

# Overview & Scrutiny Committee

## Agenda

**Tuesday, 26 November 2024 6.30 p.m.**  
**Council Chamber - Town Hall, Whitechapel**

### **Members:**

**Chair:** Councillor Jahed Choudhury

**Vice Chair:** Councillor Bodrul Choudhury

Councillor Suluk Ahmed, Councillor Ahmodur Khan, Councillor Abdul Mannan, Councillor Bellal Uddin, Councillor Asma Islam, Councillor Amy Lee, Councillor James King, Councillor Abdi Mohamed, Councillor Nathalie Bienfait, 1 vacancy.

### **Co-opted Members:**

Jahid Ahmed and Halima Islam

**Deputies:** Councillor Ahmodul Kabir, Councillor Saif Uddin Khaled, Councillor Amin Rahman, Councillor Maisha Begum, Councillor Mufeedah Bustin and Councillor Marc Francis

[The quorum for this body is 3 voting Members]

### **Contact for further enquiries:**

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<http://www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/committee>

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## Public Information

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## A Guide to Overview and Scrutiny Committee

The Local Government Act 2000 established the overview and scrutiny function for every council, with the key roles of:

- Scrutinising decisions before or after they are made or implemented
- Proposing new policies and commenting on draft policies, and
- Ensuring customer satisfaction and value for money.

The aim is to make the decision-making process more transparent, accountable and inclusive, and improve services for people by being responsive to their needs. Overview & Scrutiny membership is required to reflect the proportional political makeup of the council and, as well as council services, there are statutory powers to examine the impact of work undertaken by partnerships and outside bodies, including the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership and local health bodies.

In Tower Hamlets, the function is exercised by the Overview & Scrutiny Committee (OSC). The OSC considers issues from across the council and partnership remit. The Committee has 3 Sub-Committees:

- Children & Education Scrutiny Sub Committee
- Health & Adults Scrutiny Sub Committee
- Housing & Regeneration Scrutiny Sub Committee

The committee's quorum is three voting members.

### Public Engagement

OSC usually meets once per month (a few days before Cabinet, to allow scrutiny of decisions scheduled to be made there). These meetings are open to the public to attend, and a timetable for meeting dates and deadlines can be found on the Council's website. More detail of how residents can engage with Overview and Scrutiny are available here

[Overview and scrutiny \(towerhamlets.gov.uk\)](https://towerhamlets.gov.uk/overview-and-scrutiny)

# London Borough of Tower Hamlets

## Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Tuesday, 26 November 2024

6.30 p.m.

### SECTION ONE

#### 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

To receive any apologies for absence.

#### 2. DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTEREST AND OTHER INTERESTS (PAGES 9 - 10)

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

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

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

#### 3. UNRESTRICTED MINUTES (PAGES 11 - 20)

To confirm as a correct record of the proceedings the unrestricted minutes of the meeting(s) of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 2 & 30 September 2024

#### 4. OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE QUERY AND ACTION LOG

*To Follow*

#### 5. UNRESTRICTED REPORTS 'CALLED IN'

No decisions of the Mayor in Cabinet 16 October 2024 in respect of unrestricted reports on the agenda were 'called in'.



## **6. REQUESTS TO SUBMIT PETITIONS**

To receive any petitions (to be notified at the meeting).

## **7. APPOINTMENT OF CO-OPTED MEMBER TO SUB-COMMITTEE (Pages 21 - 24)**

## **8. APPOINTMENT OF COMMUNITY SAFETY LEAD**

To be agreed by members in the meeting

## **9. SCRUTINY SPOTLIGHT**

### **9.1 Chief Executive Spotlight (Pages 25 - 26)**

Provide critical friend challenge on Chief Execs delivery and priorities

### **9.2 Waste and Recycling Investment (Pages 27 - 40)**

Review the progress of £5 Million Waste and Recycling investment

## **10. SCRUTINY EXECUTIVE PROTOCOL**

## **11. UNRESTRICTED REPORTS FOR CONSIDERATION**

No items to review from the Cabinet meeting 27 November 2024.

## **12. SCRUTINY LEADS UPDATES (PAGES 51 - 52)**

To hear updates from the Overview and Scrutiny Leads on their work across the Council.

## **13. PRE-DECISION SCRUTINY OF UNRESTRICTED CABINET PAPERS**

To consider the agenda of the 27 November 2024 meeting of Cabinet and agree pre-decision scrutiny questions/comments.

The agenda can be found by following [this link](#).

## **14. FORTHCOMING DECISIONS (PAGES 53 - 80)**

To review forthcoming decisions expected to be taken by the Mayor from the Executive Forward Plan and identify any areas for further Scrutiny for committee.

## **15. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**



In view of the contents of the remaining items on the agenda the Committee is recommended to adopt the following motion:

“That, under the provisions of Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985, the press and public be excluded from the remainder of the meeting for the consideration of the Section Two business on the grounds that it contains information defined as Exempt in Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act, 1972.”

### **EXEMPT/CONFIDENTIAL SECTION (Pink Papers)**

The exempt committee papers in the agenda will contain information, which is commercially, legally or personally sensitive and should not be divulged to third parties. If you do not wish to retain these papers after the meeting, please hand them to the Committee Officer present.

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

To consider any other unrestricted business that the Chair considers to be urgent.

## **SECTION TWO**

### **17. EXEMPT/ CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES (PAGES 81 - 84)**

To confirm as a correct record of the proceedings the restricted minutes of the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 30 September 2024

### **18. EXEMPT/ CONFIDENTIAL REPORTS 'CALLED IN'**

To consider any decisions of the Mayor in Cabinet in respect of exempt/ confidential reports on the agenda were 'called in'.

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

To consider the exempt/ confidential agenda of the 27 November 2024 meeting of Cabinet and agree pre-decision scrutiny questions/comments.

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

To consider any other exempt/ confidential business that the Chair considers to be urgent.



**Next Meeting of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee**

Tuesday, 17 December 2024 at 6.30 p.m. to be held in Council Chamber - Town Hall,  
Whitechapel



The best of London in one borough

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

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# 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 DPI dispensation or for an interest to be treated as sensitive interest.

### (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 OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**HELD AT 18:04 ON MONDAY, 2 SEPTEMBER 2024**

**COUNCIL CHAMBER - TOWN HALL, WHITECHAPEL**

**Members Present in Person:**

Councillor Jahed Choudhury	
Councillor Bodrul Choudhury	Scrutiny Lead for Housing and Regeneration
Councillor Suluk Ahmed	Scrutiny Lead for Community Safety
Councillor Ahmodur Khan	Scrutiny Lead for Resources
Councillor Abdul Mannan	Scrutiny Lead for Children and Education
Councillor Bellal Uddin	Scrutiny Lead for Adults and Health Services
Councillor Asma Islam	
Councillor Amy Lee	
Councillor James King	
Councillor Nathalie Bienfait	Scrutiny Lead for Environment and the Climate Emergency

**Other Councillors Present in Person:**

Councillor March Francis	
Councillor Sirajul Islam	
Councillor Kabir Ahmed	(Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Inclusive Development and Housebuilding)

**Co-optees In Attendance Virtually:**

Halima Islam

**Officers Present in Person:**

Karen Swift	(Director of Housing)
Abul Kalam	(Service Manager)
Afazul Hoque	(Head of Corporate Strategy & Communities)
Thomas French	(Democratic Services Officer (Committees))

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Cllr Amina Ali and Jahid Ahmed. Halima Islam joined the meeting online.

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

No declarations of disclosable pecuniary interest were received at the meeting.

### **3. UNRESTRICTED REPORTS 'CALLED IN'**

#### **3.1 Approval of the council's revised Homelessness Accommodation Placement Policy**

Councillor Marc Francis, with Councillor Sirajul Islam presented the reasons for call-in on behalf of the Call-in members and proposed alternative course of action as set out in the report.

The committee made the following comments and questions:

- What fundamental change do you think the council could make to ensure the homelessness policy works better? Cllr Marc Francis stated the council may find itself in a position where they have to move residents far away, but the council is not in that position. Residents were not consulted on this and the council does not understand what impact this will have on residents who are moved. The council should allocate funding better for housing homeless residents closer to the borough.
- What are the benefits of calling in this decision for review? Cllr Marc Francis stated that it would give the council time to understand the impact of this decision on residents on being moved away and give time to find appropriate funding for homelessness in the borough.
- What is equality impact of this decision on residents? Cllr Sirajul Islam detailed mental health issues on residents who are moved far away from the borough and isolation that comes with a move like that. There are religious implications on families being moved away from important religious and cultural services, that they could no longer access. Cllr Marc Francis stated an example of Somali Families in borough who have reported concerns of being moved away from services and important connection that are vital to wellbeing of their community.

Councillor Kabir Ahmed, Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Inclusive Development and Housebuilding, with Karen Swift, Director of Housing, Abul Kalam, Service Manager set out the context of the Cabinet Decision and reviewed the key elements of the decision.

The committee made the following comments and questions:

- The council is currently providing new schemes for supporting homelessness residents, why is this decision being made when the new schemes have not been reviewed yet? Officers confirmed the new schemes are only pilots with limited funding, that should run a long side a range of measures the council delivers.
- How can the council ensure the quality and suitability of the temporary accommodation? Cllr Kabir Ahmed detailed the increased staffing the council has put in place to secure temporary accommodation and monitoring and inspecting accommodation offers. Officers detailed the inspection procedures that the council has put in place, as well as

feedback the council seeks from residents in temporary accommodation.

- The cost of housing residents outside the borough, would comfortably house a large majority of residents within vacant rentable properties in the borough. Does the council not have a suitable reputation with landlords to find rentable accommodation within the borough? Cllr Kabir Ahmed detailed that often landlords do not wish to house homeless residents, based on perceived limited earning potential or discrimination. While the council does work with many private rentals across the borough, many properties will remain empty, and the council cannot do much about that. Members of the committee should engage with landlords and seek their feedback on how they can help with homelessness in the borough.
- Placing families away from their wider family and communities is hard for members to consider, how do you ensure they will get support if they are moved further away? How far away is too far away? Cllr Kabir Ahmed stated that the focus is to keep residents as close as possible to the borough, and the policy will be still to place within borough where possible. However the housing options will be based on the need of the resident and it will be what can be found at the time, within the best possible distance.
- Has the council considered the impact moving families will have on children's education? Officers confirmed that when a longer distance move is being considered, moving schools is recommended, so travel is less of an issue. Children undertaking GCSEs however are recommended to stay within their current school.
- Will the council consider supporting additional cost that will come from moving further away, with children still in school? Officers confirmed that in emergencies it is considered, but the policy currently does not allow for any funding in this way.

Members expressed concern about limited time that the chair set out for the call in, especially as this meeting only has the call in as an agenda item. Officers confirmed that the meeting was following the call in procedure as set out in council constitution.

After hearing from the Call-in Members, Lead Member and officers, the Committee considered the reasons for the Call-in and discussed if the committee should take further action.

## **DECISION**

The Committee **RESOLVED** that no further action would be taken on the call in.

The meeting ended at 19:40

Chair, Councillor Jahed Choudhury  
Overview & Scrutiny Committee

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**LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS**

**MINUTES OF THE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**HELD AT 6.35 P.M. ON MONDAY, 30 SEPTEMBER 2024**

**COUNCIL CHAMBER - TOWN HALL, WHITECHAPEL**

**Members Present in Person:**

Councillor Jahed Choudhury	Chair
Councillor Suluk Ahmed	Scrutiny Lead for Community Safety
Councillor Ahmodur Khan	Scrutiny Lead for Resources
Councillor Abdul Mannan	Scrutiny Lead for Children and Education
Councillor Bellal Uddin	Scrutiny Lead for Adults and Health Services
Councillor Asma Islam	
Councillor Amy Lee	
Councillor James King	
Councillor Nathalie Bienfait	Scrutiny Lead for Environment and the Climate Emergency

**Members In Attendance Virtually:**

Councillor Amina Ali

**Other Councillors Present in Person:**

Councillor Gulam Kibria	(Cabinet Member for Health, Wellbeing and Social Care)
Choudhury	
Councillor Sirajul Islam	

**Co-optees Present in Person:**

Jahid Ahmed  
Halima Islam

**Officers Present in Person:**

Afazul Hoque	(Head of Corporate Strategy & Policy)
Juliet Alilionwu	Service Head - Ageing Well - Integrated Comm & Strat, Policy & Improv
Jill Bayley	(Head of Legal Safeguarding)
Noorjahan Begum	Senior Commissioning Manager - Integrated Comm & Strat, Policy & Improv
Andy Grant	(Interim Programme Director of Procurement)
Julie Lorraine	(Corporate Director Resources)
Warwick Tomsett	Joint Director, Integrated Commissioning
Joel West	(Democratic Services Team Leader (Committee))

**Officers In Attendance Virtually:**

Georgia Chimbani (Corporate Director, Health and Adult Social Care)

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

There were none.

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

There were none.

**3. UNRESTRICTED REPORTS 'CALLED IN'**

**3.1 Call-In of Domiciliary Care Service Contract award - unrestricted aspects**

Call-In Members' Presentation

Councillor Sirajul Islam presented the reasons for call-in and proposed alternative course of action on behalf of the call-in members, and added that he and the other call in members were troubled by the apparent haste and secrecy surrounding the Mayor in Cabinet decision on 11 September.

Following questions from Committee members, Councillor Sirajul Islam stated he could not recall a similar instance of a report presented to Cabinet with as little notice: the report in question was published a matter of hours prior to the Cabinet meeting start.

Lead Member's presentation

Councillor Gulam Kibria Choudhury, Cabinet Member for Health, Wellbeing and Social Care, supported by Georgia Chimbani, Corporate Director Health and Adult Social Care, set out the context of the Cabinet Decision and reviewed the key elements of the decision, reflecting that:

- The decision was of critical importance to ensure continuity of and quality of care for the borough's most vulnerable residents.
- Executive Members had no direct role in the selection and award process, but had set out the framework and principles underlying the procurement process. Officers had proposed a recommendation for the award of contracts which the Mayor had accepted.
- Julie Lorraine, Corporate Director Resources, provided more detail on the procurement process. Julie explained that the award decision didn't need to come to Cabinet and could have been taken as an individual Mayoral decision, but the Mayor had opted for Cabinet consideration to maximise transparency.
- Whilst regrettably the report could not be presented to OSC in advance of Mayoral decision, there would always be occasions, like this, where the urgency of a matter required exceptions to be made to normal governance and oversight arrangements.

Following questions from Committee members, Councillor Gulam Kibria Choudhury, Georgia, Julie and supporting officers provided more details on:



- The reason for the lateness and urgency. Whilst officers had been preparing for the report to be presented to 11 September Cabinet, Georgia began at the Council on 2 September 2024. Upon learning of the upcoming decision and report, Georgia wanted to obtain additional detail, background and assurance on the reasons for urgency before she was content to let the report proceed. The date of agreement reached to move forward and make the award was 11 September.
- The rationale behind the commissioning approach including increasing the number of providers. The procurement process began in July 2023. The new approach was scrutinised at this time by the Health and Adults Scrutiny Sub Committee.
- The Lead Member confirmed he had received regular updates on the procurement process. He indicated he had full trust in the officers and their recommendations, and he was comfortable with the process to bring the report for decision by the Mayor on 11 September without first consulting OSC.
- Explained the requirements for CQC registration by providers in LBTH. Officers were content that adequate controls and mechanisms were in place to ensure the quality of services from all providers could be monitored and assessed.
- Explained that the Council remains a signatory to the Unison Ethical Care Charter. The procurement award was compliant with the charter.

Note from Chair on his agreement for the Domiciliary Care Contract award decision to be taken under the Special Urgency Provision

At this point, the Chair asked the Committee to note that he felt he was given insufficient information regarding the Cabinet report prior to informing officers that he agreed that it was urgent and could not reasonably be deferred. He asked members to note that he was not directly informed that the contract award was approximately £190 million and was not provided with a copy of the full unrestricted report.

#### 4. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

The Committee indicated it wished to go into private session to consider the confidential aspects of the Cabinet report and appendices. However, members indicated they would prefer to resume the public part of the meeting prior to voting on the call in. Therefore the exclusion of press and public motion as set out in the agenda was amended and resolved as follows:

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

**RESOLVED:**

1. That in accordance with the provisions of Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985, the press and public be excluded for an indefinite period (and upon expiry of which the Committee would indicate

to any waiting members of press or public) on the grounds that discussion in this period would reveal information defined as exempt or confidential in Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government, Act 1972, paragraphs 3 and 5.

## **5. EXEMPT/ CONFIDENTIAL REPORTS 'CALLED IN'**

### **5.1 Call-In of Domiciliary Care Service Contract award - exempt aspects**

#### Call-In Members' Presentation

Councillor Sirajul Islam did not wish to add any matters to his earlier points that would require disclosure of exempt information.

#### Lead Member's presentation

Councillor Gulam Kibria Choudhury, Cabinet Member for Health, Wellbeing and Social Care, supported by Georgia Chimbani, Corporate Director Health and Adult Social Care and Julie Lorraine, Corporate Director Resources, explained the issues underlying the need for an urgent decision on 11 September.

Following questions from Committee members, Councillor Gulam Kibria Choudhury, Georgia, Julie and supporting officers provided more details on some of the issues discussed.

#### Consideration of the Call In

After hearing from the Call-in Member and the Lead Member, the Committee considered the following issues and concerns:

- Some Members indicated they were reassured by the responses given by the Lead Member and Officers to the concerns raised in the call in regarding the Unison Ethical Care Charter status and the CQC rating applicability to successful suppliers.
- Some Members felt the question of why the Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting the day before Cabinet, on 10 September 2024, had not been informed of the decision had not been satisfactorily answered. Members noted that the Lead Member had confirmed he had received regular updates on the procurement; some members recalled attending several Audit Committee meetings earlier in the year to discuss related matters. Members indicated that, as officers and the executive were apparently conscious of the upcoming decision for some time, they could not understand why OSC had not been informed of the contract award until the day of the Cabinet meeting.

## **DECISION**


The Committee RESOLVED that:

1. No further action would be taken on the call in.

The meeting ended at 8.45 p.m.

Chair, Councillor Jahed Choudhury  
Overview & Scrutiny Committee

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<p>Non-Executive Report of the:</p> <p><b>Overview &amp; Scrutiny Committee</b></p> <p><b>Tuesday, 26 November 2024</b></p>	 <p><b>TOWER HAMLETS</b></p>
<p><b>Report of:</b> Matthew Mannion Head of Democratic Services</p>	<p><b>Classification:</b> Open (Unrestricted)</p>
<p><b>Appointment of Co-opted Member to Sub-Committee</b></p>	

<b>Originating Officer(s)</b>	Justina Bridgeman, Democratic Services Officer
<b>Wards affected</b>	All

## Executive Summary

The Committee is asked to note the selection process for one co-opted member and appoint them to the Health and Adults Scrutiny Sub Committee.

## Recommendations:

The Committee is recommended to:

1. Agree the appointment of Alia Begum to the position of Resident Co-optee on the Health and Adults Scrutiny Sub Committee for the period of the current administration.

## 1. REASONS FOR THE DECISIONS

- 1.1 To appoint a nominated candidate to a role on the Health and Adults Scrutiny Sub Committee in accordance with the Overview and Scrutiny Committee Procedure Rules and accordance with the terms of reference the Health and Adult Scrutiny Sub Committee.

## 2. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 2.1 There are no alternative options. The proposed candidate has been nominated as the Resident Tower Hamlets representative on the Health and Adults Scrutiny Sub-Committee.

## **2. DETAILS OF THE REPORT**

### **Introduction**

- 3.1 The terms of reference on the Health and Adults Scrutiny Sub Committee provide for Tower Hamlets to nominate a non-voting Co-opted Member.
- 3.2 The Committee is asked to appoint Alia Begum to the position of Resident representative on the Health and Adults Scrutiny Sub Committee.
- 3.3 An open, competitive recruitment process has been undertaken to select the preferred candidate for this role. An advert promoting the role was put on the Council's website and the role was also advertised through social media. Shortlisting and interviews were undertaken by a dedicated mixed interview panel including the Chair of the Health and Adults Scrutiny Sub Committee and officers. As a result of the selection process, Alia Begum was selected as the preferred candidate. The Committee is asked to formally appoint Alia to the resident co-optee position on the Health and Adults Scrutiny Sub Committee for the period of the current administration.

## **4. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 There are no direct equalities implications arising from the recommendation in this report.

## **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 The Council's Code of Conduct for Members applies to scrutiny co-optees. Training will be provided by officers to the co-opted representatives on the Code of Conduct which will include declarations of interest, exempt reports and data protection.

## **6. COMMENTS OF THE CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER**

- 6.1 This report provides an update on the selection of a co-opted representative for scrutiny sub-committee and asks the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to endorse the candidate selected. The only financial implication as a result of the recommendation within this report is to note that each co-opted representative is entitled to claim an attendance allowance of £136 per meeting. This will be funded within existing budget.

## **7. COMMENTS OF LEGAL SERVICES**

- 7.1 Pursuant to section 9FA (4) and (5) of the Local Government Act 2000, an overview and scrutiny committee of a local authority, or any sub-committee of such a committee, may include persons who are not members of the authority but any persons who are not members of the local authority are not entitled to vote at any meeting of its overview and scrutiny committee, or any sub-committee of such a committee, except where this is permitted under Schedule A1 to the Act. Paragraph 11 of Schedule A1 permits a Local Authority to allow a co-opted representative to the Committee or sub-committee to vote in accordance with a scheme. The Council's Constitution permits the appointment of a Resident representative to the Health and Adults sub-committee.

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### **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**

- None.

#### **Officer contact details for documents:**

Justina Bridgeman, Democratic Services Team Leader (Committee)

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Non-Executive Report of the:  <b>Overview and Scrutiny Committee</b>  26 November 2024	
<b>Report of:</b> Steven Halsey, Chief Executive	<b>Classification:</b> Unrestricted
Chief Executive Spotlight	

<b>Originating Officer(s)</b>	Steven Halsey, Chief Executive
<b>Wards affected</b>	All Wards

**Executive Summary**

This is a spotlight with the Chief Executive which provides an opportunity for the Overview & Scrutiny Committee to engage with the Chief Executive on strategic priorities, performance, and key challenges. Gain insight into progress on corporate objectives and emerging issues affecting the borough. Ensure transparency and accountability in the delivery of council services

**Recommendations:**

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee is recommended to:

1. Note the presentation from the Chief Executive and provide any further thoughts, questions or comments on the update.

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<p>Non-Executive Report of the:</p> <p><b>Overview and Scrutiny Committee</b></p> <p>26 November 2024</p>	 <p><b>TOWER HAMLETS</b></p>
<p><b>Report of:</b> Simon Baxter, Corporate Director for Communities</p>	<p><b>Classification:</b> Unrestricted</p>
<p><b>Mayors Waste Improvement Programme (MWIP) 2024/25</b></p>	

<p><b>Originating Officer(s)</b></p>	<p>Filuck Miah, Corporate Strategy and Communities</p>
<p><b>Wards affected</b></p>	<p>All wards</p>

**Summary**

This cover report outlines the Mayors Waste Improvement Programme (MWIP) 2024/25 and sets out:

Board Structure, Governance and Oversight, Service Improvements, Communication & Engagement, Achievement, Budget and Sustainability

**Recommendations:**

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee is recommended to:

1. Review the papers on the topic in order to inform discussion for the Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting.

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TOWER HAMLETS



# Mayors Waste Improvement Programme (MWIP) 2024/25

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## Overview and Scrutiny 26<sup>th</sup> November 2024

**£5m** extra investment  
**72** new waste staff  
**22** new vehicles  
**155** newly trained street cleaners  
Twice daily cleaning of **115** main streets

One dedicated waste team keeping Tower Hamlets clean



Before



During



After



# Introduction



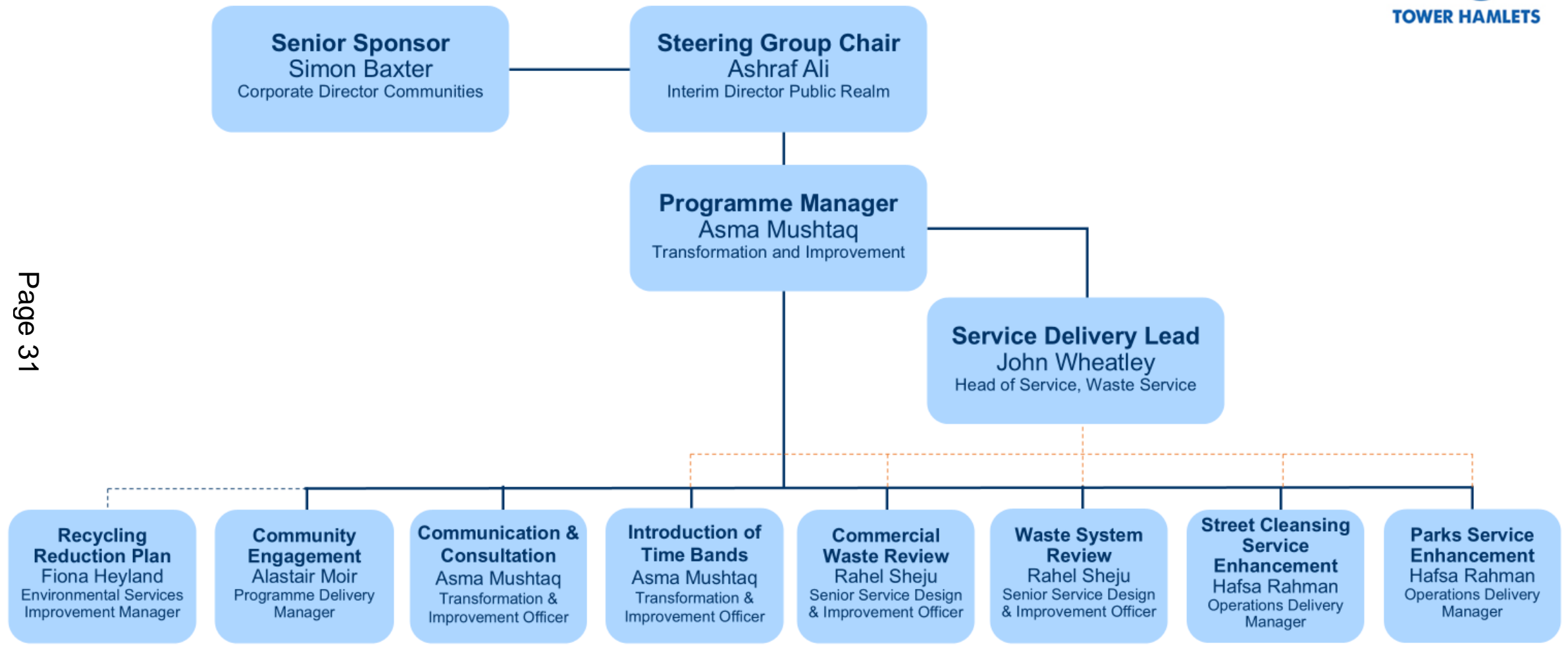
- The Mayors Waste Improvement Programme (MWIP) delivery plan for 2024/2025 was approved in April 2024. The mayor has invested £5m for 2024/25 to improve the service.
- There were concerns that the waste services were failing, and that the overall performance was poor and lacked visibility. This presentation provides information about the waste services improvement plan which seeks to address these failures with a response that will review, recover, and deliver an improved waste service for residents and businesses in the borough.
- Regular progress reports are provided to MWIP Steering Group, MAB and Cabinet, detailing achievements that have been made against workstreams.



# MWIP Board Structure



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# Governance and Oversight



- The MWIP steering group meets monthly to oversee progress of the project
- Working Groups have been created for each workstream and meet regularly. They consist of a project lead and cross-service officers with specialist knowledge relating to the workstream
- The programme manager meets regularly with the project leads to ensure any complex areas are resolved and escalated
- Regular briefings are shared with the mayor and lead member and quarterly MAB/Cabinet reports are also provided, to report on the progress of the MWIP





# Service Improvements



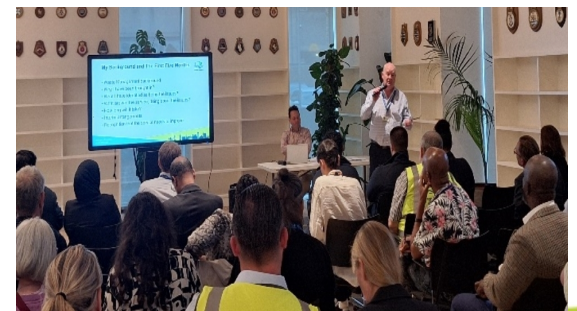
- Enhanced waste clearance arrangements 7days a week, AM, PM and nighttime
- Separation of domestic and commercial waste collections
- Introduction of time banding in high streets and town centers to enforce unregulated waste
- Introduction of additional weekday and weekend sweeping beats in hotspot areas around the borough and targeted deep cleansing.
- Independent assessment of street cleanliness through Keep Britain Tidy Group
- Deployment of Find It Fix It vehicles to respond immediately to problem areas
- Updated service arrangements for recycling on estates
- Introduction of the pilot for daily use recycling sacks



# Communication and engagement



- Link to video [TH RECYCLE AD D2.mp4](#)
- Partnership working with East London Mosque (ELM) and Interfaith Forum to deliver message for reduce, reuse and recycle
- Engagement with schools and community organisations to deliver recycling workshops
- Partnership working workshops x2 with Registered Social Landlords (RSLs) delivered this year
- Recruitment of 8 x Estates Engagement Officers, 1x Comms Officer, 1x HR Officer
- Faith in Environment Summit in December 2024
- Recycling engagement events including Boundary Estate and Lansbury Estate



# Achievements



- 95% of inspections for street cleansing undertaken in Tower Hamlets by Keep Britain Tidy (KBT) were graded as acceptable.
- 9 out of 15 wards that were graded by KBT are at 95% or above acceptable
- Q2 NI195 results show TH has significantly improved and better than the London benchmark for litter and detritus.
- Recycling Q2 data is not yet available but the monthly recycling rate for September shows an uplift in performance from 15.4% in Q1 to 18%
- Recycling contamination preliminary rates are showing a reduction from 30% last year, to 24.4% in September 2024
- 45.4% drop in the number of street cleansing (litter) requests compared with the same period in the last year
- Decrease in the number of missed collections in 15 out of the 20 wards



# Tower Hamlets Annual Residents' Survey 2024



- 61% agree “my council is making the local area a better place for people to live” - an improvement of 5 percentage points since last year.
- 69% of residents are satisfied with their waste collection- an improvement of 5 percentage points since last year.
- 63% of residents are satisfied with street cleansing – an improvement of 9 percentage points since last year.
- 73% of residents are satisfied with their recycling services – an improvement of 11 percentage points since last year

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**£5m** extra investment  
**72** new waste staff  
**22** new vehicles  
**155** newly trained street cleaners  
Twice daily cleaning of **115** main streets

One dedicated waste team keeping Tower Hamlets clean





# Budget



- It is expected that the MWIP funding of £5 million, will be fully spent within 2024/25.
- Large part of the budget is being spent on additional street cleansing operatives and drivers, vehicle costs, additional fuel, training and redevelopment of services to ensure sustainability of the work.
- The project has focused on achieving immediate results, such as improvement of services, street cleansing, refuse and recycling, but also supporting the re-organisation of core services to ensure sustainability of the improvements made.

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Cost Centre Description	Indicative Budget
Street Cleansing and Parks Enhancement	3,350,000
Introduction of Time-bands	50,000
Commercial Waste Service Review	150,000
Waste System Review	100,000
Community Engagement & Recycling Reduction	1,100,000
Communication, partnership & consultation	250,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,000,000</b>



# Sustainability



- Continue to embed within the service:
  - Partnership working with Trade Unions, H&S, HR, Finance
  - Continuous Professional Development to create a workforce that feels valued and has the skills to deliver a high-quality service
  - Staff training with KBT for sustainability of street grading in the future
- Review and restructure waste services to meet the needs of the borough
- Re-alignment of the budget




# Questions



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<p><b>OSC</b></p> <p>26<sup>th</sup> November 2024</p>	 <p><b>TOWER HAMLETS</b></p>
<p><b>Report of:</b> Afazul Hoque, Head of Service, Corporate Strategy and Communities</p>	<p><b>Classification:</b> Unrestricted</p>
<p><b>Scrutiny Executive Protocol</b></p>	

## Executive Summary

The proposed Scrutiny Executive Protocol sets out the terms of reference and applies to all Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees and all Members of the Cabinet. The protocol aims to assist an open and transparent culture as it sets clear expectations on the working relationship between scrutiny and executive members. It fosters and encourages accountability, compliance, performance improvement, managing risk and conflicts and builds stakeholder relationships. The proposed Scrutiny Executive Protocol is part of the wider work to support the Committee's existing improvement programme

## Recommendations:

OSC is recommended to:

1. Approve the new Scrutiny Executive Protocol

## 1 DETAILS OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 The Scrutiny Executive Protocol (appended) supports a wider work of the Overview and Scrutiny's improvement programme and is also guided by the council's ambition to achieve exemplar status for its Scrutiny function.
- 1.2 The Scrutiny Executive Protocol focuses its attention on the improvement agenda in enhancing governance and accountability with a view to fostering stronger relationship for better collaboration between the Council's Executive and Scrutiny bodies for improved results. The protocol will also adopt best practices to become a leading example of good governance.
- 1.3 The Scrutiny Executive Protocol will aim to increase an open and transparent culture, behaviour and attitude whilst fostering an effective and constructive working relationship with stakeholders in the scrutiny process.

1.4 This includes:

- Developing Trust and between scrutiny members and Cabinet members.
- Access to information
- Policy Development and Pre-Decision Scrutiny
- Holding the Executive to account
- Scrutiny work planning
- Scrutiny Recommendations to the Executive
- Call-in
- Scrutiny consideration of confidential decisions
- Ensuring Compliance with the Protocol.

## **2 COMMENTS OF THE CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER**

2.1 There are no financial implications of approving the new Scrutiny Executive Protocol.

## **3 COMMENTS OF LEGAL SERVICES**

3.1 Section 9F of the Local Government Act 2000 requires councils to establish an overview and scrutiny committee, in order to scrutinise, review and comment on actions of the executive. The committee is also required to report on actions which are not the responsibility of the executive.

3.2 Statutory guidance 'Overview and scrutiny: statutory guidance for councils, combined authorities and combined county authorities' (April 2024) sets out guidance on establishing an effective overview and scrutiny committee, and explains the importance for this committee to be effective to ensure that the council has good governance.

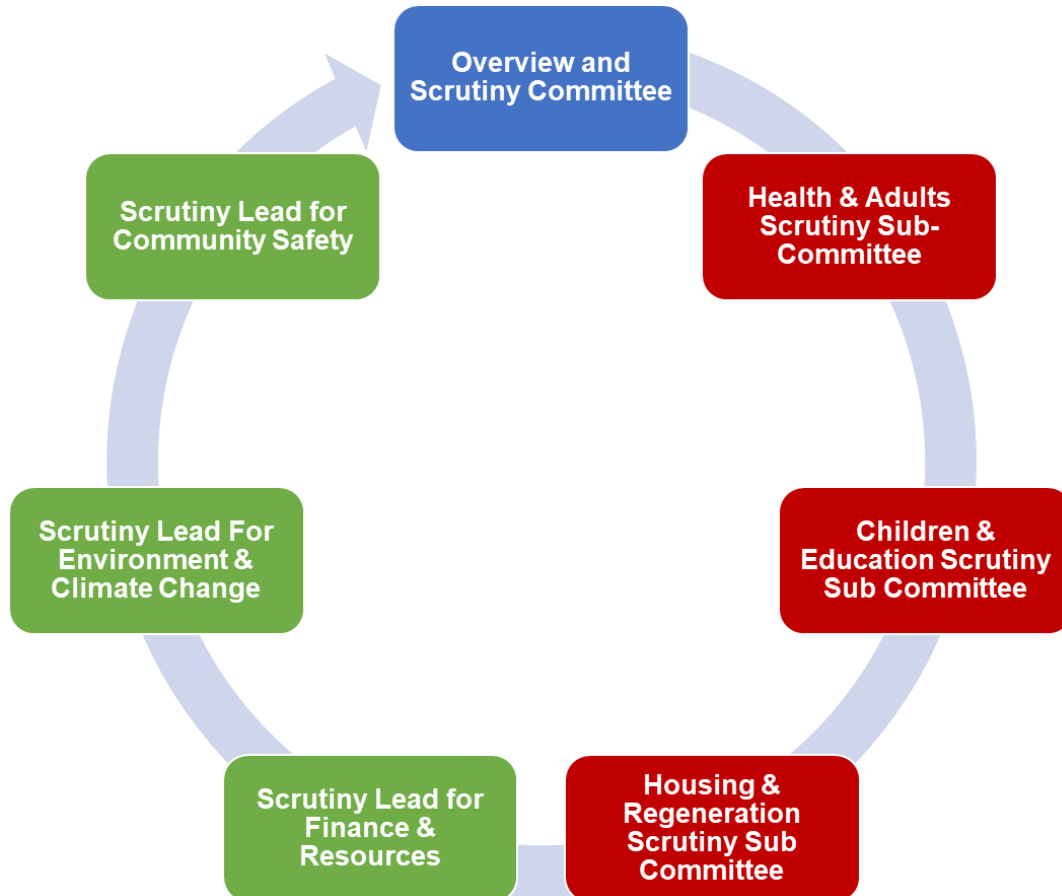
3.3 The Guidance recommends that councils should create an 'executive-scrutiny protocol' as a way of promoting positive and effective working, clarifying relationships and mitigating differences of opinion before they create difficulties.

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

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# Tower Hamlets Scrutiny Protocol

1. Scrutiny in Tower Hamlets
  - 1.1. Overview and Scrutiny play a vital role in the Council's governance and is a key component of the decision-making process, acting as a 'critical friend'. Its activities include holding decision-makers to account, policy review and development, championing the community voice, and driving improvements in public services.



- 1.2. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee (OSC) is made up of ten non-Executive (elected) Members and two resident co-opted members. Some Members of OSC also serve on three scrutiny sub-committees alongside additional non-Executive Members.
- 1.3. Scrutiny can make reports and recommendations to the Mayor and Cabinet and carry out:
  - **Pre-decision scrutiny** (helping to improve the quality of decisions that are subsequently taken)
  - **Post-decision scrutiny** (making suggestions for how a decision should be implemented or requiring that a decision is reconsidered)
  - **Performance monitoring** (ensuring that service delivery standards are high and poor performance is rectified)

# Tower Hamlets Scrutiny Protocol

- **Policy development** (contributing to the development of new policies, strategies and services).

## 2. Aims of the Scrutiny Protocol

- 2.1. This protocol applies to all Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, its Sub-Committees, and all Members of the Cabinet. Its purpose is to foster an open and transparent culture, promoting constructive behaviour and attitudes while supporting effective working relationships with stakeholders involved in the scrutiny process.
- 2.2. This protocol also gives effect to the provisions in the Council's Constitution related to Scrutiny. In the event of any conflict between this protocol and the Constitution, the Constitution shall take precedence.
- 2.3. This protocol establishes a framework for how Scrutiny and the Mayor and Cabinet can work together so that:
  - Debate happens constructively (with questioning that seeks to add to the sum of knowledge in the area being scrutinised).
  - Scrutiny is timely and effective.
  - Conflict is minimised.
  - There is an ethos of mutual respect between the Mayor and Cabinet and Scrutiny.
  - All work undertaken by Members is aligned with supporting corporate priorities and improving service provision.
  - The outcomes of scrutiny positively benefit the residents of Tower Hamlets.

## 3. Trust

- 3.1. For scrutiny to be effective, it must be underpinned by mutual respect and trust. All Members should uphold a culture of openness at scrutiny committee meetings and should strive to ensure that questioning and debate takes place within a climate of mutual respect and trust.
  - Scrutiny Members are expected to trust that Cabinet Members are being forthright and transparent.
  - Cabinet Members should trust Scrutiny Members with the information shared and consider their insights seriously.

## 4. Policy Development and Pre-Decision Scrutiny

- 4.1. The importance of early involvement from scrutiny into policy development is recognised. Scrutiny can act as a sounding board and a think tank in investigating issue coming up on the horizon, bringing in added value. The Mayor, Cabinet Members and Corporate Management Team should draw to the attention of the relevant scrutiny committee any key policy that is being developed or is due for review to ensure timely involvement.
- 4.2. Where policy development is carried out in an informal setting (such as a scrutiny review and challenge session), a report will be submitted to the relevant Scrutiny

## Tower Hamlets Scrutiny Protocol

Committee for consideration. The Mayor, Cabinet and relevant Corporate Director(s) will consider the views of scrutiny in the development of the policy and provide a response to the recommendations of scrutiny within 28 days or earlier should the report of the Cabinet require publication. The detail of the scrutiny involvement shall also be included within the body of the Cabinet report. The Mayor and Cabinet/Full Council are responsible for approving and adopting policy.

4.3. The Mayor and Cabinet Members may wish to request views from Scrutiny on a decision before it is taken. The relevant Corporate Director will be responsible for circulating the details to the relevant Committee Members, through the Statutory Scrutiny Officer. Utilising this as an option does not exclude the decision from being subject to call-in, however, it will give the Mayor and Cabinet Member the ability to consider different views and perspectives of a decision to be taken before it is taken.

### 5. Holding the executive to account (Ethos/Behaviour)

5.1. Scrutiny's role is to hold the Executive to account for decisions taken and performance of services. In holding the Mayor and Cabinet to account Scrutiny will:

- Welcome Cabinet Members to attend their meeting. If attendance by a
- Cabinet Member is specifically desired, provide an invitation to attend with
- adequate notice;
- Consider decisions taken by the Mayor and Cabinet, individually and collectively and items on the Forward Plan through (as part of Pre Decision Scrutiny ) formal scrutiny committee meetings;
- Review service performance and performance against policy and targets;
- Familiarise themselves with the subject under review and be prepared to ask searching questions that provide a constructive challenge;
- Be positive and respectful in their interactions with the Mayor, Cabinet Members and Officers;
- Represent the voice of the public and ensure scrutiny is focused on having a positive impact on residents; and
- Listen to the responses provided and assist the Mayor and Cabinet in identifying areas for further consideration and improvement.
- Conduct scrutiny investigations fairly and ensure all members of the committee are given the opportunity to ask questions of Cabinet Members and other attendees and to contribute and speak.

5.2. In return, the Mayor and Cabinet Members will:

- Be willing to be open, honest and engaged in responding to constructive challenges;
- Value the importance of scrutiny and champion this across the borough;
- Be supportive of the scrutiny process and invite and seek opinions from Scrutiny Members on decisions to be taken, where appropriate;
- Provide a positive contribution to scrutiny meetings; and
- Attend meetings when invited to do so to answer questions and present information:
- By way of a direct answer
- By reference to published publications
- By referring a matter to an officer in attendance, if they are not able to respond
- If an answer cannot immediately be given, by providing a written answer via the scrutiny action log and ahead of the next scrutiny meeting unless it is not

## Tower Hamlets Scrutiny Protocol

reasonable to do so. If considered unreasonable, an explanation as to why will be given

- A combination of the above four options.

### 6. Scrutiny Work Planning

6.1. Overview and Scrutiny will agree its own annual work programme and keep it under review over the course of a municipal year and consult widely to inform the focus for scrutiny activity. The scrutiny chairs and leads will hold a work programme planning workshop and as part of this workshop the views of the Cabinet Member(s) and Corporate Management Team will be sought regarding the priorities of the council, areas of planned policy development and they will be asked to highlight any upcoming key decision areas where scrutiny may be invited to assist in work.

6.2. On supporting the Scrutiny Leads, the scrutiny officers will engage Directorate Leadership Teams (DLTs) to ensure the council's input into the development of workplans, covering council priorities, policy development and upcoming key decisions whilst continuing to build on the positive working relationship between the two scrutiny and executive functions.

6.3. Informal meetings will be held between the OSC Chair the Mayor and Chief Executive, and the Scrutiny leads with the relevant Cabinet Members and Corporate Directors to discuss upcoming issues, consider items for scrutiny and to ensure engagement and communication of ongoing work from both the Executive and Scrutiny.

6.4. Whilst safeguarding the independence of the scrutiny process, the Committee will consider suggestions from the Mayor, Cabinet Members, Corporate Directors, partners, voluntary and community organisations and resident's suggestions when they determine their work programme.

6.5. Decision Makers should seek to involve scrutiny in the development of new policy at an early stage when proposals are being developed so that account can be taken of it when developing its work plan.

### 7. Scrutiny Recommendations to the Executive

7.1. The OSC and its Scrutiny Sub-Committees may make recommendations to the Mayor and Cabinet on key council functions and activities through a formal committee meeting or by a way of scrutiny reviews and challenge sessions.

7.2. Upon receipt of a recommendation(s) from Scrutiny, Mayor and Cabinet Members will:

- Give due consideration to any recommendations or views expressed;
- Provide an explanation via the action plans for the reasons why recommendations made by scrutiny have not been pursued.

7.3. Before the final scrutiny report is approved by the relevant scrutiny committee, scrutiny officers will seek the views of the Cabinet Member, Corporate Directors and the service on the proposed scrutiny report and the Scrutiny lead will consider this for inclusion within the report. The Chair of OSC will have the opportunity to attend Cabinet Meetings and discuss scrutiny recommendations with the Mayor and Cabinet and the response to those recommendations.

## Tower Hamlets Scrutiny Protocol

7.4. Scrutiny reviews and challenge session recommendations will require a response on these will be actioned using the action plan template. The Action Plan report will then be submitted to the Cabinet for agreement. Should any of the recommendations not be approved or be only partially supported, the Cabinet will provide details of the reason why. Following approval of recommendations, the relevant scrutiny committee will monitor the implementation and impact of the recommendations.

### 8. Call-In

8.1. Cabinet Members will be expected to attend any meetings of scrutiny committees at which a call-in request in relation to their area of responsibility is being considered. If the relevant Cabinet Member cannot attend the Mayor or a Deputy Mayor should attend in their absence. The purpose of their attendance will be to answer questions of fact not to present the item. The following procedure will take place where call-ins are being considered:

- i. A representative of the call-in Members will speak first;
- ii. The Committee will then ask questions of the Call-In Members;
- iii. The Chair will invite the Cabinet Member (decision maker to respond to the call-in;
- iv. The Committee will ask questions of the decision maker (who may ask a relevant officer to supply further information if necessary; and
- v. The Committee debates the issue and on the outcome.
- vi. If the Committee decides to send back for reconsideration, the scrutiny will write up a report and circulate to Committee Members and send it to Cabinet to inform of the decision.

### 9. Access to Information

9.1. Legislation and the Council's own Standing Orders provide for all Members to have access to information based upon their membership of Committees and on a need-to-know basis.

9.2. Scrutiny will need access to relevant information in a timely manner necessary to provide effective challenge about the provision, quality and resourcing of services. It has a legal right to information and this includes enhanced power to access exempt or confidential information in addition to existing rights that Councillors have to access information.

9.3. Scrutiny will need access to key information on the management of the council, particularly on performance, management, funding and risk. Scrutiny Members should also be given the support necessary to ensure that they understand such information. Scrutiny must also be mindful of the capacity of the council to resource activity and value likely to be gained through it. Scrutiny Members should also seek to supplement the evidence at its disposal from within the council from other sources, including service users, residents and partners.

9.4. An Action Log will be maintained which will log request for information through formal committee meetings of the OSC and its sub-committees. Request will be responded to positively and in a timely manner and ensure the information provided is relevant, officers should ensure that they have a clear understanding of the reasons why information is needed by seeking clarification if necessary.



## Tower Hamlets Scrutiny Protocol

- 9.5. Occasionally, there may times when it may be legitimate for information to be withheld and a written statement setting out the reasons for this will be provided to scrutiny should this occur. Cabinet Members and Corporate Directors will nevertheless seek to avoid refusing requests or limiting the information they provide. Serious consideration will be given to whether the information can instead be shared in closed session and the reason for this stated.
- 9.6. Where a Cabinet Member or Corporate Director determines that information requested by scrutiny should be withheld, then scrutiny may refer the matter to the Monitoring Officer for adjudication if it wishes to.
- 10. Scrutiny Consideration of Confidential Decisions**
- 10.1. Scrutiny have a right to access exempt information pertaining to decisions that have been taken in order to allow effective scrutiny. Should Scrutiny wish to ask questions around an exempt decision at a public Committee meeting, the press and public will be excluded as per the Council's Constitution and the Cabinet Member will be expected to answer openly and transparently. The exempt information will remain confidential and all elected members and officers who receive that information shall maintain that confidentiality in line with the codes of conduct for Elected Members and Officers.
- 11. Scrutiny engagement with Officers**
- 11.1. In addition to scrutinising, reviewing and commenting on actions of the executive, Scrutiny is also required to report on actions which are not the responsibility of the executive. Effective engagement between scrutiny members and officers is crucial for the success of the scrutiny process.
- 11.2. Scrutiny Members and Officers are reminded to adhere to the Member / Officer relations protocol.
- 11.3. Scrutiny may require the Head of Paid Service and/or any senior officer to attend before it to explain in relation to matters within their remit:
- (a) any particular decision or series of decisions;
  - (b) the extent to which the actions taken implement Council policy; and/or
  - (c) their performance, within their area of responsibility; and it is the duty of those persons to attend as so required.
- 11.4. There must be a relationship of mutual respect. Scrutiny members will:
- Treat officers with respect, recognising their expertise and professional role.
  - Maintain a courteous and constructive tone in all interactions, whether in meetings or communications.
  - Engage openly with officers, encouraging a two-way dialogue that fosters mutual understanding.
  - Be specific and clear in requests for information or clarification, ensuring officers understand what is required
  - Provide sufficient notice for information requests to allow officers time to gather accurate data
  - Approach questioning as a "critical friend," aiming to enhance decision-making rather than criticise for the sake of it.
  - Focus on evidence-based discussions, asking probing questions that help clarify issues and lead to better outcomes.
  - Acknowledge the distinction between the scrutiny role and the operational role of officers, avoiding interference in day-to-day management.



## Tower Hamlets Scrutiny Protocol

- Respect the professional independence of officers and distinguish from Executive, allowing them to provide unbiased advice without undue pressure
- Handle sensitive information provided by officers with care, ensuring it is used appropriately within the scrutiny process.
- Offer constructive feedback to officers on the information and support provided, helping to improve the scrutiny process.
- Be open to receiving feedback from officers on how the scrutiny process can be made more effective and efficient.

In return, Officers will:

- Provide impartial, evidence-based advice to support informed decision-making.
- Offer clear, accurate, and timely information to scrutiny members.
- Engage with scrutiny members courteously, respecting their role while maintaining professional boundaries.
- Assist scrutiny members in understanding complex issues and preparing for scrutiny sessions.
- Foster transparency by being open and responsive to questions and requests from scrutiny members.
- Be open and work together towards the common goal of improving public services and policies
- Ensure advice and information provided are free from political influence, supporting the scrutiny process objectively.
- Address any disagreements with professionalism, focusing on evidence and constructive outcomes.

### **12. Ensuring Compliance with the Protocol**

12.1. The Statutory Scrutiny Officer and the Monitoring Officer will be responsible for the overseeing compliance with the Executive/ Scrutiny Protocol which should be used by Members to support the wider aim of supporting and promoting a culture of scrutiny. The success of the protocol will be determined by:

- Recognition of the value of scrutiny;
- A clear record of constructive challenge;
- Valuable scrutiny reviews that achieve outcomes; and
- An open and accountable decision-making process

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<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Overview and Scrutiny Committee</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">15 October 2024</p>	 <p style="text-align: center;"><b>TOWER HAMLETS</b></p>
<p><b>Scrutiny Lead Update</b></p>	<p><b>Classification:</b> Unrestricted</p>

**Councillor Nathalie Bienfait, Scrutiny Lead for Environment and the Climate Emergency**

- Since our last meeting, I have attended two site visits in preparation for the assessment of the council's response to Flood risk which will be considered in the December OSC meeting. I have also continued work with officers to prepare the scoping document for my planned review of the council's progress towards Net Zero Carbon. I have also met with the Corporate Directors and their wider teams in the respective parts of my portfolio to discuss issues and learn more about priority areas

**Councillor Bellal Uddin, Scrutiny Lead for Adults and Health Services**

- Introduction meeting with the corporate director for HASC
- Site visit to LinkAge + to observe and discuss how over 55's are being supported
- Attended to discuss the scope for the forthcoming maternity review on 4<sup>th</sup> December 2024.

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## **THE FORWARD PLAN**

**Published: 19 November 2024**

Contact            Matthew Mannion  
Officer:            Democratic Services  
Email:             [matthew.mannion@towerhamlets.gov.uk](mailto:matthew.mannion@towerhamlets.gov.uk)  
Telephone:        020 7364 4651

## Forward Plan November 2024

The Forward Plan is published 28 days before each Cabinet meeting.

In addition, new issues and changes to existing issues will be published on the website as soon as they are known.

The web pages also contain past Forward Plans and publication deadlines for future Plans. To visit the web pages go to <http://democracy.towerhamlets.gov.uk/mgPlansHome.aspx?bcr=1>.

## **Tower Hamlets Council** **Forthcoming Decisions Plan**

### **What is this document?**

The Forthcoming Decisions Plan (or 'Forward Plan') contains information on significant decisions that the Council expects to take over the next few months.

As a minimum this will include notice of:

- All Key Decisions to be taken by the Mayor or Cabinet.
  - This could include decisions taken at public meetings or taken individually at other times.
- Budget and Policy Framework Decisions (for example the Budget Report itself and major policies to be agreed by Council as set out in the Constitution)

In addition the Council aims to publish all other decisions to be taken by the Mayor and/or Cabinet.

### **Key Decisions**

The Council is required to publish notice of all key decisions at least 28 days before they are taken by the Executive. Key decisions are all those decisions which involve major spending, or savings, or which have a significant impact on the local community. The precise definition of a key decision adopted by Tower Hamlets is contained in Section 3 of the [Constitution](#). Key Decisions can be taken by the Mayor, the Mayor in Cabinet or an officer if it has been expressly delegated.

### **Publication of Forthcoming Decisions**

Individual notices of new Key Decisions will be published on the website as they are known on the 'Forthcoming Decisions' page, whilst this 'Forthcoming Decisions Plan' collating these decisions will be published regularly, as a minimum at least, 28 days before each Cabinet meeting. The Plan will be published on the Council's website and will also be available to view at the Town Hall and Libraries, Ideas Centres and One Stop Shops if required.

### **Urgency**

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

### **Make your views known**

The most effective way for the public to make their views known about a Forthcoming Decisions is to contact the lead officer, or Cabinet Member (where stated), listed. You can also view the Council's [Consultation Calendar](#), which lists all the issues on which the Council and its partners are consulting.

## Information about the Decision Makers

Further information on the Mayor and Members of the Cabinet can be found on the Council's [website](#).

## Notice of Intention to Conduct Business in Private

The Council is also required to give at least 28 days' notice if it wishes to consider any of the reports on the agenda of an Executive meeting (such as Cabinet) in private session. The last row of each item below will indicate any proposal to consider that item in private session. Should you wish to make any representations in relation to item being considered in private please contact Democratic Services on the contact details listed on the front page.

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

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

## Contact Details for this Plan

Contact: Matthew Mannion  
Officer: Head of Democratic Services  
Email: [matthew.mannion@towerhamlets.gov.uk](mailto:matthew.mannion@towerhamlets.gov.uk)  
Telephone: 020 7364 4651



## Forward Plan November 2024

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\* New Issues published since the last Forward Plan

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<b>Title of Report</b>	<b>Stepney Greencoat CE School – Expansion to Include Permanent Nursery Provision</b>	Ward All Wards	Key Decision? Yes
<b>Summary of Decision</b>	<p>A decision is required by Cabinet on the statutory proposal to extend the age range of Stepney Greencoat CE Primary School to 3 -11 years of age, to enable the permanent establishment of nursery provision for 3 and 4 year olds.</p> <p>The nursery provision, was initially established as a two year pilot, but a Council decision is now required for it to continue on a permanent basis from the start of the 2025-26 school year.</p>		

<b>Decision maker</b> Date of decision	<b>Cabinet</b> 27/11/24		
<b>Community Plan Theme</b>	<b>Accelerate Education</b>		
<b>Cabinet Member</b>	Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Education and Lifelong Learning (Statutory Deputy Mayor)		
Who will be consulted before decision is made and how will this consultation take place	<p>School community including families, staff, governing body, diocese. Neighbouring/local community Maintained Schools and nurseries in the planning area, PVI's in the local area Early Education and Childcare Services Public</p> <p>Statutory minimum 4 weeks consultation on Let's Talk Tower Hamlets.</p>		
Has an Equality Impact Assessment been carried out and if so the result of this Assessment?	NA		
Contact details for comments or additional information	Lisa Fraser (Director of Education) lisa.fraser@towerhamlets.gov.uk		
What supporting documents or other information will be available?	Cabinet Report Stepney Greencoat CE School – Expansion to Include Permanent Nursery Provision		
Is there an intention to consider this report in private session and if so why?	No, Unrestricted		
<b>Title of Report</b>	<b>Approval of council's Resident Engagement Strategy</b>	Ward All Wards	Key Decision? Yes

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<b>Summary of Decision</b>	Following the in-sourcing of Tower Hamlets Homes to the council, the council's new Council Tenant and Leaseholder's Engagement Strategy of the landlord service has been refreshed and aligned with the council's draft Community Engagement Strategy.
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<b>Decision maker</b> Date of decision	<b>Cabinet</b> 27/11/24		
<b>Community Plan Theme</b>	<b>A council that works for you and listens to you</b>		
<b>Cabinet Member</b>	Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Inclusive Development and Housebuilding		
Who will be consulted before decision is made and how will this consultation take place	Internal: affected DLTs  External: Residents' Panel; Tenant & Leaseholder Housing Forum; wider resident body  Internal: Briefing paper  External: Briefing paper; Our Eastend article; Let's Talk consultation		
Has an Equality Impact Assessment been carried out and if so the result of this Assessment?	N/A		
Contact details for comments or additional information	Charmaine Campbell, Tracey Gray, Alifa Khatun, Shivani Patel, Abdul Razak Senior Management Support Officer Charmaine.Campbell@towerhamlets.gov.uk, (Interim Director of Housing Integration) tracey.gray@towerhamlets.gov.uk, Senior Management Support Officer alifa.khatun@towerhamlets.gov.uk, Senior Management Support Officer shivani.patel@towerhamlets.gov.uk, Senior Management Support Officer abdul.razak@towerhamlets.gov.uk		
What supporting documents or other information will be available?	Draft Resident Engagement Strategy  Equalities screening checklist		
Is there an intention to consider this report in private session and if so why?	No, Unrestricted		
<b>Title of Report</b>	<b>Combating Drugs Partnership - Substance Misuse Strategy</b>	Ward All Wards	Key Decision? Yes
<b>Summary of Decision</b>	The Combating Drugs Partnership (CDP), a statutory partnership board under the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) and Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB), has produced its Substance Misuse strategy for 2024-2027. This strategy has received formal sign off via the CDP and CSP boards but is also being submitted for approval via the Council's sign-off procedures.		

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<b>Decision maker</b> Date of decision	<b>Cabinet</b> 27/11/24		
<b>Community Plan Theme</b>	<b>Empower Communities and Fight Crime</b>		
<b>Cabinet Member</b>	Cabinet Member for Health, Wellbeing and Social Care		
Who will be consulted before decision is made and how will this consultation take place	NA NA		
Has an Equality Impact Assessment been carried out and if so the result of this Assessment?	Equalities screening and detailed Equalities Assessments are to be carried out for specific pieces of work within the strategy that require them, accompanying the reports which will enact significant changes to services.		
Contact details for comments or additional information			
What supporting documents or other information will be available?			
Is there an intention to consider this report in private session and if so why?	No, Unrestricted		
<b>Title of Report</b>	<b>Retendering of Agency Worker Contract</b>	Ward All Wards	Key Decision? Yes
<b>Summary of Decision</b>	Re-procuring a temporary agency solution to effectively meet the contingent workforce engagement requirements of the council.		

<b>Decision maker</b> Date of decision	<b>Cabinet</b> 27/11/24		
<b>Community Plan Theme</b>	<b>A council that works for you and listens to you</b>		
<b>Cabinet Member</b>	Cabinet Member for Resources and the Cost of Living		
Who will be consulted before decision is made and how will this consultation take place	None None		
Has an Equality Impact Assessment been	N/A		

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carried out and if so the result of this Assessment?	
Contact details for comments or additional information	Liz Haynes (Interim Head of Corporate Human Resources) liz.haynes@towerhamlets.gov.uk
What supporting documents or other information will be available?	N/A
Is there an intention to consider this report in private session and if so why?	Partly Exempt (Part of the report will be exempt) The report contains some market sensitive contract values
<b>Title of Report</b>	<b>Council Housing Acquisition Programme</b>
	Ward All Wards
	Key Decision? No
<b>Summary of Decision</b>	This report summarises the council's strategy and approach to the delivery of a Council Housing Acquisitions Programme to delivery 237 Acquisitions supported by government and GLA grant.  The report requests approval for the strategy and approach and for additional resources to support the delivery.

<b>Decision maker</b> Date of decision	<b>Cabinet</b> 27/11/24
<b>Community Plan Theme</b>	<b>Homes for the future</b>
<b>Cabinet Member</b>	Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Inclusive Development and Housebuilding
Who will be consulted before decision is made and how will this consultation take place	
Has an Equality Impact Assessment been carried out and if so the result of this Assessment?	
Contact details for comments or additional information	Charmaine Campbell, Alifa Khatun, Shivani Patel, Abdul Razak, Karen Swift Senior Management Support Officer Charmaine.Campbell@towerhamlets.gov.uk, Senior Management Support Officer alifa.khatun@towerhamlets.gov.uk, Senior Management Support Officer shivani.patel@towerhamlets.gov.uk, Senior Management Support Officer abdul.razak@towerhamlets.gov.uk, (Divisional Director, Housing and Regeneration) Karen.Swift@towerhamlets.gov.uk

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What supporting documents or other information will be available?			
Is there an intention to consider this report in private session and if so why?	No, Unrestricted		
<b>Title of Report</b>	<b>Continuation of Business Rates Pooling</b>	Ward All Wards	Key Decision? Yes
<b>Summary of Decision</b>	This report requests approval to continue membership in the 8 Authority Pool for Business Rates for 2025-26.		

<b>Decision maker</b> Date of decision	<b>Cabinet</b> 27/11/24		
<b>Community Plan Theme</b>	<b>Boost culture, business, jobs and leisure</b>		
<b>Cabinet Member</b>	Cabinet Member for Resources and the Cost of Living		
Who will be consulted before decision is made and how will this consultation take place	N/A N/A		
Has an Equality Impact Assessment been carried out and if so the result of this Assessment?	No		
Contact details for comments or additional information	Abdulrazak Kassim (Director Finance, Procurement and Audit) abdulrazak.kassim@towerhamlets.gov.uk		
What supporting documents or other information will be available?	N/A		
Is there an intention to consider this report in private session and if so why?	No, Unrestricted		
<b>Title of Report</b>	<b>Neighbourhood Planning: Determination of Roman Road Bow Neighbourhood Forum Redesignation Application</b>	Ward Bow East; Bow West	Key Decision? Yes

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<b>Summary of Decision</b>	Neighbourhood forum designations expire five years after they are initially granted. The Roman Road Bow Neighbourhood Forum designation expired on 16 August 2022. The Forum submitted an application in August 2022, which was refused by the Mayor in Cabinet on 21 June 2023 on the basis that the membership of the Forum was not considered to be representative of the population of the area. The Forum submitted a new application for redesignation on 5 April 2024, after working to address the reason for refusal by broadening the Forum's membership and changing the executive committee		

<b>Decision maker</b> Date of decision	<b>Cabinet</b> 27/11/24		
<b>Community Plan Theme</b>	<b>TH Plan 1: Tower Hamlets will be a fair, inclusive and an anti-racist borough.?</b>		
<b>Cabinet Member</b>	Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Inclusive Development and Housebuilding		
Who will be consulted before decision is made and how will this consultation take place	<p>A public notice has been placed in the East End Advertiser and information has been posted on the council website directing the public in how to respond.</p> <p>A public consultation is taking place from 28 August to 10 October. The Cabinet report will be updated before CMT to incorporate full details of the consultation responses. At the time of writing, 17 responses had been received, all of which express support for the redesignation of the Forum.</p>		
Has an Equality Impact Assessment been carried out and if so the result of this Assessment?	Screening Tool carried out 18 September 2024, no further assessment needed		
Contact details for comments or additional information	<p>Charmaine Campbell, Alifa Khatun, Shivani Patel, Abdul Razak, Sripriya Sudhakar Senior Management Support Officer Charmaine.Campbell@towerhamlets.gov.uk, Senior Management Support Officer alifa.khatun@towerhamlets.gov.uk, Senior Management Support Officer shivani.patel@towerhamlets.gov.uk, Senior Management Support Officer abdul.razak@towerhamlets.gov.uk, Director of Planning and Building Control Sripriya.Sudhakar@towerhamlets.gov.uk</p>		
What supporting documents or other information will be available?	<p>Appendix 1: Roman Road Bow Neighbourhood Forum Application Form Appendix 2: Roman Road Bow Neighbourhood Area Map Appendix 3: Roman Road Bow Neighbourhood Forum Constitution Appendix 4: Equalities Impact Assessment Screening</p>		
Is there an intention to consider this report in private session and if so why?	No, Unrestricted		
<b>Title of Report</b>	<b>Young Tower Hamlets Progress Update</b>	Ward All Wards	Key Decision? No

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<b>Summary of Decision</b>	<p>A priority within the Mayoral Manifesto Pledge and Strategic Plan 2022-2026.??</p> <p>This report provides a progress update on the roll out of our new Young Tower Hamlets youth service.</p>
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<b>Decision maker</b> Date of decision	<b>Cabinet</b> 27/11/24		
<b>Community Plan Theme</b>	<b>All Priorities</b>		
<b>Cabinet Member</b>	Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Education and Lifelong Learning (Statutory Deputy Mayor)		
Who will be consulted before decision is made and how will this consultation take place	<p>A borough wide Hackathon consultation was undertaken throughout 2023 where staff, young people and parents were consulted with around what they would like from their youth service.</p> <p>A borough wide Hackathon and survey's was undertaken throughout 2023 where staff, young people and parents were consulted with around what they would like from their youth service.</p>		
Has an Equality Impact Assessment been carried out and if so the result of this Assessment?	NA		
Contact details for comments or additional information	Steve Reddy (Corporate Director, Children's Services) Steve.Reddy@towerhamlets.gov.uk		
What supporting documents or other information will be available?	Young Tower Hamlets Progress Update Report		
Is there an intention to consider this report in private session and if so why?	No, Unrestricted		
<b>Title of Report</b>	<b>Child Healthy Weight Scrutiny Challenge Session - Action Plan Response</b>	Ward All Wards	Key Decision? No
<b>Summary of Decision</b>	<p>In May 2025, the Children and Education Scrutiny Sub-Committee (CESSC) published a report on Child Healthy Weight, following the Challenge Session held in November 2023. The CESSC made 8 recommendations to further strengthen existing efforts across Tower Hamlets improve child healthy weight across Tower Hamlets across the following themes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Food</li> <li>2. Physical Activity</li> </ol>		



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	<p>3. Psychology and Culture</p> <p>In response to the recommendations, Public Health in partnership with colleagues across the Council have developed a Child Healthy Weight Scrutiny Challenge Session – Action Plan, which has been incorporated into our existing Child Healthy Weight Action.</p>
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<b>Decision maker</b> Date of decision	<b>Cabinet</b> 27/11/24		
<b>Community Plan Theme</b>	<b>All Priorities</b>		
<b>Cabinet Member</b>	Cabinet Member for Health, Wellbeing and Social Care		
Who will be consulted before decision is made and how will this consultation take place	The Action Plan has been developed in partnership with colleagues across the Council.  None		
Has an Equality Impact Assessment been carried out and if so the result of this Assessment?	NA		
Contact details for comments or additional information	Dr Somen Banerjee (Director of Public Health) somen.banerjee@towerhamlets.gov.uk		
What supporting documents or other information will be available?	Children and Education Scrutiny Sub-Committee: Child Healthy Weight – Challenge Session  Child Healthy Weight Scrutiny Challenge Session: Action Plan		
Is there an intention to consider this report in private session and if so why?	No, Unrestricted		
<b>Title of Report</b>	<b>Health and Adult Scrutiny - Disabilities Peoples Access to Sports and Exercise Provision</b>	Ward All Wards	Key Decision? No
<b>Summary of Decision</b>	Following the insourcing of the Be Well Leisure Service on 1st May 2024, the Action Plan identifies and priorities initiatives that will enhance visibility and representation of people with disabilities and those living with long-term ill health conditions within the leisure sports and fitness workforce.		

<b>Decision maker</b> Date of decision	<b>Cabinet</b> 27/11/24
<b>Community Plan</b>	<b>All Priorities</b>

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<b>Theme</b>			
<b>Cabinet Member</b>	Cabinet Member for Culture and Recreation		
Who will be consulted before decision is made and how will this consultation take place	NA	NA	
Has an Equality Impact Assessment been carried out and if so the result of this Assessment?	NA		
Contact details for comments or additional information	Jahur Ali (Director Leisure and Culture) Jahur.Ali@towerhamlets.gov.uk		
What supporting documents or other information will be available?	Insourcing presentation		
Is there an intention to consider this report in private session and if so why?	No, Unrestricted		
<b>Title of Report</b>	<b>Housing Consumer Standard Compliance</b>	Ward All Wards	Key Decision? No
<b>Summary of Decision</b>	This report summarises the Council's position against the Regulator of Social Housing's Consumer Standards and our proposed action plan and Governance Arrangements to meet the standards		

<b>Decision maker</b> Date of decision	<b>Cabinet</b> 27/11/24
<b>Community Plan Theme</b>	<b>A council that works for you and listens to you</b>
<b>Cabinet Member</b>	Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Inclusive Development and Housebuilding
Who will be consulted before decision is made and how will this consultation take place	
Has an Equality Impact Assessment been carried out and if so the result of this Assessment?	
Contact details for	Alicia Jones, Karen Swift

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comments or additional information	Executive Support Team Leader alicia.jones@towerhamlets.gov.uk, (Divisional Director, Housing and Regeneration) Karen.Swift@towerhamlets.gov.uk		
What supporting documents or other information will be available?			
Is there an intention to consider this report in private session and if so why?	No, Unrestricted		
<b>Title of Report</b>	<b>Be Well Leisure Capital Investment Project Proposals</b>	Ward All Wards	Key Decision? Yes
<b>Summary of Decision</b>	This report will provide proposals for the Be Well Leisure Capital Investment Project.		

<b>Decision maker</b> Date of decision	<b>Cabinet</b> 27/11/24		
<b>Community Plan Theme</b>	<b>Boost culture, business, jobs and leisure</b>		
<b>Cabinet Member</b>	Cabinet Member for Culture and Recreation		
Who will be consulted before decision is made and how will this consultation take place	NA NA		
Has an Equality Impact Assessment been carried out and if so the result of this Assessment?	NA		
Contact details for comments or additional information	Jahur Ali (Director Leisure and Culture) Jahur.Ali@towerhamlets.gov.uk		
What supporting documents or other information will be available?	NONW		
Is there an intention to consider this report in private session and if so why?	No, Unrestricted		
<b>Title of Report</b>	<b>Approval of the council's new Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2024-2029</b>	Ward All Wards	Key Decision? Yes

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<b>Summary of Decision</b>	<p>This report seeks approval from the Mayor and Cabinet of the council's new Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2024-2029.</p> <p>The council has a statutory duty under the Homelessness Act (2002) to conduct a review of the nature and extent of homelessness in its District (borough) every five years and to develop a strategy setting out:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• how services will be delivered in the future to tackle homelessness; and</li> <li>• the available resources to prevent and relieve homelessness.</li> </ul> <p>The council's most recent Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy ended in December 2023 and this new strategy fulfils this statutory and mandatory requirement on the council in its role as a Local Housing Authority.</p>
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<b>Decision maker</b> Date of decision	<b>Cabinet</b> 27/11/24
<b>Community Plan Theme</b>	<b>Homes for the future</b>
<b>Cabinet Member</b>	Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Inclusive Development and Housebuilding
Who will be consulted before decision is made and how will this consultation take place	<p>Internal Stakeholders from within the council – Public Health, Community Safety, Adult Social Care, Mental Health, Substance Use, Health, and Integrated Commissioning.</p> <p>External Stakeholders including residents, organisations and agencies who work both with and separately from the council who support those at risk of or who are homeless or rough sleeping in Tower Hamlets.</p> <p>The council will be conducting a consultation on the priorities for its new strategy with residents and stakeholders who support those at risk of or who are homeless or rough sleeping. The priorities proposed in the consultation have been developed following a desktop review of homelessness in the borough which was conducted in March 2023.</p> <p>The findings of the review have enabled the council to clearly identify its priorities for tackling homelessness and rough sleeping in Tower Hamlets and in doing so, the priorities will form the basis of the council's revised Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy. Reflecting good practice to deliver outcomes for residents experiencing or threatened with homelessness and identifying gaps in service provision while ensuring that it represents value for money for residents</p>
Has an Equality Impact Assessment been carried out and if so the result of this Assessment?	
Contact details for comments or additional	Donna Barrett, Una Bedford, Charmaine Campbell, Lynne Hughes, Alicia Jones, Nightingale Simson, Karen Swift

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information	(Application & Administration Officer) donna.barrett@towerhamlets.gov.uk, Strategy and Policy Officer (Place) Una.Bedford@towerhamlets.gov.uk, Senior Management Support Officer Charmaine.Campbell@towerhamlets.gov.uk, Senior Management Support Officer lynne.hughes@towerhamlets.gov.uk, Executive Support Team Leader alicia.jones@towerhamlets.gov.uk, Senior Management Support Officer nightingale.simson@towerhamlets.gov.uk, (Divisional Director, Housing and Regeneration) Karen.Swift@towerhamlets.gov.uk		
What supporting documents or other information will be available?	Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2024 – 2029 EIA Screening for Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2024- 2029 Consultation Report on priorities for the new Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy		
Is there an intention to consider this report in private session and if so why?	No, Unrestricted		
<b>Title of Report</b>	<b>Planning for School Places 2025/26 Review and Recommendations</b>	Ward All Wards	Key Decision? Yes
<b>Summary of Decision</b>	<p>This is the council's annual report on its review of pupil place planning in Tower Hamlets. It explains:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>? the current position on the provision of school places in the borough;</li> <li>? the projected demand for school places in future years;</li> <li>? the steps being taken to manage the sufficiency and sustainability of school places in accordance with the council's school organisation strategy.</li> </ul> <p>The report also serves to inform:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>? decisions on education capital investment planning and future bids to the DfE's new school programmes;</li> <li>? the medium to longer term commissioning or decommissioning of places for children and young people with SEND;</li> <li>? discussions with school and trust leaders around required changes to current SEND provision to meet emerging needs.</li> </ul>		

<b>Decision maker</b> Date of decision	<b>Cabinet</b> 27/11/24
<b>Community Plan Theme</b>	<b>Accelerate Education</b>
<b>Cabinet Member</b>	Cabinet Member for Safer Communities, Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Education and Lifelong Learning (Statutory Deputy Mayor)
Who will be consulted before decision is made and how will this consultation take place	NA NA
Has an Equality Impact	NA

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Assessment been carried out and if so the result of this Assessment?	
Contact details for comments or additional information	Lisa Fraser (Director of Education) lisa.fraser@towerhamlets.gov.uk
What supporting documents or other information will be available?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. LA's Annual Report on School Roll Projections</li> <li>2. LA's SEND Sufficiency Plan Overview</li> <li>3. Council's Local Plan approach to allocating school sites</li> <li>4. Summary of capital funding streams available</li> </ol>
Is there an intention to consider this report in private session and if so why?	No, Unrestricted
<b>Title of Report</b>	<b>Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2023-24</b>
	Ward All Wards
	Key Decision? No
<b>Summary of Decision</b>	The annual report outlines the achievements of the Safeguarding Adults Board, its subgroups and partner agencies over the period 2023 to 2024.

<b>Decision maker</b> Date of decision	<b>Cabinet</b> 18/12/24
<b>Community Plan Theme</b>	<b>All Priorities</b>
<b>Cabinet Member</b>	Cabinet Member for Health, Wellbeing and Social Care
Who will be consulted before decision is made and how will this consultation take place	NA  The Annual SAB Report is developed by partners of the SAB. It will be presented to the Safeguarding Adults Board for sign off and will also be reviewed by the Health, Adults and Communities Directorate Leadership Team. The report will also be presented to the Health and Wellbeing Board.
Has an Equality Impact Assessment been carried out and if so the result of this Assessment?	
Contact details for comments or additional information	Katie O'Driscoll (Director of Adult Social Care) Katie.O'Driscoll@towerhamlets.gov.uk
What supporting documents or other information will be available?	

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Is there an intention to consider this report in private session and if so why?	No, Unrestricted		
<b>Title of Report</b>	<b>Household Rubbish and Recycling Collections Policy</b>	Ward All Wards	Key Decision? Yes
<b>Summary of Decision</b>	To ask that the Council adopt a clear and concise policy relating to household rubbish and recycling collections in Tower Hamlets that defines the roles and responsibilities of the Council, its residents and other responsible parties involved in the management of domestic waste.		

<b>Decision maker</b> Date of decision	<b>Cabinet</b> 18/12/24		
<b>Community Plan Theme</b>	<b>A clean and green future</b>		
<b>Cabinet Member</b>	Cabinet Member for Environment and the Climate Emergency		
Who will be consulted before decision is made and how will this consultation take place	None  Informal consultation was undertaken with key Managing Agent organisations within the borough on 19/03/2024.  No other consultation has been carried out at this stage as we have been advised it is not required for this policy to be adopted and the requirements it asks of householders and responsible persons fall within primary national legislation.		
Has an Equality Impact Assessment been carried out and if so the result of this Assessment?			
Contact details for comments or additional information	Ashraf Ali (Director of Public Realm) ashraf.ali@towerhamlets.gov.uk		
What supporting documents or other information will be available?	Household Rubbish and Recycling Collection Policy		
Is there an intention to consider this report in private session and if so why?	No, Unrestricted		
<b>Title of Report</b>	<b>Housing &amp; Regeneration Scrutiny Sub Committee Challenge Session action plan on the performance of</b>	Ward All Wards	Key Decision? No

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	<b>Registered Providers in Tower Hamlets</b>		
<b>Summary of Decision</b>	The Chair of the Housing & Regeneration Scrutiny Sub Committee requested a challenge session on Housing Provider Performance in the borough that was held on 26 March 2024. This report sets out an Action Plan, following recommendations made by the Sub-committee who agreed at their meeting of 13 May 2024, that the recommendations are committed to an Action Plan which is now submitted to the Mayor and Cabinet for their approval		

<b>Decision maker</b> Date of decision	<b>Cabinet</b> 18/12/24
<b>Community Plan Theme</b>	<b>A council that works for you and listens to you</b>
<b>Cabinet Member</b>	Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Inclusive Development and Housebuilding
Who will be consulted before decision is made and how will this consultation take place	<p>Housing &amp; Regeneration Scrutiny Sub Committee members Democratic Services Housing &amp; Regeneration Directorate Housing Policy Strategy &amp; Improvement Team LBTH Housing Management Service Tower Hamlets Housing Forum</p> <p>Housing &amp; Regeneration Scrutiny sub-committee members were consulted in their meeting in March 2024 and will be consulted again in a meeting scheduled for April 2025.</p> <p>Democratic Services were consulted in a meeting in July 2024.</p> <p>The Housing Policy Strategy &amp; Improvement team have been consulted by email in addition to the internal Housing Management team and Housing &amp; Regeneration Directorate.</p> <p>The Chair and other members of Tower Hamlets Housing Forum were sent the document by email and submitted comments</p>
Has an Equality Impact Assessment been carried out and if so the result of this Assessment?	N/A
Contact details for comments or additional information	Charmaine Campbell, Alifa Khatun, Shivani Patel, Abdul Razak Senior Management Support Officer Charmaine.Campbell@towerhamlets.gov.uk, Senior Management Support Officer alifa.khatun@towerhamlets.gov.uk, Senior Management Support Officer shivani.patel@towerhamlets.gov.uk, Senior Management Support Officer abdul.razak@towerhamlets.gov.uk
What supporting	Report entitled Scrutiny Challenge Session of Housing Provider Performance in



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documents or other information will be available?	Tower Hamlets. Housing & Regeneration Scrutiny Sub Committee Action Plan		
Is there an intention to consider this report in private session and if so why?	No, Unrestricted		
<b>Title of Report</b>	<b>Reduction and Recycling Plan Progress Report – Qtr 1 and 2, 2024-25</b>	Ward All Wards	Key Decision? No
<b>Summary of Decision</b>	Tower Hamlets Reduction and Recycling Plan (RRP) 2023-2025 was approved by Cabinet in September 2023. A report detailing progress of the RRP is due at Cabinet on a quarterly basis. This report provides an update for Quarter 4 and year end, 2023-24.		

<b>Decision maker</b> Date of decision	<b>Cabinet</b> 18/12/24		
<b>Community Plan Theme</b>	<b>A clean and green future</b>		
<b>Cabinet Member</b>	Cabinet Member for Environment and the Climate Emergency		
Who will be consulted before decision is made and how will this consultation take place	NA NA		
Has an Equality Impact Assessment been carried out and if so the result of this Assessment?	NA		
Contact details for comments or additional information	Ashraf Ali (Director of Public Realm) ashraf.ali@towerhamlets.gov.uk		
What supporting documents or other information will be available?			
Is there an intention to consider this report in private session and if so why?	No, Unrestricted		
<b>Title of Report</b>	<b>Fees and Charges 2025-26 Report</b>	Ward All Wards	Key Decision? Yes

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<b>Summary of Decision</b>	Fees and charges are reviewed annually as part of the financial and business planning process. This ensures that they are set at the appropriate level for the prevailing economic circumstances and represent good practice in terms of the Council's aim to provide value for money.
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<b>Decision maker</b> Date of decision	<b>Cabinet</b> 18/12/24		
<b>Community Plan Theme</b>	<b>A council that works for you and listens to you</b>		
<b>Cabinet Member</b>	Cabinet Member for Resources and the Cost of Living		
Who will be consulted before decision is made and how will this consultation take place	The Mayor, Lead Member for Resources and the Cost of Living; and the Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Committee will be consulted.  Consultation will take place via MAB SRP and Overview and Scrutiny meetings		
Has an Equality Impact Assessment been carried out and if so the result of this Assessment?	EIAs are being carried out for any new charges and where charges have increased above inflation		
Contact details for comments or additional information	Abdulrazak Kassim (Director Finance, Procurement and Audit) abdulrazak.kassim@towerhamlets.gov.uk		
What supporting documents or other information will be available?	N/A		
Is there an intention to consider this report in private session and if so why?	No, Unrestricted		
<b>Title of Report</b>	<b>Record of Corporate Director's Actions Quarter 1&amp; 2 (2024 - 2025)</b>	Ward All Wards	Key Decision? No
<b>Summary of Decision</b>	This report sets out, for noting by Cabinet, the Corporate Director's Actions taken under Rule 10 (section 50 Record of Corporate Director's Actions (RCDA) - Waiving of Procurement Procedures) in Part C – Codes and Protocols of the Council's constitution. The section states that Corporate Director's Actions in respect of contracts over £100,000 must be reported to Cabinet for noting and this report fulfils this requirement.		

<b>Decision maker</b> Date of decision	<b>Cabinet</b> 18/12/24
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<b>Community Plan Theme</b>	<b>A council that works for you and listens to you</b>		
<b>Cabinet Member</b>	Cabinet Member for Resources and the Cost of Living		
Who will be consulted before decision is made and how will this consultation take place	N/A N/A		
Has an Equality Impact Assessment been carried out and if so the result of this Assessment?	N/A		
Contact details for comments or additional information	Abdulrazak Kassim (Director Finance, Procurement and Audit) abdulrazak.kassim@towerhamlets.gov.uk		
What supporting documents or other information will be available?	N/A		
Is there an intention to consider this report in private session and if so why?	No, Unrestricted		
<b>Title of Report</b>	<b>Mayors Waste Improvement Programme Quarter Two Update</b>	Ward All Wards	Key Decision? No
<b>Summary of Decision</b>	<p>The Mayor declared a waste emergency at full Council in November 2022. There were concerns that the waste services were failing, and that the overall performance was poor and lacked visibility. Further briefings to the Mayor and MAB detailing the initial findings and the Waste Improvement Programme was approved on 13 June 2023.</p> <p>December 2023, the Mayor approved an investment of £5m for 2024/2025.</p> <p>On 16 April 2024, the Mayors Waste Improvement Programme (MWIP) delivery plan details were shared with The Mayor and the subsequent action was to provide a quarterly update to MAB.</p> <p>The report provides details of the MWIP with focus on delivery timeline, plans for the key arterial routes and how this investment will be embedded into the on-going long-term improvement of the service.</p>		

<b>Decision maker</b> Date of decision	<b>Cabinet</b> 18/12/24
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<b>Community Plan Theme</b>	<b>A clean and green future</b>		
<b>Cabinet Member</b>	Cabinet Member for Environment and the Climate Emergency		
Who will be consulted before decision is made and how will this consultation take place	NA		
Has an Equality Impact Assessment been carried out and if so the result of this Assessment?	NA		
Contact details for comments or additional information	Ashraf Ali (Director of Public Realm) ashraf.ali@towerhamlets.gov.uk		
What supporting documents or other information will be available?			
Is there an intention to consider this report in private session and if so why?	No, Unrestricted		
<b>Title of Report</b>	<b>Revised Adult Social Care Charging Policy Incorporating Free Community Based Services</b>	Ward All Wards	Key Decision? Yes
<b>Summary of Decision</b>	The current charging policy for adult social care support references charges for both residential and non-residential provision. The introduction of free community based services in April 2025 requires the existing adult social care charging policy to be updated to reflect this change.		

<b>Decision maker</b> Date of decision	<b>Cabinet</b> 08/01/25
<b>Community Plan Theme</b>	<b>A council that works for you and listens to you</b>
<b>Cabinet Member</b>	Cabinet Member for Health, Wellbeing and Social Care
Who will be consulted before decision is made and how will this consultation take place	None None

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Has an Equality Impact Assessment been carried out and if so the result of this Assessment?	Required		
Contact details for comments or additional information	Katie O'Driscoll (Director of Adult Social Care) Katie.O'Driscoll@towerhamlets.gov.uk		
What supporting documents or other information will be available?			
Is there an intention to consider this report in private session and if so why?	No, Unrestricted		
<b>Title of Report</b>	<b>Budget Report 2025-26 and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2025-28</b>	Ward All Wards	Key Decision? Yes
<b>Summary of Decision</b>	This report sets out the issues and actions which inform the development of the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) 2025-28.		

<b>Decision maker</b> Date of decision	<b>Cabinet</b> 08/01/25
<b>Community Plan Theme</b>	<b>All Priorities</b>
<b>Cabinet Member</b>	Cabinet Member for Resources and the Cost of Living
Who will be consulted before decision is made and how will this consultation take place	The Mayor, Lead Member for Resources and the Cost of Living; and the Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Committee will be consulted.  Internal consultation will take place via MAB SRP, Star Chamber sessions and Overview and Scrutiny meetings.
Has an Equality Impact Assessment been carried out and if so the result of this Assessment?	No
Contact details for comments or additional information	Abdulrazak Kassim (Director Finance, Procurement and Audit) abdulrazak.kassim@towerhamlets.gov.uk
What supporting documents or other information will be available?	N/A

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Is there an intention to consider this report in private session and if so why?	No, Unrestricted		
<b>Title of Report</b>	<b>Skylines Village Regeneration Scheme - Resolution for an in-principle Compulsory Purchase Order</b>	Ward Blackwall & Cubitt Town	Key Decision? Yes
<b>Summary of Decision</b>	Approve a resolution in principle for a single Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 in relation to the Skylines Village regeneration scheme		

<b>Decision maker</b> Date of decision	<b>Cabinet</b> 29/01/25
<b>Community Plan Theme</b>	<b>TH Plan 4: Everyone in Tower Hamlets should have access to good work and skills and an income that meets their needs.</b>
<b>Cabinet Member</b>	Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Inclusive Development and Housebuilding
Who will be consulted before decision is made and how will this consultation take place	<p>Commercial property interests Statutory consultees through planning process</p> <p>The commercial property owners affected by the proposal have been contacted directly by the Council.</p> <p>The Council will also undertake a pre-CPO engagement process with affected parties to review the impact to their property or land interest and to explain the CPO process in further detail. Prior to making the Order the Council will send pre-CPO letters to all identified property interests to explain the process and the impact to their individual rights</p>
Has an Equality Impact Assessment been carried out and if so the result of this Assessment?	An equality impact analysis checklist and report has been completed which assesses the impacts to the protected characteristics. The report supports the implementation of the measures proposed to facilitate delivery of the overall regeneration: overall the impacts of the scheme are considered to be positive
Contact details for comments or additional information	Charmaine Campbell, Alifa Khatun, Shivani Patel, Abdul Razak, Karen Swift Senior Management Support Officer Charmaine.Campbell@towerhamlets.gov.uk, Senior Management Support Officer alifa.khatun@towerhamlets.gov.uk, Senior Management Support Officer shivani.patel@towerhamlets.gov.uk, Senior Management Support Officer abdul.razak@towerhamlets.gov.uk, (Divisional Director, Housing and Regeneration) Karen.Swift@towerhamlets.gov.uk
What supporting documents or other information will be available?	Section 226 Town and Country Planning Act 1990  Section 203 Town and Country Planning Act 1990

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	Grant resolution for Planning Application ref: PA/17/01597 dated 18 March 2019
Is there an intention to consider this report in private session and if so why?	Partly Exempt (Part of the report will be exempt) Financially Sensitive

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