



Meeting of the

Tower Hamlets Council

Agenda

Wednesday, 17 July 2024 at 7.00 p.m.

VENUE

Council Chamber,
Whitechapel Town Hall
160 Whitechapel Road,
London E1 1BJ

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.

Democratic Services Contact:

Matthew Mannion, Head of Democratic Services

Tel: 020 7364 4651, E-mail: matthew.mannion@towerhamlets.gov.uk





Chief Executive's Office

Democratic Services
Tower Hamlets Town Hall
160 Whitechapel Road
London E1 1BJ

Tel **020 7364 4651**

www.towerhamlets.gov.uk

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 **COUNCIL CHAMBER - TOWN HALL, WHITECHAPEL** at **7.00 p.m.** on **WEDNESDAY, 17 JULY 2024**

Stephen Halsey
Chief Executive



The best of London in one borough

Tower Hamlets Council
Tower Hamlets Town Hall
160 Whitechapel Road
London E1 1BJ

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.



QR code for
smart phone
users

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-i.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, 17 July 2024

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 - 18

To confirm as a correct record of the proceedings the unrestricted minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Council held on 15 May 2024.

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

5. TO RECEIVE PETITIONS

19 - 22

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

23 - 26

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

27 - 30

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 Market Designation (Columbia Road, Watney, Whitechapel)

The report of the Corporate Director, Communities, on Markets Designations is marked to follow as it is due to be considered at Cabinet on 10 July 2024 and will be added to the Council agenda should the Cabinet meeting agree for it to be submitted.

The report is available to view on the Council web page for that Cabinet meeting:

<https://democracy.towerhamlets.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=720&MId=15298&Ver=4>

9.2 Market & Street Trading Fees & Charges 2024/25

The report of the Corporate Director, Communities, on Markets and Street Trading Fees and Charges is marked to follow as it is due to be considered at Cabinet on 10 July 2024 and will be added to the Council agenda should the Cabinet meeting agree for it to be submitted.

The report is available to view on the Council web page for that Cabinet meeting:

<https://democracy.towerhamlets.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=720&MId=15298&Ver=4>



10. OTHER BUSINESS

10 .1 London Legacy Development Corporation - Interim Delegation Schemes 31 - 54

To consider the report of the Interim Corporate Director, Housing and Regeneration, setting out proposed delegations schemes relating to the powers of the London Legacy Development Corporation.

10 .2 Tower Hamlets Corporate Parenting Board Annual Report 2023/24 55 - 96

To consider the report of the Corporate Director, Children's Services setting out the Annual Report of the Corporate Parenting Board.

10 .3 Proportionality and Allocation of Places on Committees of the Council 2024/25 97 - 102

To consider the report of the Interim Director of Legal and Monitoring Officer on changes to the proportionality and allocation of places on the Council's Committees for 2024/25.

11. TO RECEIVE WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL 103 - 106

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

There are no further motions submitted for consideration at this meeting.



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.

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 7.06 P.M. ON WEDNESDAY, 15 MAY 2024

COUNCIL CHAMBER - TOWN HALL, WHITECHAPEL

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 Shahaveer Shubo Hussain (Member)
Councillor Musthak Ahmed (Member)	Councillor Asma Islam (Member)
Councillor Saied Ahmed (Member)	Councillor Sirajul Islam (Member)
Councillor Shafi Ahmed (Member)	Councillor Ahmodul Kabir (Member)
Councillor Suluk Ahmed (Member)	Councillor Saif Uddin Khaled (Member)
Councillor Ohid Ahmed (Member)	Councillor Ahmodur Khan (Member)
Councillor Sabina Akhtar (Member)	Councillor Sabina Khan (Member)
Councillor Amina Ali (Member)	Councillor James King (Member)
Councillor Asma Begum (Member)	Councillor Abdul Malik (Member)
Councillor Maisha Begum (Member)	Councillor Abdul Mannan (Member)
Councillor Nathalie Bienfait (Member)	Councillor Ana Miah (Member)
Councillor Mufeedah Bustin (Member)	Councillor Ayas 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 Bellal Uddin (Member)
Councillor Marc Francis (Member)	Councillor Abdal Ullah (Member)
Councillor Peter Golds (Member)	Councillor Abdul Wahid (Member)

1. ELECTION OF SPEAKER

The Speaker of the Council, Councillor Jahed Choudhury in the Chair

The Speaker of the Council, Councillor Jahed Choudhury addressed the meeting about his time in office.

He thanked the Council, the Mayor, and elected Members for giving him the opportunity to serve as First Citizen of the Borough since May 2023.

He noted that he had made every effort to carry out his duties in a fair and impartial way, attending many community events, celebrating milestones and achievements of the people of Tower Hamlets. He said he regularly attended citizenship ceremonies and welcomed new citizens to the borough. Furthermore, a successful Civic Awards event had been held in April 2024, where the work of ordinary residents of the borough was recognised.

His chosen charity for which he had fundraised for, were the St Joseph's Hospice and Eden Care UK. Both provided compassionate care and support to people living with life limiting illnesses. He said the charity dinner event held in December 2023 helped to raise almost £20,000.

He thanked his Consorts for their support, in particular his daughter Miss Maria Sultana Choudhury who had supported him at many events, including the Royal Garden party at Buckingham Palace last week.

He also thanked the Democratic Services Team for their unequivocal support with particular thanks to Patricia Attawia and Benilda Baden. He said he looked forward to serving his constituents and spending more time with his family.

Following the Speaker's address, the following Councillors addressed the meeting:

- Councillor Iqbal Hossain
- Councillor Nathalie Bienfait
- Councillor Abdul Mannan
- Councillor Peter Golds
- Councillor Abdul Wahid
- Councillor Mufeedah Bustin
- Councillor Musthak Ahmed
- Councillor Abdal Ullah
- Councillor Maium Talukdar
- Councillor Sirajul Islam
- Councillor Ohid Ahmed
- Councillor Sabina Khan
- Councillor Kabir Hussain
- Councillor Amina Ali
- Councillor Suluk Ahmed
- Councillor Leelu Ahmed

The Councillors praised Councillor Jahed Choudhury for this year in office and stated he had calmly presided over the Chamber at some difficult meetings. They thanked him for his charitable work and the money raised for his chosen charities. The Councillors thanked the Speaker for all his good work and his service to the Borough during his term. They wished him well for the future.

ELECTION OF NEW SPEAKER

The Speaker then called for nominations to serve as Speaker of the Council for the coming year.

The following nomination was proposed:

It was **moved** by Councillor Maium Talukdar and **seconded** by Councillor Kabir Ahmed that Councillor Saif Uddin Khaled be elected to serve as Speaker of the Council until May 2025.

The nomination to elect Councillor Saif Uddin Khaled to serve as Speaker of the Council was put to the vote and was agreed on a majority vote.

RESOLVED

1. That Councillor Saif Uddin Khaled be elected to serve as Speaker of the London Borough of Tower Hamlets Council until the Annual Council Meeting in May 2025.

Councillor Maium Talukdar and Councillor Kabir Ahmed then came forward to witness the Speaker of the Council signing the statutory declaration of acceptance of office.

The meeting was adjourned at 19:39 and reconvened at 19:48.

The Speaker of the Council, Councillor Saif Uddin Khaled in the Chair

The incoming Speaker, Councillor Saif Uddin Khaled thanked the Council for electing him as Speaker and congratulated the outgoing speaker on a successful term in office. He said he had been a fair and effective speaker and a worthy ambassador for the Borough. He thanked the Mayor and fellow councillors for electing him for the year ahead.

To support the Speaker in his role, he would be accompanied by his consorts:

- Nurul Huda Juned;
- Hasnath Chowdhury; and
- Mukammel Hoque.

The new speaker noted the residents of the borough were facing a difficult time, with the cost-of-living crisis and said it was more important than ever to work together to ensure residents were supported by creating opportunities for them through education, employment, encouragement and inspiration.

Finally, the Speaker stated his chosen charities were Sick Children's Trust and Osmani Trust. He explained both charities worked with young children and families.

2. ELECTION OF DEPUTY SPEAKER

The Speaker sought nominations to serve as Deputy Speaker of the Council for the forthcoming municipal year.

The following nomination was proposed:

It was **moved** by Councillor Maium Talukdar and **seconded** by Councillor Kabir Ahmed that Councillor Suluk Ahmed be elected to serve as the Deputy Speaker of the Council for 2024/25.

The nomination to elect Councillor Saif Uddin Khaled to serve as Deputy Speaker of the Council as the first nomination received was put to the vote and was agreed on a majority vote.

RESOLVED

1. That Councillor Saif Uddin Khaled be elected to serve as Deputy Speaker of the London Borough of Tower Hamlets Council until the Annual Council meeting in May 2025.

3. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from:

- Councillor Rachel Blake
- Councillor Amy Lee

4. DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS AND OTHER INTERESTS

There were no declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests.

5. MINUTES

RESOLVED:

1. That the unrestricted minutes of the ordinary Council Meeting held on 8th May 2024 be confirmed as a correct record.

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

There were no announcements from the Speaker or Interim Chief Executive to note.

7. MAYOR'S CABINET AND EXECUTIVE ARRANGEMENTS

The Council considered the report of the Director of Legal and Monitoring Officer, setting out the Mayor's Cabinet appointments and other arrangements in respect of Executive Decision Making, as set out in the agenda and the supplementary agenda.

Councillor Maium Talukdar **moved** and Councillor Kabir Ahmed **seconded** the recommendation in the report.

Council **RESOLVED** unanimously:

1. That the Mayor's Executive Scheme of Delegation be noted.

8. PROPORTIONALITY AND ALLOCATION OF PLACES ON COMMITTEES OF THE COUNCIL 2024/25

The Council considered the report of the Director of Legal and Monitoring Officer, proposing the establishment of the Council's committees for 2024/25 and setting out the review of proportionality and the allocation of places on those Committees, as set out in the agenda and amendment in the supplementary agenda.

Councillor Maium Talukdar **moved** and Councillor Kabir Ahmed **seconded** the recommendations in the report as adjusted by their tabled amendment.

Council **RESOLVED** to:

1. Consider the review of proportionality as at Section 3 of this report and the allocation of seats on Committees and Sub-Committees for the Municipal Year 2024/25 as adjusted by the tabled amendment.
2. Agree to establish the Committees set out for the municipal year 2024/25, and for places to be allocated on those Committees, as set out in the tabled amendment.
3. To note that the Monitoring Officer is authorised to approve the appointment of Councillors required to fill positions that fall vacant during the municipal year in line with the proportionality arrangements set out in this report from nominations received from the political groups.
4. Agree that the Monitoring Officer be authorised to approve the appointment of ungrouped Councillors to any committee places not allocated by the Council to a political group, after consultation with those Councillors and the Speaker of the Council where there is only one application for the position (where there is more than one application these will be presented to Council for decision).

9. APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES AND SUB-COMMITTEES OF THE COUNCIL 2024-25

The Council considered the report of the Director of Legal and Monitoring Officer, regarding the appointment of members to the Council's Committees, and Chairs where appropriate, (including those established under item 8 above). The report as set out in the main agenda, the amendment in the supplementary agenda and the tabled nominations were considered by Council.

Councillor Maium Talukdar **moved** and Councillor Kabir Ahmed **seconded** the recommendations in the report subject to the adjustment in their tabled amendment.

Councillor Ohid Ahmed requested that under Council Procedure Rule 16.7 his vote against the appointment of Councillor Peter Golds as Chair of the Licensing Committee be recorded.

Councillor Sabina Akhtar **moved** and Councillor Sirajul Islam **seconded** that Councillor Amina Ali be removed and Councillor Asma Islam be added to the Human Resources Committee.

Council **RESOLVED** unanimously to:

1. Appoint members and substitute members to the committees and subcommittees of the Council and other bodies (including Outside Bodies) for the municipal year 2024/25 as set out at Appendix 1 attached subject to the amendment proposed at the meeting by Councillor Sabina Akhtar.
2. Appoint the Chairs of Committees for 2024/25 from amongst the nominations listed at Appendix 2 attached.
3. Agree that in relation to any unfilled places within the seats allocated to a particular political group, the Council note that the Director of Legal, as Monitoring Officer has delegated authority subsequently to agree the appointments to those places in accordance with nominations from the relevant political group.
4. Agree that in relation to any unfilled places within the seats allocated to a particular political group, the Council note that the Director of Legal, as Monitoring Officer has delegated authority subsequently to agree the appointments to those places in accordance with nominations from the relevant political group.

10. COMMITTEE CALENDAR 2024-25

The Council considered the report setting out the calendar of meetings for the Council, Committees and other meetings for the municipal year 2024/25.

Councillor Maium Talukdar **moved** and Councillor Kabir Ahmed **seconded** an amendment to move the next Council meeting from the 31st July to the 17th July 2024.

Councillor Maium Talukdar **moved** and Councillor Kabir Ahmed **seconded** the recommendations in the report subject to that amendment.

Council **RESOLVED** unanimously to:

1. Approve the proposed calendar of meetings for the municipal year 2024/25 as set out in Appendix 1 plus agreeing the change of date for July Council.

2. To delegate to the Monitoring Officer the authority to agree meeting dates for any new Committees or Panels that Members agree to set up subsequent to this report being presented to Council, subject to appropriate consultation with Members.

11. COUNCIL'S CONSTITUTION 2024-25

The Council considered the report of the General Purposes Committee, setting out the Council's Constitution including the new Member Code of Conduct.

Councillor Maium Talukdar **moved** and Councillor Kabir Ahmed **seconded** the recommendations in the report.

Council **RESOLVED** unanimously to:

1. Note the work of the General Purposes Committee throughout the year to support the Constitution and its role in monitoring and agreeing changes to the Constitution in 2024-25.
2. Note the additions and amendments agreed throughout the year and agree the addition of the Summary Contents Page at the front of the Constitution.
3. Agree to confirm the re-adoption of the Council's Constitution as set out in Appendices 1-4 to the report, including the new Summary Contents List described in Paragraphs 3.8 to 3.10 of the report.

12. USE OF SPECIAL URGENCY PROCEDURES 2023-24

The Council considered the report of the Director of Legal and Monitoring Officer, setting out when Special Urgency provisions have been applied to Executive Key Decisions.

Councillor Maium Talukdar **moved** and Councillor Kabir Ahmed **seconded** the recommendation in the report.

Council **RESOLVED** unanimously to:


1. Note the report on the use of special urgency provisions in relation to Executive Key Decisions and use of urgency with respect to call in.

The meeting ended at 8.26 p.m.

Speaker of the Council

This page is intentionally left blank

Agenda Item 5

Non-Executive Report of the: Council 17 th July 2024	 TOWER HAMLETS
Report of: Linda Walker, Interim 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 those petitions for debate (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 is one petition for debate containing more than 2,000 signatures:
Petition requesting Tower Hamlets Council to re-open the Boundary Estate Community Launderette.
 - b. There are no petitions to be heard or noted.

PETITIONS TO BE DEBATED

The standard format for a Petition Debate for debate is as follows.

- The petitioners to present their petition for a maximum of three minutes.
- Questions and answers to the petitioners for four minutes.
 - Members asking questions, should confine their contributions to questions and not make statements or attempt to debate at this stage.
- Debate amongst Members for 15 minutes.
 - During the debate speeches are limited to a maximum of three minutes.
 - If any motions are moved during the debate, at the end of the debate the motions will be put to the vote in the order tabled. Regardless of whether any motions are passed, the petition will also stand referred to the relevant Corporate Director for a written response.
- At the end of the debate, the Speaker will invite the Mayor or (at the Mayor's discretion) a Cabinet Member to respond to the matters raised.
- If no motion is moved during the debate, the petition will stand referred to the relevant Corporate Director for a written response.

3. MOTIONS ON THE PETITION

- 3.1 During their speech any Member may move a motion for the Council's consideration on matters relevant to the petition (this does not require the suspension of standing orders). It is requested that Motions relating to the petition be submitted to Linda Walker, Interim Director, Legal Services and Monitoring Officer in advance of the meeting to allow full circulation.
- 3.2 Following the petition debate, any motions moved will be put to the vote.
- 3.3 In relation to executive functions, the Council does not have powers to override any executive decision of the Mayor or substitute its own decision. The Council may however pass a motion expressing a view on

the matter or referring the matter to the Mayor, calling on him to take some action, or consider or reconsider a decision, with recommendations to inform that consideration. Officers will advise on the constitutional validity of any motion that may be moved.

NOTES

4. Responses to all petitions will be sent to the lead petitioner and displayed on the Council's website.

5.1 Petition requesting Tower Hamlets Council to re-open the Boundary Estate Community Launderette.

Statement:

Boundary Estate Community Launderette operates from 28 Calvert Avenue, a shop owned by Tower Hamlets council. The Launderette has been serving the diverse local community on the estate and surrounding areas of Tower Hamlets and Hackney for over 30 years. Set up by residents in 1992 as a direct response to mould and damp issues in their flats, this service is still as much needed today as it was then. It is a well-used and loved community resource that local residents and businesses depend upon.

On Friday 9 February, without warning, staff arrived to find that their keys no longer worked. Bailiffs, commissioned by Tower Hamlets Council, had changed the locks. It transpires that the council's asset management team are demanding a 6-fold rent increase with on year's rent to be paid in advance. We are shocked that the council have used such aggressive measures to remove a valued amenity that provides value for money, providing an essential service and employment for four local people.

Issues of mould and damp and their detrimental effect on residents' health have been well-reported in recent years. It is a systemic issue here on our estate and on countless others. Residents need a convenient facility to wash and dry clothes locally, to alleviate these problems. The Launderette has become an important community space for those who suffer from loneliness and isolation as they use it to meet other residents and for some it is their only means of social interaction. Loss of our Launderette will result in the deteriorating mental and physical health of residents and a worsening condition of the asset fabric of our estate. The cost to the council of affordable rent for this vital community service will be paid back many times by the benefits to the health of our community and the infrastructure we inhabit.


We the undersigned, call on Tower Hamlets Council to:

- grant a temporary tenancy at will under the previous terms, with immediate effect, to enable the Launderette to resume operations immediately pending negotiation of a new lease
- add the Launderette premises, 28 Calvert Avenue, to the Tower Hamlets Community Portfolio of Community Premises
- agree that the Boundary Estate Community Launderette is eligible for Community Benefit Rent Reduction

Submitted by: Jonathan Moberly, Vice Chair, Boundary Tenants and Resident Association

Signatures received: 2151

Agenda Item 7

Non-Executive Report of the: COUNCIL 17 th July 2024	 TOWER HAMLETS
Report of: Linda Walker, Interim 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 BANGLADESHI DIASPORA IN TOWER HAMLETS

Proposed by: Cllr Musthak Ahmed

Seconded by: Cllr Abu Talha Chowdhury

This Council notes:

- That Tower Hamlets has always been a place known for its tolerance and welcoming of communities from around the world.
- That one of the largest of these communities to make Tower Hamlets its home is the Bangladeshi community. Comprising over 1/3 of the borough's population, this community has made its home in Tower Hamlets for over 100 years.
- That they have continued the rich tradition of immigration to Tower Hamlets. Starting with the French Huguenots; and continuing through the Jewish; Irish; and the African Caribbean communities, the Bangladeshi population – alongside the more recent arrival of a thriving Somali community – has enriched the borough and left a lasting and positive legacy in the borough.
- The first Bangladeshis to come to Tower Hamlets were Lascars, seamen from the Indian subcontinent who served aboard European vessels. 896 of these Lascars were killed during the Great War, demonstrating the Bangladeshi community's pride in coming to Britain.
- That one of the oldest institutions of the Bangladeshi community was founded by one of these lascars, Shah Jalal Coffee House, which was established in 1920 at 76 Commercial Street. This set the precedent for the vibrant and ubiquitous presence of Bangladeshis in the catering business – not only in Tower Hamlets, but across the UK.
- That the majority of the borough's Bangladeshi population came to London in the 1950s and 1960s, seeking better lives for themselves and their families following the partition of India. They worked in textile factories; car plants; and the rag trade, as well the now world-renowned curry-houses across the Country, and particularly in Tower Hamlets. They came to help rebuild Britain after the war.
- That this community stood against the violent racism espoused by the National Front in the 1970s that led to the tragic and callous murder of Altab Ali and continued violence and attacks against Bangladeshis. They stood alongside black; Jewish; and LGTBQ residents of Tower Hamlets to drive them out.

- That this continued against the BNP in the 1990s; and the EDL in the 2000s and 2010s.
- That this community has worked tirelessly through the voluntary and community sectors to support people – regardless of their background – to tackle poverty; inequality; and strengthen community cohesion.
- That by the 1980s and 1990s, Bangladeshis represented a key component of the cultural; social; political; and economic fabric of Tower Hamlets, with a booming business sector and representatives in Local and National government.
- That these local activists who went on to be elected representatives in Local Government in Tower Hamlets Council, contributed to the development and improvement of the social; economic; and cultural fabric of Tower Hamlets. They were and are trailblazers and provided leadership.
- That this community – just like all other immigrants who have made this borough their home alongside the working class Eastenders who accepted and coexisted alongside them – have together made a massive contribution to the cultural; social; and economic fabric – not only of Tower Hamlets and London – but the UK more broadly. They all represent what is best about Britain, and the benefits of diversity; multiculturalism; and bringing the best out each other.

This Council believes:


- That Tower Hamlets is the Capital of not only British Bangladeshis, with over 35% residents of Bangladeshi heritage – but of the Bangladeshi diaspora globally.
- It is also a community of firsts. The first British Bangladeshi member of the House of Lords was from Tower Hamlets. The first British Bangladeshi MP was from Tower Hamlets. And the first Executive Mayor from a non-white background in the whole of Europe was from Tower Hamlets and is of Bangladeshi heritage.
- That the innovation; entrepreneurial drive; and community spirit of the Bangladeshi people has contributed to making Tower Hamlets a ‘go-to’ borough – a place where visitors can enjoy the best food; sights; and cultural attractions that London has to offer.
- That this is embodied by the Brick Lane, Spitalfields and Banglatown area – the hub and heart of Bangladeshi industry and culture outside of Bangladesh in the world.

- This is reflected in the over £3billion that Bangladeshi businesses contributed to the borough's economy last year.
- That the community benefits brought by Bangladeshis to Tower Hamlets – their willingness to share; to be neighbourly; to offer support to young and old; and to work with other groups – demonstrates the best of our borough, and embodies the 'go-to' spirit that makes Tower Hamlets such a special place to live.
- That without the industry; culture; and spirit of the Bangladeshi community, Tower Hamlets – and Britain – would be much worse off.
- That we should celebrate and promote the history and contributions of the Bangladeshi community, and ensure that this promoted across Tower Hamlets; London; and the UK as a whole.
- Tower Hamlets – and all of the residents within it regardless of ethnic or religious background – are a microcosm of the best of Britain.

This Councils resolves:

- To host an exhibition in the Town Hall chronicling the history of Bangladeshis in Tower Hamlets, and celebrating the cultural capital they have brought to our borough.
- To thank them for their contributions to Tower Hamlets, and the social; community; and economic benefits they have brought and continue to bring.
- To continue to develop and strengthen the close community ties between all groups in the borough.
- To continue to oppose negative depictions of this and all other groups, as it has always done, and will always continue to do

Agenda Item 8

Non-Executive Report of the: COUNCIL 17 th July 2024	 TOWER HAMLETS
Report of: Linda Walker, Interim 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 ON CHILD POVERTY

Proposed by: Cllr Asma Islam

Seconded by: Cllr Rachel Blake

This council notes:

- The Borough of Tower Hamlets has faced disproportionately high levels of child poverty for decades.
- Currently 56% of children in our borough live in poverty, the highest percentage in the UK.
- The United Kingdom is the sixth largest economy in the world and London is the fifth wealthiest city in the world.
- There have been several, high quality, pieces of research conducted on poverty in the Borough such as the LBTH 2021 Poverty Review and the Toynbee Hall Poverty Review.
- That 'Tackling the Cost-of-Living Crisis' is a key component of the Tower Hamlets Strategic Plan as well as other anti-poverty measures such as Universal Free School Meals and 100% Council Tax Reduction Scheme.
- The socio-economic duty, section 1 of the Equality Act (2010) requires public bodies to adopt transparent and effective measures to address the inequalities that result from differences in occupation, education, place of residence or social class.

This council believes:


- That combatting child poverty should be its most important objective.
- That with political will and co-operation we can end the scourge of child poverty in our borough.
- That this can only be achieved through long term planning and consensus building.
- That eradicating poverty is not only morally just, but also a logical way we can deliver best value for our residents.
- That this council should build on the work of successive political administrations and draw together existing work to form a comprehensive anti-poverty strategy with measurable targets and goals.
- That any comprehensive Anti-Poverty Strategy needs to bring together all of the council's directorates, partner orgs (Met Police, Health and Care Partnership, Tower Hamlets Together, Faith Groups etc.) and VSCOs.
- That any strategy must centre the needs and voices of those who have experienced or currently experience poverty.

- That a comprehensive Anti-Poverty Strategy is complemented by the LBTH Partnership Plan and Strategic Plan.

This council resolves to:

- Instruct the Chief Executive and Interim Director of Strategy, Improvement and Transformation, of LBTH to commence work on implementing the socio-economic duty, section one of the Equality Act (2010).
- If necessary, requesting that the LBTH Constitution Working Group drafts amendments to the LBTH Constitution to enact the socio-economic duty.
- Request that the LBTH Overview and Scrutiny Committee, form a special 'Ending Child Poverty' Task and Finish Group that will draw membership from each scrutiny subcommittee to ensure that it's work is a collegiate and cross-party effort.
- The 'Ending Child Poverty' T&F Group will be responsible for producing a comprehensive report and recommended strategy document to present to the Mayor and Cabinet upon completion.

This page is intentionally left blank

Non-Executive Report of the: Council 17 July 2024	 TOWER HAMLETS
Report of: Paul Patterson, Interim Corporate Director of Housing and Regeneration	Classification: Unrestricted
London Legacy Development Corporation – Interim Delegation Schemes	

Wards Affected	All wards
Originating Officer(s)	Matt Newby – Principal Planner – Corporate Lead Paul Buckenham – Head of Development Management

Executive Summary

The Mayor of London has formally decided that the London Legacy Development Corporation should cease to be a Local Planning Authority for its area and that planning functions should be transferred back to Tower hamlets and the other Growth Boroughs on 1 December 2024.

Secondary legislation is required to be enacted by Parliament to revoke the LLDC current planning functions.

This report seeks Council approval for two separate interim delegations of planning functions from the London Legacy Development Corporation to the London Borough of Tower Hamlets (as part of the “Growth Boroughs”) in preparation for the transfer of LLDC’s planning powers on the 1 December 2024.

The first interim delegation scheme would enable LB Tower Hamlets to take on limited planning functions, mainly the receipt and determination of new planning applications received between 1 September 2024 and 30 November 2024 (3 months prior to transition date).

The second interim delegation scheme would delegate all planning functions from the LLDC to Tower Hamlets (as part of the Growth Boroughs) from the 1 December 2024 and would only be required in the event that the legislation required for the transfer of all planning powers does not receive Parliamentary approval prior to the transition date.

Both of these schemes intend to provide continuity of planning work and enable a smooth transition of planning functions to the Growth Boroughs in accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) and ISD.

The decision to exercise functions delegated by another authority is reserved to the full Council.

Recommendations:

The Council is recommended to:

1. Agree to enter into the first Interim Delegation Scheme with the London Legacy Development Corporation (under Section 203 of the Localism Act) to perform planning functions on behalf of LLDC limited to determining planning applications on their behalf, as submitted from the 1 September 2024 to 30 November 2024 or until planning powers are formally transferred through legislation.
2. Agree to enter into the second Interim Delegation Scheme with the London Legacy Development Corporation (under Section 203 of the Localism Act) to perform all planning functions on their behalf from 1 December 2024 until planning powers are formally transferred through legislation.

1. REASONS FOR THE DECISIONS

- 1.1 The Mayor of London has decided that the London Legacy Development Corporation role as a Local Planning Authority should cease, and town planning powers should transfer to the Growth Boroughs on the 1 December 2024.
- 1.2 To facilitate the smooth and effective transition of Town Planning functions from the London Legacy Development Corporation to Tower Hamlets, two interim, time limited, delegation schemes (IDS) are proposed. Details are set out in this report.
- 1.3 The Council's constitution sets out that the decision to exercise functions that are delegated by another authority is reserved to the full Council.

2. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 2.1 There is no obligation on the Council to accept functions delegated by another authority. Hence an alternative option would be to not approve either one or both interim delegation schemes.
- 2.2 If the first IDS is not approved, the LLDC would continue to register and determine new applications for planning permission until such time as planning powers are formally revoked by the Parliamentary process.
- 2.3 If the second IDS is not approved and the Statutory Instrument (SI) is delayed in Parliament beyond the 1 December transition date, the LLDC would continue to be the LPA for its area and exercise all town planning functions until the SI comes into force.

- 2.4 Both of the above alternative options would impact on the smooth transition of planning powers, creating a “cliff edge” approach at the point when the SI comes into force and are therefore not recommended.

3. DETAILS OF THE REPORT

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 The London Legacy Development Corporation (LLDC) is a London Mayoral Development Corporation (MDC) established in 2012 under Section 198 of the Localism Act 2011.
- 3.2 The LLDC’s stated remit is to deliver the Olympic legacy commitments made in the original London 2012 Games bid - the physical transformation legacy of the Games, the long-term planning, development Management and maintenance of the park and its surrounding areas after the 2012 Games.
- 3.3 The LLDC is the Local Planning Authority for its area with planning powers for Local Plan making, determining planning applications, appeals and enforcement. These powers were transferred to the LLDC from LB Tower Hamlets under the *London Legacy Development Corporation (Planning Functions) Order 2012*.
- 3.4 The LLDCs planning area in Tower Hamlets comprises Fish Island, parts of Hackney Wick and Bromley by Bow. Applications for development within this area currently are submitted to and determined by the LLDC. Tower Hamlets is a statutory consultee but has no decision-making powers.
- 3.5 In February 2020, the LLDC’s Board agreed that its town planning powers and functions should return to the four neighbouring boroughs of Tower Hamlets, Hackney, Newham and Waltham Forest (also known as the Growth Boroughs) by the transition date.
- 3.6 On the 8 September 2022, the Mayor of London formally decided for the purposes of the Localism Act 2011, that from 1 December 2024 the LLDC shall cease to exercise its town planning functions and has confirmed to the Secretary of State his intention to return planning powers from the LLDC to the four Growth Boroughs with effect from 1 December 2024.
- 3.7 To enable the transfer of planning powers from the LLDC, secondary legislation is required by Parliament, described as a **Statutory Instrument (SI)**.
- 3.8 The draft legislation is being progressed by the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) and is expected to be laid before Parliament later this year, in time to come into force before 1 December 2024.

- 3.9 The Mayor of London will also prepare a Statutory Transfer Scheme (STS) under Section 216 of the Localism Act 2011. The STS lists the existing rights and liabilities to be transferred including planning applications, enforcement cases, appeals, planning obligation agreements and receipts and Community Infrastructure Levy receipts.
- 3.10 On the 25 October 2023, the Mayor in Cabinet agreed the STS with the Mayor of London. This was subsequently approved via a Mayoral Decision (under MD3256) by the Mayor of London on 12 March 2024.

PROPOSED INTERIM DELEGATION SCHEME (IDS) FOR PLANNING APPLICATIONS

- 3.11 If the SI is confirmed by Parliament, the LLDC will cease to be a Local Planning Authority on 1st December 2024. Tower Hamlets, Hackney, Newham and Waltham Forest will resume full planning powers under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 for the areas within their administrative boundaries.
- 3.12 Growth Boroughs officers have been working with the LLDC to establish a smooth planning transition process in the period running up to the 1 December 2023. Growth Borough planning leads and the Director of Planning Policy and Decisions at LLDC have confirmed in a Memorandum of Understanding that it would be expedient that any new planning applications submitted to the Development Corporation in the three months prior to the 1 December, to be dealt with by the four boroughs (see **appendix 1**).
- 3.13 Section 203 of the Localism Act 2011 includes a provision for Mayoral Development Corporations to make arrangements with a London Borough Council *for discharge of, or assistance with, planning functions*.
- 3.14 Using the powers under Section 203, two **Interim Schemes of Delegation (IDS)** are proposed (see **appendix 2 & 3**)

The first IDS

- 3.15 The first would take effect from 1st September 2024 until 30th November 2024 and would delegate the determination of any planning applications received in that period and within Tower Hamlets to the Council to determine.
- 3.16 There are several benefits to this approach:
- Certainty and continuity for applicants, by avoiding new applications being submitted to the LLDC in the period up to transition and then having to be transferred and re-allocated to staff within the Growth Boroughs when the LLDC ceases to be a local planning authority.
 - It would allow the LLDC planning teams to focus their resources on existing on hand cases, thereby reducing the number of undetermined planning applications that may otherwise have to be transferred on the transition date.

- The Growth Boroughs will start to influence future planning decision in the Olympic Legacy area at an earlier stage, prior to formal planning transition.
- The receiving Borough would have the benefit of the statutory planning fees.

The Second IDS - mitigation if the statutory instrument is delayed

- 3.17 DLUHC anticipates that the draft Statutory Instrument (secondary legislation) that revokes the LLDC planning powers will be laid before Parliament after the general election in time to pass through the Parliamentary stages and to come into force before the 1 December transition date.
- 3.18 However the pause in parliamentary business due to the election increases the risk that the Statutory Instrument could be delayed.
- 3.19 To mitigate the effect of the delay on the proposed return of planning powers a second interim delegation scheme is recommended (see **appendix 3**). This would operate from 1 December 2024 covering all planning functions until such time as the necessary legislation is enacted for the LLDC to cease to be a Local Planning Authority.
- 3.20 The Statutory Transfer scheme agreed by the Mayor in Cabinet on 25 October 2023 will provide the mechanism for the transfer of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) and other financial receipts received by the LLDC as planning obligations under Section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 and the future collection of CIL within the LLDC area.

LBTH GOVERNANCE PROCESS FOR AGREEING THE DELEGATION SCHEMES

- 3.21 The decision to carry out functions delegated by another authority is set out in Section 7 of the Tower Hamlets Constitution as a decision being reserved for Full Council.
- 3.22 Decisions on planning applications are a non-executive function delegated by the Council to the Development and Strategic Development Committees to officers.
- 3.23 Both Development and Strategic Development Committees have been advised of the proposed first IDS (meetings on 25 April 2024 and 14 May 2024 respectively). Both Committees have confirmed their agreement to determine planning applications under the IDS if it is agreed by the Council.
- 3.24 The Director of Planning and Building Control has confirmed their agreement in principle to the IDS within a Memorandum of Understanding.
- 3.25 The second IDS is broader in scope and covers all planning functions, including plan making which is an executive function. The Mayor and the Lead Member have been briefed regularly on the progress towards the IDS, both through

officer updates, as part of the LLDC Transition Growth Borough Partnership and Mayor as LLDC Board Member. Officers will continue to provide updates going forward through to the transition date.

- 3.26 The LLDC Board approved the two separate ISD at their Board meeting on the 21 May 2024.

4. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 This report is seeking approval of an interim arrangement to delegate Local Authority function. Any planning decisions from this arrangement will be made in accordance with the relevant Development Plan. The London Plan, the LLDC Local Plan and the LBTH Local Plan have all been subject to EQIAs. The Tower Hamlets Local Plan which is under review and will cover the LBTH component of the LLDC area will be subject to an EQIA as part of this process. This process is to ensure the legal duty to equalities issues are fully considered as part of the planning process.
- 4.2 Impacts of new (development) proposals on equalities are also considered as part of the Development Management process and set out delegated and committee reports.
- 4.3 It is envisaged that the processes proposed by the Interim Scheme of Delegation set out in this report, do not raise any equalities implications as the functions, decisions and planning activities enabled by the Interim Scheme of Delegation process are subject to their own equalities assessments, as part of the legal duty to ensure equalities are fully considered as part of the planning process.
- 4.4 An equalities screening exercise (see **appendix 4**) has taken place and no equalities implications have been identified.

5. OTHER STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 No further statutory implications have been identified.

6. COMMENTS OF THE CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER

- 6.1 The report is seeking approval for the statutory process for the transition of planning powers from the London Legacy Development Corporation to Tower Hamlets, firstly on an interim basis from 1st September 2024, where limited planning functions around new applications would transfer and from 1st December all planning functions would transfer.
- 6.2 There are a number of financial implications emanating from the transfer of planning powers back to the Council. There will be an increase in workload at the planning department will become liable for monitoring and enforcing all existing planning obligations secured in Section 106 Agreements and collection

of CIL and the monitoring and enforcement of grant funding agreements with third party organisations to deliver certain planning obligations. The team will also be required to administer live planning applications and future applications for development that previously would have been the responsibility of the LLDC.

- 6.3 The Council will benefit from additional planning income from statutory planning application and pre-application fees. These fees should meet the additional cost associated with the increased work outlined above and therefore the cost associated with transferring planning powers back to the Council should not impact negatively on the General Fund budget position.
- 6.4 Any unallocated receipts of Section 106 agreements within the Tower Hamlets portion of the LLDC, as at the date of transfer of powers, will be transferred to the Borough.
- 6.5 Any unallocated receipts from the Community Infrastructure Levy will be transferred to each of the Growth Boroughs on a pro-rata basis, determined by the geographic area of land within the LLDC boundary. For Tower Hamlets this would equate to 16% of the unallocated receipts.

7. COMMENTS OF LEGAL SERVICES

- 7.1 The Report details the current arrangements for determining planning applications with the area of the LLDC, part of which include areas of LBTH. It notes that legislation is pending which will see the return of statutory planning functions presently exercised by the LLDC to LBTH for those areas of the borough detailed in the Report. This report details the proposals for a handover period to allow a smooth transition of functions from the LLDC to LBTH and a mitigation if the necessary legislation should be delayed beyond 1 December. Section 203 of the Localism Act 2011 provides the legal basis for the proposals by way of schemes of delegation from LLDC to LBTH.
 - 7.2 Similar processes are under way with the other LLDC London Boroughs (LB Hackney, LB Newham and LB Waltham Forest)
-

Linked Reports, Appendices and Background Documents

Linked Report (s)

- [Development Committee Report \(25th April 2024\)](#)
- [Strategic Development Committee Report \(14th May 2024\)](#)

Appendices

- Appendix 1: LBTH Interim Scheme of Delegation Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)
- Appendix 2: First Interim Delegation Scheme: 1 September 24 – 30 November 24
- Appendix 3: Second Interim Delegation Scheme: 1 December 24 onwards
- Appendix 4: Equalities Screening

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:

Paul Buckenham

Matt Newby

Transition of Planning Powers from LLDC: Memorandum of Understanding for interim delegation scheme

1) The signatories to the agreement (“the parties”)

- a) London Legacy Development Corporation (“LLDC”)
- b) London Borough of Tower Hamlets (“Tower Hamlets”)

2) Background

- a) The London Legacy Development Corporation (“LLDC”) was established by The London Legacy Development Corporation (Planning Functions) Order 2012 (“2012 Order”). The principal objective of establishing LLDC was to coordinate regeneration, development and planning within the area and ensure a clear and integrated approach to its ongoing development. LLDC has since operated as the local planning authority for the area, for the following purposes (“the planning functions”)
 - i) Part 3 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (“the 1990 Act”)
 - ii) Parts 2 and 3 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (“the 2004 Act”)
 - iii) The functions under the 1990 Act and the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 (“the Listed Buildings Act”) specified in Part 1 of Schedule 29 to the Local Government, Planning and Land Act 1980 (“the 1980 Act”)
 - iv) Schedule 8 to the Electricity Act 1989 so far as they relate to applications for consent under section 37 of that Act
- b) On 4th February 2020, the Legacy Corporation’s Board agreed that LLDC’s town planning powers and functions would return to the four neighbouring boroughs of Newham, Hackney, Tower Hamlets and Waltham Forest.
- c) On 8 September 2022, the Mayor of London wrote to the Secretary of State Department for Levelling Up Housing (DLUHC) to confirm that LLDC would cease to exercise its function as the local planning authority for the area from 1 December 2024 (“the Transition Date”)

3) Current proposals

- a) The transition of planning powers is expected to be brought into effect through a Statutory Instrument drafted by the DLUHC and approved by Parliament (“the Planning Transition Order”).
- b) There is a risk acknowledged by the parties that the Planning Transition Order is not approved before the Transition Date.
- c) The parties recognise the need to mitigate these risks and have decided to make arrangements for an interim scheme of delegation (“IDS”) based on the outline scheme attached as Appendix One to this MOU as a fallback

arrangement. In accordance with Appendix One it is intended that there would be separate interim schemes of delegation covering the periods 01 September to 30 November 2024 and from 01 December 2024.

- d) The purpose of this MOU is
 - i) To recognise and document that intention,
 - ii) To record the formal powers of each of the parties to enter into the IDS
 - iii) To outline the scope of the IDS
 - iv) To outline the timetable for its development and agreement (see draft programme at the end of this document)
- e) It is acknowledged that in signing this MOU none of the parties are bound by its terms

4) Intention

- a) Each of the parties to this agreement
 - i) Agrees that LLDC can delegate certain planning functions to Tower Hamlets from 1st September 2024
 - ii) recognises the need to set up interim arrangements for a continued planning function in the event that the Planning Transition Order is not made
 - iii) agrees to use all reasonable endeavours to work with the other parties to
 - (1) finalise and adopt the first IDS prior to 01 September 2024, subject to necessary approval by LLDC and the Council
 - (2) implement the first IDS from 01 September and a second IDS from 01 December 2024, as applicable.
 - iv) agrees to use all reasonable endeavours to work with the other parties to ensure a coordinated approach to development, identify strategic planning priorities and resolve joint planning issues and concerns in accordance with the agreed Working Protocols as follows
 - (1) Major Pre-Apps and Applications
 - (2) Non-Major Pre-Apps and Applications
 - (3) Planning Enforcement
 - (4) Legacy Communities Scheme
 - (5) Appeals Protocol
 - (6) Approach to the Transfer of LLDC CIL and s106 monies
 - (7) LLDC Developments

5) Powers

- a) LLDC has the power to delegate the planning functions under section 203 of the Localism Act 2011

- b) Tower Hamlets has the power to take a delegation of the planning functions from LLDC and to exercise the planning functions as they relates to their administrative areas

Execution of Document

LLDC

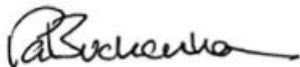


Signed by...

Anthony Hollingsworth – Director of Planning Policy and Decisions

Tower Hamlets

Signed by:



Paul Buckenham – Head of Development Management

pp. Sripriya Sudhakar – Director Planning and Building Control

Proposed Interim Delegation Scheme Programme Mar – Dec 24

Pinsent Mason have prepared a draft MOU and the scope on an interim delegation scheme (IDS).

The suggested process following LLDC Board approval to agree these is as follows:

Date	Activity	Who	Comment
5 March / 2 April	Finalisation of MOU at planning leads meeting	LLDC and Borough planning leads	Boroughs to sign MoU by 28 Mar
25 March	Second draft of IDS detailing the scope for part (i) from 1 Dec 2024 and (ii) 1 Sep – 30 Nov 2024	Pinsent Masons and LLDC	LLDC Board paper drafting 25 Mar - 5 Apr
By 25 March	Confirmation from DLUHC as to whether SI will be laid in time to meet the 1 December 2024 deadline.	DLUHC	LLDC to review initial draft of SI
By 19 April	Borough legal review and comments on second draft IDS and LLDC Board Paper	Borough officers and lawyers	LLDC to share draft Board paper by 8 Apr
By 22 April	Final draft of IDS circulated MoU signed	LLDC and Boroughs	
21 May 24	<u>LLDC Board meeting</u> LLDC Board to approve scope of ISD A (new applications) and Plan B	LLDC	Deadlines: Initial draft 22 Apr Final draft 7 May GLA deadline 13 May
By 31 July	Borough Cabinet or Full Council approval	Boroughs	Tower Hamlets: 31 July
1 Sep 24	Interim scheme of delegation in place to enable all new planning applications submitted from 1 September 2024 to 30 November 2024 to be determined by Boroughs.	LLDC and Boroughs	Until 30 Nov 24
1 Dec 24	Planning powers transfer via SI OR All planning powers delegated to Boroughs via ISD	LLDC Boroughs DLUHC	Delegation until SI is laid/ comes into effect

Appendix 2

LLDC/XX: Interim Delegation Scheme concerning the partial delegation of planning functions between 01 September and 30 November 2024.

A Introduction

The London Legacy Development Corporation (Planning Functions) Order 2012 made LLDC the local planning authority for the whole of its administrative area from 1st October 2012.

On 8th December 2022 the Mayor of London decided that for the purpose of sections 204(2) and (3) of the Localism Act 2011 and from 1 December 2024 the London Legacy Development Corporation (LLDC) shall cease to exercise the entirety of those functions.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) has been agreed between LLDC and the London Boroughs of Newham, Hackney, Tower Hamlets and Waltham Forest which recognises the need to assist with preparations for the formal transfer of planning powers from LLDC to the Boroughs on 01 December 2024, to help with minimising the handover of undetermined planning applications from LLDC to the Boroughs and to set up interim arrangements for delegation of certain planning functions through an Interim Delegation Scheme (IDS).

The MOU was approved by LLDC on 12th March 2024, *by the London Borough of Newham on XX the London Borough of Hackney on XX, the London Borough of Tower Hamlets on XX and the London Borough of Waltham Forest on XX.*

Section B of this document formally delegates certain planning powers from LLDC to the London Boroughs of Newham/Hackney/ Tower Hamlets/Waltham Forest from 01 September and 30 November 2024.

Section C of this sets out the protocol for the processes for the interim delegation of planning powers between 01 September and 30 November 2024. These are working processes that all parties are expected to follow, but these are not legally binding and do not form part of the formal delegation of powers

B Delegation of Functions

1. This Interim Delegation Scheme is made between the London Legacy Development Corporation (“LLDC”) and the London Borough of XX (LB XX),
2. This Interim Delegation Scheme is made under section 203 of the Localism Act 2011
3. *insert any specific power the Borough has to take the delegation and reference relevant sections of Borough constitution and/or existing scheme of delegation*
4. LLDC delegates in relation to the land shown edged red on the attached plan the following functions (“~~the partial~~ delegated planning functions”) to XX from 1st September 2024

- a. Functions under Part 3 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (“the 1990 Act)
 - b. Functions under the 1990 Act and the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 (“the Listed Buildings Act”) specified in Part 1 of Schedule 29 to the Local Government, Planning and Land Act 1980 (“the 1980 Act”)
 - c. Functions under Schedule 8 to the Electricity Act 1989 so far as applying to applications for consent under section 37 of that Act
5. LLDC will maintain the ability to recover any application, pre-application case, appeal or enforcement case between 01 September and 30 November for its own determination following notification of the Borough of its intention to do so and in accordance with section 203(3) of the Localism Act
 6. The delegation of powers specified in Clause B4 above will cease at midnight on 30 November 2024

C Planning protocol for the partial delegation of planning functions between 01 September 2024 and 30 November 2024

1) Publicity of Protocol for the partial delegation of planning functions:

- a) LLDC and LB XX shall publish this Interim Delegation Scheme on its respective Websites prior to 01 September 2024.
- b) LLDC and LB XX shall coordinate its communications and publicity with stakeholders regarding the Interim Delegation Scheme.

2) Pre application advice

- a) All requests for pre-application advice will be directed to a contact at LB XX.
- b) Upon receipt of a request, LB XX will provide pre-application advice in accordance with its published processes, including the use of Planning Performance Agreements or similar and charge costs in accordance with its pre-application charging schedule.
- c) LB XX and LLDC will cooperate with one another during this period in accordance with the agreed Protocols to ensure a coordinated approach to Pre-Application Advice in the LLDC area.

3) Applications for planning permission, reserved matters approval, prior approvals, non-material amendments, minor material amendments discharge of or variation to conditions of a planning permission, advertisement consent or listed building consent:

- a) All new applications, including the relevant fee, submitted between 01 September will be diverted via the Planning Portal directly to LB XX.
- b) LB XX will be responsible for registering, validating and publicising the application, in accordance with all relevant national and locally published requirements and will undertake all necessary statutory and other notifications.

- c) LB XX may refuse to accept a planning application in accordance with the provisions of the TCPA 1990.
- d) LB XX will be responsible for publishing applications on its statutory registers in accordance with its established process.
- e) LB XX will seek to determine delegated applications within the relevant statutory determination period or as agreed with the applicant in writing, either through a Planning Performance Agreement or via a written Extension of Time request.
- f) LB XX will seek to determine delegated applications in accordance with the relevant adopted planning Policy, including the LLDC Local Plan (2020), and take the guidance provided in LLDC adopted Supplementary Planning Documents into account where these are relevant.

- g) Applications which are not to be determined by officers under the Borough scheme of delegation shall be reported to the relevant Borough planning decisions committee.
- h) LB XX will be responsible for issuing decision notices to all relevant parties including a copy to LLDC and recording the decision on the statutory planning register. . In addition it will provide LLDC with a copy of any relevant CIL Forms received with the application, during or after its determination.
- i) LB XX and LLDC will cooperate with one another during this period in accordance with the agreed Protocols to ensure a coordinated approach to planning decisions in the LLDC area.

4) s106 Agreements:

- a) LB XX will be responsible for negotiating draft heads of terms for s106 legal agreements required to secure planning obligations for applications received between 01 September and 30 November 2024.
- b) LLDC will retain responsibility for monitoring and discharging planning obligations pursuant to s106 legal agreements signed prior to 01 September 2024 until transfer of planning powers on 01 December 2024.
- c) LB XX and LLDC will cooperate with one another during this period in accordance with the agreed Protocols to ensure a coordinated approach to planning obligations in the LLDC area.

5) Appeals:

- a) LB XX and LLDC will cooperate with one another during this period in accordance with the agreed Protocols to ensure a coordinated approach to planning appeals in the LLDC area.
- b) For any appeals against decisions made by LB XX between 01 September-30 November 2024 or where there is an appeal against the failure of LB XX to determine an application within statutory periods for an application submitted during this period, LB XX shall be responsible for the notification, consultation and administration of that

appeal, together with the associated appeal work, including preparing evidence, appointing legal counsel and expert witnesses and holding the appeal.

- c) For any appeals received by LLDC prior to 01 September 2024, LLDC will retain responsibility for notification, consultation and the administration of the appeal and will liaise and agree with LB XX regarding the arrangement for the preparation of evidence, appointment of legal counsel and expert witnesses and the arrangements for holding the appeal.

6) Enforcement:

- a) LB XX will undertake planning enforcement investigations for all new complaints relating to breaches of planning control received by LLDC after 01 September 2024.
- b) LLDC will inform LB XX of any new complaints within 3 working days of receipt.
- c) LB XX will undertake enforcement action as appropriate following its investigations and where it is expedient to do so.
- d) LB XX and LLDC will cooperate with one another during this period in accordance with the agreed Protocols to ensure a coordinated approach to enforcement against breaches of planning control in the LLDC area.

7) Data and information:

- a) LLDC will provide Planning history data for relevant applications received by LB XX between 01 September and 30 November 2024 at the request of LB XX.
- b) Local Land Charges - the borough will take responsibility for uploading decision notices and 106s to Land Charge Register
- c) Monitoring Data – All monitoring data for the applications determined from 01 September to be held by LB XX and reported as required.

Appendix 3

LLDC/XX: Interim Delegation Scheme concerning the delegation of all LLDC planning functions from 01 December 2024.

A Introduction

The London Legacy Development Corporation (Planning Functions) Order 2012 made LLDC the local planning authority for the whole of its administrative area from 1st October 2012.

On 8th December 2022 the Mayor of London decided that for the purpose of sections 204(2) and (3) of the Localism Act 2011 and from 1 December 2024 the London Legacy Development Corporation (LLDC) shall cease to exercise the entirety of those functions. A Statutory Instrument (“the Statutory Instrument”) has been drafted to transfer the LLDC planning functions to xx

On XX A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was agreed between LLDC and the London Boroughs of Newham, Hackney, Tower Hamlets and Waltham Forest which recognised the need to prepare for the formal transfer of planning powers from LLDC to the Boroughs on 01 December 2024, to minimise the impact of the handover and to put in place an Interim Delegation Scheme (IDS).

The IDS has been operational from 1st September 2023 but will terminate at midnight on 30th November.

In the event that there is an unavoidable delay in finalising the Statutory Instrument transferring the LLDC planning functions to LB XX from 01 December 2024 LLDC and the London Boroughs of Newham/Hackney/ Tower Hamlets/ Waltham Forest recognise the need to ensure that there are continuing arrangements for the ongoing delegation of planning functions.

Section B of this document formally delegates certain planning powers from LLDC to the London *Boroughs of Newham/Hackney/ Tower Hamlets/Waltham Forest* from midnight on 30th November 2024 until such time as the Statutory Instrument is made and comes into force.

A Protocol covering the required processes necessary to support this delegation will be agreed between LLDC and London *Boroughs of Newham/Hackney/ Tower Hamlets/Waltham Forest* prior to that date. Section C of this document sets out the matters to be included in that protocol. These are working processes that all parties are expected to follow, but these are not legally binding and do not form part of the formal delegation of powers.

B Delegation of Functions

1. This Scheme of Delegation is made between the London Legacy Development Corporation (“LLDC”) and the London Borough of XX (LB XX),
2. This Scheme of Delegation is made under section 203 of the Localism Act 2011
3. *insert any specific power the Borough (referred to as XX in the draft) has to take the delegation and reference relevant sections of Borough constitution and/or existing scheme of delegation*
4. LLDC delegates in relation to the land shown edged red on the attached plan the following functions (“delegated planning functions”) to XX from midnight on 30th November 2024
 - a. Functions under Part 3 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (“the 1990 Act)
 - b. Functions under the 1990 Act and the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 (“the Listed Buildings Act”) specified in Part 1 of Schedule 29 to the Local Government, Planning and Land Act 1980 (“the 1980 Act”)
 - c. Functions under Parts 2 and 3 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (“the 2004 Act”)
 - d. Functions under Schedule 8 to the Electricity Act 1989 so far as applying to applications for consent under section 37 of that Act
5. The delegation of these functions will cease and will not have any further effect once the Statutory Instrument is made and comes into force.

C Matters within the scope of the planning protocol

- 1) Publicity
- 2) Transferred Applications
- 3) Appeals
- 4) Enforcement
- 5) Planning Policy
- 6) CIL and s106
- 7) Data and Information
- 8) Transitional working arrangements

Equality Impact Analysis Screening Tool

Section 1: Introduction

Name of proposal For the purpose of this document, 'proposal' refers to a policy, function, strategy or project
London Legacy Development Corporation – Interim Delegation Scheme
Service area and Directorate responsible
Planning and Building Control
Name of completing officer
Paul Buckenham – Head of Development Management Matt Newby, Principal Planner – Corporate Lead
Head of Service
Sripriya Sudhakar, Director for Planning and Building Control

The Equality Act 2010 places a 'General Duty' on all public bodies to have 'due regard' to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct prohibited under the Act
- Advance equality of opportunity between those with 'protected characteristics' and those without them
- Foster good relations between those with 'protected characteristics' and those without them

This Equality Impact Analysis provides evidence for meeting the Council's commitment to equality and the responsibilities outlined above. For more information about the Council's commitment to equality, please visit the Council's [website](#).

Section 2: Summary of proposal being screened

Describe the proposal including the relevance of proposal to the general equality duties and protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010

It is proposed that all town planning functions will transfer from the London Legacy Development Corporation back to the Borough. This will be enabled via a Statutory Instrument (to be approved via Parliament). This proposal seeks the Council's approval for two separate interim delegations of planning functions to the London Borough of Tower Hamlets (as part of the "Growth Boroughs") in preparation for the transfer of LLDC's planning functions on the 1st December 2024. Both of these schemes intend to provide continuity of planning work and enable a smooth handover to the Growth Boroughs. Approval is sought to agree the approach set out in both Interim Delegation Schemes.

The first interim delegation scheme would enable LB Tower Hamlets to undertake Development Management functions, including the receipt of and determination of new planning and other applicable applications received between 1st September 2024 and 30th November 2024 (3 months prior to the transition date).

The second interim delegation scheme (named 'Plan B') would delegate all planning functions to the Growth Boroughs (including LBTH) from the 1st December 2024 should the Statutory Instrument not receive Parliamentary approval prior to the date of functions transfer.

This is the transfer of a Local Authority function, in which planning decisions are made in accordance with the relevant Development Plan. The London Plan, LLDC Local Plan and LBTH Local Plan have all been subject to EQIA. The Tower Hamlets Local Plan which is currently under review and will cover the whole of the LBTH including the current LLDC planning area. This will be subject to an EQIA as part of this process.

Further to this, as part of the Development Management assessment of new planning applications equalities and human rights implications as a result of proposals are also considered and set out in the main report.

It is envisaged that the interim delegation processes set out above do not raise any equalities implications as a result arrangements note above. The planning functions within the interim scheme of delegation are subject to their own equalities considerations (including the development plan), as part of the legal duty to ensure equalities issues are fully considered as part of the [planning] process.

Section 3: Equality Impact Analysis screening

<p>Is there a risk that the policy, proposal or activity being screened disproportionately adversely impacts (directly or indirectly) on any of the groups of people listed below?</p> <p>Please consider the impact on overall communities, residents, service users and Council employees.</p> <p>This should include people of different:</p>	Yes	No	Comments
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Sex 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Age 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Race 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Religion or Philosophical belief 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Sexual Orientation 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Gender re-assignment status 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ People who have a Disability (physical, learning difficulties, mental health and medical conditions) 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Marriage and Civil Partnerships status 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ People who are Pregnant and on Maternity 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<p>You should also consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Parents and Carers 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Socio-economic status ▪ People with different Gender Identities e.g. Gender fluid, Non-binary etc. ▪ Other 			
--	--	--	--

If you have answered **Yes** to one or more of the groups of people listed above, **a full Equality Impact Analysis is required**. The only exception to this is if you can 'justify' the discrimination (Section 4).

Section 4: Justifying discrimination

Are all risks of inequalities identified capable of being justified because there is a:	
(i) <i>Genuine Reason</i> for implementation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
(ii) The activity represents a <i>Proportionate Means</i> of achieving a <i>Legitimate Council Aim</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
(iii) There is a <i>Genuine Occupational Requirement</i> for the council to implement this activity	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Section 5: Conclusion

Before answering the next question, please note that there are generally only two reasons a full Equality Impact Analysis is not required. These are:

- The policy, activity or proposal is likely to have **no or minimal impact** on the groups listed in section three of this document.
- Any discrimination or disadvantage identified is **capable of being justified** for one or more of the reasons detailed in the previous section of this document.

Conclusion details

Based on your screening does a full Equality Impact Analysis need to be performed?


Yes	No
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

If you have answered **YES** to this question, please complete a full Equality Impact Analysis for the proposal

If you have answered **NO** to this question, please detail your reasons in the 'Comments' box below

Comments

It is envisaged that the interim delegation processes set out above do not raise any equalities implications as a result of these arrangements. However the operational planning functions within the interim scheme of delegation are subject to their own equalities considerations, as part of the legal duty to ensure equalities issues are fully considered as part of the process.

<p>Council</p> <p>17 July 2024</p>	 <p>TOWER HAMLETS</p>
<p>Report of: Steve Reddy, Corporate Director, Children's Services</p>	<p>Classification: Open (Unrestricted)</p>
<p>Corporate Parenting Board Annual Report 2023-24</p>	

Lead Member	Councillor Maium Talukdar, Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Education and Lifelong Learning (Statutory Deputy Mayor)
Originating Officer(s)	Susannah Beasley-Murray, (Divisional Director of Supporting Families)
Wards affected	All
Key Decision?	No
Reason for Key Decision	This report has been reviewed as not meeting the Key Decision criteria.
Forward Plan Notice Published	N/A
Exempt information	N/A
Strategic Plan Priority / Outcome	1. A better deal for children and young people: aspiration, education and skills

Executive Summary

The Corporate Parenting Board Annual Report 2023 to 2024 sets out the purpose of the board, how it functions in Tower Hamlets, what has been achieved over the last year, and how corporate parenting priorities are being taken forward for the council and partners.

Recommendations:

Council is recommended to:

1. Note the contents of the Corporate Parenting Board Annual Report

1 REASONS FOR THE DECISIONS

- 1.1 Not applicable

2 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

2.1 Not applicable

3 DETAILS OF THE REPORT

- 3.1 The Tower Hamlets Corporate Parenting Board (CPB) demonstrates our continuing commitment to the corporate parenting principles and shows how we deliver on them across many partnerships and services. The board meets on a quarterly basis and has representation from Councillors, young people, foster-carers, partner organisations and senior managers from across the Council.
- 3.2 Alongside the Children Living in Care Council (CLICC) the board provides a forum where children and young people in the care of the council have direct access to senior leaders and decision makers to share their views and raise and address issues. The board is able to take a strategic approach to the experiences of children looked after and care leavers and work with partners to continually develop and strengthen practice in relation to our corporate parenting responsibilities.
- 3.3 The CPB Annual Report 2023-24 provides information on a wide range of achievements including:
- Initiatives and activities to recruit Foster Carers including information sessions and campaigns, networking with schools and engagement with faith leaders (with visits to mosques and churches).
 - Pilot led by Independent Reviewing Officers (IROs) for a cohort of children co-creating their care plans during themed visits before reviews - ensuring their active participation and preparation for these significant meetings.
 - Introduction of IRO report summaries in age-appropriate language - directly engaging children in understanding the critical decisions regarding their lives.
 - Launch of practice guidance around language for professionals to help empower people to write and talk more thoughtfully.
 - Virtual School (VS) Awards celebrating and honouring all our young people with a range of awards that recognised their achievements, from academic excellence to involvement in our enrichment programme. Special guests were award-winning care-experienced speaker Jaz Ampaw-Farr and the rapping maths teacher Christian Foley, alongside an alumnus of the VS.

- Work to improve the understanding and awareness of health assessments amongst children and young people. A TikTok video has been co-produced with them and presented by one of our care experienced young people. Alongside the video a leaflet was produced so that the information can be promoted and shared through several channels including the 'Know Now' App.
- The programme offered to young people on Wednesday evenings at Kitcat Terrace has been refreshed and expanded with a more structured approach with themed activities. The new enhanced offer includes maths and English tutors, representatives from Careers Young WorkPath, health and emotional wellbeing services and housing services.

4 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The Tower Hamlets Corporate Parenting Board (CPB) is committed to delivering on the corporate parenting principles for all children in care and care leavers. This report provides information about how the board does this through its activities, engagement and plans for the future.

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 There are no other specific statutory implications.

6 COMMENTS OF THE CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER

- 6.1 There are no direct financial implications to this report.

7 COMMENTS OF LEGAL SERVICES

- 7.1 Section 1 of the Children and Social Work Act 2017 sets out seven principles which local authorities should follow when carrying out functions in relation to children and young people who are or have been looked after by them. Broadly speaking these principles require local authorities to aim to secure the best possible outcome for these children and young people.

- 7.2 Statutory guidance ‘Applying corporate parenting principles to looked after children and care leavers’ (February 2018) sets out how these principles should be applied.
- 7.3 Although the creation and maintenance of a Corporate Parenting Board is not a statutory requirement, it is suggested as good practice in the guidance. Section 111 of the Local Government Act 1972 permits a local authority to do anything which is calculated to facilitate the discharge of any of its functions.
- 7.4 The matters referred to in this report comply with the above legislation and guidance.
-

Linked Reports, Appendices and Background Documents

Linked Report

- NONE.

Appendices

- Appendix 1 – Tower Hamlets Corporate Parenting Board Annual Report 2023/24

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

- NONE.

Officer contact details for documents:

Susannah Beasley-Murray, (Divisional Director of Supporting Families)



Tower Hamlets Corporate Parenting Board Annual Report

2023/24

Contents

<i>Foreword</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>Introduction from the Children Living in Care Group</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>The children we care for and care experienced young people</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>Governance</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>Membership</i>	<i>8</i>
<i>Raising the game on corporate parenting</i>	<i>9</i>
<i>The role of Foster Carers</i>	<i>12</i>
<i>Priority One: Safe and stable homes</i>	<i>14</i>
<i>Priority Two: Trusted and strong relationships</i>	<i>18</i>
<i>Priority Three: Education and aspirations</i>	<i>22</i>
<i>Priority Four: Health and emotional wellbeing</i>	<i>26</i>
<i>Priority Five: Co-production and engagement</i>	<i>30</i>
<i>Appendix A: Membership list for the Corporate Parenting Board</i>	<i>33</i>
<i>Appendix B: Corporate Parenting Board meetings and agendas 2023/24</i>	<i>34</i>
<i>Appendix C: Children's Social Care key performance indicator report extract March 2024</i>	<i>35</i>

Foreword

Welcome to the annual report for the Corporate Parenting Board. This report sets out the purpose of the board, how it operates in Tower Hamlets, what has been achieved over the last 12 months and our plans for the future.

The last year has been especially eventful, with the development and launch of our Corporate Parenting Strategy and the council's adoption of 'care experience' as a protected characteristic. These significant pieces of work have helped to secure our vision for the future, clear priorities and a roadmap of how we intend to achieve our objectives. As you will see in this report, notable progress has already been made in delivering against the strategy.

P Achievements in 2023/24 include the significantly expanded weekly programme of support and activities at Kitcat Terrace (our hub for care leavers) bringing together education, employment, finance, housing and health related assistance.

We have introduced new guidance on language to improve how we communicate with children and families, and there has been increased participation of children in the development of their care plans to ensure they reflect all their needs, wishes and feelings. We are also incredibly proud that three care-experienced students will be attending Russell Group Universities in 2024, following their Key Stage 5 exams.

Looking ahead, there is great excitement about refurbishment plans for Kitcat Terrace, which will start to bring to life a whole new range of possibilities at a venue which is highly valued by our young people. The Foster Carers Recruitment Hub, a partnership venture with other boroughs, will focus on increasing recruitment and boosting retention. Further joined up work with a partner borough will introduce a new way of carrying out health and emotional wellbeing assessments to strengthen support for children seeking asylum.

None of this work would be possible without the engagement and input of a diverse range of services, partner agencies and other stakeholders. The Corporate Parenting Board is an essential part of how we bring leadership, resources and ideas together. The board consistently looks for ways to strengthen its membership and enhance its ways of working so that we can do even more to support our children to develop, realise their aspirations and thrive.

We hope this report helps to illustrate how we continually strive to be the very best corporate parents and provides inspiration on how you might join us in increasing the opportunities available to our care experienced children and young people.



Steve Reddy, Corporate Director Children's Services



Councillor Maium Talukdar, Deputy Mayor and Chair of the Corporate Parenting Board

Introduction from the Tower Hamlets Children Living in Care Council

The Corporate Parenting Board gives us the chance to put our views, opinions, and questions directly to the people who lead services and make decisions. By doing this we can contribute to discussions at the board and be part of agreeing the way forward on the things that matter to us.

Representing the views of as many young people as possible is very important and all the Children Living in Care Council (CLICC) Groups play a part in this. We have three groups in Tower Hamlets and each one is for a different age range, so that as many children as possible have the chance to get involved. The groups are supported by the Young Tower Hamlets Service and ahead of every board meeting they work with us to discuss the theme and collect feedback to present to the board.

In 2023/24 young people were involved in some important projects focused on the lives of those with care experience. In early 2023, members of our CLICC Groups, and other children and young people, worked together to develop a set of messages for the Corporate Parenting Strategy. The messages are the central part of the strategy and you can also see them in this annual report on page 10.

In July 2023 the full council met to consider making ‘care experience’ a protected characteristic for Tower Hamlets. This action is about helping to tackle the inequality that people with care experience can face. Three young people presented the report to councillors and spoke about experiences from their lives and the positive difference they thought this measure could make.

We are looking forward to more opportunities to get involved and have our say about the things we care about. Expanding what is on offer for the CLICC Groups and making improvements to Kitcat Terrace (where many of us meet) will help to make this happen.

Thank you for reading this report and we hope it encourages everyone to think about what more they could do to support, encourage and inspire children and young people with care experience.

The children we care for and care experienced young people

Children Looked After

277 children were looked after by the local authority (at end of Mar 2024 – **this was 301 for Mar 2023**)

Under 5	51
5 to 9	36
10 to 15	92
16 to 17	98

Page 63

There were 30 Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children (UASC) (at end of Mar 2024 - **this was 37 at Mar 2023**)

‘Children Looked After’ long term placement stability 69% (end of Mar 2024 - **this was 48% at Mar 2023**)

- Average no. of placement moves 1.4 (end of Mar 2024 - **this was 1.6 at Mar 2023**)

Accommodation

93% of allocated care experienced young people (17-21) were in suitable accommodation (at end of Mar 2023 - **this was 95% at Mar 2023**)

Care experienced young people

At 31st March 2024 the Through Care Service was working with a cohort of 461 young people, between the ages of 14 – 25 (**this was 457 at Mar 2023**)

Health

93% of ‘Children Looked After’ had an annual health check within 12 months (end Mar 2023 – **this was 82% at Mar 2023**)

93% of ‘Children Looked After’ had an annual dental check within 12 months (end Mar 2023 - **this was 91% at Mar 2023**)

Education, Training and Employment

69% of pupils making expected progress (autumn term 2023/24 - **this was 64% for autumn term 2022/23**)

100% of pupils had a personal education plan meeting during the term (autumn term 2023/24 - **this was 98% for autumn term 2022/23**)

98% of allocated care experienced young people (17 – 25) had a pathway plan (end of Mar 2023 - **this was 95% at Mar 2023**)

77% of allocated care experienced young people (17 - 25) were in employment, education or training (end of Mar 2023 - **this was 77% at Mar 2023**)

The national strategic context

In December 2022 Ofsted announced the introduction of a [new judgement for care experienced young people](#) to the framework for inspecting local authority children's services (ILACS). The new judgement focuses on experiences and progress of care experienced young people.

In February 2023 the government published its implementation strategy and consultation [Stable Homes, Built on Love](#). The strategy responded to the [Independent Review of Children's Social Care](#) (published May 2022) and focused on providing nurturing, stable and loving homes for children in care and care experienced young people.

On 15th December 2023 the government issued the Children's Social Care Reform Statement with a series of publications, including:

- The [National Kinship Care Strategy](#) championing kinship care to set out support for family networks providing loving and stable homes to children
- A [Children's Social Care National Framework](#) to set out the purpose, principles and outcomes that should be achieved in children's social care
- Updates to the [Working Together to Safeguard Children](#) guidance which sets out how to safeguard and promote the welfare of children
- A [Children's Social Care: Data and Digital Strategy](#) to set out long-term plans to transform data in children's social care.

¹ [Applying corporate parenting principles guidance](#)

Legal Context

The **Children and Social Work Act 2017** (Section 1) sets out seven corporate parenting principles which local authorities must have regard to for children looked after or care experienced young people. In February 2018 the statutory guidance for local authorities **Applying corporate parenting principles to looked-after children and care experienced young people**¹ was published.

The guidance puts forward the critical question for local authorities as the corporate parent should be '*would this be good enough for my child*'? They also highlight that children in our care have the same needs – to be loved, cared for and feel safe - as other children.

The corporate parenting principles

In order to thrive, children and young people have certain key needs that good parents generally meet. The corporate parenting principles set out seven principles that local authorities must have regard to when exercising their functions in relation to children in our care and young people, as follows:

1. To act in the best interests, and promote the physical and mental health and well-being, of those children and young people
2. To encourage those children and young people to express their views, wishes and feelings

3. To take into account the views, wishes and feelings of those children and young people
4. To help those children and young people gain access to, and make the best use of, services provided by the local authority and its relevant partners
5. To promote high aspirations, and seek to secure the best outcomes, for those children and young people
6. For those children and young people to be safe, and for stability in their home lives, relationships and education or work; and
7. To prepare those children and young people for adulthood and independent living.

children and families and endeavour for every child and young person to be healthy, safe and successful.

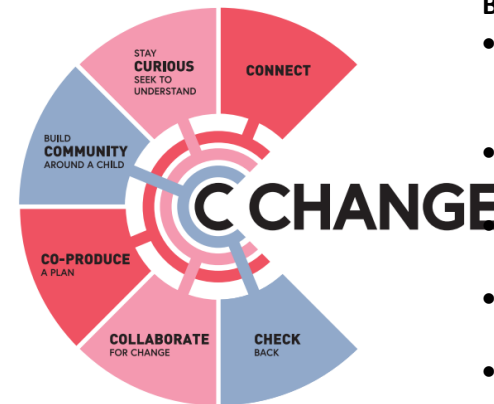
The framework includes the following behaviours and sets out 6 ‘Cs’ of how we will work with children, families and each other.

The Better Together Framework is very much aligned with the Corporate Parenting Strategy and is woven through this report.

Tower Hamlets Better Together Practice Framework

Since 2022, all those working in Tower Hamlets Supporting Families Division including social workers, personal advisors, Independent Reviewing Officers, supervising social workers, those who might supervise family time, and anyone else who works in this part of the Council - have agreed a way of working that puts relationships at the heart of the way we work. The framework recognises how important good, strong relationships are and encourages us to build them with all those we are working with, as well as work to repair them if the need arises. It includes the vision that ‘We believe that the best place for children is to be raised within their own families, immediate or wider, wherever it is safe and appropriate to do so’.

In Tower Hamlets we are committed to building relationships and strengthening families by working with people in a compassionate and understanding way. We are ambitious for Tower Hamlets



Behaviours we’ve committed to:

- Be open and honest – do what we say we’ll do and explain what happens next.
- Listen to understand – be curious, not judgemental. Value families’ experience – work *with* families, don’t ‘do to’ or ‘do for’ them.
- Work to prevent harm and repair damage – to people and relationships.
- Empower people – giving high support and having high expectations.

Membership of the Corporate Parenting Board



Raising the game on corporate parenting

Tower Hamlets Corporate Parenting Board (CPB)

The Corporate Parenting Board, chaired by the Lead Member (Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Education, Youth and Lifelong Learning) provides strategic oversight to review and drive forward our work with children in our care and care experienced young people, ensuring that our corporate parenting responsibilities are fulfilled. The board meets quarterly and includes representatives from internal council departments and wider multi-agency partners ensuring cross-collaboration and shared decision making.

Alongside the Children Living in Care Council (CLICC), the board provides a forum where children and young people in the care of the council engage directly with senior leaders and decision makers to share their views and raise and address issues.

The diagram on page 5 sets out the membership of the board and a full list is provided at Appendix A. Appendix B provides an overview of the topics covered in CPB meetings during 2023/24.

Development of the Corporate Parenting Strategy 2023-2028

Our corporate parenting strategy was developed in co-production with care experienced children and young people. Through workshops and a film project they explored what mattered most and what makes life good for them.

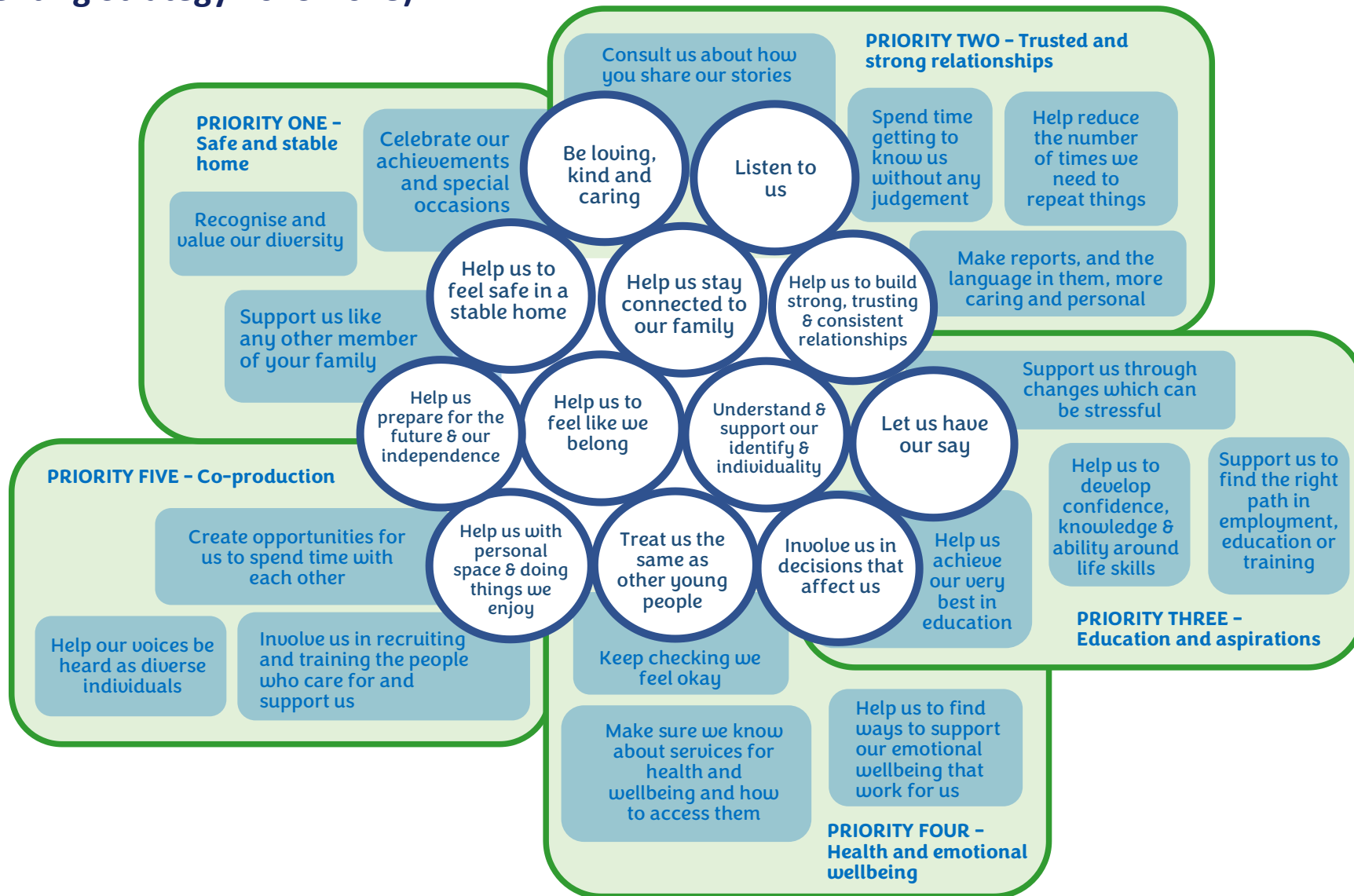
These discussions and engagement activities, alongside a review of all available feedback, resulted in a set of key messages which are the foundation of the strategy, and are central to all our plans for the future. The key messages are shown below (on page 10) and further quotes from our young people (gathered during audit activity) are shown throughout this report.

Alongside the work with our young people, workshops and one to one meetings took place with senior managers, professionals across council services and partner organisations, and wider stakeholders. The [strategy and action plan](#) that emerged from this work was approved by Cabinet in July 2023.

A launch event for the strategy in October 2023 brought together children, carers, council officers and partner agencies. As well as sharing a lunch together some of our young people shared powerful words about their own experiences to help illuminate why measures set out in the strategy are so important. There were also information stalls from a wide range of services and organisations plus play focused activity workshops.

This annual report is structured around the priorities within the strategy and reflects some of the progress made in delivering against its objectives. Implementation will continue to be led by the Corporate Parenting Operational Group, overseen and monitored by the Corporate Parenting Board.

Key messages from care experienced children & young people (from Tower Hamlets Corporate Parenting Strategy 2023-2028)



Visit from National Implementation Adviser for Care Leavers

In May 2023 Mark Riddell, the National Implementation Adviser for Care Leavers, visited Tower Hamlets and reviewed our arrangements, service and support for care experienced young people.

We received positive feedback highlighting the sense of ambition and aspiration he encountered, as well as the passion and commitment to our young people. The insight and recommendations from the visit have informed our plans for the future which are being driven forward through the Corporate Parenting Operational Group and reported to the Corporate Parenting Board.

Adopting Care Experience as a Protected Characteristic

In July 2023, the council adopted care experience as a protected characteristic in recognition of the disparity and challenges faced by care-experienced individuals in areas like health, education, housing, employment, and criminal justice.

Three care experienced young people attended the council meeting, sharing insight from their lives and speaking about the difference the measure could make to other people. Our equality guidance, templates and tools have been updated to incorporate this change and work continues on developing further initiatives to support care experienced people.

The Learning Academy who oversee the recruitment of social workers are actively considering how to translate this protected characteristic into the recruitment process.

"I am helped to live more independently . I have basic life skills. I was referred to services 'CAMHS, Sparks to Life' to support me ."

The role of Foster Carers

Tower Hamlets Foster Carers' Association (FCA)

The Tower Hamlets FCA is an independent body which has been in place almost 20 years and works closely with the council, providing feedback on services and offering advice, guidance and support for foster carers.

The TH FCA committee holds monthly meetings in which they are a voice for the carer community in relation to all issues affecting their members. These meetings also provide a forum to advocate and negotiate with the Fostering Service.

Morning and evening meetings of the Foster Carers Support Group are held regularly with co-facilitation from the TH FCA and Fostering Development Team. These sessions provide an opportunity to explore any issues raised, seek a response or resolution and then feedback to all members. The TH FCA also play a crucial role as ambassadors to support and promote recruitment of new foster carers.

FCA Annual General Meeting and Awards Ceremony took place in April 2023. The awards were an opportunity to recognise and celebrate the wonderful achievements that have made a positive difference to the lives of our children (April 2023)

Every year the TH FCA organises inspiring and fun trips and activities for foster carers and children. The following activities took place during 2023:

- Annual Pantomime at the Greenwich Theatre in December 2023
- A trip to the seaside and a day pass to Butlins in Bognor Regis in August 2023
- The TH FCA Summer Party took place in August 2023 at Elmhurst Primary School.

Mockingbird Programme

The Mockingbird model is a way to bring a group of carers together in a similar way to an extended family. The model enables extra support, respite, training and events out for foster carers and benefits for children through fun activities such as sleepovers.

There are three Mockingbird hubs in Tower Hamlets who organise separate activities and provide support to each other's foster children when needed. Activities have included bowling, ice-skating and go-karting. Our third hub was launched in May 2024 and has been focusing their activities on developing relationships amongst satellite carers and the children through coffee mornings and having fun together.

The three hubs celebrated together at a Christmas Party with approximately 100 children and adults attending, including a social worker and some Independent Reviewing Officers. Several children

who had left care attended with family members, as well as a young person who had moved to semi-independence who came with a family member and helped to serve food. This successful event brought everyone together to enjoy activities, games and delicious lunch.

Priority One: Safe and stable homes

Ensuring children feel loved and well cared for in a home that is right for them.

Key achievements in 2023/24

Recruitment of Foster Carers

- Tower Hamlets has increased campaign activities and enquiries in 2023 to 24. Recruitment of foster carers is challenging on a national basis and this is reflected in the borough.
- Despite the difficulties, the percentage of children placed with foster carers directly recruited by the council within local communities has increased. From 61.5% in March 2023 to 66% in Jan 2024.
- A broad range of methods and channels are used to help recruit foster carers throughout the year. This has included information sessions at local libraries, shopping centres, health centres, supermarkets and the Town Hall. Adverts, good news stories and information on fostering have been promoted via the council’s communication channels such as social media, e-newsletters, websites and quarterly council paper.

Recruitment highlights out in 2023/24 include:

- School engagement – the service has continued to network with schools and staff have visited 40 schools to share publicity materials and chat with school staff.
- Faith leaders engagement - the service has further developed its connections with faith leaders in Tower Hamlets. Activity has included visits to mosques and churches (including outside of the borough) and ongoing attendance at the Tower Hamlets Inter-Faith Forum.

Training for Foster Carers

- Our training programme for foster carers includes a mixture of in-person and virtual courses to maximise opportunities to access the offer. During the year 2023 to 24 we have run 61 one-day courses and 725 course spaces have been taken up. A wide variety of topics are offered and feedback from carers about the training offer has been very positive and the online learning system has 177 active learners.
- In 2023-24, two ‘Introduction to Better Together’ training sessions (specifically for foster carers) were delivered for the first time. They were facilitated by the Head of Service for Regulated Service and Resources and the Better Together Lead and were both well attended.

Priority One: Safe and stable home

Key achievements in 2023/24

Training for Fostering Panel members

- In Oct 2023 there was a joint session between Panel Advisors and Social Workers in the Regulated Service and Resources to introduce the 'Better Together Framework' for working together, build relationships and consider how to enhance the experience of panel.

Maintaining and improving stability

- Sometimes a child in our care will experience a move due to a planned change, such as through adoption, reunification, or extended family care. However, there is a great deal of work that is carried out to minimise any disruption to the home a child lives in. The term 'placement stability' can be used to describe activities that focus on helping our children to experience long term, stable living arrangements as much as possible.

Placement Stability Panel

- The panel was introduced in 2023 as an additional measure in helping to ensure children live in a happy and secure home. The panel helps to enhance the support provided to improve stability of the home a child lives in and to tackle any issues which could result in disruption.

The Therapeutic Fostering and Care Team (TFACT),

- The team is led by clinical psychologists, partners closely with Tower Hamlets CAMHS and aims to provide foster carers with therapeutic support. This support can include support around issues that could present a risk to stability.
- TFACT offers individual consultations, direct work, and various training sessions for foster carers. The team also runs a six week course, 'Foundations for Attachment Parenting,' to nurture attachments with children, improve trust in relationships and understand the impact of trauma for children. Our aim is for all Foster Carers to under this training, with over 90 having already done so.

Specialist training within Youth Justice Service

- We aim to support any children in care who have contact with the Youth Justice Service (YJS) with an approach that recognises and understands the potential impacts of their experiences. One of the ways that we do this is through specialist training for professionals. This has included 3-day 'Relational & Developmental Trauma' training which some staff in the Youth Justice Service undertook in 2023.

"...has been my social worker for a while. I can tell her anything and everything and she acts on what I tell her"

Priority One: Safe and stable home

Activity highlights for 2024/25

Foster Carer Recruitment Hub

- Tower Hamlets is jointly working with Barking and Dagenham, Havering, Newham, Redbridge and Waltham Forest to create a new recruitment and retention hub as part of a Department for Education initiative.
- There will be 10 hubs running across the country with funding to establish a new regional website, marketing campaign and recruitment of supporting staff. Our hub will be launched in spring/early summer 2024. The aims of the initiative are to:
 - Improve the journey from enquiry to application and approval across clusters of local authorities and establish a pan-local authority approach to fostering recruitment work
 - A recruitment communications campaign to boost the number of quality enquiries and build evidence of effective marketing strategies through a pathfinder campaign.
 - Boost retention by enhancing the offer to new applicants and further development of the Mockingbird model.

A Restorative approach to supporting children to remain living with their carers

- This work concentrates on building strong and trusting relationships and empowering people to successfully manage difficulties when they arise. In 2022 and 2023, two team managers in the Children Looked After Service and one in the Fostering Development Team trained as Restorative Conference Facilitators.
- We are currently considering how we could use a restorative approach to help address conflict and repair relationships when an incident happens that has caused hurt or harm and puts the child's living arrangements at risk.

Development of the Mockingbird Programme

- We are planning to increase the number of Mockingbird Hubs to five by 2025 (see more about the programme on page xxx). With three already in place, this will be a further expansion, offering more opportunities for Foster Carers to benefit from the resilient and caring communities that are created through the hubs.



Experiences of children: safe and stable home

'E' had been living with foster carers from a few months after their birth. Three Family Group Conferences were held with the aim of identifying possible alternative carers from the family. Several family members came forward and undertook assessments looking at whether any of them might be able to care for 'E'.

These assessments had positive outcomes but a parenting assessment was also undertaken with one of 'E's birth parents who was living in another country at the time. This also resulted in a positive outcome.

There were a lot of challenges to navigate as this situation involved a potential international home (placement) for 'E'. Carrying out all the necessary steps included the involvement of an Independent Social Worker, securing legal advice to work through what was required in the countries involved, and helping put what was needed in place for the necessary travel. Throughout all the assessments and processes 'E's welfare and ensuring the right outcomes for them was the absolute priority.

The family network continued to be involved with careful support to work through questions and issues as they arose. Ultimately, through careful planning, and ongoing collaborative working across teams and services, a permanent home within their family was achieved for 'E'.

Priority Two: Trusted and strong relationships

Surrounding children with caring people who work hard to listen, understand and respond to their needs.

Key achievements in 2023/24

Better Quality Care Plans

- The work of Independent Reviewing Officers (IROs) includes making sure that all children in our care have a care plan that reflects all their needs and makes sure that their wishes and feelings are heard and considered.
- IROs lead on work around ‘Better Quality Care Plans’ and have been piloting a program to involve selected children in co-creating their care plans during themed visits before reviews, ensuring their active participation and preparation for these significant meetings.
- They have also introduced a practice of composing their IRO report summaries in age-appropriate language, directly engaging children in understanding the critical decisions regarding their lives.

Practice guidance around language

- The ‘Developing our practice around language’ working group met throughout 2023 to look at how some guidance could be developed for professionals to ‘empower people to write and talk more thoughtfully’.

- The group engaged with the Children Living in Care Council (CLICC) and the Tower Hamlets Young Scrutineers and their input helped to steer the work of the group and the development of the guidance.
- A Supporting Families Division Conference was held in February 2024 focused on language and attended by over 400 staff from the division.
- The Conference launched the Practice Guidance around Language [including a digital version] which has been well received not just within the division but by partners.
- Since the conference there has been a commitment from the Senior Leadership Team, and throughout the organisation, to make some changes which will contribute to us using language in ways that people have told us they prefer. There is a commitment to stop using the term ‘Looked After Children (LAC)’ to describe children in our care, and to move away from referring to placements, preferring to recognise that these are children’s homes.
- Social Workers and Personal Advisors are also encouraged to follow the example set by Independent Reviewing Officers and write their records and plans to the child / care experienced young adult.

Priority Two: Trusted and strong relationships

Key achievements in 2023/24

Joint working with the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP)

- Representatives from the Through Care Service and DWP meet on a monthly basis to explore ways that they can offer enhanced support to care experienced young people through closer working.
- This has resulted in piloting of co-location for EET Advisors within a local Jobcentre on a regular basis. This work helps to ensure the support offered is informed by a greater understanding of care experience and responds more effectively to the needs of young people.

Care and Pathway Plans Audit

- Our Care and Pathway Plans aim to promote the child’s holistic and safeguarding needs including their welfare, development, permanence, family attachments, emotional well-being, support networks, preparation for independence, and appropriate planning of the transition to adulthood for children in our care.
- This includes ensuring the right and appropriate involvement and supports from partner agencies and community-based services as necessary. The findings from an audit of plans in Summer 2023 highlighted improved collaborative planning and quality of relationships as a strength in the practice of our work.

- The audit also showed increasing evidence of a ‘trauma informed approach’, which is a strengths-based approach of working that seeks to understand and recognise the existence and many causes of trauma, loss or harm a child or family may have experienced. As well as its potential impact on a child, thereby shaping a non-judgemental, sensitive, and positive response that enables safe and trusting interactions to take place.

Service audit in Spring 2024

- An audit, focused on the ‘Children Looked After’ and ‘Through Care’ Service, was carried out in March to April 2024. This audit examines the quality of practice and this cycle looked at topics including the permanency planning, life story work and use of family group conferences.
- Area of good practice identified by the audit included that overall feedback from children, young adults and families showed that they felt supported, considered and that the things that mattered most to them were prioritised. The quality of interventions helped to support the child's ability to connect and build enduring and supportive relationships with their practitioner.

“...always responds to my messages and will call to check in on me for updates on how I am doing...he advocates on my behalf. I feel supported.”

Priority Two: Trusted and strong relationships

Activity highlights for 2024/25

Children's participation in Care Plans

- Members of the Independent Reviewing Officer's Team have been involved in producing guidelines and templates for social workers. These are for on-going conversations with children during their statutory visits in-between reviews about different aspects of their care and pathway plans.
- This is aimed at supporting and encouraging children to become involved in writing part or all of their care plan and having some ownership of it. On-going conversations can help to make the care plan a 'living and more meaningful' working document for the child, social worker, foster carer, parent, as well as team managers during supervision. This has already resulted in some children writing their version of their care plan and support is being offered through team meetings to encourage a wider number of social workers to engage in this area of work with the children they are responsible for.
- IRO's have also been linked to individual social work teams to offer support to social workers in writing directly to children, improving the quality of detail in children's care plans, and ensuring that the child's voice is heard, regardless of whether they have participated in writing any element of it or not.

Lifelong Links Service

- The Lifelong Links Service will undertake further work on developing its approach for the future.

- With a vision to 'Empower families and build on their strengths' and a mission to 'Make Lifelong Links available to all the children we care for' the service will set out detailed objectives, strategies and tactics so that there is a clear plan for making this happen.
- As part of the council apprenticeship initiative with care experienced young people (see more details on page 23) a new apprentice has joined the council with the promotion of the service as an important part of their role.
- They are a passionate advocate of the Lifelong Links approach and will continue to inspire and encourage others to embrace the way service can help children living within the care system to build strong family and friend support networks into adulthood. Alongside other members of the team, they have already delivered several information sessions including at an International Conference and the launch of the service in another borough.

Developing our practice around language

- A working group will continue throughout 2024-25 with a commitment to an annual review of the guidance to see how it could be improved.
- We will be working with the Virtual School who are keen to take this learning and apply it to how Personal Education Plans are written. We will be looking for other opportunities to learn from and influence partners, including foster carers in the language we use to write and talk about children in our care and those with care experience.

Experiences of children: trusted and strong relationships

The Lifelong Links Service connects children and young people in care with family, friends and other significant people - creating support networks for the years to come. The two case studies below illustrate the difference the service makes to children's lives.

'C' and 'O' are aged 2 and 4 years old and are awaiting adoption following the unexpected passing of their mother.

Lifelong Links has worked in collaboration with others to ensure that the children, and their potential adopters, have information about their identity, early years and birth family.

Meetings have taken place with other family members and precious materials have been collected, such as pictures and items related to their mother's funeral service. All of this will help the children to become familiar their birth family and to know that they are loved by their wider family and were loved by their mother.

'A' and 'S' are 15-year-old twins who are in the care of Tower Hamlets. Before coming into care they had been prevented from having contact with their mother or maternal family in Bangladesh which led to them reporting feelings of rejection and abandonment.

After significant direct work and planning, Lifelong Links were able to take the children to Bangladesh to meet their mother and aunts, uncles and cousins. These experiences were full of joy and they were able to rebuild relationships and feel a sense of belonging again.

The children now have their mother and extended family back in their lives and are in regular contact. They are more content and happier in their home, no longer feel isolated and have a better sense of their identity.

Priority Three: Education and aspirations

Helping children find out what inspires them, achieve the best possible outcomes and create the future they want.

Key achievements in 2023/24

The Tower Hamlets Virtual School

- In 2022/23, the Virtual School (VS) supported 186 school-aged children with their education, from placement to Personal Education Plan (PEP) creation, building a strong partnership with the physical school, carers, and social workers.
- The VS focuses on educational outcomes, attendance, and engagement of children in our care at Tower Hamlets. Every child is advocated for by a Qualified Teacher (QTS) with significant experience and a track record of enabling progress. This VS teacher is a constant in the child’s education journey, maintaining essential continuity to boost attainment, engagement, relationships with adults and peers, while nurturing a love of learning.

Highlights for the VS in the last year have included:

- A new policy regarding Annual Review implementation was put in place to support a smooth transition for pupils with an Education, Health, Care Plan (EHCP). This focused on Key Stage 4 children moving to Key Stage 5 placements, such as college places.

- This work, led by the Virtual School SENCO, was extremely successful and meant every child was in Education, Employment, or Training (EET) on the first day in September. This project now forms part of the National Virtual Heads (NAVSH) research held by Bath Spa University.
- All children in the VS had a Personal Education Plan (PEP) meeting in the Autumn 2023 term. This level of high completion is now consistent with an excellent, well-trained network of Designated teachers in our schools. The PEP celebrates the child’s achievements, tracks their progress, and sets shared targets which capture aspiration and guide carers' support.
- Three care-experienced students will be attending Russell Group Universities following their excellent Key Stage 5 exams. All three of these children have been in our care since Primary School, and this outcome shows consistent progression through their education journey.

VS Annual Awards (February 2024)

- The VS Awards were held at the Head Office of BT which is a significant partner that supports our schools and children. The night celebrated and honoured the achievements of all our young people, shining a light on their excellence, dedication, and innovation throughout the year. Special guests were award-winning care-experienced speaker Jaz Ampaw-Farr and the rapping maths teacher Christian Foley, alongside an alumnus of the VS.

Priority Three: Education and aspirations

Key achievements in 2023/24

'Give it a Go' Enrichment Programme

'Give it a Go' is an aspirational enrichment programme created with local partners. The aim is to support our care-experienced young people to build social capital by getting involved in activities that build relationships, boost aspiration, develop cooperative working skills, and change the narrative around care to one of possibilities and achievement.

Activities in 2023/24 have included:

- Creation of a 'play in a day' by young people with the Half-moon Theatre.
- A trip to the National Theatre to watch Romeo and Juliet and participate in a behind-the-scenes session and attending a Sadler's Wells production.
- Group activity with West Ham United Foundation, which included a VIP tour of the Stadium.
- Sessions with the University of East London as part of the West Ham Experience.

Council Apprenticeships Initiative

- During 2023/24 the council identified several apprenticeship opportunities within the council, for care experienced young people. Colleagues from the Through Care Service and Supported Employment Team worked together with a group of interested candidates and support them through the necessary steps to consider these roles.

- Additional support was provided by our HR department, including a streamlined recruitment process. A group of care experienced young people undertook employability training and applications were made to apprenticeship posts with some candidates starting their new roles in early 2024.

Education, Employment & Training (EET) Advisors

- Two additional EET Advisors were recruited in August 2023 to increase our support to young people and ensure tailored support is provided to each young person who is 'not in education, employment or training' (NEET). The advisors work closely with the Supported Employment Team, Virtual School, Careers & Social Mobility Team and with major external stakeholders such as the NHS Recruitment Team, Canary Wharf Group and Civil Service, as well as local and national charities.
- Every year the EET Team provides bespoke support for young people to access opportunities and pursue their aspirations. In 2023 four young people were assisted in successfully accessing Civil Service Internships, including within the Crown Prosecution Service, Home Office and Cabinet Office. Other outcomes that the EET team have helped to secure played have included an unconditional offer to study medicine at Bristol University in 2024, and a hospital work placement for a young person aspiring to study medicine.

Priority Three: Education and aspirations

Activity highlights for 2024/25

Virtual School Priorities

- The Virtual School will continue to build its offer to meet the challenges of the extended duties from Government. These include support for Post 16, Children with a Social Worker and those in kinship arrangements. The focus for 2024/25 will be:
 - Monitoring of attendance at post-16.
 - Monitoring of attendance of children who are under Children Protection (CP) orders.
 - Training for Social Work teams and schools supporting the children covered by the extended duties.
 - Providing a PEP where possible via social care and the education provider for children post-16.
 - Exploring options for increasing post 16 engagement, mentoring and support into training education and work.

- The Virtual School will participate in a regional project to create workplace opportunities with London employers (with a ‘care and trauma aware’ approach) for care experienced young people. The project will be led by the West Ham Foundation and key employers. British Telecom (BT) is offering lead strategic support to the project.

Further development of joint working with the Department of Work and Pensions

- We will continue to pilot co-located working (see Priority 2) and make arrangements with the DWP for their attendance at Kitcat Terrace on Wednesday evenings as part of the evolving programme of support and activities for care experienced young people.

Council Apprenticeships Initiative

- We will review our initiative to identify apprenticeships within the council for care experienced young people with the aim of expanding the services that are involved so that we can increase the opportunities being offered. This will include learning from the experiences of those applied for and who took up apprenticeships in 2023/24 to find out what went well and what could be improved for future candidates.

“...when I first came to London, I didn’t know anything. ... supported me with college, and where I live, any problems I ever have”

Experiences of children: education and aspirations

'T' had been placed in stable foster care for an extended period and had excelled in all subjects, achieving outstanding GCSE grades.

During earlier stages of their education, there were delays in identifying T's learning needs. However, with intervention and support from the Virtual School Teacher (VST), an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) was implemented to address T's academic and broader needs.

The VST continued to provide assistance, collaborating with the school and carer to address emerging issues. This involved mediating discussions to determine the most effective strategies for supporting T's learning style and ensuring access to suitable courses aligned with their desired degree and career aspirations. To facilitate T's academic progress, the Virtual School and Children's Social Care covered the costs of one-on-one specialist tuition.

Supported by the Tower Hamlets Special Educational Needs Team, the VST ensured that T's EHCP, managed by another borough, underwent annual reviews to facilitate transition. Regular Personal Education Plan (PEP) meetings were conducted until the conclusion of Year 13 and are set to continue beyond T's 18th birthday.

T successfully completed their A-levels with A*, A, and B grades, securing admission to their preferred institution within the Russell Group University



Priority Four: Health and emotional wellbeing

Supporting children, through warm and nurturing care, to stay physically and emotionally healthy.

Key achievements in 2023/24

Health information in the Local Offer for Care Leavers

- The health and wellbeing section of the ‘Local Offer for Care Leavers’ has been updated, with input from health and children’s social care colleagues, including information about the free prescriptions for care leavers initiative.

Emotional wellbeing support for care experienced children

- A Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) representative now attends Wed evening drop-in sessions at Kitcat Terrace for young people. They are providing consultation and signposting for any young person seeking support for their emotional wellbeing and mental health.
- The CAMHS in Children’s Social Care Team has joined up with the Running Charity and staff from the Children’s Social Care Team to set up a running club for young people which meets weekly at Kitcat Terrace.

Improving awareness and understanding of health assessments

- Work has been undertaken during the year to develop a greater understanding of health assessments amongst children and young people. A TikTok video has been co-produced with them and one of our care experienced young people demonstrates what is involved at an assessment with local professionals. The video aims to explain what the health assessment is and how it can make a positive difference to health and wellbeing.
- Alongside the video a leaflet has been produced so that the information can be promoted and shared through several channels including the ‘Know Now’ App.

Identifying need at the earliest opportunity

- The use of the ‘Strength and Difficulties Questionnaire’ (SDQ) has been aligned with the Emotional Wellbeing Screenings carried out by the Tower Hamlets CAMHS in Social Care Team. The team has access to the completed SDQ and integrates it into screening consultations with the social worker. This ensures that any health needs or issues are identified quickly and children do not experience delays in being supported.
- Social Workers for care experienced children & young people have direct and easy access to CAMHS for advice and support in relation to all aspects of mental health concern in relation to the children they work with. Initial consultations can lead to direct assessment of the young persons needs, the provision of CAMHS therapeutic interventions, support to the network or signposting depending on the level of support needed.

Priority Four: Health and emotional wellbeing

Key achievements in 2023/24

Training and awareness for professionals

- Tower Hamlets CAMHS in Social Care Team contribute to the boroughs Work Learning Academy programme offering training in relation to working with complex childhood trauma as well as a collaborative approach to communicating with children called ‘Words & Pictures Storyboards’. This approach involves creating an illustrated narrative for children which helps them to understand events that are difficult for adults around them to talk about.

Health Strategy for Children Looked After and Care Leavers

- Further work was carried out with health colleagues in 2023/24 to produce the NHS North East London Children Looked After and Care Leavers Strategy. Consultation activities included a workshop with the ‘Named’ and Specialist Nurse for Children Looked After to share feedback from care experienced children to inform priority areas.

Enhanced support for children in contact with the Youth Justice Service

- A Specialist Nurse has been employed by the GP Care Group to sit within the Youth Justice Service (YJS). The YJS Nurse liaises with the Designated Nurse for ‘Looked After Children’ to establish how they can best work together for any care experienced children who come into contact with the YJS. This will include offering a holistic assessment and coordination of intervention and support.

Quality assurance work on Review Health Assessments

- Health colleagues in North East London Integrated Care Board have undertaken audits of Review Health Assessments using a standardised quality assurance tool. The audits were carried out at each place including Tower Hamlets.
- This work identified good practice, areas for further developments and recommendations. Action plans for each local area have been agreed and themes across the whole of North East London have been captured to help drive further improvement.

“...I was a bit worried at first but this time I feel listened to.”

Priority Four: Health and emotional wellbeing

Activity highlights for 2024/25

Health & Emotional Wellbeing assessment for unaccompanied children seeking asylum

- With CAMHS and Barts Health, funding has been secured to provide a mental health assessment alongside the initial health assessment for unaccompanied children seeking asylum.
- This approach would help to respond to the trauma that many children will have experienced before they left their country of origin through delivery of a seamless process.
- Investigations are underway to see if the assessments could take place at Kitcat Terrace. Using this site would mean young people are more easily supported by their Social Workers and can also access the many other services provided from the hub.

Launch of Health Strategy for Children Looked After and Care Leavers

- The NHS North East London Children Looked After and Care Leavers Strategy will be launched in early Summer 2024. Discussion will take place through the Corporate Parenting Board to consider how partners can jointly contribute to implementing the strategy objectives.

Strengthening joint working with Barnardos

- Barnardo’s Young people’s Emotional Wellbeing Service will be launching a service from Kitcat Terrace on a Wednesday evening including the provision of an emotional wellbeing group and access to individual therapy for young people aged up to 25 years old.

Children we care for & with care experience - Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA)

- The focus of the JSNA will be on further developing our understanding of the health and wellbeing needs of children and young people in our care and with care experience, as well as understanding how well their needs are identified and supported. The overall purpose is to help improve health and wellbeing outcomes for our children and young people.
- The development of the JSNA will take place over several months during 2024 and will involve reviewing and analysing evidence and available records and data. There will also be engagement work with our children, potentially through surveys and/or interviews as well as on-going partnership work with a wide range of stakeholders.
- The final JSNA will include recommendations and provide us with information and data that can inform our service development and improvement work and decision making across services and organisations.



Experiences of children: health and emotional wellbeing

'G' had experienced several placements since coming into care, including foster care and residential children's homes. Due to emotional and mental health difficulties, stemming from early childhood experiences, a new bespoke placement was secured for 'G'.

After this move an emotional wellbeing network was established to meet on a weekly basis to co-ordinate the various aspects of 'G's' care that could support their emotional wellbeing.

CAMHS led 'Therapeutic Life Story' work as well as delivering other support and treatment. 'G's' Virtual School Teacher supported them to build up to taking a school place in an independent provision specialising in working with children in need of small classroom learning.

The Social Worker worked very closely with the care placement staff, visiting 'G' weekly and enabling them to explore their relationship with their parent in a safe way.

Although 'G' can still struggle with emotions they have developed strategies to manage certain aspects of life, has made greater use of the support staff around them and uses techniques such as taking time out, articulating feelings and reflecting on what they find upsetting.

Priority Five: Co-production and engagement

Placing the experiences and views of children at the centre of what we do and how we do it.

Key achievements in 2023/24

Children Living in Care Council (CLICC)

The CLICC is supported by Tower Hamlets Young People’s Service (YPS) and provides opportunities for care experienced young people to get involved and share their feedback to help develop and improve services. Three age-specific groups have been established:

- Junior CLICC (8 to 12 years)
- Teen CLICC (13 to 17 years)
- CLICC Plus (18 to 24 years)

The YPS also organises and delivers a varied and inspiring range of activities and events for our care experienced young people. These provide opportunities for them to meet new people, build relationships and develop greater confidence. In 2023/24 this has included:

- Visit to ‘Go Ape’ outdoor activity centre
- Trips to the cinema
- Summer activities - barbeque, Urban Adventure Base, A-Team Arts
- Trip to Camber Sands

Programme for CLICC Plus Group

The programme offered on Wednesday evenings at Kitcat Terrace has been refreshed and expanded with a more structured approach with themed activities.

Wednesday night sessions at Kitcat Terrace have always offered a space when young people can socialise, engage in activities, eat together and relax. Whilst maintaining the time and environment for this, a broader programme has also been developed and there are now more opportunities to access support across a range of topics whilst visiting. From early 2024 onwards the Wednesday night programme has included:

- Support and guidance from Personal Advisors on any matter that affects care experienced young people.
- Tutors to provide support with Maths, English and other subjects, as well as being any issue related to education and planning the future.
- Representatives from Careers Young WorkPath to support with careers information, advice and guidance.
- Health representatives to provide advice, information and support about emotional wellbeing.
- Housing Services representatives to help with accommodation related queries and advice on money and other financial matter from a commissioned service.

Priority Five: Co-production and engagement

Key achievements in 2023/24

Strengthening links with Foster Carers

- Engagement work between Young People’s Services (YPS) and Foster Carers has helped to develop stronger relationships and a greater understanding of the offer from YPS and the benefits it can bring to children.
- Regular meetings such as ‘Chat & Chai’ have created spaces where these relationships can flourish further, resulting in more children joining the CLICC Groups and leading on to trips such as visit to Stubbers Adventure Centre in 2023 which brought families together with staff from the YPS.

Just4U Event

- We held another ‘Just4U Event’ in 2023, offering a wide range of fun and inspirational activities for children and their family members. The day was the result of planning and co-ordination across many teams, including Young Tower Hamlets, the Virtual School, Tower Hamlets Foster Carers Association and Children’s Social Care Teams.
- Haileybury Youth Centre was used as the venue, providing the space to host both indoor and outdoor activities and access to information, such as how Young Workpath can offer advice and information to young people planning their future. Once again, the event offered an opportunity for people to come together in a relaxed setting, strengthening relationships in a supportive environment.

Increasing ways to give feedback

- A working group was established in 2023 to develop a new way to collect feedback across the Supporting Families Division. Staff in service areas, including our children looked after and through care teams, are now using the new process. This involves seeking feedback from families and children who have had contact with our services through a cycle which runs three times a year.
- At the end of each cycle the findings are analysed and a report produced on the findings. Our aim for this work to contribute to how we can centre the voices and experiences of children and families in the way we reflect, develop practice, and in our organisational decision making.

‘Know Now’ App for Care Experienced Young People

- Further development on the app has taken place in 2023/24, with more regular updates and adding of information. Links have been made with more information sources as well, such as co-ordinating with updates from the Careers Network so that events and opportunities can be shared via the app and promoted with push notifications.

“I find that I understand when she is talking to me, she explains things in a language that I understand “

Priority Five: Co-production and engagement

Activity highlights for 2024/25

Refurbishment of Kitcat Terrace

- Some funding has been secured to deliver improvements to Kitcat Terrace as a venue that our care experienced young people use as a 'home away from home'. A site visit has taken place to review the space, consider what could be done and draft indicative costs so that options are clear.
- There has been engagement with young people to get their views and find out what they would like as the refurbishment plans develop. This work will continue during 2024/25 and we will also explore options to see if any additional funding could be made available to expand the scope of what is possible.

Strengthening and expanding the offer at Kitcat Terrace

- Alongside the plans to refurbish the space at Kitcat Terrace, work will continue to further develop the support offer from this location, building on the strong foundation that's in place.
- The expansion that has already been delivered has allowed services to gather more feedback about what works and what can be improved. This feedback loop helps all providers and professionals to engage more young people and offer support in the way that works best for them.

- As the programme becomes more established new links are also being forged with other partners that could help to broaden the support provided. As previously mentioned, work is underway for the DWP to attend Kitcat Terrace on a regular basis and it is hoped that health assessment for unaccompanied children seeking asylum can start to take place at this location.

Enhancing information sharing

- The Local Offer for Care Leavers has been regularly updated since it was first produced. Young people have reviewed the material and provided feedback on what they would like to see in it, as well as the format in which it is provided.
- Further refining of the Local Offer will take place in 2024/25 as we also look at how it can work alongside the Know Now App more effectively. The aim is for these tools to provide more dynamic and flexible channels by which they can find out what they are entitled to and hear about events and offers available to them. The views of young people will be at the centre of this work so that it fits with the ways in which they find and access information on a day to day basis.

Appendix A: Membership list for the Corporate Parenting Board (including officers who also report to the board)

Name	Job Title / Organisation	Name	Job Title / Organisation
Abdul Mannan	Councillor	Leo Major	Head of Children Looked After and Through Care Services
Samantha Anderson	Young Carers Engagement Officer, Young People Services, LBTH	Geraldine O'Donnell	Head of Safeguarding and Quality Assurance Service, LBTH
Susannah Beasley-Murray	Director, Supporting People, LBTH	Nji Oranu	Head of Children's Regulated Services and Resources, Supporting Families Division, LBTH
Natalie Bienfait	Councillor	Sheleena Powtoo	Improvement Delivery Lead, LBTH
Bodrul Choudhury	Councillor	Shirley Quarshie-Dunne	Child Protection and Reviewing Service, Children's Social Care, LBTH
Peter Cox	CAMHS in Social Care Team Lead, LBTH	Steve Reddy	Interim Corporate Director – Childrens Services
David Cregan	Headteacher Virtual School, LBTH	Foster Carer Representatives	Tower Hamlets Foster Carers Association
Kelly Duggan	Head of Youth Justice and Young Peoples Service, LBTH	Young People Representatives	Children Living in Care Council
Hasan Faruq	Youth Participation & Engagement Manage, Young People Services, LBTH	Lucy Satchell-Day	Head of Service, Tower Hamlets, Probation Service
Reagender Kang	Designated Nurse for CLA, NHS NEL CCG	Tracy Stanley	Strategy & Policy Officer - Children and Culture, LBTH
Ellie Kershaw	Director of Integrated Growth & Development, LBTH	Karen Swift	Director of Housing, LBTH
Julie Lorraine	Corporate Director Resources	Maium Talukdar	Chair / Councillor
		Benjamin Yeboah	Group Manager, Through Care Service, LBTH

Appendix B – CPB Meetings and Agendas 2023/24

MEETING	KEY AGENDA ITEMS
Standing Items	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update from Foster Care Representatives • Update from Children Living in Care Council (CLICC) • Performance Report • Case Study (based of theme of each meeting)
February 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report on Placement Stability & Permanency (numbers for Adoption and SGO) • Adopt London East (ALE) Annual Report • Update on Development of Corporate Parenting Strategy
April 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Briefing on Cost of Living Support for Care Leavers • Presentation on Initial Health Assessments & Review Health Assessments performance • NHS NEL Looked After Children/Young People and Care Leavers Strategy
July 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emotional wellbeing & mental health support and services for children we care for & care experienced young people • Findings from visit of National Implementation Adviser for Care Leavers • Proposals for Strengthening Corporate Parenting Board arrangements • Draft Scope for Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) for children in our care and care experienced young people
October 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Virtual School: Interim reporting of outcomes for Children in our Care • Update on Apprenticeships for Care Experienced Young People within the Council • Update on implementation of Care Experience as a Protected Characteristic • Actions in response to recommendations from Mark Riddell, National Implementation Adviser for Care Leavers • Care Plan Working Group, Summary Report (Jun 2023) • Independent Reviewing Officer Manager, Annual Report (20223 to 2023)
March 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Permanency & Placements Report • Adopt London East (ALE) Annual Report • Briefing on Children’s Social Care Government Reform – focus on Kinship Care Strategy • Launch of ‘Health Assessments’ information & promotion film • Progress update on Corporate Parenting Strategy Actions • Refreshed CPB Terms of Reference

Appendix C – Children's Social Care Key Performance Indicator Report Extract March 2024

Performance Measure	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	Period	National	Regional/ Statistical Neighbours
Looked After Children							
Number of Children Looked After	306	332	301	277	Snapshot		
Children Looked After (CLA) - rate per 10,000	47	52	47	43.1	Snapshot	71	71
No. of new Children Looked After (CLA) episodes in period	131	182	134	149	YTD		
No. of Children Looked After (CLA) exits in period	131	157	167	173	YTD		
% repeat Children Looked After (CLA) (entries that were re-entries within 2 years)	2.3%	2.7%	2.2%	6.7%	YTD		
Average no. of placement moves	1.5	1.6	1.6	1.4	Rolling Year		
Max. no of placement moves	5	8	8.0	6.0	Rolling Year		
% Children Looked After (CLA) long term placement stability	73.1%	58.0%	48%	68.8%	Snapshot	69%	68%
% of Children Looked After (CLA) with a named Social Worker (key worker or personal advisor)	100.0%	100.0%	100%	100%	Snapshot		
% of CLA entries with health assessment done within 20 days	91.5%	45.7%	55.5%	53.5%	YTD		
% of CLA >12 months who had an annual Health check	83.6%	93.9%	82.4%	92.7%	Snapshot	89%	92%
% of CLA >12 months who had an annual Dental check	44.6%	78.6%	90.7%	93.2%	Snapshot	76%	79%


Performance Measure	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	Period	National	Regional/ Statistical Neighbours
Section 6 - Care experienced young people							
% allocated care experienced young people "in touch" (17,18,19,20,21 yr. olds with activity updated within last year)	98.8%	88.9%	98.1%	98.2%	Snapshot		
% allocated care experienced young people 'in touch' and known to be EET	72.6%	64.3%	77.3%	76.8%	Snapshot		
% allocated care experienced young people 'in touch' and known to be in suitable accommodation	95.8%	83.6%	94.4%	92.8%	Snapshot		
% allocated care experienced young people with a pathway plan	98.2%	96.9%	95%	97.9%	Snapshot		
% allocated care experienced young people with pathway plan updated in last 6 months	95.6%	87.5%	88.3%	97.3%	Snapshot		

Performance Measure	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	Period	National	Regional/ Statistical Neighbours
Fostering and Adoption							
Number of Foster Carer Enquiries (initial contact)	193	240	127	512	YTD		
No. of Foster Carer Enquiries leading to Initial Visits	53	44	24	23	YTD		
% Initial visits completed within 5 working days	44%	46%	52.2%	50%	YTD		
Total Approved Foster Carers (incl. family & friends)	103	102	115	116	Snapshot		
Foster Carer Vacancy rate (excl. short breaks & non available places)	14.5%	8.1%	13.9%	9.1%	Snapshot	19.7%	19.9%
Foster Carer Occupancy Rate (excl. short breaks & non available places)	79.4%	76.5%	78.7%	73.9%	Snapshot	61.1%	62.9%
No. of children placed with In-house Foster Carers	109	116	123	119	Snapshot		
No. of children in Independent Fostering Agency (IFA) Placements	85	72	77	67	Snapshot		
Children in Residential Placements (incl dual registered schools and mother & baby units)	27	22	18	19	Snapshot		

Performance Measure	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	Period	National	Regional/ Statistical Neighbours
Fostering and Adoption (continued)							
Average time between a child entering care and moving in with its adoptive family	432.3	509.5	572.4	600.4	YTD (3 years)		
Average time between court authority to place a child and deciding on a match	245	300	369	447	YTD	175	182
% waiting less than 14 months between entering care and moving in with their family (14 months)	36.1%	35.7%	41.2%	57.1%	Snapshot		
Adoptions from care (number adopted and percentage leaving care who are adopted)	6.1%	8.7%	7.1%	1.1%	YTD	13	7.6
Number of Adoptions and Special Guardianship Orders granted for Looked After Children (S)	17	18	17	10	YTD		
The percentage of black and minority ethnic children leaving care who are adopted	3.9%	7.1%	5.4%	1.3%	YTD		
The percentage of children who ceased to be looked after because of an SGO	8.4%	2.5%	3%	4.6%	YTD		17.7%
Percentage of Children Looked After (CLA) placed for adoption within 12 months of agency decision	88%	50%	75%	50%	YTD		

Performance Measure	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23 Summer	2023/24 Autumn	Period
Virtual School					
% of pupils making expected progress in English and Maths	62%	67%	64%	69%	Termly
% of pupils where a Pupil Education Plans (PEP) meeting took place in the term	95%	96%	98%	100%	Termly
% of Pupil Education Plans (PEPs) which were signed off and RAG rated green	91%	78%	86%	87%	Termly

This page is intentionally left blank

<p>Non-Executive Report of the:</p> <p>Council</p> <p>Wednesday 17 July 2024</p>	
<p>Report of: Linda Walker, Interim Director of Legal and Monitoring Officer</p>	<p>Classification: Open (Unrestricted)</p>
<p>PROPORTIONALITY AND ALLOCATION OF PLACES ON COMMITTEES OF THE COUNCIL 24/25</p>	

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

Executive Summary

This report reviews proportionality as required by section 15 of the Local Government & Housing Act 1989 ('The 1989 Act'); recommends the establishment of committees and sub-committees as set out in the Council's Constitution; and proposes the allocation of places on those Committees between the political groups represented on the Authority.

A change in the political composition of the Council has occurred following Councillor Sabina Akhtar becoming an Independent (ungrouped) Member having previously been part of the Labour Group.

Consequent to this change, the Council must review the allocation of places on Committees and other bodies covered by the proportionality requirements in the Local Government and Housing Act 1989. The proposed new committee allocations are set out at paragraph 3.6 overleaf.

Recommendations:

The Council is recommended to:

1. Consider the review of proportionality as at Section 3 of this report and the allocation of seats on Committees and Sub-Committees for the remainder of the Municipal Year 2024/25 as set out at paragraph 3.6.
2. Note the Committees set out for the municipal year 2024/25 listed in paragraph 3.6 as agreed at the Annual Council meeting held on Wednesday 15 May 2024.
3. Agree any changes to the memberships (and substitutes) of those Committees as tabled at this Council meeting for approval.
4. To agree that the Monitoring Officer is delegated to approve the appointment of Councillors required to fill positions during the municipal year in line with the proportionality arrangements set out in this report on the nomination of the respective group leaders.
5. Agree that the Monitoring Officer be delegated to approve the appointment of ungrouped Councillors to any committee places not allocated by the Council to a political group, after consultation with those Councillors and the Speaker of the Council where there is only one application for the position (where there is more than one application these will be presented to Council for decision).

1. REASONS FOR THE DECISIONS

- 1.1 Changes to the political composition of the Council require a review of the proportionality calculations for the Council's Committees.

2. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 2.1 Council could determine a different arrangement of Committees to perform the required decision making and scrutiny functions and could also agree different changes to the proportionality on specific Committees to meet the same overall proportionality rules.

3. DETAILS OF THE REPORT

- 3.1 Section 15(1) of the 1989 Act requires the Council at, or as soon as practicable after, the Annual Meeting to carry out a review to determine the allocation to the political groups of seats on the Committees/ Panels of the Council. The principles which must be adopted are:
 - (i) that in relation to each body covered by the Act, all seats are not allocated to the same political group;

- (ii) that the majority of seats on each body must go to the political group with the majority on the Council (if any);
- (iii) that subject to (i) and (ii) the number of seats on the total of all the ordinary Committees/ Panels of the authority allocated to each group bears the same proportion as that group's proportion of the seats on the full Council; and
- (iv) that subject to the above three principles, the number of seats on each ordinary Committee of the authority allocated to each political group bears the same proportion as that group's proportion of the seats on the full Council.

3.2 Once the political groups have been allocated their places in accordance with the above rules, the Council may appoint ungrouped members to any remaining positions.

3.3 Neither the Cabinet, any executive sub-groups of the Cabinet, nor the Tower Hamlets Health and Wellbeing Board, are covered by the requirement for proportionality.

3.4 Following Councillor Sabina Akhtar's decision to become an Independent (ungrouped) Councillor, The political composition of the Council is as follows:

GROUP	SEATS (on Council)	PROPORTION ON COUNCIL	ENTITLEMENT (to seats on Committees)
Aspire	24	53.33%	41.06 (41)
Labour	17	37.78%	29.09 (29)
Ungrouped	4	0*	7 (remainder) – but see Para 3.5 below
	45		77

* Ungrouped Councillors are not included in the proportionality calculation. As two Councillors are required to form a group the Conservative, Green and Independent Councillors are included in the 'ungrouped' designation above.

Allocation of Places on Committees

3.5 According to the above calculation the Aspire Group would be entitled to 41 seats on these Committees, with the Labour Group being entitled to 29 and the remaining 7 being available for ungrouped Members. However, there is also a requirement in the above Act that the Aspire Group must have a majority on every Committee. This results in their allocation increasing to 43 and the ungrouped allocation consequently reducing to 5.

3.6 Applying the above principles, the proposed allocation of places on the Committees established by the Council for the remainder of the municipal year 2024/25 and covered by the requirement for proportionality, are listed

below. The allocations for the remainder of the municipal year or until the next review of proportionality, whichever is the sooner, is as follows:

Committee	Total	Aspire	Labour	Ungrouped
Licensing Committee	15	8	5	2
Overview and Scrutiny (plus 2 co-optees)	11	6	4	1
Strategic Development Committee	9	5	3	1
General Purposes Committee	9	5	3	1
Audit Committee	7	4	3	
Human Resources Committee	7	4	3	
Development Committee	7	4	3	
Pensions Committee	7	4	3	
Standards Advisory Committee (plus 5 co-optees)	5	3	2	
TOTALS	77	43	29	5

- 3.7 This will result in the allocation of all committee places amongst the political groups in accordance with the rules set out in the 1989 Act.
- 3.8 The changes result in two new places being available to ungrouped Members on Council Committees (Strategic Development Committee and Licensing Committee). Any applications to fill those posts that are received before the Council meeting will be reported at the meeting and can be agreed by Council. Where vacancies remain, Council is asked to agree that the Monitoring Officer can confirm later expressions of interest providing there is only one application for each vacancy. Where there are multiple applications, a report will be presented to a future Council meeting asked for a decision to be taken.

- 3.9 It is for the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to agree arrangements for its own sub-committees but no changes are required following the above and so the Sub-Committees remain:

Committee	Total	Aspire	Labour
Scrutiny Sub-Committee	7	4	3

4. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The purpose of the report is to ensure all political groups receive an appropriate allocation of Non-Executive Committee seats.

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.

- 5.2 None specific to this report.

6. COMMENTS OF THE CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER

- 6.1 There are no direct financial considerations arising from this report.

7. COMMENTS OF LEGAL SERVICES

- 7.1 The principles of proportionality for allocation of places on committees are set out in Section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989. These principles require that that the number of seats on the ordinary committees of a relevant authority which are allocated to each political group bears the same proportion to the total of all the seats on the ordinary committees of that authority as is borne by the number of members of that group to the membership of the authority. Further detailed rules for the allocation of seats on committees are set out in the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990.

- 7.2 At the Annual Meeting of Council on 15 May 2024, approval was given to the Director of Legal & Interim Monitoring Officer to approve appointments of Councillors in accordance with recommendation 4.

- 7.3 Part B, Section 24 (Functions of the Chief Executive, Monitoring Officer, Chief Officers and Corporate Directors) authorises the Monitoring Officer to make appointments to the Council's Committees in line with agreed proportionality calculations as nominated by the Council's political groups.
-

Linked Reports, Appendices and Background Documents

Linked Report

- None.

Appendices

- None.

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

Non-Executive Report of the: Council 17 th July 2024	 TOWER HAMLETS
Report of: Linda Walker, Interim 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

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

11.1 Question from Councillor Amin Rahman

Could the Lead member provide an update on the council's outstanding accounts requiring sign off? These accounts were left unsigned for 6 years under the previous administration.

11.2 Question from Councillor Mufheeda Bustin

The Mayor's Budget for 2024-25 included targets for generating income from the island's parks and open spaces. Could the Lead Member provide an update on these plans including what resident engagement has taken place or what is planned?

11.3 Question from Councillor Ahmodul Kabir

Can the Lead Member feedback on progress with the recommendations following the LGA Corporate Peer Review that took place in September last year?

11.4 Question from Councillor Marc Francis

Further to the answer to my question at Full Council on 8th May confirming that the Mayor cancelled the proposed changes at the junction of Fairfield Road and Tredegar Road to improve safety for pedestrians and cyclists, will the Lead Member now be instructing the Highways Team to implement these changes?

11.5 Question from Councillor Bodrul Choudhury

I want to start by thanking the Mayor for delivering his manifesto pledge to create extra parking spaces in my ward Bromley South, especially on Devons Road and Empson Street.

However, can the Lead Member tell us what he will do to help local residents who although grateful, have raised issues with the high curbs which can damage cars driving on to and off the raised parking spaces on Empson Street.

Furthermore, I have seen there is more room for additional car parking spaces that could benefit my constituents.

11.6 Question from Councillor Asma Islam

Can the lead member update me on the progress of the changes being made to the housing options service?

11.7 Question from Councillor Jahed Choudhury

Can the Lead Member provide an update on the current Best Value Inspection?

11.8 Question from Councillor Mohammad Chowdhury

There has been an increase in knife and gun crime incidents over the last few weeks, including in Mile End, could the lead member inform me what the council is doing to prevent this?

11.9 Question from Councillor Suluk Ahmed

Can the Lead Member update the council on the work of the Women's Commission to date?

11.10 Question from Councillor Amy Lee

There have been recent reports of a harrowing and complex court case that received attention from the national press, in which the council was named and criticised by the East London Family Court for its conduct in failing to protect a mother and her children.

Can the lead member inform me as to how the council is responding to the instructions of the court and what actions it is taking to ensure that an incident like this does not happen again?

11.11 Question from Councillor Iqbal Hossain

Can the Lead Member update the council on the delivery of the Mayor's Education Maintenance Allowance and University Bursaries for the next academic year. It is understood from various media sources these provisions have not been delivered to date.

11.12 Question from Councillor Sabina Khan

Would the chief executive provide council with the membership list of the LBTH Women's Commission

11.13 Question from Councillor Ahmodur Khan

Can the Lead Member tell us how the council has ensured that the essential works required to Wood Wharf School will be completed on time and within budget given the historic issues with delivering these works?

11.14 Question from Asma Begum

Would the lead member consider meeting with Victoria Park Friends in order to receive feedback and coordinate how they can work together during and after the summer festival season.

11.15 Question from Councillor Abdul Mannan

Can the Lead Member update the council on what is being done to tackle the worrying levels of crime and ASB in and around Rounton Road?

11.16 Question from Councillor Amina Ali

Could the lead member inform me as to how many residents have been able to access the new council tax relief scheme?

11.17 Question from Councillor Abdul Malik

Can the Lead Member update us on the decision taken last September to open up our roads?

11.18 Question from Councillor Rebakah Sultana

Could the lead member inform me how many bin collections have been missed in the last 12 months?

11.19 Question from Councillor Harun Miah

Can the Lead Member set out what action is being taken to address traffic issues on Whitethorn Street which is a very narrow two-way road with parking on both sides?

11.20 Question from Councillor Shubo Hussain

Many residents have contacted me worried about increased costs for their leisure services and loss of access to other leisure facilities – could the lead member inform me as to how many people have cancelled their memberships and does the council have any mitigation measures to retain customers who may consider leaving?

11.21 Question from Councillor James King

Could the lead member inform me as to whether there has been progress or discussions with the Tower Hamlets Archives regarding the need to protect the archives and ensure that they are in a suitable and secure space?

11.22 Question from Councillor Sirajul Islam

Could the mayor inform me as to whether the council has been able to make progress on the release of LIF funding from TFL?

11.23 Question from Councillor Nathalie Bienfait

I was recently shocked to learn that in the period between 1 April 2022 and 28 February 2023, we employed a total of 335 individuals with an average of 5214.80 hours were worked by staff on zero-hours contracts per month. How is the Administration supporting workers on zero-hours contracts to ensure that they are given proper notice of cancelled shifts and for them to receive sick pay, and how it is working to bring all staff onto safer and more appropriate contracts?

11.24 Question from Councillor Peter Golds

Has the council met or arranged to meet representatives of Transport for London with reference to the provision of bus routes in the borough, and in particular the threatened D7 route which is a vital link for Poplar, Cubitt Town and Island Gardens and Burdett Road.