In the Aspire Manifesto, a pledge was made to resident to set up a Mayor's Advisory Board for Climate Change. Could an indication be provided for when this advisory board will be set up and who will be members of it?</p> <p>Response We are working on finalising the setup of the Mayor's Advisory Board for Climate Change and will be looking to hold the first meeting in late December 2022 / Early January 2023.</p> <p>The members of the group will include The Mayor, Cabinet Member, Mayoral Advisors, senior council officers (leads on climate emergency) and representatives from external stakeholders including the business community, health sector, resident groups, faith groups and community organisations.</p> <p>The Mayor's Advisory Board for Climate Change will work closely with the Partnership Executive Group (PEG) and the Climate Partnership.</p>
11.25	Councillor Peter Golds	<p>In recent weeks increasing numbers of buses are waiting on both sides of Manchester Road at Island Gardens, for crew changes. Residents living in nearby flats are suffering noise and pollution because many buses do not switch their engines off during these stops.</p> <p>Will the Mayor use his authority to call on Transport for London to require drivers to switch off engines when buses are stationery, apart from stopping for passengers?</p> <p>Response Officers from the Environmental Health and Trading Standards Service will visit this area as part of their routine awareness raising campaign to prevent vehicle idling in the borough.</p>

		Following their findings we will, of course and if necessary, liaise with Transport for London to seek a resolution.
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Agenda Item 5

Non-Executive Report of the: Council 18 th January 2023	 TOWER HAMLETS
Report of: Janet Fasan, Director of Legal and Monitoring Officer	Classification: Unrestricted
Petitions to Council	

Originating Officer(s)	Matthew Mannion, Head of Democratic Services
Wards affected	All wards

SUMMARY

1. This report sets out details of the valid petitions submitted for presentation and debate at this Council meeting. The text of the petitions received are set out in the attached report.
2. The Council's Constitution provides for up to four petitions to be heard at each ordinary Council meeting. These are taken in order of receipt, except that petitions for debate (those in excess of 2,000 signatures) will take precedence. Should more than four petitions be received, all remaining petitions will be listed to be formally noted by Council.
 - a. There are two petitions to be heard
 - i. Asking for the removal of road closures
 - ii. Saving of Chisenhale School streets
 - b. There are no petitions to be debated or noted.

PETITIONS TO BE HEARD

3. For Petitions listed as to be heard:
 - a. Petitioners may address the meeting for no more than 3 minutes.
 - b. Members may then question the petitioners for a further 4 minutes.
 - c. Finally, the speaker will invite the Mayor or (at the Mayor's discretion) the relevant Lead Member or Committee Chair to respond to the petition for up to 2 minutes. The petition will then be referred to the relevant Corporate Director for attention who will provide a written response within 28 days of the date of the meeting.
4. Members, other than a Cabinet Member or Committee Chair responding at the end of the item, should confine their contributions to questions and not make statements or attempt to debate.
5. Responses to all petitions will be sent to the lead petitioner and displayed on the Council's website.


5.1 Petition regarding the removal of road closures

We the undersigned call for the Mayor to follow through and undo the road closures which have increased traffic, congestion, made the life of residents especially the disabled / elderly difficult and prevented the emergency services access whilst bringing no benefit to the borough whatsoever. Residents are not rat runners.

5.2 Petition regarding the Saving of Chisenhale School streets

We the undersigned petition the council to "We the undersigned object to the proposed removal of the School Streets scheme at Chisenhale Primary School. We ask that the council to consult prior to making any decisions."

Agenda Item 7

Non-Executive Report of the: COUNCIL 18 th January 2023	 TOWER HAMLETS
Report of: Janet Fasan, Director of Legal and Monitoring Officer	Classification: Unrestricted
Motion for debate submitted by the Administration	

Originating Officer(s)	Matthew Mannion, Head of Democratic Services
Wards affected	All wards

SUMMARY

1. Council Procedure Rule 11 allows for time at each Ordinary Council meeting for the discussion of one specific Motion submitted by the Administration. The debate will follow the rules of debate at Council Procedure Rule 13 and will last no more than 30 minutes.
2. The motion submitted is listed overleaf. The Administration Motion is submitted by the Aspire Group.
3. Motions must be about matters for which the Council or its partners has a direct responsibility. A motion may not be moved which is substantially the same as a motion which has been put at a meeting of the Council in the previous six months; or which proposes that a decision of the Council taken in the previous six months be rescinded; unless notice of the motion is given signed by at least twenty Members.
4. Notice of any proposed amendments to the Motions must be given to the Monitoring Officer by Noon the day before the meeting.

MOTION

Set out overleaf is the motion that has been submitted.

ADMINISTRATION MOTION FOR DEBATE – MOTION ON TACKLING CRIME

Proposed by: Cllr Ohid Ahmed

Seconded by: Cllr Bodrul Choudhury

This Council notes:

- The rising levels of crime in Tower Hamlets since 2015.
- That Tower Hamlets is ranked in the top ten of London's most dangerous Boroughs, ranking third out of a possible thirty-two.
- That, according to 2022 data, serious crimes are on the rise and are much higher than the London average, including Anti-Social Behaviour, Drugs, Robberies and Burglaries and violent crime, including periodic explosions in knife crime and murder.
- That it is no coincidence that this rise in crime has coincided with the cuts to police and other key public services in London and the previous administration's indifference and unwillingness to invest in community safety.
- That huge volumes of complaints and concerns have been received by the Mayor at his surgeries and to his office from residents concerned by this increase in crime.
- That crime disproportionately impacts members of the Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) communities and those on the lowest incomes.

This Council believes:

- That the residents of Tower Hamlets should be able to walk their streets and live in their homes in the knowledge that they are safe, secure and protected.
- That the fear of crime alone has a corrosive impact on people's day-to-day quality of life.
- That to achieve this sense of security, serious investment is required in the Borough's Community Safety services – from Police Officers to Tower Hamlets Enforcement Officers (THEOS) – to ensure that these numbers can be driven down.
- That investment in key services, such as Youth Services, Community Services and third sector groups formulates an equally important part of any preventative strategy to reduce crime rates in the Borough.
- That the Mayor of London should assist this Council in providing the resources to recruit additional Police Officers.


This Council resolves:

- To support the Mayor and his administration in investing in Community Safety and procuring additional resources to drive down crime rates in the Borough.
- To task Officers with the formulation of a Crime Reduction Plan that pulls together the relevant agencies and combines prevention, intervention and inter-agency cooperation, subject to due process.

- To work and partner with the Metropolitan Police in the sharing of information and joint-tasking in tackling crime.
- To support this Administration to invest £2.9million in the recruitment of 40 Tower Hamlets Enforcement Officers (THEOs), £1.6million of investment in recruiting 33 new Police Officers over the next three years and £200,000 in CCTV investment.
- To support an additional £8.5million of investment on top of the existing £3.4million in youth services through the new *Young Tower Hamlets* programme, a significant investment in Drug Treatment Services and a redesigned and rejuvenated Community Grants programme to help strengthen community cohesion in the Borough, in turn reducing crime and improving standards of living.
- To work with all housing providers in the Borough to improve the safety of housing and estates in Tower Hamlets, through the assessment of existing planning design and the designing out of crime hotspots and blind spots.

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Agenda Item 8

Non-Executive Report of the: COUNCIL 18 th January 2023	 TOWER HAMLETS
Report of: Janet Fasan, Director of Legal and Monitoring Officer	Classification: Unrestricted
Motion for debate submitted by an Opposition Group	

Originating Officer(s)	Matthew Mannion, Head of Democratic Services
Wards affected	All wards

SUMMARY

1. Council Procedure Rule 11 allows for time at each Ordinary Council meeting for the discussion of one Motion submitted by an Opposition Group. The debate will follow the rules of debate at Council Procedure Rule 13 and will last no more than 30 minutes.
2. The motion submitted is listed overleaf. In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 11, submission of the Opposition Motion for Debate will alternate in sequence between the opposition groups. This Opposition Motion is submitted by the Labour Group.
3. Motions must be about matters for which the Council or its partners has a direct responsibility. A motion may not be moved which is substantially the same as a motion which has been put at a meeting of the Council in the previous six months; or which proposes that a decision of the Council taken in the previous six months be rescinded; unless notice of the motion is given signed by at least twenty Members.
4. Notice of any proposed amendments to the Motions must be given to the Monitoring Officer by Noon the day before the meeting.

MOTION

Set out overleaf is the motion that has been submitted.

OPPOSITION MOTION FOR DEBATE – MOTION ON TOWER HAMLETS HOMES (THH)

Proposed by: Cllr Marc Francis


Seconded by: Cllr Asma Islam

This Council believes:

- Tower Hamlets Homes (THH) has on balance led to a significant improvement in the quality of housing management than was achieved when council housing was last a direct in-house service.
- Simply bringing THH back in-house will not deliver the improvements in repairs services and value for money tenants and leaseholders consistently say they want to see.
- Stronger direct accountability to council tenants and leaseholders and to elected councillors is an essential component of the alternative governance arrangements.
- The current arrangements for the democratic oversight of THH's performance are already inadequate and will be even more so if the service is brought back in-house and councillors no longer serve on its Board.

This Council therefore resolves:

- To call on the Executive Mayor to commit to instruct THH/LBTH to proactively organise a minimum of four Tenants & Residents Association meetings on each estate/neighbourhood.
- To call on the Executive Mayor to instruct officers to begin an open and transparent consultation with stakeholders on the level of performance an in-house service would be expected to achieve over the next three years.
- To call on the Executive Mayor to establish and resource either a new Housing Committee of elected councillors to oversee the performance of THH increase the number of meetings of the existing Housing & Regeneration Scrutiny Sub-committee to ten each year, with an expanded membership.
- To call on the Executive Mayor to re-establish the Borough wide Tenants Federation with resources.

Decision Report Cover Sheet: Council 18 January 2023	 TOWER HAMLETS
Cover Report of: Matthew Mannion, Head of Democratic Services Main Report: James Thomas, Corporate Director, Children and Culture	Classification: Unrestricted
Cover report of: Youth Justice Board Annual Report and Plan	

Wards affected	All Wards
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Summary

At its meeting on 30 November 2022, the Cabinet considered the report of the Youth Justice Board setting out their annual plan. This report was considered under the Budget and Policy Framework.


Following discussion, the Cabinet agreed to forward the report to Council for decision. The report is attached to this cover sheet.

Recommendations:

The Council is recommended to:

1. Agree the Youth Justice Plan set out in Appendix 1 to the Youth Justice Board report attached to this cover sheet.

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Cabinet 30 November 2022	 TOWER HAMLETS
Report of: James Thomas, Corporate Director Children's and Culture	Classification: Unrestricted
Youth Justice Board Annual Report	

Lead Member	Councillor Maium Talukdar, Statutory Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Education and Lifelong Learning
Originating Officer(s)	Susannah Beasley-Murray, Director of Supporting Families Kelly Duggan, Head of Service of Youth Justice and Young Peoples Services
Wards affected	All wards
Key Decision?	No
Reason for Key Decision	This report has been reviewed as not meeting the Key Decision criteria.
Forward Plan Notice Published	27 September 2022
Strategic Plan Priority / Outcome	Priority 3. Accelerate Education Priority 6. Empower Communities and Fight Crime

Executive Summary

It is a constitutional requirement for Cabinet to review the Youth Justice Board annual plan. The plan sets out the priorities and strategic goals of the Youth Justice Executive Board and operational frontline service delivery.

This report highlights the current priority areas raised by the recent HMIP Inspection of Tower Hamlets and City of London Youth Justice Service including the 7 recommendations for improvement.

Recommendations:

The Mayor in Cabinet is recommended to:

1. Note the Youth Justice Annual Plan

1 REASONS FOR THE DECISIONS

- 1.1 It's a statutory process to support the grant funding for frontline service delivery.

2 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

2.1 N/A

3 DETAILS OF THE REPORT

3.1 Tower Hamlets and the City of London's Youth Justice plan is a one-year plan informed by the findings of the recent HMIP inspection that took place in April 2022. Below are the 7 recommendations for improvement which were raised through the HMIP inspection:

▪ **The Tower Hamlets and City of London Youth Justice Management Board should:**

Recommendation 1. Review its membership to ensure that the right people, at the right level of seniority, are included to engage actively in achieving better outcomes for YJS children

Recommendation 2. Ensure that there are comprehensive quality assurance arrangements to understand performance and respond to the profile and needs of all children supervised by the YJS

Recommendation 3. Make sure that all data and management information is accurate, reliable, and enables informed decision-making

Recommendation 4. Review its out-of-court provision to ensure that the arrangements are effective and support diversion.

▪ **The Tower Hamlets and City of London Youth Justice Head of Service should:**

Recommendation 5. Improve the quality of assessment, planning, and service delivery work to keep children safe and manage the risk of harm they present to others

Recommendation 6. Ensure robust contingency plans are in place for all children that address their safety and wellbeing, and risk of harm to others

Recommendation 7. Make sure safeguarding and public protection arrangements are comprehensive and understood by all staff.

3.2 The plan aims to set out the approach on how the service and partnership will achieve the necessary improvements at pace to provide good outcomes for children.

4 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

4.1 The Youth Justice Service disproportionality action plan sets out the activities to address inequalities within the Youth Justice setting.

5 OTHER STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

5.1 This section of the report is used to highlight further specific statutory implications that are either not covered in the main body of the report or are required to be highlighted to ensure decision makers give them proper consideration. Examples of other implications may be:

- Best Value Implications,
- Consultations,
- Environmental (including air quality),
- Risk Management,
- Crime Reduction,
- Safeguarding.
- Data Protection / Privacy Impact Assessment.

5.2 None

6 COMMENTS OF THE CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER

6.1 This report include actions that use the current available budget for youth justice which is funded from both the General Fund and the Ministry of Justice grants.

7 COMMENTS OF LEGAL SERVICES

7.1 Section 40 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 requires every local authority to prepare, publish and implement a Youth Justice Plan every year. This plan must also be submitted to the Youth Justice Board. The plan must set out how youth justice services in their area are to be provided and funded, and how the youth justice teams established by them are to function.

7.2 The matters set out in this report comply with the above legislation.

Linked Reports, Appendices and Background Documents

Linked Report

- HMIP Inspection Report

Appendices

- NONE

Background Documents – Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Access to Information)(England) Regulations 2012

- NONE.

Officer contact details for documents:

N/A

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Tower Hamlets Youth Justice Plan 2022-2023

Service	Tower Hamlets and the City of London Youth Justice Service
Head of Youth Justice	Kelly Duggan
Chair of YJS Board	James Thomas

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Version control

Revision History	By who	Date
Version 1.1	Kelly Duggan	15.07.2022
Version 1.2	Dani Lexton	21.07.2022
Version 1.3	Dani Lexton & Luke Norbury	05.08.2022
Version 1.4	James Thomas	08.08.2022
Version 1.5	Board Members	09.08.2022
Version 1.6	James Thomas/Susannah Beasley-Murray	12.08.2022
Version 1.7	Kelly Duggan	01.11.2022

1. Introduction, vision and Strategy

1.1 Forward

Youth Justice Management Board Vision
“For each child, the best possible future, the best possible support and challenge”

This document details Tower Hamlets and the City of London’s Plan as defined by the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. The objective of this plan is to set out priorities for the Youth Justice Service (YJS) and Statutory partners for the year 2022/23, whilst reflecting and learning from both achievements and areas of improvement throughout 2021/22.

Tower Hamlets and the City of London’s Youth Justice plan is a one-year plan informed by the findings of the recent HMIP inspection that took place in April 2022 and should be read in conjunction with our Youth Justice Improvement Plan, see appendix 3. Our plan focuses on the areas for improvement raised from the HMIP inspection and will continue to focus on identifying, challenging, and tackling areas of disproportionality, as set out in our Disproportionality Action Plan.

The Youth Justice Management Board (YJMB) continues to have support from the Mayor, Councillors and Strategic Leaders across the Partnership. The judgment of inspectors has been that our service Requires Improvement and has made 7 specific recommendations, and we accept that judgement and will be relentless in driving improvements for our children. As a partnership we have revisited the statutory and practice guidance from HMIP and YJB and will be taking forward with immediate effect the following priority actions:

1. Appointment of a new chair of the YJMB to provide robust strategic leadership, oversight and governance, and new management of the service.
2. Review of Youth Justice Board Terms of Reference, membership, roles, and responsibilities to ensure appropriate representation of multi-agency partners in the delivery of services.
3. Development, oversight, and delivery of the Youth Justice Improvement Plan.
4. Secure additional data and improvement resource to drive forward the changes.
5. Engagement with the staff and joint planning with the team on the changes required so that all are pulling together.

Over the longer term, the YJMB will maintain commitment to and close scrutiny of the Youth Justice Improvement Plan. We will focus on priority areas around our Covid-19 recovery, stabilising the YJS workforce, tackling criminal exploitation and violence affecting children with improved joint working across Children’s Social Care, and ensuring there are effective contributions from all partners. We want to ensure this year is a period for embedding sustainable change that has a strong impact upon the children and communities that we work with.

On behalf of the YJMB for Tower Hamlets and the City of London, I am pleased to endorse our Youth Justice Plan for 2022-2023.

James Thomas
Chair of the Youth Justice Management Board
Corporate Director Children and Culture

2. Local context















2.1 Our Community within Tower Hamlets and the City of London

- 2.1.1. Tower Hamlets and the City of London have worked in partnership for a number of years, an arrangement that has been recently extended for a further two years. Due to the small residential population of the City of London, we have not had a City of London child on our caseload for around three years but continue to work closely together to ensure that the needs of children across both local authorities are met.
- 2.1.2. Tower Hamlets is often described as a borough of contrasts, with Canary Wharf which alongside the City of London means that we serve the two most significant financial centres in the UK while sitting alongside high levels of deprivation and poverty. This is coupled with the economic dynamism associated with being an Inner London Authority. Tower Hamlets has an estimated population of 325,000 and growing. It also has a comparatively young population with around 80,000 children between the ages of 0-19. Tower Hamlets is also a highly diverse place to live, with 69% of the population belonging to a Black or Majority Ethnic community. The two largest groups are Bangladeshi (32%) and White British (31%). The City has an estimated 9,700 residents, although this is supplemented by half a million daily commuters.
- 2.1.3. There is a strong drugs market in the borough although affiliation to gangs is extremely transient. This is reflected in our caseload with over 50% of our children having been involved in drugs or violent crimes. In relation to the Metropolitan Police's data, we have one of the highest numbers of violent crimes with children and young people (aged 11-25) and this is against the background of 39% of Tower Hamlet's families living in poverty.

3. Inspection overview and recommendations

- 3.1. In 2019, Ofsted carried out a full inspection of Children's Social Care and graded us as "Good". This was the culmination of an intensive improvement journey following an "Inadequate" judgement in 2017. The improvement journey continues with the aim of getting to "Outstanding" ensuring we provide the best possible support to our children and their families. In July 2022 Ofsted undertook a focused visit on Children Looked After (CLA) service, this is not a judged inspection however, the feedback was extremely positive and recognised the effective work between the YJS and CLA in the small number of cases that were reviewed. 96% of our schools are judged Good or Outstanding demonstrating high rates of progress and attainment.
- 3.2. The YJS had an HMIP Inspection in April 2022, with the final report published in July 2022. The HMIP inspect the service delivered highlighting good and poor practice across Organisational Delivery, Court Disposals, Out of Court Disposals and Resettlement. The Inspectorate rated the service overall as 'Requires Improvement' with the score achieve 8 out of 36.

3.3. The below sets out the overall rating which has been determined by inspecting the organisational delivery and the three practice domains of youth justice.

Tower Hamlets and City of London Youth Justice Service		Score
Fieldwork started: April 2022		8/36
Overall rating	Requires improvement	
1. Organisational delivery		
1.1 Governance and leadership	Inadequate	
1.2 Staff	Requires improvement	
1.3 Partnerships and services	Requires improvement	
1.4 Information and facilities	Inadequate	
2. Court disposals		
2.1 Assessment	Good	
2.2 Planning	Requires improvement	
2.3 Implementation and delivery	Requires improvement	
2.4 Reviewing	Requires improvement	
3. Out-of-court disposals		
3.1 Assessment	Requires improvement	
3.2 Planning	Inadequate	
3.3 Implementation and delivery	Inadequate	
3.4 Out-of-court disposal policy and provision	Inadequate	
4. Resettlement		
4.1 Resettlement policy and provision	Requires improvement	

3.4. The inspection raised seven recommendations that need to be implemented to impact positively on the quality of the youth offending service of Tower Hamlets and the City of London.

3.5. **The Tower Hamlets and City of London Youth Justice Management Board should:**

Recommendation 1. Review its membership to ensure that the right people, at the right level of seniority, are included to engage actively in achieving better outcomes for YJS children

Recommendation 2. Ensure that there are comprehensive quality assurance arrangements to understand performance and respond to the profile and needs of all children supervised by the YJS

Recommendation 3. Make sure that all data and management information is accurate, reliable, and enables informed decision-making

Recommendation 4. Review its out-of-court provision to ensure that the arrangements are effective and support diversion.

3.6. **The Tower Hamlets and City of London Youth Justice Head of Service should:**

Recommendation 5. Improve the quality of assessment, planning, and service delivery work to keep children safe and manage the risk of harm they present to others

Recommendation 6. Ensure robust contingency plans are in place for all children that address their safety and wellbeing, and risk of harm to others

Recommendation 7. Make sure safeguarding and public protection arrangements are comprehensive and understood by all staff.

3.7. The recommendations and wider findings from the inspection report have informed the development of our Youth Justice Improvement Plan, appendix 3.

4. Child First

4.1. We are dedicated to the principles of Child First, using our new practice model of C-Change as a way of providing support for children and families.

4.2. We commission and work with providers who deliver specialist intervention and support for the diverse children and families we work with. We have commissioned a range of culturally appropriate interventions which is tailored to the diverse children allocated in the Youth Justice Service.



Examples of this include the Ether Programme which is delivered by Wipers who are a Youth Justice Social Enterprise that specialise working with black and minority males in the youth justice system and Youth provision from the Somali community as part of our prevention offer.

4.3. We are conscious and aware of the unacceptable treatment that was detailed in the Child Q Report. Although Child Q is a Hackney child, Tower Hamlets and Hackney are policed by the same Borough Command Unit. We have used our YJMB to scrutinise and question the Police Leadership team as well as offering support to improve their provision. We are clear that the adultification of all children, but specifically Black and Mixed Heritage children, is unacceptable. By treating children as if they are older than their physical age, we minimise their vulnerabilities and therefore they do not receive the same support.

4.4. We are dedicated to the best interests of the Child and in the past year have started the development of our wider adolescent offer as a children's partnership, incorporating the extra familial harm provision which is due to be launched in October 2022. We understand that we work 'better together' and our YJMB includes the key strategic leaders of the core agencies working with children and families.

5. Voice of the child

5.1. We believe that every child has the right to have their voice heard. At Tower Hamlets and the City of London YJS, we have developed our own self-assessment for children and their families, which allows us to amend our service delivery to their needs. We are actively developing our participation practices which will enable the service to co-produce the service offer and improve delivery. Reflecting a more meaningful way of empowering children and their families.

5.2. A combination of the regular feedback we receive from our self-assessment as well as the feedback gained from inspection shows that the children and their families appreciate and value the work that we complete with them. Parents feel listened to, and this is even further supported with the introduction of C-Change practice framework. Children and their families have the opportunity to have their opinions and voices heard at the YJMB.

6. Governance, leadership and partnership arrangements

6.1. Youth Justice Management Board Inspection Recommendations and Progress

6.1.1. In relation to the recommendations set out for the Youth Justice Management Board the below provides an overview of the recommendations and the progress made to date.

HMIP Recommendations	Progress
Review its membership to ensure that the right people, at the right level of seniority, are included to engage actively in achieving better outcomes for YJS children	<p>Appointment of the Corporate Director of Children and Culture as chair of the board. The new chair will ensure the Board is effectively led providing robust strategic oversight and decision making.</p> <p>The Board membership has been reviewed along with the Terms of Reference. The revised membership ensures appropriate representation across the partnership at the right level as well as providing greater clarity on their respective role and responsibilities in delivering better outcomes for children.</p>
Ensure that there are comprehensive quality assurance arrangements to understand performance and respond to the profile and needs of all children supervised by the YJS	A new Deputy Head of Partnerships and Performance role has been created and will develop and operationalise a new quality assurance framework. This will provide a comprehensive range of quality assurance activities as well as learning reviews from serious incidents that will deliver improved standards and outcomes for children allocated in the YJS. This post will also ensure the relevant policies and procedures are in place to support safety and quality of practice.
Make sure that all data and management information is accurate, reliable, and enables informed decision-making	An interim Senior Data Analyst is in post who has significant experience of Youth Justice data and performance, permanent recruitment is underway. This role will ensure the data is accurate to better inform decision making and provides a clearer understanding of the services cohort.
Review its out-of-court provision to ensure that the arrangements are effective and support diversion.	The out of court disposal decision making panel is now chaired by the Deputy Head of Service to provide continuity. A growth bid has been developed that includes a new Team Manager post that will specifically oversee

	out of court work and contribute towards improving practice.
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6.1.2. Responding to the HMIP recommendations is the priority for the YJMB over the next 12 months to ensure that the improvements required are delivered at pace and embedded.

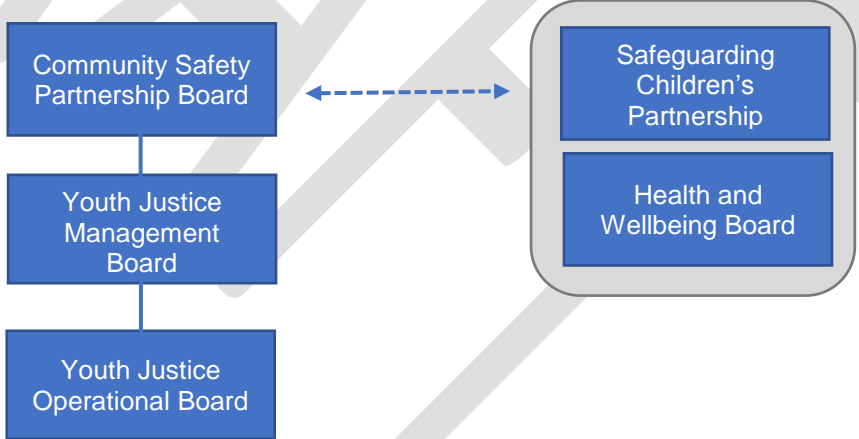
6.2. Governance

6.2.1. The YJS and Young Peoples Services is located in the Children’s and Culture Directorate, within the Supporting Families division. As part of the divisional management team, the YJS works in partnership with services including Early Help, Safeguarding, CLA & Through Care, Exploitation, Quality Assurance and the Learning Academy. In addition, the YJS service has strong links with Education, Community Safety and Health.

6.2.2. The governance of the YJS is provided by the YJMB that meets bi-monthly with direct accountability to the Community Safety Partnership Board, as well as strong links to the Safeguarding Children Partnership and the Health and Wellbeing Board. Below the YJMB a new bi-monthly Youth Justice Operational Board has been set up chaired by the Director of Supporting Families to oversee the delivery of the Youth Justice Improvement plan and operational practice.

6.2.3. Tower Hamlet and City of London governance arrangements and membership of the Youth Justice Management Board can be found in appendix 1.

6.2.4. The below diagram sets out the governance arrangements to ensure there is clear accountability, line of sight and information flow.



6.2.5. The below diagram sets out the strategic and operational governance, descriptive arrangements and the information flow:

Youth Justice Management Executive Board

- Executive board has oversight and scrutiny of the actions given to the Operational Board

Youth Justice Management Operational Board

- Focuses on the key priorities in the Improvement Plan and delegates tasks amongst the partners, management team and frontline practitioners

Frontline Practice

- Staff are aware of the Management Board's actions and Operational Board via attendance, leading on actions, Chair attend Service Meeting bi-annually, being a part of task and finish groups and newsletters

- 6.2.6. Tower Hamlets and the City of London YJS was amalgamated with the Youth Service under one Head of Service (HOS) in 2021, with a permanent HOS in post for over 6 months. This supports the leadership and management of services to young people from both a youth justice and youth service perspective. A key benefit of this closer alignment is to ensure we identify and intervene early with children who are at risk of entering the youth justice system. Also, ensuring the youth service offer is complementing the support for young people allocated in the YJS as well as access to universal provision beyond their involvement.
- 6.2.7. The YJS Senior Management Team meets regularly with key delivery partners i.e., Social Care, Health providers, Education, Probation, Police and Housing to discuss strategic and operational matters to ensure that practice is to a high quality and that common objectives are achieved.
- 6.2.8. The inspection report identified a number of strengths across the partnership particularly around health and education which supports the needs of children. It also highlighted areas for improvement so that children allocated to the YJS are provided with a comprehensive range of high-quality services from the partnership. For example, there is a need to improve meaningful victim and restorative justice work, multi-agency risk management and to strengthen public protection arrangements. These aspects of partnership arrangements are featured in the Youth Justice Improvement Plan.
- 6.2.9. As a Partnership Board, we will be prioritising the introduction of the new Serious Violence Duty. The duty requires specified authorities to work together to prevent and reduce serious violence, including identifying the kinds of serious violence that occur in the area and the causes of that violence. Given the offence profile of the young people and the overall crime context in Tower Hamlets it will be an

important new duty for the Council, the service, and the wider youth justice partnership.

7. Resources and services

- 7.1. Our Youth Justice Grant has been confirmed as £584,156. In addition to this, Tower Hamlets has confirmed additional funding of 875,614.
- 7.2. As in previous years, the Youth Justice Grant will be used to fund a number of substantive and partnership posts within the service structure. It will continue to fund evidenced based groupwork interventions, projects to address disproportionality and prevention, reparation and for those subject to 7-day intensive surveillance and supervision to improve service performance and outcomes for children we are working with.
- 7.3. The Youth Justice Grant will contribute to the implementation and delivery of the YJ Improvement Plan, in key areas such as additional service improvement and data capacity, strengthening data and performance and training and development for the workforce. By investing in these areas, we will ensure practice is to a consistently high standard and that the service will achieve a good/outstanding judgement in future inspections.
- 7.4. In addition to the Youth Justice Service finances, we are also committed to providing a targeted Prevention Service via Break the Cycle which is funded from Young People’s Service budget.
- 7.5. The below table sets out the current budget and future projections:

	Budget 2021-22	Outturn 2021-22	Variance to budget 2021-22	Budget 2022-23	Forecast 2022-23	Variance to budget 2022-23
Premises	£16,000	£16,000	£0.00	£18,000	£18,000	£0.00
Transport	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Supplies and Services	£18,966	£18,966	£0.00	£20,614	£20,614	£0.00
Commissioning	£1,323,553	£1,323,553	£0.00	£1,373,459	£1,373,459	£0.00
Overheads	£46,000	£46,000	£0.00	£47,697	£47,697	£0.00
Total	£1,404,519	£1,404,519	£0.00	£1,459,770	£1,459,770	£0.00

Note the above figures are a combination of YJB Grant and Local Authority contributions.

- 7.6. The full budget from Youth Custody Service is £187,444. We spent £151,224 in 2021/22 with the forecast for 2022/23 estimated at £187,444

8. Progress on previous plan

- 8.1. The previous Youth Justice Plan identified following three key areas:

Area	Action	Progress

YJMB	Develop a partnership two-year strategy that links to other relevant strategies.	The two-year Safety, Hope and Opportunity strategy was launched on 1 July 2021.
	Create a Board workplan, as part of the strategy.	The work plan has been devised and is in delivery phase.
YJS	Disproportionality	Continue to use the disproportionality toolkit. Groups have been put in place for black and mixed heritage ethnicity. External case file review with a focus on disproportionality. Trauma informed PSR's
	Education	Building up relationships with post 16 provision.
	Custody	London accommodation programme and the pan London resettlement consultum. Introduced remand rescue panel.
Covid-19	Development of YJS Covid-19 recovery plan.	The recovery plan was launched in July 2020 and continues to be implemented.

8.2. Following the HMIP inspection in April 2022 a new improvement plan has been written which encompasses the above outstanding actions to ensure there is only one plan being delivered and previous actions taken forward, see appendix 3.

9. Performance and Priorities

9.1. Disproportionality

9.1.1. Addressing the disproportionate representation of children from Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic groups is a priority for the borough as part of the disproportionality action plan. As well as being one of the most diverse boroughs in England and Wales, the borough has the largest Bengali community the UK. Tower Hamlets has the highest poverty rates in the UK. The Service understands the context in which we work in and has been writing trauma informed Pre-Sentence reports for over 12 months which have been positively received by the Courts.

9.1.2. We have a small black population that is predominantly from the Somali community. The Local Authority are focused on improving the services for this community, and the Youth Justice and Young People's service is no different. Both the Head and the Deputy Head of Service are involved in working groups with charities and third sector providers focusing on ensuring that we are able to support organisations to work with these children. We have also commissioned Wipers CIC to run Ether Groupwork programmes for us which are for Black and Mixed Heritage boys.

9.1.3. Also concerning is our First Time Entrants data which shows that despite nearly a 20% reduction in the FTE numbers between 20-21 and 21-22, the number of Asian children being FTEs increased by one child. More in-depth analyst will be given

to this cohort to identify patterns and scope how we can tackle this trend as a matter of urgency, working with our partners in Police, Early Help, Children Social Care and the Exploitation Team to ensure that we are offering the correct intervention at the most appropriate time.

First Time Entrants (FTE)	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Year Total
2020 – 2021	27	27	22	22	98
2021 – 2022	26	19	12	24	81

FTE by Ethnicity	Asian	Black	Mixed	Other	White
2020-2021	52	15	11	2	18
2021-2022	53	4	7	3	14

9.2. Preventing children from entering the formal Criminal Justice System

- 9.2.1. Our Break the Cycle prevention team is funded via the YJS budget as well as additional financial resources being provided from Early Help and Exploitation services. Although this service has only been live for 12 months, our initial findings are extremely positive in preventing children from entering the Youth Justice System. Currently, we have three Break the Cycle teams – one in house, and two that are commissioned via community organisations within the borough. This contract is due to end in March 2023 and we plan to insource this provision to ensure that we have a greater oversight of all cases and thus ensuring the best outcomes for children. This will allow the YJMS to oversee the work being completed and track a child’s journey throughout all parts of our service as well as supporting identifying trends and needs of children.
- 9.2.2. We are also working closely with our neighbouring YJS who share our youth court to try and establish a Deferred Prosecution scheme. There have been numerous discussions regarding this and all 4 boroughs have highlighted it as a priority, recognising the importance of it being available to all children that we work with to ensure there is equitability for all children.
- 9.2.3. We have changed our Out of Court Disposal Process in collaboration with key partners, recognising that there are areas for improvement as part of preventing FTE into the youth justice system. The assessment process has changed and put a greater focus on assessing the children in advance of the Out of Court Disposal Panel, using this space to reflect upon the most appropriate outcomes as part of a joint decision-making process. We will continue to develop and improve this offer whilst reporting to the Executive and Operational Board with the figures of children that we have processed – including their outcomes and ethnicity. We are also working closely with a local Youth Justice Service in order to provide an outside view on the Scrutiny process. Training for case prevention officers has been identified and will be completed by Quarter 3 and will be fully reviewed in 2023-2024 with a Peer Review.

9.3. Serious violence and exploitation

- 9.3.1. We are working to develop more effective relationships with the Exploitation Service as well as developing the wider partnership’s understanding in regard to

understanding the impact of contextual safeguarding and treating children as victims. We have already developed our Harm Outside the Home offer with the Exploitation Service and redesigned our multi-agency panels which is due to go live in September 2022. Moving forward, we plan to have a greater understanding of the NRM referrals and will be tracking and reporting on these to the YJB Management Board on a bi-monthly basis.

9.4. Constructive resettlement and the use of custody

Custodial Sentences

Custodial Sentences	Asian	Black	Mixed	Other	White
2020-2021	3	2	0	0	0
2021-2022	1	0	2	0	1

Remand

Remand Decisions	Asian	Black	Mixed	Other	White
2020-2021	5	4	0	0	2
2021-2022	5	2	0	0	0

9.4.1. Our use of custody has been low over the last few years, however, we understand that in a borough with the levels of Serious Youth Violence such as ours, a number of serious incidents could result in this number being increased. We believe that our continued commitment to having a dedicated ISS Worker has impacted these figures as we are able to offer Courts a viable programme that supports children to remain in the community. This is supported by the use of Trauma-Informed Pre-Sentence Reports that we provide the Court, placing the child's lived experiences at the forefront and the offence second. We continue working closely with Stratford Youth Court by continuing the Court Users Group and maintaining that open communication channel.

9.4.2. We are committed to maintaining our low use of custody. This includes a financial commitment that we have made to the London Accommodation Resettlement Pathway. This placement is due to go live in October 2022 and will provide us with an appropriate, specialist placement for boys who are at risk of custody and also to provide a placement that offers resettlement support for a period of 6 months. However, our HMIP report stated that our Resettlement processes were not strong enough.

10. Performance Data 2021/22

10.1 Triage

Triage	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Year Total
2020-2021	22	12	12	15	61
2021-2022	11	11	2	5	29

Triage by Ethnicity	Asian	Black	Mixed	Other	White
2020-2021	37	3	6	0	15

2021-2022	18	2	4	0	5
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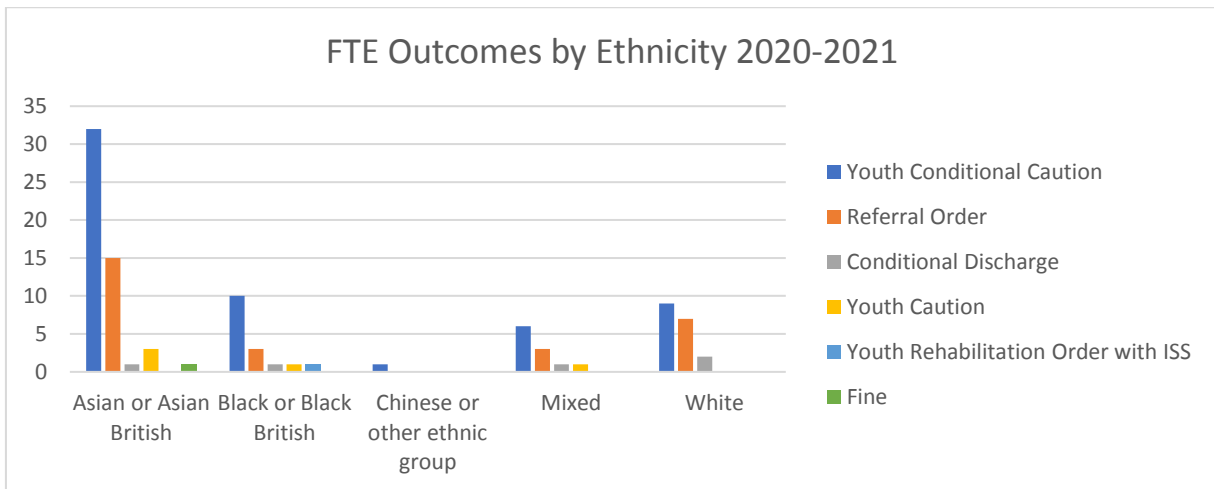
10.1.2. The number of Triages issued halved from 2020-2021 to 2021-2022 which is of concern. However, we have identified this and refreshed the Out of Court Disposal (OCD) process as well as re-training our staff. The Head of Service now sits on the weekly Out of Court Disposal panel in order to ensure that these changes are being implemented and embedded.

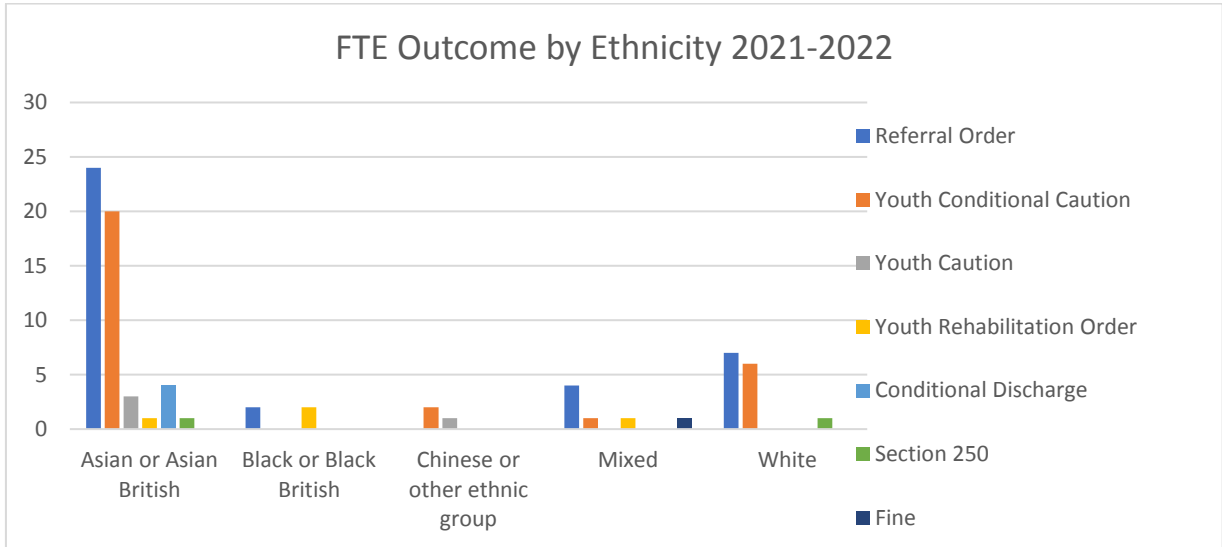
10.1.3. Since refreshing the OCD, we have had 9 Triages in Q1 2022-2023 – this will continue to be explored as a data point of interest for the YJMB. Our aim for 2022-2023 is to increase the number of Triages by 25%. This is the first opportunity to provide appropriate intervention and therefore divert children away from the formal Criminal Justice Service. Triages will remain with the Case Prevention Officers, and we will use regular data to track these children who receive a Triage in order to identify any concerns with regards to their reoffending rate.

10.2. First Time Entrants

First Time Entrants (FTE)	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Year Total
2020 – 2021	27	27	22	22	98
2021 - 2022	26	19	12	24	81

FTE by Ethnicity	Asian	Black	Mixed	Other	White
2020-2021	52	15	11	2	18
2021-2022	53	4	7	3	14



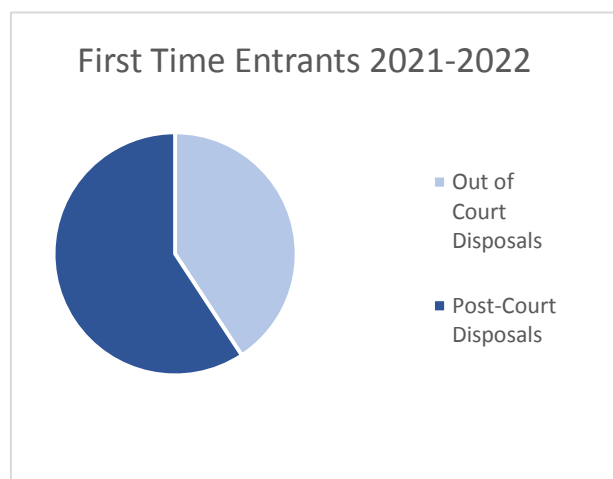
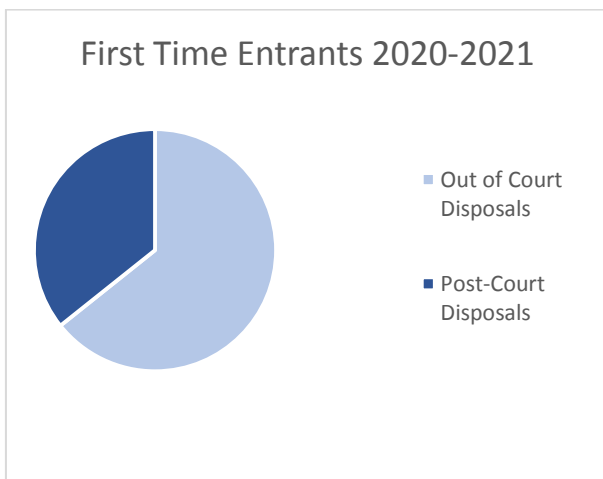


10.2.1 A greater focus needs to be made on the outcomes for children that identify as Black or Mixed ethnicity. For both of these sets of data, the outcomes for these children have declined with no Black children in 2021-2022 receiving an Out of Court Disposal. We have introduced training with the support of Bhatt Murphy Solicitors which is available for all internal Council staff as well as our community providers. This training is regarding a child’s rights when dealing with the Police. We hope that by empowering other partners to support children in understanding what is appropriate treatment, the communities trust in the Police and the process will improve.

10.2.2 In the next 12 months, we aim to introduce a Liaison and Diversion officer to support children in Police Custody as well as working with the Police to introduce a Deferred Prosecution scheme.

FTE by Age	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
2020-2021	1	4	8	15	15	26	23
2021-2022	0	3	4	9	26	24	15

FTE by Outcome	Out of Court Disposals	Post-Court Disposals
2020-2021	63	35
2021-2022	33	48



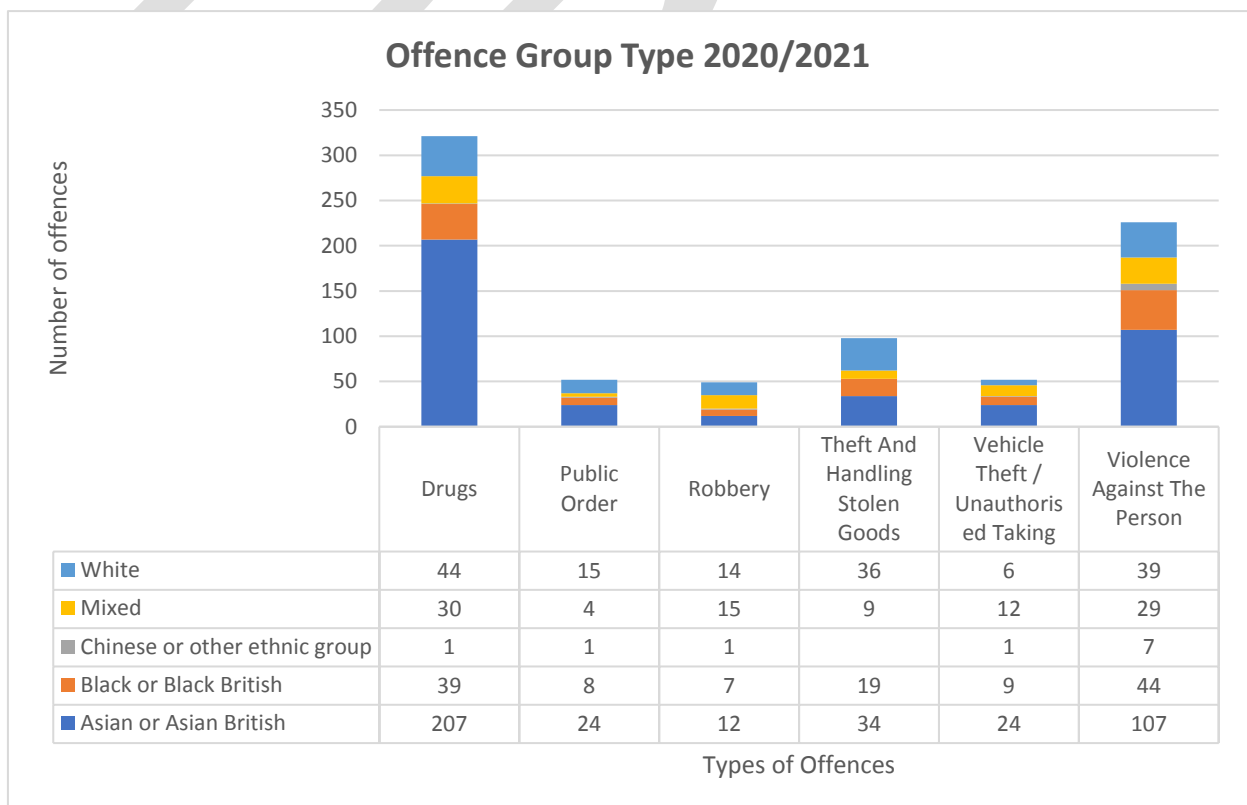
10.3. Use of Custody Custodial Sentences and Remand

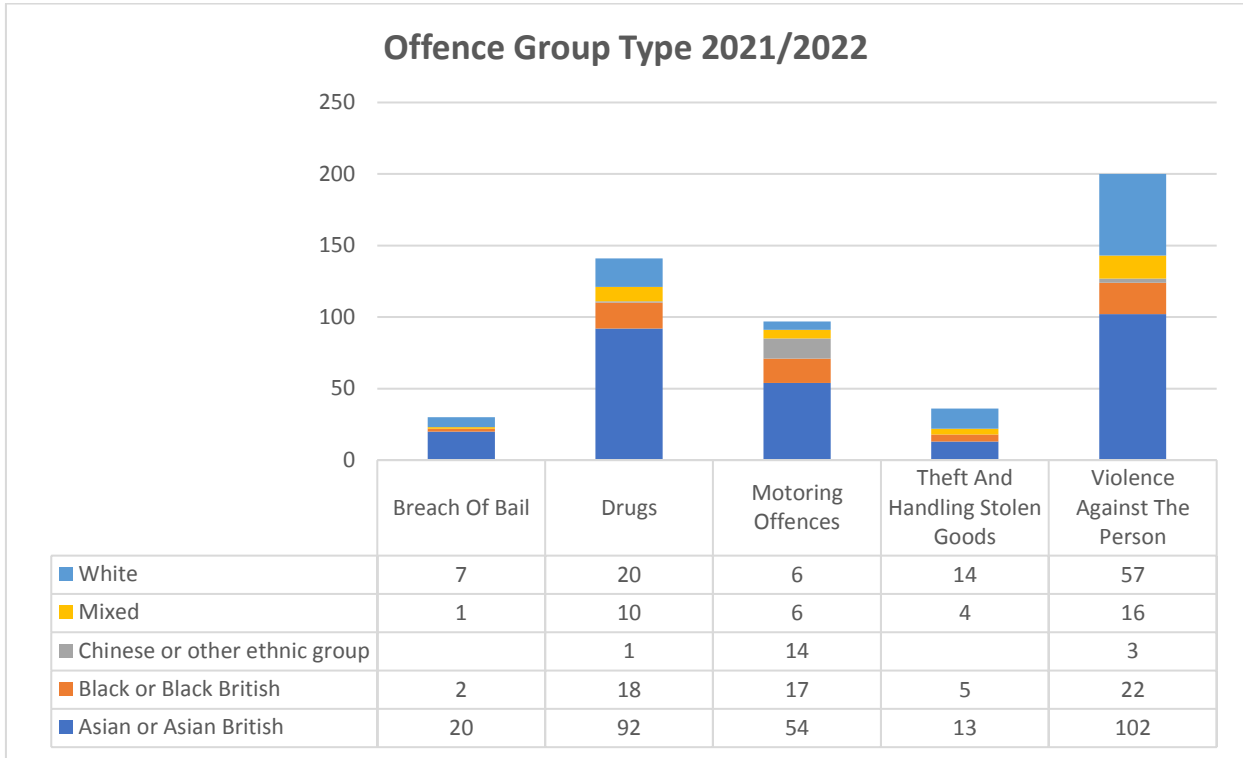
Custodial Sentences	Asian	Black	Mixed	Other	White
2020-2021	3	2	0	0	0
2021-2022	1	0	2	0	1

Remand Decisions	Asian	Black	Mixed	Other	White
2020-2021	5	4	0	0	2
2021-2022	5	2	0	0	0

10.3.1 Custodial sentences were mostly received by Black and Global Majority ethnicity children, although 1 (one) White ethnicity child received custody during 2021/22. This is being addressed via the disproportionately plan.

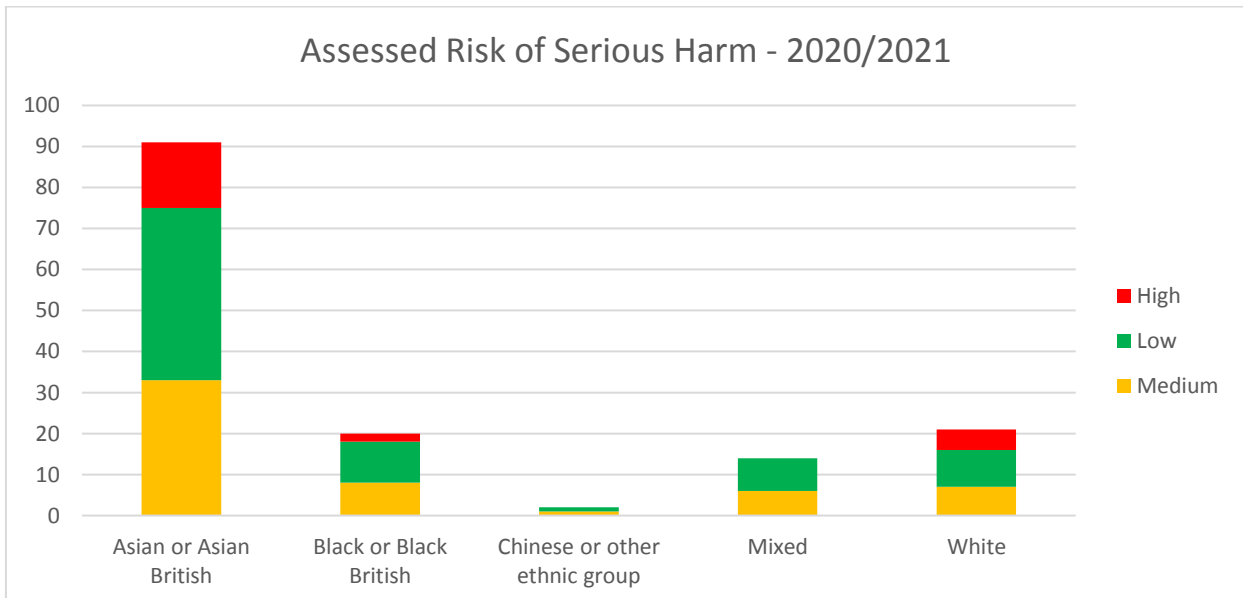
10.4. Main Offence Types

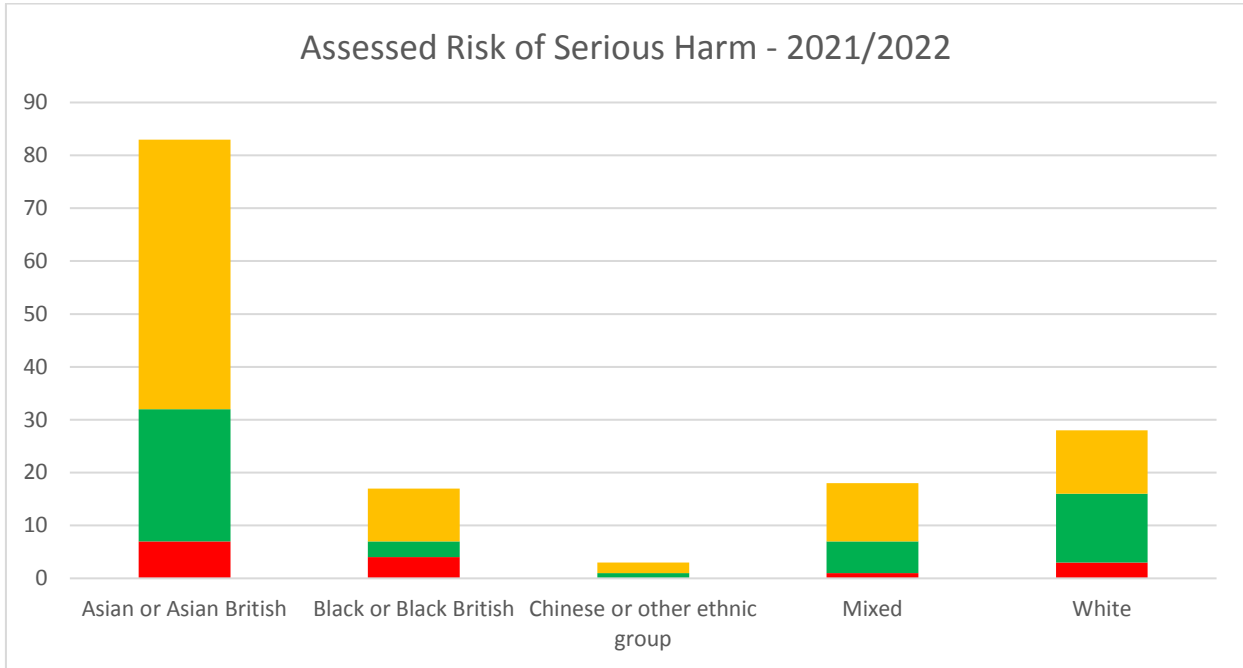




10.4.1 2021/22 saw an increase in the total number of sentenced offences, with Violence Against the Person, and Drug related offences being the most common. Black children had the highest number of offences in each of the main 5 categories.

10.5. Assessed Risk of Serious Harm





10.5.1 From 2020/2021 – 2021/2022 the cohort has increased by 15% overall. There has been a 35% reduction in the number of children assessed as high risk and a 31% reduction of children assessed as low risk. The most significant difference being that there has been an increase of 146% of children assessed as medium risk, which is the case across all ethnic groups.

11 National standards

11.1. The YJS HMIP inspection took place in April 2022, which resulted in an overall judgement of 'Requires Improvement'. The inspection identified a range of strengths and the following three key areas of focus:



Improve the quality of assessment, planning, and service delivery work to keep children safe and manage the risk of harm they present to others



Ensure robust contingency plans are in place for all children that address their safety and wellbeing, and risk of harm to others



Make sure safeguarding and public protection arrangements are comprehensive and understood by all staff.

11.2. A new YJS Improvement Plan has been developed with the involvement of the YJS staff (see appendix 3). The plan sets out planned activity over the next 12 months, a new Youth Justice Operational Board has been implemented to oversee delivery of the plan and additional capacity secured to support the service on improvement activity in order to improve standards and outcomes.

11.3. Over the next 12 months, there will be a clear focus on workforce development and communications, strengthening Out of Court work and understanding,

learning, and improving outcomes through data, audits and feedback.

- 11.4. We plan to have a peer review in 2023 to ensure the improvements that we put in place are of a high quality and are making an impact on those children and families that we work with.
- 11.5. We are confident we have the ingredients in place to make sustainable improvements within two years and our success in other areas of the Supporting Families directorate demonstrates our commitment to children ensuring they have every opportunity to succeed.

12. Challenges, risks and issues

- 12.1. The programme of activity set out within the improvement plan over the next 12-24 months is ambitious and risks may arise that threaten objectives, progress and achievements. Mitigations have been put in place to prevent such risks arising.

Key risks are as follows:

Area	Risk	Mitigations
Governance	Disconnect between Board & Operations	Revised board members and terms of reference. Full induction for new board members inc role and responsibilities Implementation of Youth Justice Operational Board. Implementation of activity within improvement plan and joint training sessions which brings together board members and frontline practitioners.
	Unreliable data and management information	Recruitment of experienced data analyst to ensure the data is accurate and reliable. Further development of the data and understanding of the information to support decision making. External quality assurance.
Leadership & staffing	Embedding the YJS and Children's Services	Full communications plan to be developed and launched setting out roles and responsibilities and new ways of working.
	Recruitment and retention of workforce	Workforce development to be overseen at board level and the new operational board. Integrate with the wider directorate's recruitment and retention approach.
Partnership working	Lack of understanding of their role in youth justice	Development of joint protocols setting out partnership's role in youth justice. Joint service/team meetings with partnership to cross pollinate each other's service areas to increase knowledge.
Operations	Management of risk	Risk Management Board to be set up. Children understand and are involved in their contingency plans.

		Contingency plans have the 'buy in' from parents and are used as a practical tool.
	Safeguarding and public protection	Review and development of practice standards and policy guidance and the interface with wider partnership offer.

13. Service improvement plan

- 13.1. A new Youth Justice Improvement plan has been devised in conjunction with YJMB and YJS staff with the aim for final sign off by the YJMB in September 2022. The Youth Justice Plan is set out in appendix 3 and highlights the areas for development, improvement activity and evidence of success/benefits.
- 13.2. A member from the Youth Justice Board has been invited to attend YJMB to provide an external support and challenge role at a strategic level and additional improvement resource secured to drive forward the improvement work. A new Deputy Head of Service role has been created to provide additional capacity and a specific emphasis upon quality assurance, learning and partnerships. In addition, we have created a new Senior Data Analyst role to support the validation of our data to ensure its accuracy and inform decision making.
- 13.3. The service has undertaken a skills analysis and are in the process of developing a new training and development programme with the aim to start rolling out in the autumn. The training will cover the following:



- 13.4. The monitoring of the improvement plan will be overseen by the YJMB bi-monthly with the monthly Operational Board implementing the day-to-day improvements.

14. Evidence-based practice and innovation

- 14.1. There has been a redesign of a new integrated offer spanning universal youth work, targeted youth support and youth justice. The ambition is that the youth offer in the borough from both a youth justice and youth service delivery perspective further complements and improves outcomes for children in the borough. An example of this is the breaking the cycle of youth violence through the Evolve Prevention programme which provides targeted support for children and their families at a preventative level.

15. Looking forward

- 15.1. As outlined throughout the document, the focus for the next 12 months is to implement the Youth Justice Improvement Plan to strengthen the YJMB and improve operational service delivery. The improvement plan sets out the priority areas for improvement, timescales and what success looks like, the improvement plan is set out in appendix 3.

16. Sign off, submission and approval

Chair of the YJMB Name: James Thomas – Corporate Director for Children and Culture

Date: 12 August 2022

17. Appendix

1: YJMB Attendees List

Youth Justice Service Management Board Membership

Name	Representative	Job Title
James Thomas	Children's Service	Chair of the Youth Justice Management Board and Corporate Director of Children and Culture
Cllr Talukdar	Tower Hamlets Cabinet Member for Children's Services	Lead Member
Dan Rutland	Metropolitan Police	Deputy Superintendent
Helen Isaacs	City of London Police	Superintendent, Head of Communities
Susannah Beasley-Murray	Supporting Families	Director of Supporting Families
Kelly Duggan	Supporting Families	Head of Youth Justice Service
Luke Norbury	Supporting Families	Deputy Head of Youth Justice Service
David Cregan	Education	Executive Headteacher of the Corporate School for Children Vulnerable
Anne Corbett	Adults, Health and Community	Director of Community Safety
Lucy Satchell-Day	National Probation Service	Head of Service, Tower Hamlets
Rachel Talmage	City of London	Head of Service, Children's Social Care and Early Help
Liz Westlund	Youth Justice Board	Head of Innovation and Engagement: London

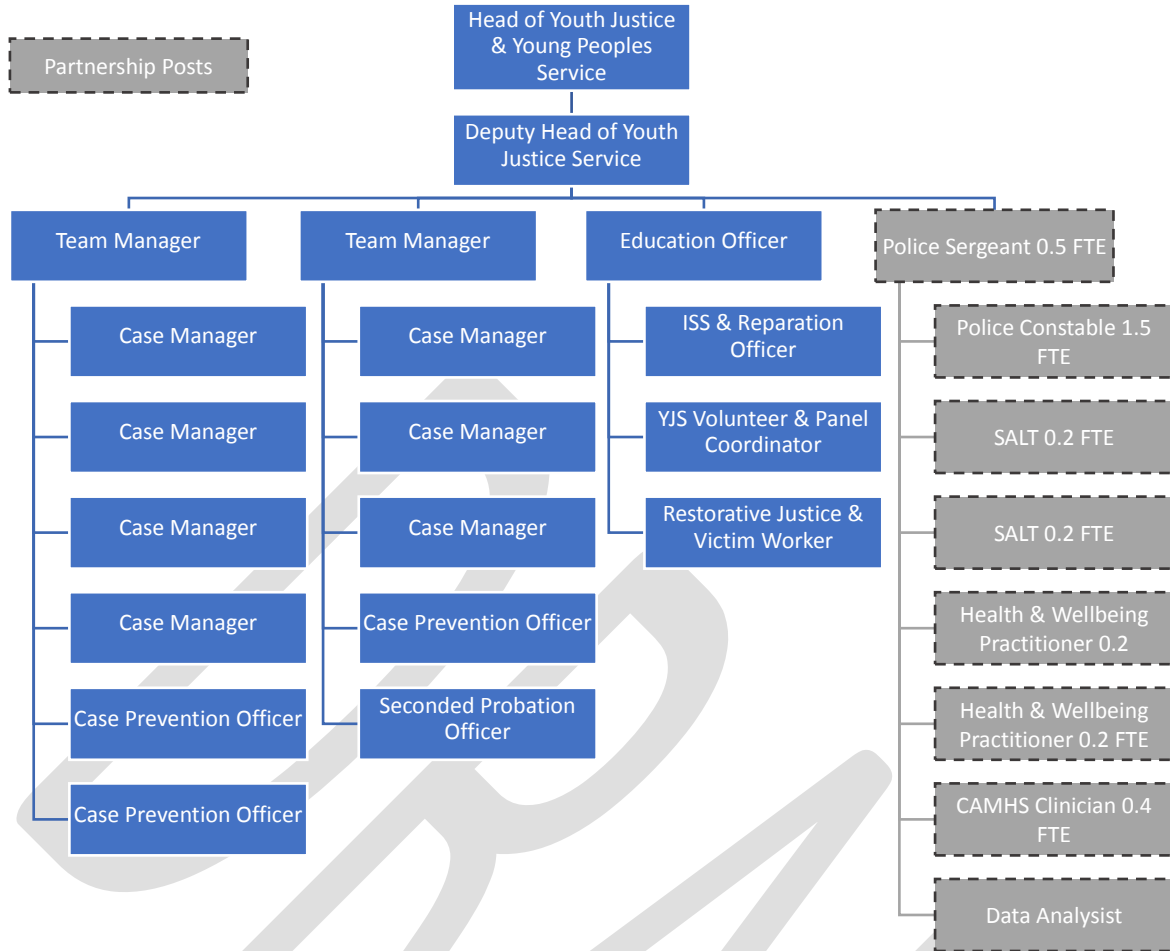
Dates of YJMB throughout 2022-2023

Executive Board Dates	Operational Board Dates
29.09.22	08.09.22
23.11.22	13.10.22
05.01.23	08.12.22
9.3.2022	09.02.23

Appendix 2: YJS Structure Chart

Key:

Substantive Posts



The below tables set out the demographic of the YJS

Ethnicity	Managers Strategic		Managers Operational		Practitioners		Administrative		Sessional		Student		Referral Order Panel Volunteer		Other Volunteer		Total	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Asian					2	2	2							3			4	5
Black				1	1	3		1									1	5
Mixed					1	1											1	1
White	1			1	6	5								3			7	9
Any other ethnic group																	0	0
Not known																	0	0
Total	1	0	0	2	10	11	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	6	0	0	13	20
* Welsh Speakers	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

* Welsh YOTs only

The YJS does not currently have any members of the team with a known disability.

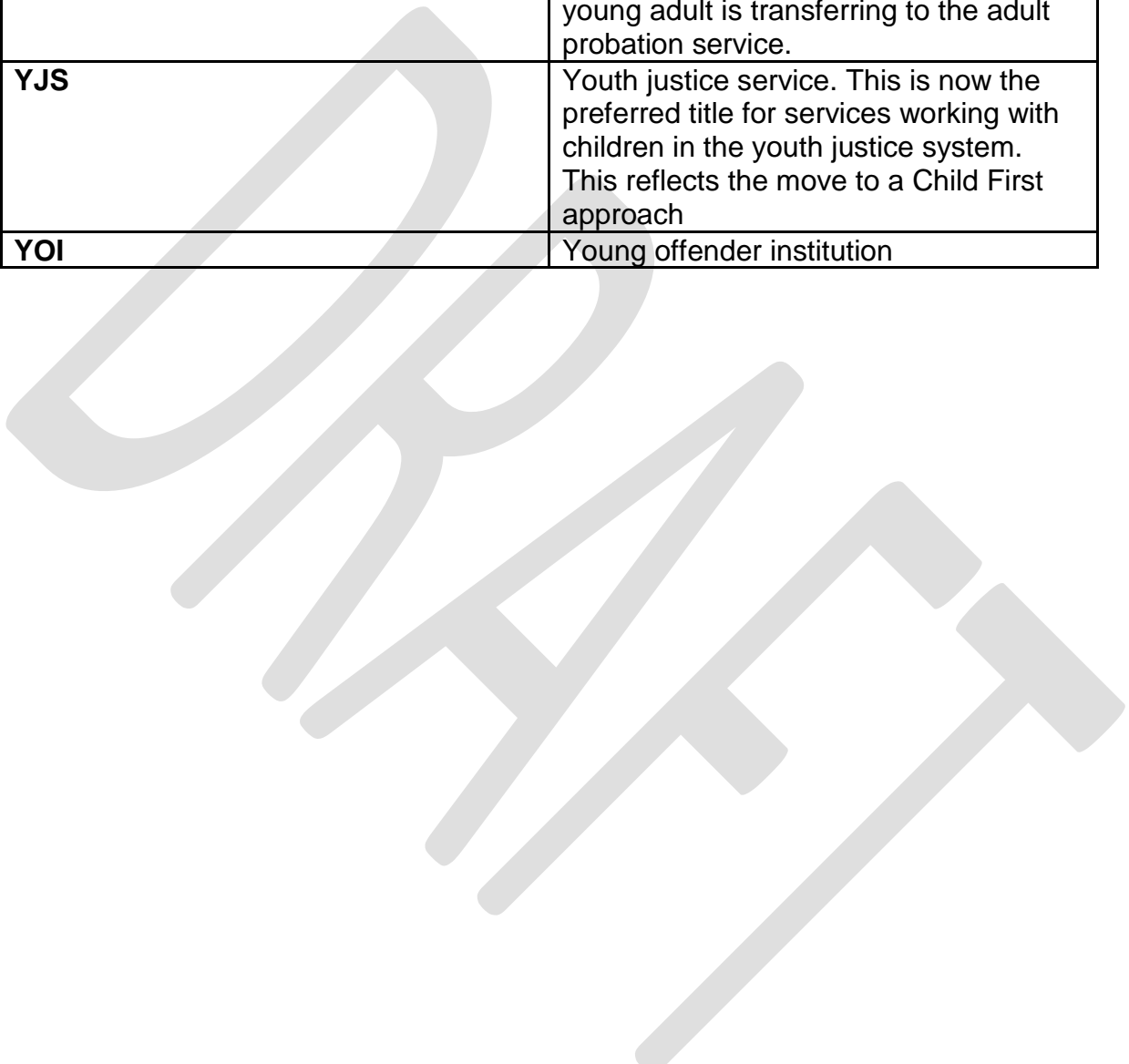
Appendix 3: YJS Improvement Plan – see attached.

Common youth justice terms, please add any locally used terminology


ACE	Adverse childhood experience. Events in the child's life that can have negative, long lasting impact on the child's health, and life choices
AIM 2 and 3	Assessment, intervention and moving on, an assessment tool and framework for children who have instigated harmful sexual behaviour
ASB	Antisocial behaviour
AssetPlus	Assessment tool to be used for children who have been involved in offending behaviour
CAMHS	Child and adolescent mental health services
CCE	Child Criminal exploitation, where a child is forced, through threats of violence, or manipulated to take part in criminal activity
Children	We define a child as anyone who has not yet reached their 18th birthday. This is in line with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and civil legislation in England and Wales. The fact that a child has reached 16 years of age, is living independently or is in further education, is a member of the armed forces, is in hospital or in custody in the secure estate, does not change their status or entitlements to services or protection.
Child First	A system wide approach to working with children in the youth justice system. There are four tenants to this approach, it should be: developmentally informed, strength based, promote participation, and encourage diversion
Child looked-after	Child looked-after, where a child is looked after by the local authority
CME	Child Missing Education
Constructive resettlement	The principle of encouraging and supporting a child's positive identity development from pro-offending to pro-social
Contextual safeguarding	An approach to safeguarding children which considers the wider community and peer influences on a child's safety

Community resolution	Community resolution, an informal disposal, administered by the police, for low level offending where there has been an admission of guilt
EHCP	Education and health care plan, a plan outlining the education, health and social care needs of a child with additional needs
ETE	Education, training or employment
EHE	Electively home educated, children who are formally recorded as being educated at home and do not attend school
EOTAS	Education other than at school, children who receive their education away from a mainstream school setting
FTE	First Time Entrant. A child who receives a statutory criminal justice outcome for the first time (youth caution, youth conditional caution, or court disposal
HMIP	Her Majesty Inspectorate of Probation. An independent arms-length body who inspect Youth Justice services and probation services
HSB	Harmful sexual behaviour, developmentally inappropriate sexual behaviour by children, which is harmful to another child or adult, or themselves
JAC	Junior Attendance Centre
MAPPA	Multi agency public protection arrangements
MFH	Missing from Home
NRM	National Referral Mechanism. The national framework for identifying and referring potential victims of modern slavery in order to gain help to support and protect them
OOCD	Out-of-court disposal. All recorded disposals where a crime is recorded, an outcome delivered but the matter is not sent to court
Outcome 22/21	An informal disposal, available where the child does not admit the offence, but they undertake intervention to build strengths to minimise the possibility of further offending
Over-represented children	Appearing in higher numbers than the local or national average

RHI	Return home Interviews. These are interviews completed after a child has been reported missing
SLCN	Speech, Language and communication needs
STC	Secure training centre
SCH	Secure children's home
Young adult	We define a young adult as someone who is 18 or over. For example, when a young adult is transferring to the adult probation service.
YJS	Youth justice service. This is now the preferred title for services working with children in the youth justice system. This reflects the move to a Child First approach
YOI	Young offender institution



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Non-Executive Report of the: Council Wednesday, 18 January 2023	 TOWER HAMLETS
Report of: Janet Fasan, Director of Legal and Monitoring Officer	Classification: Open (Unrestricted)
Members' Allowances Scheme - 2022-23 Uplift	

Originating Officer(s)	Matthew Mannion, Head of Democratic Services
Wards affected	(All Wards);

Executive Summary

The Members' Allowances Scheme sets out the basic and special responsibility allowances for Members as well as allowances for co-opted Members, travel and subsistence, dependent carers and related information.

The Scheme has provision for allowances to be updated in line with the local government staff award each year. However, this year the staff award is a fixed sum as opposed to the usual percentage increase. Council therefore needs to decide how this should be translated into any change in Member Allowances for this year.

The Scheme can be left unchanged or some/all allowances could be updated by set amounts or following a proposed formula.

Recommendations:

The Council is recommended to:

1. Review and note the options set out in the report.
2. Note the recommendation from the London Independent Remuneration Panel.
3. Propose and agree whether to increase any elements of the Members Allowances Scheme for 2022-23.

1. REASONS FOR THE DECISIONS

- 1.1 Council has responsibility for the Member Allowances Scheme and so needs to determine what actions, if any, should follow the agreement of this year's local government staff pay award.

2. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

2.1 Council can choose to:

- Keep all allowances unchanged.
- Agree to uplift certain allowances whilst leaving others unchanged (e.g. uprate the Co-optee Allowance but leave Mayor/Councillor Allowances unchanged).
- Agree to uplift all allowances by 4.04% in line with the recommendation of the London Independent Remuneration Panel.
- Agree to uplift allowances by a different amount.

3. DETAILS OF THE REPORT

3.1 Council reviews and agrees the Member Allowances Scheme at its meeting each March. It was last fully reviewed at the meeting held on 16 March 2022. Since that date amendments have been agreed to remove a number of Special Responsibility Allowances (Chief Whip, Mayoral Advisors and to limit the number of Deputy Mayors).

3.2 The basic member allowance currently stands at £11,898. The Mayor's allowance is currently £80,579.

3.3 Special Responsibility Allowances are paid to Councillors who perform certain roles such as Cabinet Member (£21,754), Chairs of Committees (between £6,526 and £11,965) and Leader of the Opposition Group (£12,291).

3.4 Co-opted Members receive £272 per meeting to Chair a Committee or £136 per meeting as a regular Co-optee Member.

Annual Indexation

3.5 The Member Allowances Scheme at Paragraph 11 says the following about an annual uplift of the Scheme:

“The Basic, Special Responsibility, Mayor's and Dependants' Carers' Allowances will be adjusted to reflect the annual pay settlement for local government staff effective 1 April 2022. The Dependents' Carers' Allowance will also be adjusted to, as a minimum, be in line with the London Living Wage.”

3.6 Most years the staff pay award is an agreement to increase salaries by a set percentage. That percentage increase can easily be copied to uplift the Member Allowances Scheme. This year the agreement was for salaries to increase by a set lump sum (£2,355) regardless of the initial starting salary. This doesn't translate well into the Member Allowances Scheme. Council is therefore asked to determine if/how the Scheme should be adjusted for this year.

The London Independent Remuneration Panel

- 3.7 When taking decisions in relation to the Member Allowance Scheme, Council is obliged to take account of the findings of the London Independent Remuneration Panel which is managed by London Councils.
- 3.8 The Panel recently met to consider the pay award for this year and has recommended that Member Allowances Schemes be uprated by 4.04% which is the increase agreed in the local government staff award for staff allowances.

Dependent Carers Allowance

- 3.9 The Dependent Carer's Allowance is currently set at £11.05 the level of the London Living Wage (LLW). However, the LLW has recently been uprated to £11.95 and as the Member Allowances Scheme is clear that this allowance must be at least as high as the LLW, it is proposed to uprate this allowance to £11.95 in line with the Scheme unless Council explicitly agrees a resolution not to take that action.

Options

- 3.10 The Council have a number of options when considering what to do with the allowances scheme. These include, but are not limited to:
1. Agree to make no changes to the Scheme for this year (except for the Dependent Carers Allowance).
 2. Make no changes to Member Allowances but uprate the Co-optee Allowance by 4.04%
 3. Agree to uprate the Basic Member Allowance and the Co-optee Allowance by 4.04% but not uprate Special Responsibility Allowances.
 4. Uprate all allowances by 4.04%.
 5. Uprate all/some allowances by a different figure.
- 3.11 At the meeting of Council, Members are asked to propose at least one specific resolution setting out how the uplift (if any) should be managed for this year.
- 3.12 Should an uplift be agreed it will be backdated to 1 April 2022 and released with the next available monthly payments to Members.

4. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 An appropriate Member Allowances Scheme supports those from all communities who wish to become Members of the Council.

5. OTHER STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

5.1 This section of the report is used to highlight further specific statutory implications that are either not covered in the main body of the report or are required to be highlighted to ensure decision makers give them proper consideration. Examples of other implications may be:

- Best Value Implications,
- Consultations,
- Environmental (including air quality),
- Risk Management,
- Crime Reduction,
- Safeguarding.
- Data Protection / Privacy Impact Assessment.

5.2 None specific to this report.

6. COMMENTS OF THE CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER

6.1 The 2022-23 budget for Members Allowances is £1.242m. An increase of 4.04% across all allowances as an example, would demonstrate an extra cost of circa £0.050m per annum to the council. Any increase would need to be funded through the pay inflation budget reviewed, and updated as required, as part of the council's medium term financial strategy.

7. COMMENTS OF LEGAL SERVICES

7.1 The Members' Allowance Scheme is set out in the Council's Constitution, and adopting or amending it is business reserved to the Council.

7.2 The requirement for a local authority to make a scheme for Members' allowances each year is set out in the Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003.

7.3 When adopting a scheme, the Council must consider its best value and public sector equality duties. The best value duty is to make arrangements to secure continuous improvement in the way in which the Council's functions are exercised, having regard to a combination of economy, efficiency and effectiveness. The public sector equality duty requires the Council to have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between different people when carrying out their activities.

7.4 The matters set out in this report comply with the above legislation and guidance.

Linked Reports, Appendices and Background Documents

Linked Report

- [Member Allowances Scheme – Council 16 March 2022](#)

Appendices

- None (full Member Allowances Scheme available through the above report).

Local Government Act, 1972 Section 100D (As amended)

List of “Background Papers” used in the preparation of this report


List any background documents not already in the public domain including officer contact information.

- None

Officer contact details for documents:

N/A

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Non-Executive Report of the: Council 18 th January 2023	 TOWER HAMLETS
Report of: Janet Fasan, Director of Legal and Monitoring Officer	Classification: Unrestricted
Questions submitted by Members of the Council	

Originating Officer(s)	Matthew Mannion, Head of Democratic Services
Wards affected	All wards

SUMMARY

1. Set out overleaf are the questions that were submitted by Members of the Council for response by the Mayor, the Speaker or the Chair of a Committee or Sub-Committee for this Council meeting.
2. In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 10.4, questions relating to Executive functions and decisions taken by the Mayor are put to the Mayor unless he delegates such a decision to another Member, who will therefore be responsible for answering the question. In the absence of the Mayor, the Deputy Mayor will answer questions directed to the Mayor.
3. Questions are limited to one per Member per meeting, plus one supplementary question unless the Member has indicated that only a written reply is required and in these circumstances a supplementary question is not permitted. Oral responses are time limited to one minute. Supplementary questions and responses are also time limited to one minute each.
4. Council Procedure Rule 10.7 provides for an answer to take the form of a written answer circulated to the questioner, a reference to a published work or a direct oral answer.
5. There is a time limit of thirty minutes at the Council meeting for consideration of Members' questions with no extension of time allowed and any questions not put within this time are dealt with by way of written responses.
6. Members must confine their contributions to questions and answers and not make statements or attempt to debate.

MEMBERS' QUESTIONS

25 questions have been received from Members of the Council as follows:-

11.1 Question from Councillor Amin Rahman

Can the lead member update the chamber on where we are with the council's accounts? These accounts have been left unsigned for the past 6 years thanks to the previous administration.

11.2 Question from Councillor Shubo Hussain

It was Small Business Saturday last month. The previous Labour administration invested a huge amount of money into our local small businesses when they were negatively impacted by the pandemic.

Given the uncertainty surrounding Government support for small businesses, will the Mayor commit to the Labour Group's proposals of a Small Business Hardship Fund and much-needed Business Rates relief in these times of crisis?

11.3 Question from Councillor Bodrul Choudhury

The answers to the questions from the last meeting of Full Council indicated that the Lead Member was in conversation with the Chief Executive concerning the acceleration of a Council-wide audit. Could the Mayor provide an update on this process?

11.4 Question from Councillor Mufeedah Bustin

Please could the Mayor and Lead Member explain why they have reversed the decision to grant the Mudchute Association a 99 year lease?

11.5 Question from Councillor Wahid Ali

One of the Mayor's central manifesto pledges was reinvesting in the council's youth services, can he provide an update on this?

11.6 Question from Councillor Amy Lee

Will the Mayor fully outline his plan for social care in the borough?

11.7 Question from Councillor Saif Uddin Khaled

Could the Lead Member provide an update on the Council's Budget for 2023/24, and what are the key headlines?

11.8 Question from Councillor Marc Francis

Can the Mayor and Lead Member let me know what action is being taken to revitalise Roman Road market and the local high street?

11.9 Question from Councillor Musthak Ahmed

Could the Mayor provide an update of where the Council is with the Liveable Streets consultation?

11.10 Question from Cllr Amina Ali

As you will know, the previous Labour administration invested £3.1 million to deliver the Council's CCTV Transformation Programme.

Can the Lead Member please provide an update on this vital work to enhance community safety for our residents?

11.11 Question from Councillor Abdul Mannan

Can the lead member explain what progress the Youth Justice Management Board has made in addressing each of the Inspectors' recommendations made in the HMIP inspection the Tower Hamlets & City of London Youth Justice Service (YJS) in April 2022 – and how this progress is being measured?

11.12 Question from Councillor Mohammad Chowdhury

Poplar HARCA has stopped issuing parking permit except fully electric car in the Burdett Estate. The residents report that they were not consulted by the Housing Association before making such a big decision. That decision has made a serious negative impact on many residents' lifestyle and employment.

Can the Mayor tell me what support he can offer to the affected residents of the Burdett Estate?

11.13 Question from Councillor Kamrul Hussain

Can the Lead Member update Full Council on what measures have been taken since the Mayor announced the Waste Emergency at the last Full Council meeting? What are the current levels of waste across the Borough?

11.14 Question from Councillor Sabina Akhtar

Would the Mayor and Lead Member please provide a date for when the plans for the new school building for George Green's on the Isle of Dogs, will be made available for public consultation?

11.15 Question from Councillor Ahmodur Khan

Could the Lead Member inform Full Council on additional measures that the Council have put in place to help residents in the Borough with the Cost-of-Living crisis?

11.16 Question from Councillor Sirajul Islam

The Frank Dobson Square Improvements Project originated in a 2019 LIF consultation entry to address safety concerns and to enhance residents use of this public space. I understand that as of July 2022 LIF funds have been allocated and a design team allocated, but there has been no progress since then.

Can the Lead Member please provide an update on these works?

11.17 Question from Councillor Abdul Malik

Could the Lead Member update Full Council on what this Administration is doing to ensure Tower Hamlets becomes a greener Borough?

11.18 Question from Councillor Abdal Ullah

What is the Mayor doing to encourage and incentivise businesses into empty shops, such as properties on Wapping Lane?

11.19 Question from Councillor Bellal Uddin

Can the Lead Member provide Full Council with an update on the progress of the establishment of the Institute for Academic Excellence, as announced at last Full Council?

11.20 Question from Cllr Maisha Begum

Will the Mayor commit to making scrutiny effective in Tower Hamlets and offer the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to a member of the opposition?

11.21 Question from Councillor Harun Miah

Tower Hamlets used to have a thriving voluntary and community sector, can the Lead Member set out his vision and plans to re-establish this?

11.22 Question from Cllr Asma Begum

Regarding the introduction of one-hour free parking close to markets, Tower Hamlets has some excellent transport links, especially with the introduction of the Elizabeth Line, which makes it easy for those who want to shop and eat here to add to the local economy. This one-hour free parking will only benefit commuters and increase air pollution.

Our residents struggle to find parking spaces close to their home. Shouldn't these 248 new parking spaces benefit our residents as opposed to commuters?

11.23 Question from Councillor Musthak Ahmed


How many headteacher posts (including the academies) do we have in the borough and how many of them are from ethnic minority backgrounds? Does the council have a strategy to tackle the under-representation of British Bangladeshi teachers in headteacher posts by 2026?

11.24 Question from Councillor Peter Golds

For many years there has been growing concern regarding illegal cycling in the Greenwich Foot Tunnel which is dangerous pedestrians and the disabled and the erratic provision of lifts. Will the Mayor consult with the Council of Royal Greenwich who are responsible for the lifts and ensuring safety in the tunnel to maintain the safety of pedestrians and ensure improved lift provision.

11.25 Question from Councillor Nathalie Bienfait

What is the administration doing to hold housing associations to account? I am aware the Mayor and Lead Member recently met senior Clarion representatives. Could you give an indication of what you talked about, and what consequences you would consider imposing on housing associations to ensure high quality living for their residents?

Non-Executive Report of the: COUNCIL 18 th January 2023	 TOWER HAMLETS
Report of: Janet Fasan, Director of Legal and Monitoring Officer	Classification: Unrestricted
Motions submitted by Members of the Council	

Originating Officer(s)	Matthew Mannion, Head of Democratic Services
Wards affected	All wards

SUMMARY

1. The following motions have been submitted by Members of the Council under Council Procedure Rule 11 for debate at the Council meeting.
2. The motions submitted are listed overleaf. In accordance with the Council Procedure Rules, the motions alternate between the administration and the other Political Groups.
3. Motions must be about matters for which the Council has a responsibility or which affect the Borough. A motion may not be moved which is substantially the same as a motion which has been put at a meeting of the Council in the previous six months; or which proposes that a decision of the Council taken in the previous six months be rescinded; unless notice of the motion is given signed by at least twenty Members.
4. There is no specific duration set for this agenda item and consideration of the attached motions may continue until the time limit for the meeting is reached. The guillotine procedure at Council Procedure Rule 9.2 does not apply to motions on notice and any of the attached motions which have not been put to the vote when the time limit for the meeting is reached will be deemed to have fallen. A motion which is not put to the vote at the current meeting may be resubmitted for the next meeting but is not automatically carried forward.

MOTIONS

Set out overleaf is the motions that have been submitted.

12.1 Motion on RSL Service Standards

Proposer: Cllr Kabir Ahmed

Seconder: Cllr Maium Miah

This Council notes:

- The inadequate conditions that residents in the Milo and Diagoras House estate in Bow have been living in since September 2022, with issues exacerbated by the cold weather.
- That many residents in the estate were without hot water and heating for 91 days – three months – as of the 22nd December, and that several properties remain unheated and without hot water.
- That this has caused an increase in damp and mould in properties, which can be particularly dangerous for children and the elderly.
- That internal works to rectify these issues did not begin until the 31st October – over a month after the initial failings had been reported.
- That there have been reports of serious respiratory, skin and other internal illnesses as a result of these failings, with many of those worst affected being children.
- That residents were not sufficiently informed of the progress of the works, with shifting deadlines, physical disruption and the aforementioned threat of illness creating an intolerable atmosphere of distress and uncertainty for those affected.
- That many residents feel let down and betrayed by the level of care and support that has been offered to them by Swan Housing – who are the Registered Social Landlords (RSL) for the properties – with many suffering mental health and financial issues due to the turmoil created by their indecision.
- That the purpose of a Registered Social Landlord, as defined by the National Government's own criterion, is: "to carry on for the benefit of the community the business of providing housing and any associated amenities for persons in necessitous circumstances upon terms appropriate to their means"¹
- That Mayor Lutfur Rahman directly addressed the landlords in his transformative *Manifesto*, which stipulated the following: "There is a social housing crisis in Tower Hamlets. Having a roof over your head is a basic human right, but at the moment we cannot house the people who want to live here and too many live in housing that doesn't meet their needs or struggle with unresponsive landlords."²
- That this document further highlighted the role that social landlords should play in 'improving the condition of the homes they let and the service they provide to their tenants', and that they should work with the Council, 'collectively and individually, to improve housing services, stock condition and governance'.

¹ Guidance for charitable registered social landlords, [Guidance for charitable registered social landlords \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk), p.2 (*Objects of Charitable RSLs*)

² *Aspire Manifesto*, p.10

- **This Council believes:**

- That Swan Housing is providing an inadequate service to residents. It failed to provide stable and adequate temporary accommodation to countless residents, while at the same time failing to provide the associated amenities for residents in necessitous circumstances.
- That Swan Housing controls a large amount of properties formerly owned by the Local Authority that have since been transferred under Housing Choice, with the provision that they would improve and maintain the stock sufficiently.
- The aforementioned failures to rectify the issues faced by residents in Milo and Diagoras house exposes Swan Housing's inability to adequately provide and maintain good standards.
- That the residents of Tower Hamlets should not be subjected to poor housing conditions and should expect warm, decent, comfortable homes, where any issues that arise are resolved swiftly and with minimal delays.
- That Swan Housing's right to provide homes to residents of this Borough should be reviewed and scrutinised accordingly, following such inadequate performance.

This Council resolves:

- To review the contractual situation and agreement/ relationship between Swan Housing and the London Borough of Tower Hamlets as a Local Authority.
- To adopt the forthcoming *Mayor's Decent Homes Charter* as a prerequisite for all RSLs to adhere to if they are to continue as housing providers and partners with Tower Hamlets Council.
- To invite residents to meet with the Mayor to outline their views and frustrations at their mistreatment by Swan Housing.
- To call on Officers to review the process of scrutiny relating to RSLs in the Borough, to ensure that it is as rigorous as possible, and holds those RSLs failing to deliver the levels of excellence expected of them by this Council to account.
- That a paper should be prepared for a spotlight session on the failings of Swan Housing with a view to extend the scope of this scrutiny session to other RSLs if required.
- That the findings and recommendations of this scrutiny session are to be brought to the earliest possible meeting of Cabinet for the Executive's consideration.

12.2 Motion regarding Access to GPs

Proposer: Cllr Amy Lee

Seconder: Cllr Ayas Miah

This Council notes that:

- Primary care is in crisis, with people across Tower Hamlets and the rest of the UK struggling to access GP services and dental treatment.
- The current pressures on hospitals, along with rising ambulance waiting times, is having a huge knock-on effect on our already pressed GP services across the borough.
- New figures from NHS England show that 18% of people in the NHS North East London Integrated Care Board, covering Tower Hamlets, could not get an appointment to see or speak to a GP or nurse the last time they tried.
- The Government has failed to remain on track to deliver 6000 additional GPs by 2024-25.
- Our doctors and nurses across the NHS in Tower Hamlets work hard for residents while grappling with the biggest staffing crisis in its history in the face of Government inaction.

This Council believes:

- That everyone should be able to get an appointment to see a doctor when they need to and has the right to receive dental treatment when they need it.

This Council, therefore, resolves to:

- Forward a copy of this motion to the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care and call on him to urgently bring forward a plan to fix the crisis in primary care, to meet the Government's GP target and ensure everyone who needs an NHS dentist can access one.
- Request the local Members of Parliament support this motion and continue to raise this important issue in Parliament.
- Call on the Executive Mayor and the Lead Member for Health and Wellbeing to proactively work with the local NHS trust to ensure Tower Hamlets residents have full access to their GP and dentists.

12.3 Motion on Local Electricity Bill

Proposer: Councillor Rachel Blake

Secunder: Councillor Sirajul Islam

This Council notes:

1. The efforts that this council has made under the previous administration to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and promote renewable energy, including:
 - I. Declaring a climate emergency in March 2019;
 - II. Launched the Net Zero Carbon (NZE) Partnership Action Plan in November 2021 to become a net zero carbon council by 2025 and a net zero carbon borough by 2045 or sooner;
 - III. Planted hundreds of street trees;
 - IV. Approved 400 new electric vehicle charging points across the borough;
 - V. In 2021, Tower Hamlets Council was named the greenest local authority in the country.
2. That very large financial setup and running costs involved in selling locally generated renewable electricity to local customers result in it being impossible for local renewable electricity generators to do so.
3. That making these financial costs proportionate to the scale of a renewable electricity supplier's operation would enable and empower new local businesses, or councils, to be providers of locally generated renewable electricity directly to local customers.
4. That revenues received by new local renewable electricity providers could be used to help improve the local economy, local services and facilities and to reduce local greenhouse gas emissions.

This Council resolves to:

1. To support the Local Electricity Bill, supported by 306 MPs which, if made law, would establish a Right to Local Supply which would promote local renewable electricity supply companies and co-operatives by making the setup and running costs of selling renewable electricity to local customers proportionate to the size of the supply operation.
2. Inform the local media of this decision.
3. Instruct the Mayor to write to the borough's Members of Parliament local MPs, asking them to support the Bill.
4. Instruct the Mayor to write to the organisers of the campaign for the Bill, Power for People, expressing its support.

12.4 Motion on Greenwich Foot Tunnel

Proposer: Councillor Peter Golds

This Council notes that the Royal Borough of Greenwich voted to approve changes to the Bye Laws relating to the Greenwich and Woolwich Foot Tunnels which it has administered since 1986. However these have never been implemented as no agreement was reached between the council's of Newham, Tower Hamlets and the Secretary of State.

The Council further notes:

Much of the controversy has arisen because of an attempt to permit cycling in the tunnel, despite being prohibited for over eighty years.

The report to Greenwich council stated

"No consultation on the proposals has been undertaken, or considered necessary. The Friends of Greenwich and Woolwich Tunnels are aware of the proposals."

It continued,

That with regard to Community Safety there are no significant implications arising from this Report." and:-

"That with regard to Health and Safety there are no significant implications arising from this report." Concluding:-

"That with regard to Health and Wellbeing there are no significant implications arising from this Report."

However, the Department of Transport guidance on shared facilities states:

"Converting a footway or footpath to allow use by cyclists should only be done after a rigorous assessment has been carried out. It is vital to ascertain whether it is the best option or not. This can only be done after all on-road solutions have been fully considered and rejected as unsuitable. If so, the conversion must be carefully designed to meet the needs, as far as is practicable, of all its intended users."

That it is obvious that no assessment, let alone a rigorous assessment, has been undertaken by the Royal Borough of Greenwich.

That the tunnel is designated as a foot tunnel.

That residents of Tower Hamlets are concerned about the safety implications of cyclists riding through the tunnel, which is extremely narrow in places and completely unsuited to joint usage by cyclists and pedestrians.

Over the rent holiday period pedestrians were assaulted by a cyclist speeding in the tunnel, oblivious to families and children.

The Council under this administration, resolves to undertake a rigorous and impartial assessment as to Health and Safety before approving any changes to the byelaws relating to cycling in the foot tunnel.