

Meeting of the

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Tuesday, 1 April 2008 at 7.00 p.m.

A G E N D A

VENUE

M71, 7th Floor, Town Hall, Mulberry Place, 5 Clove Crescent, London,
E14 2BG

Members:	Deputies (if any):
Chair: Councillor Marc Francis Vice-Chair: Councillor Alexander Heslop	
Councillor Shahed Ali Councillor Alibor Choudhury Councillor Stephanie Eaton Councillor Ahmed Hussain Councillor Oliur Rahman Councillor Mohammed Abdus Salique Councillor Salim Ullah	Councillor Lutfu Begum, (Designated Deputy representing Councillor Oliur Rahman) Councillor Peter Golds, (Designated Deputy representing Councillor Ahmed Hussain) Councillor Rania Khan, (Designated Deputy representing Councillor Oliur Rahman) Councillor Abjol Miah, (Designated Deputy representing Councillor Shahed Ali) Councillor Fozol Miah, (Designated Deputy representing Councillor Shahed Ali) Councillor M. Mamun Rashid, (Designated Deputy representing Councillor Shahed Ali) Councillor A A Sardar, (Designated Deputy representing Councillors Marc Francis, Alibor Choudhury, Alex Heslop, Mohammed Abdus Salique and Salim Ullah)

Councillor Bill Turner, (Designated Deputy representing Councillors Marc Francis, Alibor Choudhury, Alex Heslop, Mohammed Abdus Salique and Salim Ullah)

[Note: The quorum for this body is 4 voting Members].

Co-opted Members:

Mr Azad Ali	– Parent Governor Representative
Terry Bennett	– Church of England Representative
Mr D McLaughlin	– Roman Catholic Diocese of Westminster Representative
Mr H Mueenuddin	– Muslim Community Representative

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LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS
OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Tuesday, 1 April 2008

7.00 p.m.

SECTION ONE

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

To receive any apologies for absence.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

1 - 2

To note any declarations of interest made by Members, including those restricting Members from voting on the questions detailed in Section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act, 1992. See attached note from the Chief Executive.

3. UNRESTRICTED MINUTES

3 - 16

To confirm as a correct record of the proceedings the unrestricted minutes of the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 4th March 2008.

4. REQUESTS TO SUBMIT PETITIONS

To be notified at the meeting.

5. REQUESTS FOR DEPUTATIONS

To be notified at the meeting.

6. SECTION ONE REPORTS 'CALLED IN'

(Time allocated 1½ hours)

To consider call-in requests as attached in respect of the following Section One items from the meeting of Cabinet held on 5th March 2008:

6 .1 Blackwall Reach Regeneration Project - Development Framework

17 - 46

6 .2 Draft Ocean New Deal for Communities Delivery Plan 2008/9 47 - 60

7. SCRUTINY SPOTLIGHT: LEAD MEMBER

(Time allocated 45 minutes)

The Lead Member for Health and Wellbeing will attend to report on his portfolio.

8. PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT

(Time allocated – 15 minutes)

8 .1 Tower Hamlets Index 61 - 110

9. BUDGET AND POLICY FRAMEWORK

There are no items to consider under this heading.

10. SCRUTINY MONITORING AND MANAGEMENT

(Time allocated – 30 minutes in total)

10 .1 Report of Health Scrutiny Panel Review Group: Smoking/Tobacco Cessation (REPORT TO FOLLOW)

10 .2 Report of Scrutiny Review Group: Licensing of Strip Clubs (REPORT TO FOLLOW)

10 .3 Verbal updates from Scrutiny Lead Members

11. PRE-DECISION SCRUTINY OF SECTION ONE (UNRESTRICTED) CABINET PAPERS

(Time allocated – 15 minutes)

12. ANY OTHER SECTION ONE (UNRESTRICTED) BUSINESS WHICH THE CHAIR CONSIDERS TO BE URGENT

13. 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.

14. RESTRICTED MINUTES

To confirm as a correct record of the proceedings the restricted minutes of the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 4th March 2008.

15. SECTION TWO REPORTS 'CALLED IN'

There were no Section Two reports 'called in' from the meeting of Cabinet held on 5th March 2008.

16. PRE-DECISION SCRUTINY OF SECTION TWO (RESTRICTED) CABINET PAPERS

(Time allocated 10 minutes)

17. ANY OTHER SECTION TWO (RESTRICTED) BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIR CONSIDERS URGENT

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Agenda Item 2

DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS - NOTE FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE FOR MEMBERS OF THE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

This note is guidance only. Members should consult the Council's Code of Conduct for further details. Note: Only Members can decide if they have an interest therefore they must make their own decision. If in doubt as to the nature of an interest it is advisable to seek advice **prior** to attending at a meeting.

Declaration of interests for Members

Where Members have a personal interest in any business of the authority as described in paragraph 4 of the Council's Code of Conduct (contained in part 5 of the Council's Constitution) then s/he must disclose this personal interest as in accordance with paragraph 5 of the Code. Members must disclose the existence and nature of the interest at the start of the meeting and certainly no later than the commencement of the item or where the interest becomes apparent.

You have a **personal interest** in any business of your authority where it relates to or is likely to affect:

- (a) An interest that you must **register**
- (b) An interest that is not on the register, but where the well-being or financial position of you, members of your family, or people with whom you have a close association, is likely to be affected by the business of your authority more than it would affect the majority of inhabitants of the ward affected by the decision.

Where a personal interest is declared a Member may stay and take part in the debate and decision on that item.

What constitutes a prejudicial interest? - Please refer to paragraph 6 of the adopted Code of Conduct.

Your personal interest will also be a prejudicial interest in a matter if (a), (b) and either (c) or (d) below apply:-

- (a) A member of the public, who knows the relevant facts, would reasonably think that your personal interests are so significant that it is likely to prejudice your judgment of the public interests; AND
- (b) The matter does not fall within one of the exempt categories of decision listed in paragraph 6.2 of the Code; AND EITHER
- (c) The matter affects your financial position or the financial interest of a body with which you are associated; or
- (d) The matter relates to the determination of a licensing or regulatory application

The key points to remember if you have a prejudicial interest in a matter being discussed at a meeting:-

- i. You must declare that you have a prejudicial interest, and the nature of that interest, as soon as that interest becomes apparent to you; and
- ii. You must leave the room for the duration of consideration and decision on the item and not seek to influence the debate or decision unless (iv) below applies; and

- iii. You must not seek to improperly influence a decision in which you have a prejudicial interest.
- iv. If Members of the public are allowed to speak or make representations at the meeting, give evidence or answer questions about the matter, by statutory right or otherwise (e.g. planning or licensing committees), you can declare your prejudicial interest but make representations. However, you must immediately leave the room once you have finished your representations and answered questions (if any). You cannot remain in the meeting or in the public gallery during the debate or decision on the matter.

There are particular rules relating to a prejudicial interest arising in relation to Overview and Scrutiny Committees

- You will have a prejudicial interest in any business before an Overview & Scrutiny Committee or sub committee meeting where both of the following requirements are met:-
 - (i) That business relates to a decision made (whether implemented or not) or action taken by the Council's Executive (Cabinet) or another of the Council's committees, sub committees, joint committees or joint sub committees
 - (ii) You were a Member of that decision making body at the time and you were present at the time the decision was made or action taken.
- If the Overview & Scrutiny Committee is conducting a review of the decision which you were involved in making or if there is a 'call-in' you may be invited by the Committee to attend that meeting to answer questions on the matter in which case you must attend the meeting to answer questions and then leave the room before the debate or decision.
- If you are not called to attend you should not attend the meeting in relation to the matter in which you participated in the decision unless the authority's constitution allows members of the public to attend the Overview & Scrutiny for the same purpose. If you do attend then you must declare a prejudicial interest even if you are not called to speak on the matter and you must leave the debate before the decision.

LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

MINUTES OF THE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

HELD AT 7.00 P.M. ON TUESDAY, 4 MARCH 2008

**M71, 7TH FLOOR, TOWN HALL, MULBERRY PLACE, 5 CLOVE CRESCENT,
LONDON, E14 2BG**

Members Present:

Councillor Marc Francis (Chair)
Councillor Shahed Ali
Councillor Alibor Choudhury
Councillor Stephanie Eaton
Councillor Alexander Heslop (Vice-Chair)
Councillor Ahmed Hussain
Councillor Mohammed Abdus Salique
Councillor Salim Ullah

Other Councillors Present:

Councillor Clair Hawkins – (Lead Member, Children's Services)
Councillor Denise Jones – (Leader of the Council)

Co-opted Members Present:

Mr Azad Ali – Parent Governor Representative
Terry Bennett – Church of England Representative
Mr H Mueenuddin – Muslim Community Representative

Officers Present:

Suki Binjal – (Interim Head of Non-Contentious Team, Legal Services)
Afazul Hoque – (Acting Scrutiny Policy Manager, Scrutiny and Equalities, Chief Executive's)
Michael Keating – (Acting Assistant Chief Executive, Chief Executive's)
Shanara Matin – (Scrutiny Policy Officer)
Martin Smith – (Chief Executive)
Kweku Quagraine – (Democratic Services)
John Williams – (Service Head, Democratic Services)

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies for absence were received from Committee members.

The Committee noted that Councillor Ahmed Hussain was now the Conservative Group representative on the Committee and that Councillor Oliur Rahman had been appointed to replace Councillor Hussain as the Respect – The Unity Coalition Group representative.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations were made.

3. UNRESTRICTED MINUTES

Councillor Mohammed Abdus Salique and Councillor Salim Ullah requested that particular questions they asked during the previous meeting's Lead Member Scrutiny Spotlight be included in the minutes. The Chair requested that they liaise with the minute taker to provide details of the relevant items.

RESOLVED

That subject to the above, the minutes of the meeting held on 5th February 2008 be confirmed as a true and accurate record.

4. REQUESTS TO SUBMIT PETITIONS

No petitions were received.

5. REQUESTS FOR DEPUTATIONS

No deputations were received.

6. SECTION ONE REPORTS 'CALLED IN'

There were no Section One Reports called in from the Cabinet meeting held on Wednesday 6th February 2008.

7. SCRUTINY SPOTLIGHT: LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

The Chair, Councillor Marc Francis, welcomed the Leader of the Council, Councillor Denise Jones, to the meeting.

Councillor Jones gave a brief presentation on the key achievements and challenges facing the borough, the Council and Tower Hamlets Partnership currently. She also gave an outline of her role as Leader, her assessment of the Council's improved performance in a number of areas and the operation of the authority's decision-making and scrutiny processes. Councillor Jones particularly highlighted the Council's commitment to continuous improvement in services, and successful outcomes in relation to Crossrail and the 2012 Olympics.

Members of the Committee put a wide range of questions to Councillor Jones to which she responded as set out below.

Councillor Ahmed Hussain asked about the Leader's assessment of overview and scrutiny; about Post Office closures; and about the Council's development policies in relation to the religious needs of residents.

Councillor Jones felt that overview and scrutiny made a valuable contribution to the work of the authority, both through detailed reviews and comments on items referred to and from Cabinet. In relation to Post Office closures, she felt it was important to maintain a cross party campaign. Councillor Jones agreed that development plans needed to address the full range of residents' needs as far as was lawfully possible.

Councillor Mohammed Abdus Salique sought further information on housing and the waiting list; the cleanliness of the borough particularly away from the Docklands area; and youth provision.

Councillor Jones stated that Tower Hamlets was a leader in the provision of affordable homes. There were approximately 20,000 people on the housing waiting list but the Council was working with RSLs to provide additional housing as well as setting up an ALMO to attract additional funding to improve existing homes. There was a need for a range of approaches to secure more large family homes required by many local people. In relation to cleanliness of the borough there was further work to be done but additional money was included in the current budget for this purpose. Regarding youth services, Councillor Jones felt that further work was required to ensure the service was fit for purpose and the provision attractive to all young people.

Councillor Shahed Ali asked whether "affordable" housing was in fact affordable for local people. He also asked whether the Leader would agree to additional consultation on the proposed ALMO, for example via Council Tax bills or East End Life.

Councillor Jones referred to housing benefit and shared ownership provisions which could help local people but agreed that unemployment and low incomes were matters of concern that could prevent many people from buying properties. In relation to the ALMO, a great deal of consultation had already been done and the Leader pointed out that under the ALMO proposal the Council would retain both the freehold of the properties and the policy making role, with the ALMO merely delivering services on its behalf.

Councillor Shahed Ali raised further questions on whether the Cabinet gave full consideration to Overview and Scrutiny Committee's recommendations; and on whether there was a contradiction between the Council's Environmental Policy to cut fuel emissions and its use of diesel vehicles in its own fleet.

The Leader confirmed that in most cases the recommendations of Overview and Scrutiny were very helpful to the Cabinet. They were always given full consideration although of course on occasion the two bodies did not agree and it was the Cabinet's responsibility to make a decision. In relation to diesel vehicles, the fleet vehicles had been adjusted to improve emission levels. The Cabinet had agreed an environmental strategy last year.

Councillor Alibor Choudhury asked about the successes, challenges and lessons learnt from the Neighbourhood Renewal Fund work; the Council's plans for further work on preventing extremism and an Action Plan in response to the Government's Commission on Integration and Cohesion; and progress on implementing the Auditor's recommendations in respect of grant claims.

Councillor Jones referred to some of the successes of the Neighbourhood Renewal Programme. She pointed out that Tower Hamlets was the first borough to role out Safer Neighbourhood Teams. In relation to the new Working Neighbourhoods Funding, work was underway within the Partnership and in liaison with the voluntary sector. The Fund was focused on employment initiatives but it was possible for a range of work to be covered under this heading. In relation to preventing extremism, the Council had been successful in obtaining grant funding for a programme of initiatives. Work was continuing with the Police in this area which was also reflected in the new Community Plan priorities.

The Chief Executive referred to the issue of grant claims, and was confident that the forthcoming 2007 Audit letter would record an increase in quality in this area.

Councillor Alibor Choudhury further referred to the Ocean Regeneration Trust consultation, which he considered had not been conducted in the best way. He asked for an assurance that the maximum amount of social housing would be included in the proposed development and that as far as possible the process would be led by the local community.

Councillor Jones confirmed that the Council's target for affordable housing would apply to the development. Three Panels were in place to lead the project and local residents would play a key role.

Councillor Stephanie Eaton enquired whether the Leader would favour opening up the Tower Hamlets Partnership structures, for example PMG and CPAGs, to greater Member scrutiny. The Leader stated that the Partnership was not a closed structure and there was some misunderstanding on how the

PMG worked – it was a group composed of representatives from residents, the Council and partner agencies and its members were listed on the website. The Partnership structure was currently under review and issues around scrutiny and representation had been discussed at a recent awayday.

Councillor Eaton also enquired as to the ways in which the Council could influence partner organisations to improve services for the benefit of local people. Councillor Jones confirmed that this was done via the targets in the Community Plan and overseen by the CPAGs. The Chief Executive pointed out that under the new LAA regime, there would be a statutory responsibility in this regard.

Councillor Alex Heslop raised the possibility of a Town Centre Manager for Bow. He also sought more information on the PCT's recent decision to contract with Atos Health Care to provide GP services at St. Paul's Way, the consultation that had been undertaken and the review mechanisms built into the contract.

Councillor Jones noted the suggestion regarding a Town Centre Manager for Bow. She also referred to the role of the LAP Area Directors. In relation to St. Paul's Way, Councillor Jones was a non-executive Board member of the PCT. The Board had not let the contract but had authorised discussions with three bidders and officers had then concluded the contract in accordance with the agreed process. Councillor Jones pointed out that most GPs were in fact already small businesses. The new arrangements would provide a better service and longer opening hours than previously and this was the criterion on which service delivery decisions should be based.

Councillor Marc Francis referred to the recent Cabinet decision and call-in on the supermarket development at Gladstone Place. He asked whether the Leader felt the Cabinet's decision had undermined the Council's ability to secure a development that met local needs; and whether it was appropriate for the decision to be taken in advance of the public meeting. The Leader did not agree with Councillor Francis' analysis and pointed out that the Council was the freeholder but not the leaseholder of the site. Councillor Jones considered that the Cabinet decision was the best way of achieving the supermarket required in the Roman Road area.

The Chair thanked Councillor Jones for her attendance at the meeting and for answering the questions posed by Members.

8. PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT

There were no items to consider under this heading.

9. BUDGET AND POLICY FRAMEWORK

9.1 Youth Justice Plan

Councillor Clair Hawkins introduced the Youth Justice Plan report to the Committee. She highlighted the main elements of the report and key achievements including the award of a Level Four for performance by Tower Hamlets YOT, up from Level Three previously. Councillor Hawkins further explained that the Youth Justice Plan was based around 15 performance areas and 21 Key Performance Indicators against which the Youth Offending Service is assessed. She added that in developing the plan it was sought to focus on early intervention and prevention work and targeted work with at risk parents and families.

There was one correction to the figures in the report – First Time Entrants were up by 2.4% and not 7.7% as shown. This compared favourably to 4.3% for the ‘family’ boroughs but further work was still required.

The Committee raised a range of questions and comments in relation to the draft Youth Justice Plan, in particular:

- Members sought assurances around quality of secure accommodation for young people particularly those held outside of the borough.
- In future plans, the Committee would want to see more on the challenges that services faced in improving youth justice, specifically on how lessons learnt from one year are applied the next year.
- Members discussed sentencing trends, particularly the greater likelihood of custodial sentences at some times, and welcomed LBTH’s engagement with the Courts and Police on this point.
- The Committee raised questions about the measures in place to tackle the significant over-representation of black and mixed-race boys from Tower Hamlets in the criminal justice system.
- There were questions about the provisions available to work with offenders who are from newly arrived communities from Eastern Europe and those just over school-age.
- The Committee welcomed the changes to youth justice targets which will help to simplify the KPI on restorative justice and questioned whether this should be more challenging in future years.
- The committee strongly endorsed the idea of a Commission on Public Safety for Young People, and sought further clarity about the arrangements for ensuring its composition and remit and the timeframe it will work towards.

- Members felt that more work was needed around diversionary activities at the early stages of young people at the brink of becoming involved in the youth justice system; and were keen to see that good practice is being identified and promoted in the Plan.
- The focus on engaging third sector organisations was welcomed. However, Members would like to see details of those organisations in future reports. The committee also specifically asked for assurances that these will include mother tongue and religious facilities who work with children outside of school hours.
- Members were keen that issues around radicalisation should be explored in further detail within the Youth Justice Plan.
- The Committee recognised the importance of breaking the cycle of young people from families where there is a history of offending being more likely to become offenders themselves.
- Members were pleased to hear about the role the FISP is already playing in working with chaotic families and strongly support LBTH's proposed bid to the DCSF's Family Pathfinders scheme to expand its work to include the families of offenders.

The Committee noted the increase over the past four years in the number of young people receiving a conviction, or admitting guilt and receiving a reprimand or final warning. This was against a backdrop of a growing population of young people and an increase in detection rates for some crimes in the Borough.

Nevertheless, it does demonstrate a need for a strong partnership between the Council, police and other agencies to reduce offending in the first place and also draw young people out of the cycle of repeat offending before they become involved in the most serious offences.

Overall and subject to the above comments, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee welcomed the Youth Justice Plan and looked forward to the contribution it would make to public safety and reducing youth offending in Tower Hamlets.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the draft Youth Justice Plan 2008/09 be endorsed and that the Cabinet and Council be recommended to agree its adoption.
- (2) That in considering the draft Plan, the Cabinet be advised of the comments of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee as set out above.

10. SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT

10.1 Use of Consultants Scrutiny Review Report

Councillor Mohammed Abdus Salique introduced the report to the committee; he additionally took the opportunity to thank all the Council officers who contributed to compiling the document.

Councillor Stephanie Eaton explained that she saw the document and recommendations as positive and indicative, welcoming the detail of the report.

Councillor Marc Francis stated that he was pleased to see recommendation four (That targets for reducing expenditure on consultants should be highlighted as an objective in the Tower Hamlets Strategic Plan) being brought forward. He was less supportive of recommendation six (That directorates should increasingly use internal secondments and graduate trainees for one-off projects) but overall he welcomed the report and would await the Cabinet's response with interest.

RESOLVED

That the Overview and Scrutiny Committee:

1. Endorse the draft report.
2. Authorise the Service Head, Scrutiny and Equalities to agree the final report before its submission to Cabinet, after consultation with the Scrutiny Lead for Excellent Public Services.

10.2 Revisiting Youth Services Scrutiny Review Challenge Session

Councillor Ahmed Hussain introduced the report, commending the work of officers who contributed in compiling the document.

Councillor Alex Heslop requested further information on the proposed Recommendation 6 ('that in consultation with the Inter-Faith Forum, service users and staff, the Service explores how religious needs could be incorporated in youth service curriculum'). Councillor Hussain explained that members at the challenge session had been concerned that service providers should consult and be aware of the faith requirements of potential users and these should be taken into account to ensure that the way services were delivered did not act as a barrier to participation.

Councillor Alibor Choudhury and Mr Mueenuddin each agreed with Councillor Hussain's statement and felt that this recommendation was a useful contribution.

RESOLVED

That the Overview and Scrutiny Committee note the outcomes of the scrutiny challenge session and endorse the recommendations put forward in the paper.

10.3 Overview and Scrutiny Committee Recommendation Tracking Report

Michael Keating introduced the report to the Committee, highlighting the key point that in the vast majority of cases the recommendations of Overview and Scrutiny had been accepted and progressed.

Councillor Stephanie Eaton expressed concern that a number of items were shown as 'Amber', and stressed the importance of monitoring these issues. The Chair stated that in these cases the recommendations had not yet been fully implemented.

RESOLVED

That the Overview and Scrutiny Committee note the progress in implementing its recommendations.

11. VERBAL UPDATES FROM SCRUTINY LEADS

Scrutiny Lead members reported on progress within their respective Scrutiny areas:

Councillor Alex Heslop reported on progress of the Choice Based Lettings Review. The Working Group had carried out an informative and useful visit to the East London Lettings Company (ELLC). The Group considered how the ELLC operates and came back with some points for consideration, including the IT system and provision of information to applicants regarding their bids. The next review session on 10th March would look at the merits and demerits of Tower Hamlets joining the ELLC; and would discuss issues around overcrowding with RSL partners.

Councillor Mohammed Abdus Salique reported on the progress being made in Translating and Interpreting Services. He explained that the first stage of work will be done through a Challenge Session. Consideration would be given to recent Government guidance on the way local authorities provide translating and interpreting services, as well as the scope for improving ESOL provision and increasing uptake. In the light of this as part of the review Tower Hamlets would be working with the London Borough of Hackney to consider broader implications for East London.

Councillor Alibor Choudhury reported on progress in the Evaluation of NRF Funding. At the last meeting representatives from GOL and EDAW informed members of how successful NRF had been in Tower Hamlets, along with the

challenges facing Tower Hamlets when the Working Neighbourhood Fund is introduced. On 13th March a number of NRF funded organisations would give evidence and the group would discuss: What their original objectives were, how this met the NR strategy, how they met the Community plan targets and what difference they made to benefit local people. Councillor Choudhury invited all Members to attend.

In relation to the Determination of Major Planning Applications Challenge Session, Councillor Choudhury informed members that an Action Plan had been developed as attached in the OSC Tracking report.

Councillor Salim Ullah reported on progress in the Evaluation of Tackling Anti Social Behaviour. The last meeting brought together the youth service, Police, Tower Hamlets Partnership and RSLs to discuss how they work together to combat ASB. Councillor Ullah stated that the next meeting would be on Tuesday 11th March at 7pm.

In relation to the evaluation of the Effectiveness of Safer Neighbourhood Teams Challenge Session, Councillor Ullah explained that an action plan with recommendations had been sent to officers and would shortly be finalised.

Councillor Ahmed Hussain reported on progress in the Scrutiny Review of Young People's participation in sports. The fourth session took place the previous day with the aim of examining the data around take up and fitness levels of young people in the borough. The Working Group agreed to conduct a survey through the Youth Fair, schools, youth centres, third sector organisations, Mile End Hospital and the Tower Hamlets website. Approximately 300 surveys had been returned and the results showed that young people would be keen to engage in a variety of sports. Barriers identified included that fact that many young people did not feel comfortable with going to an activity if they don't know anyone there.

The Chair, Councillor Marc Francis, reported on progress of the Strip Club Review. He explained that work was drawing to a close, with the last meeting scheduled for March 19th. The working group had begun to outline their recommendations at the penultimate meeting, which took place on February 21st and a draft report was expected next week, for comment from councillors and officers prior to the 19th. The final report would then be presented to the Committee in April. Councillors on the working group had examined a wide range of evidence from varied sources.

Councillor Stephanie Eaton reported on progress of the Smoking Cessation Review. She explained that the report was being written up and would be submitted to the April Overview & Scrutiny Committee and the next Health Scrutiny Panel Meeting on 18 March.

In relation to the Health Scrutiny Panel, Councillor Eaton informed members that the next meeting on 18 March 2008 would consider the NHS Trust declarations which are self-assessments against core standards set out by the Healthcare Commission. There would also be a joint borough meeting for

Tower Hamlets, Newham and Hackney to consider the declaration by the East London and City Mental Health Trust on 27 March 2008.

Councillor Eaton also reported that a meeting of the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee on Healthcare for London was successfully hosted in Tower Hamlets on 22nd February.

12. PRE-DECISION SCRUTINY OF SECTION ONE (UNRESTRICTED) CABINET PAPERS

The Committee considered thoroughly the proposed questions to submit to Cabinet and agreed that the following will be referred:

Agenda Item 8.1 Blackwall Reach Regeneration Project – Development Framework (CAB 136/078)

1. How many residents who took part in the consultation on the Blackwall Reach regeneration scheme supported the construction of two tower blocks on the south of the site, and what proportion of respondents does this represent?
2. How many of the 800 affordable homes planned for Blackwall Reach will be social rented homes?
3. At present how many (a) one, (b) two, (c) three and (d) four-bedroom flats/maisonettes are contained within (i) Robin Hood Gardens and (ii) Anderson House, Macrow Walk and Woolmore Street?
4. Further to the answer given on 1st August 2007, can the Cabinet now confirm whether any of the social rented homes proposed for Blackwall Reach will be built to Parker Morris standards?
5. What assessment has been made of the impact of a forty storey tower block on the setting of the adjacent Naval Row Conservation Area?
6. When does LBTH expect to be notified of a decision on the application to list Robin Hood Gardens?
7. What representations has LBTH received against the demolition of Robin Hood Gardens?
8. At the 11 February full council meeting we had a petition from the local residents of Robin Hood Gardens; implying that they have been misled by the Council and, that they are eager to stay with the Council and do not want to change to any other partners; can the Cabinet ensure that their wishes will be taken into consideration, if they are how will it be provided?

9. Will consideration be given to a continuation of the existing security of tenure of the petitioners in respect of both the social housing and the youth facilities?

Agenda Item 8.2 Draft – Ocean New Deal for Communities – Delivery Plan for 2008/09 (CAB 137/078)

1. What local consultation has been carried out in determining priorities in the new delivery plan?
2. What are we doing to effectively meet the priority of empowering and encouraging local residents and community groups such as the Ocean Tenants and Leaseholders Association to participate fully in their community, in strategic decision-making and delivery of local services?
3. In the new governance structure there are only 3 residents and with little or no third sector participation. How does the new governance structure effectively reflect local community involvement?
4. In regards to Community facilities, what were the outcomes from the community consultation, what and where are they [facilities] going to be located, will existing buildings be refurbished or new ones built and who will be running them?
5. Which department will be responsible for managing the Ocean Regeneration Trust? Who will be the Lead Officers? What steps will the department take to ensure that staff who have been or will be recruited, have the right experience?
6. What assurances can be given that NDC's remaining capital money [£18m] will be spent by the end of the ONDC programme? Can a breakdown be given of how this money will be spent?

Agenda Item 10.1 Disposal of Properties at 2 Jubilee Street; 22-28 Underwood Road and 117 Poplar High Street (CAB 141/078)

1. Which other disposals since May 2006 have been by informal tender?
2. What measures are in place to ensure that the disposal of these sites via informal tender process achieves best value?
3. What safeguards are in place to ensure that Poplar Town Hall is not converted into residential flats?
4. Has the Council considered the merits/demerits of selling a long lease rather than the freehold interest in the premises? Is there any scope for a community land trust so that the assets are retained for the benefit of the community and not resold to a private developer at some stage in the future?

13. ANY OTHER SECTION ONE (UNRESTRICTED) BUSINESS WHICH THE CHAIR CONSIDERS TO BE URGENT

Nil Items

14. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED

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.

15. SECTION TWO REPORTS 'CALLED IN'

There were no Section Two reports called in from the Cabinet meeting held on Wednesday 6th February 2008.

16. PRE-DECISION SCRUTINY OF SECTION TWO (RESTRICTED) CABINET PAPERS

The Committee considered a number of proposed questions for submission to the Cabinet in relation to Cabinet Agenda Item 20.1 - St Matthias Site Disposal (CAB 146/078), and agreed that a number of questions be referred.

17. ANY OTHER SECTION TWO (RESTRICTED) BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIR CONSIDERS URGENT

Nil Items

The meeting ended at 10.15 p.m.

Chair, Overview and Scrutiny Committee

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Agenda Item 6.1

Committee: OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY	Date: 1 April 2008	Classification: Unrestricted	Report No.	Agenda Item No.
Report of: Assistant Chief Executive Originating Officer(s): John Williams, Service Head, Democratic Services			Title: Cabinet Decision Called-in: Blackwall Reach Regeneration Project – Development Framework Wards: Blackwall and Cubitt Town	

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 The attached report of the Corporate Director, Development and Renewal was considered by the Cabinet on 5th March 2008 and has been “Called In” by Councillors Dulal Uddin, Abjol Miah, Harun Miah, Fozol Miah and M. A Munim for further consideration. This is in accordance with the provisions of Part Four of the Council’s Constitution.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 That the Committee consider the contents of the attached report, review the Cabinet’s provisional decisions arising and decide whether to accept them or refer the matter back to Cabinet with proposals, together with reasons.

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

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

Brief description of “background paper”

Cabinet report

Name and telephone number of holder
and address where open to inspection

John S Williams
02073644204

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1** The attached report of the Corporate Director, Development and Renewal was considered by the Cabinet on 5th March 2008 and has been “Called In” by Councillors Dulal Uddin, Abjol Miah, Harun Miah, Fozol Miah and M. A Munim for further consideration. This is in accordance with the provisions of Part Four of the Council’s Constitution.

4. THE CABINET’S PROVISIONAL DECISION

- 4.1** The Cabinet after considering the attached report provisionally agreed:-

1. That the amended Development Framework, as set out in Appendix 1 to the report (CAB 136/078), be approved as Interim Planning Guidance for the Blackwall Reach area;
2. That, subject to 9. below, the key recommendation for the comprehensive regeneration of the Blackwall Reach area, with the amendments set out in Section 7 of the report (CAB 136/078), including the demolition of properties at Nos.1-214 Robin Hood Gardens, 1-22 Anderson House, 1-11 Mackrow Walk and 2-10 (Evens) Woolmore Street, be agreed;
3. That the Corporate Director Development and Renewal, after consultation with the Leader of the Council and Lead Member for Regeneration, Localisation and Community Partnerships, be authorised to make any necessary minor amendments to the Development Framework;
4. That, subject to 10. below, the Corporate Director Development and Renewal develop a Rehousing Strategy in accordance with the report (CAB 136/078) and that decant status be granted for the affected homes in Robin Hood Gardens, Anderson House, Mackrow Walk and Woolmore Street, with effect from September 2008, as set out in paragraph. 6.1.1 of the report;
5. That the Corporate Director Development and Renewal develop a strategy, in liaison with English Partnerships, for the buy-back and precautionary compulsory purchase of affected home owners, for future consideration by Cabinet; including the requirement that Registered Social Landlord (RSL) or developer partners must make provision in the scheme for replacement homes on an affordable, flexible ownership (shared equity) basis, for existing resident home owners who wish to remain in the area but may not be able to purchase at full market value;
6. That the Corporate Director Development and Renewal be authorised to negotiate voluntary buy-backs with private home owners listed in

paragraph 1.3 of the report (CAB 136/078) who wish to leave the area to make their own arrangements, in accordance with the Authority's standard Council practice, as set out in paragraphs 6.2 to 6.3 and that the costs of securing vacant possession of tenanted and privately owned properties be contained within the project on the basis described in paragraph 6.9 of the report;

7. That the Corporate Director Development and Renewal assist in English Partnership's procurement of an RSL partner for the St Matthias site (the subject of Agenda item 20.1 "St Matthias Site Disposal" (CAB 146/078) on the exempt/ confidential agenda), to bring forward proposals to commence the first phase of new-build homes as quickly as possible; and
8. That further community engagement activity continue, as set out in paragraphs 9.1 to 9.5 of the report (CAB 136/078) to:-
 - (a) Consult on the proposals in the Development Framework as these are worked up in more detail to form an outline planning application.
 - (b) Enable residents aspirations to be understood and thereby accommodated within the outline planning process, noting that the partners have committed to working with the Local Voices Group to develop a residents' charter to articulate these aspirations.
 - (c) Provide further information regarding the proposed Rehousing Strategy, decant process and option to return, and provide tenants with comparative information about RSL and Council tenures, to help them decide whether to opt to return to a new RSL home, or for an alternative Council home through the decant process.
 - (d) That the Corporate Director Development and Renewal ensure that a comprehensive communication strategy, in relation to the Blackwall Reach Regeneration Project, is implemented.
9. That in the event that the Authority's application to English Heritage for a certificate for immunity from Listing fails, and Robin Hood Gardens is listed as being of special architectural or historic interest, the Corporate Director Development and Renewal be instructed to submit a further report for Cabinet consideration setting out:
 - (a) A range of options for how the Blackwall Reach Development Framework may be adapted and implemented, having regard to the building's listed status.
 - (b) The range of objectives and benefits that the overall Blackwall Reach Regeneration Programme would seek to achieve in this context.

10. That the Corporate Director Development and Renewal be instructed to start the housing needs assessment work, referred to in Section 6 of the report (CAB 136/078), with tenants in the Blackwall Reach Development Framework area immediately, and to submit a detailed re-housing strategy for Cabinet consideration as soon as possible;
11. That the Corporate Director Development and Renewal be instructed to:-
 - (a) Examine ways to ensure that intermediate homes within the Blackwall Reach Regeneration Project reflect local affordability levels.
 - (b) Examine options for affordable home ownership within the Blackwall Reach Regeneration Project for local people who may currently be living in rented accommodation but who aspire to purchase their own home.
 - (c) Examine ways to ensure that the affordable housing, both social for rent and equity stake, provided through the Blackwall Reach Regeneration Project, is affordable not just for one generation but in perpetuity.

5. REASONS FOR THE 'CALL IN'

5.1 The Call-in requisition signed by the five Councillors listed above gives the following reasons for the Call-in:

1. Proposed strategy in conflict with Community

The Report acknowledges that key issues arising from consultation with residents are not understood or addressed (1.4; 2.8.2).

The **Statement of Community Participation** prepared for English Partnerships (Feb 08) reports that 95% of existing council tenants in Robin Hood Gardens want to remain as council tenants (1.10) and 77% want to remain in the neighbourhood (1.9). The consultation report finds 'the vast majority of existing tenants want *both* redevelopment *and* council housing' (1.11).

Tenants have criticised the consultation process (including a petition presented to full council 11 February – see appendix i).

2. Tenure demands

The report fails to address directly the demand from tenants that they retain council tenure in new or improved homes in the Robin Hood Gardens area. It claims that those wishing to remain council tenants will be able to do so via decant (4.2 point 7). Given the Council's current waiting list of c23,000 in

housing need, it is irresponsible to suggest that 200+ households can be found suitable alternative council homes relatively quickly. This would further exacerbate the already desperate situation of other households on the waiting lists, and condemn homeless families to spend longer in expensive and unsuitable temporary accommodation. It is not a responsible proposal. It is likely (see 5.10) that in reality tenants will be browbeaten into accepting an RSL tenancy with less security, rights and accountable control over their landlord.

3. Compulsory purchase

Buy back and compulsory purchase can be protracted and costly options with disastrous effects (as on Ocean estate and others).

If English Partnerships is investing public funds in buying leased land from another public body (Tower Hamlets council) and in the process providing cash-flow to subsidise buy backs and compulsory purchase, we need to clarify the status and transparency of this arrangement.

4. Loss of asset

The strategy outlined would dispose of valuable land and assets, and channel some of the capital receipts arising to other including non-housing projects.

The report refers to 'freehold ownership of land on which the Council's homes are replaced' being retained by the council (4.2 point 4). This is not a clear statement of how much land and asset is proposed for disposal in the strategy. It implies that potentially the whole of the site of the existing Robin Hood Gardens estate and surrounding land could be sold for private development.

These are potentially extremely valuable public assets, and clarity is required on their future. The lack of detail is not acceptable

5. Alternatives

The report leaves open the possibility of alternatives for redeveloping the estate (6.1.3).

The Council's duty, according to Interim Planning Guidance (IPG) statement of Oct. 07 about Affordable Housing (policy ref. CP22):

- a) **'The council will aim to maximise all opportunities for affordable housing on each site...in order to achieve a 50% affordable housing target...'** (Para 1)
- b) 'It is a key priority within the Community Plan to increase the provision of affordable housing so that families can continue to live together...(Para 5.15)

We note that Robin Hood Gardens tenants association has called for alternative development proposals that meet the 'tenants agenda':

We the tenants of Robin Hood Gardens estate demand that any redevelopment of our estate provides us with secure council housing of a first class standard on our estate. In the 21st century, living within the shadow of our own Town Hall and of Canary Wharf, we have a right to expect nothing less. We want to be active participants in the improvement of our environment – not victims of ruthless gentrification.

We invite all the architects and developers concerned about the future of our estate to submit plans for redevelopment in line with this tenants' agenda – first class council housing and an environment that serves the needs of our community.

We will judge the submissions at an open meeting, and then call on all our elected representatives and the Mayor of London, to back the plan that best serves the community of Robin Hood Gardens now and for future generations.

(Robin Hood Gardens tenants association press statement 9 March 2008)

We understand that some initial plans for alternative development proposals have been submitted.

Appendix i

Petition presented to Tower Hamlets Council 11 Feb 08 concerning Robin Hood Gardens

Abdul Halim Chowdhury

1. Our petition represents the view of Robin Hood Gardens residents – We have been demanding repairs and improvements, better community facilities, and investment in the future of our estate for many years. We want improvements and regeneration which residents are the beneficiaries of – not the victims

2. The Government promised that by 2010 all tenants would benefit from a decent home with modern facilities. The Council as our landlord has to deliver that promise.

Whoever you contract to improve our estate, we are council tenants and we insist that it is our right to remain so. The Housing & Regeneration Bill currently going through parliament, and Ministers promised review of Housing finance, which they say will provide 'sustainable council housing finance for the long term' means new and improved council housing is possible.

To make it very clear: We will not leave our homes unless and until we have improved or new council homes on the estate to move into.

3. There is potential to ensure that we all get what we need at Robin Hood Gardens – there is plenty of space for developers to build on around the estate, if that is necessary to make the finances work. We are

prepared to negotiate – but we insist on council housing on the estate, we believe at least half of all new housing should be council and for rent, and we need community facilities for elders, for our young people, for children’s play.

Asma Begum

4. Residents have been denied entry to consultation, told we can only ask three questions, and then not given answers. I have a list of 22 questions here which have not been answered to despite our efforts. So we are strengthening community engagement and user participation – as it says in the Community Plan. From today we will organise the meetings– and you come and talk to residents on our terms, and answer our questions. We have had enough glossy leaflets and hand picked groups, loaded questions and hidden agendas.

5. Many of us work hard to give the Community Plan real meaning and genuinely make this an inclusive, cohesive and sustainable community – as parents, through our tenants association and SPLASH, as school governors, in our churches and mosques, as volunteers. We are here to demand your support in these efforts. All around Robin Hood Gardens massive development is taking place. We want our children to take their rightful place working in Canary Wharf or East India Dock, and sharing the benefits of development – after all we have all paid the price. After all the promises of docklands we did not see the benefits of the LDDC – on St Vincents 7 out of 9 blocks were demolished and the community scattered. The housing situation in Tower Hamlets and across London is much harder now than then – so we are saying take this opportunity to work with us, listen to our needs, and serve the people you represent so we can all share the benefits.

6. ALTERNATIVE COURSE OF ACTION PROPOSED:

6.1 The Councillors submitting the Call-in requisition have proposed the following alternative course of action:

That the provisional decision of Cabinet 5.3.08 to consider a range of options for adapting the Blackwall Reach Development Framework, be extended to include consideration of alternative submissions which fully address the residents’ demands as reflected in the Statement of community participation and residents’ and TRA statements.

Options should clarify the number of rented Council and/or RSL homes to be included, and minimise disposal of publicly owned land. These should be considered by Members following full consultation with residents.

7. CONSIDERATION OF THE “CALL IN”

7.1 The following procedure is to be followed for consideration of the “Call In”:

- (a) Presentation of the “Call In” by one of the “Call In” Members followed by questions.
- (b) Response from the Lead Member/officers followed by questions.
- (c) General debate followed by decision.

N.B. – In accordance with the Overview and Scrutiny Committee Protocols and Guidance adopted by the Committee at its meeting on 6 June, 2007, any Member(s) who presents the “Call In” is not eligible to participate in the general debate.

7.2 It is open to the Committee to either resolve to take no action which would have the effect of endorsing the original Cabinet decisions, or the Committee could refer the matter back to the Cabinet for further consideration setting out the nature of its concerns and possibly recommending an alternative course of action.

Committee: Cabinet	Date: 5 March 2008	Classification: Unrestricted	Report No:	Agenda Item No:
Report of: Emma Peters - Corporate Director of Development and Renewal		Title: Blackwall Reach Regeneration Project - Development Framework		
Originating Officer(s): Owen Whalley - Service Head, Major Projects		Wards Affected: Blackwall and Cubitt Town		

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report advises Members of the outcome of recent resident and stakeholder consultation on the draft Development Framework for the Blackwall Reach Regeneration Project, following its consideration by Cabinet on 1st August, 2007. This was developed in line with the Council's Housing Investment Strategy which sets out a vision for housing in Tower Hamlets and outlines a range of approaches depending on different investment needs and investment opportunities for different estates and housing types within the Borough. Homes within the Blackwall Reach area were identified for the comprehensive regeneration masterplan approach.
- 1.2 The Development Framework sets out the vision for the comprehensive regeneration of Blackwall Reach and is intended to guide future planning applications for the area. If adopted, it will enable the Council to ensure that development applications coming forward serve both the local and wider Tower Hamlets' communities, by harnessing the residential and commercial development investment opportunities to provide new and better affordable homes and other essential facilities and amenities in this historically deprived area.
- 1.3 The consultation exercise, undertaken over 3 months, in collaboration with English Partnerships (the National Regeneration Agency), has resulted in a number of changes to the Development Framework. These are now incorporated into proposals for the redevelopment and comprehensive regeneration of 1-214 Robin Hood Gardens, 1-22 Anderson House, 1-11 Mackrow Walk and 2-10 Woolmore Street, E14.

Local Government Act, 1972 Section 100D (as amended) "Background Papers" used in the preparation of this report, given limited circulation in conjunction with this report on CD/ROM

Brief description of "Background paper" of holder and address where open

Name and telephone number

Robin Sager Tel: 020 7364 2439

Blackwall Reach - Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA) Scoping Report
Blackwall Reach - Statement of Community Participation
Blackwall Reach - Regeneration Needs Assessment
Blackwall Reach - Interim Sustainability Appraisal
Cabinet Report CAB 039/078 (1 August 2007) - Blackwall Reach Draft Regeneration Framework

- 1.4 However, the consultation identified a number of key issues which, it is proposed, will need to be addressed in a Rehousing Strategy for Blackwall Reach, if the Development Framework is adopted. These issues are outlined in Section 6 (below). This Rehousing Strategy would need to be devised in tandem with the preparation of an outline planning application.
- 1.5 Cabinet approval is being sought separately to dispose of the Council owned St Matthias site to English Partnerships to enable the first phase of the Blackwall Reach Regeneration Project. This is set out in paras. 6.6 - 6.8
- 1.6 The Blackwall Reach Project is one of the major regeneration projects within the Borough. The joint work of the Council and English Partnerships, which is to be subsumed within the newly created Homes and Communities Agency (HCA), on this project is seen as an exemplar model for future work of HCA with local authorities to regenerate estates and increase supply of new affordable homes.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

The Cabinet is recommended to:-

- 2.1 Agree the approval of the amended Development Framework set out in Appendix 1 as Interim Planning Guidance for the Blackwall Reach area.
- 2.2 Agree the key recommendation for the comprehensive regeneration of the Blackwall Reach area with the amendments set out in section 7 of this report, including the demolition of properties at Nos.1-214 in Robin Hood Gardens, 1-22 Anderson House, 1-11 Mackrow Walk and 2-10 (Evens) Woolmore Street.
- 2.3 Authorise the Corporate Director Development and Renewal, after consultation with the Leader of the Council and Lead Member for Housing and Development, to make any necessary minor amendments to the Development Framework.
- 2.4 Agree that the Corporate Director Development and Renewal develop a Rehousing Strategy in accordance with this report and that decant status be granted for the affected homes in Robin Hood Gardens, Anderson House, Mackrow Walk and Woolmore Street, with effect from September 2008, as set out in paras. 6.1.1.
- 2.5 Agree that the Corporate Director Development and Renewal shall develop a strategy, in liaison with English Partnerships, for the buy-back

and precautionary compulsory purchase of affected home owners, for future consideration by Cabinet; including the requirement that RSL or developer partners must make provision in the scheme for replacement homes on an affordable, flexible ownership (shared equity) basis, for existing resident home owners who wish to remain in the area but may not be able to purchase at full market value.

- 2.6 Authorise the Corporate Director Development and Renewal to negotiate voluntary buy-backs with private home owners listed in para 1.3 who wish to leave the area to make their own arrangements, in accordance with standard Council practice, as set out in paras. 6.2 to 6.3. and that the costs of securing vacant possession of tenanted and privately owned properties can be contained within the project on the basis described in para. 6.9.
- 2.7 Agree that the Corporate Director Development and Renewal assist in English Partnership's procurement of an RSL partner for the St Matthias site (this is subject of a separate report on this agenda), to bring forward proposals to commence the first phase of new-build homes as quickly as possible.
- 2.8 Agree that further community engagement activity will continue, as set out in paras. 9.1 to 9.5, to:-
 - 2.8.1 Consult on the proposals in the Development Framework as these are worked up in more detail to form an outline planning application.
 - 2.8.2 Enable residents aspirations to be understood and thereby accommodated within the outline planning process. The partners have committed to working with the LVG to develop a residents' charter to articulate these aspirations.
 - 2.8.3 Provide more information about the proposed Rehousing Strategy, decant process and option to return, and provide tenants with comparative information about RSL and Council tenures, to help them decide whether to opt to return to a new RSL home, or for an alternative Council home through the decant process.

3 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 'Blackwall Reach' comprises eight hectares of homes, businesses and open space that lie between Cotton Street, Aspen Way, the Blackwall Tunnel Approach and East India Dock Road in E14 (See Map 'Appendix 2').

- 3.2 Blackwall Reach is characterised by run-down homes and business premises in need of investment, a lack of decent shops and community facilities and poor quality, under-used open spaces. Years of under-investment, compounded by poor urban design, have led to a community suffering serious environmental decline.
- 3.3 There are approximately 250 homes in the Blackwall Reach area most of which are in Robin Hood Gardens, but also including Anderson House and homes on Mackrow Walk and Woolmore Street. There are 206 Council rented homes, 34 leaseholders and 10 freeholder properties in the area.
- 3.4 Some 214 of these homes are in Robin Hood Gardens, which comprises two blocks of flats, built in 1972, and requiring substantial repairs. There are significant defects to the external envelope, roof coverings, bathrooms, kitchens, electrical wiring and other service infrastructures. It is estimated that at least £20 million will be required to remedy these defects and bring the dwellings up to a satisfactory standard to deliver sustainable improvements. It is possible that this work would require a temporary decant.
- 3.5 Robin Hood Gardens was identified as having scope for a comprehensive regeneration masterplan approach. This was approved by the Council in March 2007, as part of the Council's "Housing Investment Strategy".
- 3.6 Blackwall Reach is isolated from the wider community by the busy roads which border it. There are no shops within the area, getting to the nearest shopping areas of Poplar High Street and the Chrisp Street shopping centre require residents to cross busy roads.
- 3.7 Whilst there is an enclosed sports court, play equipment and green space between the two blocks of Robin Hood Gardens, these are in poor condition and use of the green is limited by the steep sided mound at its centre. Access to other areas of open space outside the site is difficult.
- 3.8 Woolmore Primary School is included in the project area. There is a need to plan for an expansion of this from one form entry school to three form entry to provide sufficient school places for the local community, including families living in new homes in the area. This is within the context of the Council needing to increase primary school places in the Borough overall, particularly in the south eastern area of the borough, to meet the needs of the rising population. Proposals for Woolmore School will take into account the need to keep the existing school open during construction of new facilities and as well as the need to plan for additional community services which may be provided from the school.

- 3.9 In order to support the Blackwall Reach community, and create a new sustainable neighbourhood, the Council has been working closely with English Partnerships to prepare a Development Framework for the area.
- 3.10 A Draft Development Framework, which included two main options, was agreed by LBTH Cabinet on 1st August 2007 for consultation with the local community. Option 1 proposed redevelopment of Anderson House and homes on Mackrow Walk and Woolmore Street, but the retention and refurbishment of Robin Hood Gardens itself. Option 2, which offered substantially wider regeneration benefits, including around 800 new affordable homes, proposed comprehensive redevelopment of the whole area, including the two blocks on Robin Hood Gardens.
- 3.11 The Development Framework (Appendix 1) has been amended to take into account the views of the local community and statutory agencies gathered during the consultation period, and the technical and financial arguments supporting a comprehensive approach to tackling the long-term regeneration needs of this area.
- 3.12 The Framework thus sets out a vision for Blackwall Reach, providing around 800 new affordable homes for rent and shared ownership (550 more than at present) within a wider commercial and residential development, including the replacement of the existing rented and leaseholder homes on Robin Hood Gardens, new shops, broader community uses, improved connectivity, new business premises and attractive new open spaces, all underpinned by high quality urban design and architecture.
- 3.13 A number of key issues arose in the community consultation which are summarised in Section 5 of the report. Consultation highlighted the need, as detailed proposals are developed, to prepare a clear Rehousing Strategy, to reinforce links to other economic and social regeneration programmes within LBTH, and for ongoing community engagement, which is addressed in Sections 6 and 9 respectively.
- 3.14 The Development Framework, if approved by Cabinet, will form a material consideration in the determination of all planning applications in the area, and will therefore be a key tool in shaping the future of this key community in Tower Hamlets. Approval of this strategic planning guidance document will help the Council to direct development within the project area, and to harness investment from potential neighbouring development, which is likely to go ahead independently and in a fragmented way if the Council does not take this chance to direct it to maximize the opportunity to fund its regeneration aspirations.
- 3.15 This report confirms that the adoption of the Framework will be a step towards providing not only new and better affordable homes, including replacement homes for those who wish to stay in the area, but also other essential facilities and community amenities in this historically deprived area.

3.16 For ease of reference this report comprises the following sections:-

Section 4: summary of the proposed option for regeneration.

Section 5: consultation and key issues.

Section 6: developing a proposed Rehousing Strategy.

Section 7: amendments to the Development Framework.

Section 8: planning issues.

Section 9: ongoing community engagement.

Section 10: project programme.

Sections 11 to 17: comments on legal, financial, Children's Services, equal opportunities, anti-poverty, action for a greener environment and risk management .

Appendix 1 Blackwall Reach Regeneration Project Development Framework

Appendix 2: Map of the Blackwall Reach area

Appendix 3: Details of formal representations

4 SUMMARY OF THE PROPOSED OPTIONS FOR REGENERATION

4.1 Members were advised in the 1st August 2007 Cabinet report about the 2 main options for regeneration. These included either the retention (Option 1), or the demolition and redevelopment (Option 2), of the 214 homes in the two Robin Hood Gardens blocks; both options also included the redevelopment of around 38 homes in Anderson House, Woolmore Street and Mackrow Walk.

4.2 Following consultation with the local community, and technical review, a number of amendments have been made to the Development Framework. These are set out in Section 7. The recommended proposal is now for comprehensive regeneration of the Blackwall Reach area (formerly Option 2) which is based on the following key principles:

- Redevelopment including the provision of up to 3000 new homes, a range of new local shops and a variety of new commercial premises which can house a range of local businesses.
- The redevelopment of Robin Hood Gardens, which will enable the provision of around 800 new affordable homes, including potential replacement homes for displaced tenants and resident home owners who wish to remain in the area.
- The Woolmore Street properties of 1-22 Anderson House, 1-11 Mackrow Walk and 2-10 (Evens) Woolmore Street will be demolished, to enhance the available public space.

- Freehold ownership of the land on which the Council's homes are replaced will remain with the Council.
- Additional residential development will need to provide a minimum of 35% affordable housing, together with the required levels of family housing across all tenures, in accordance with the Council's policies.
- New affordable homes for rent and shared ownership / shared equity are likely to be built and managed by an RSL partner, or by more than one RSL.
- It is recognized from consultation that many residents may wish primarily to remain Council tenants: they will be able to do so through the decant process which will be set out in the Rehousing Strategy. Alternatively those tenants wishing to remain in the immediate Blackwall Reach area would be able to take up an option to apply for one of the new affordable rented RSL homes. This is explained further in paragraph 6.1 below.
- That there is no net loss of public open space and that there is the opportunity to increase the amount of open space provision in the area and greatly improve its quality.
- That the existing education, health, youth and community facilities (including Poplar Mosque) are redeveloped and fully replaced with modern and improved facilities, of at least the same size, to ensure they have the capacity to serve an increased residential population.
- That pedestrian and cycle linkages to and from the area are improved.
- Meet and exceed the Mayor's standards for carbon reduction and renewable energy

5 CONSULTATION AND KEY ISSUES

Methodology

- 5.1 The consultation to date has been undertaken by a community consultation team, managed jointly by English Partnerships and Council officers, and has been wide-ranging. It included 110 home visits and a successful keynote event, involving the whole community in November 2007, which was attended by 225 adults and 40 children. Apart from the exhibition, which illustrated the proposals and outlined the rehousing opportunities, there were dedicated workshops on a range of topics, including tenant decants and leaseholder issues.
- 5.2 In the wider process there were also consultation workshops with the Poplar Mosque, women and local youth, and officers met with the governing body of Woolmore School, which is a strong lynch-pin for the

local community. A freephone helpline was set up and a website (www.blackwallreach.co.uk). Leaflets and newsletters have been delivered to the residents in the area.

- 5.3 The project also engaged with the key statutory authorities and stakeholders to ensure that they are involved in shaping the future regeneration of Blackwall Reach.

Key Issues

- 5.4 The consultation identified a number of key issues that have either influenced amendments to the amended Development Framework, or must be addressed as part of the proposed Rehousing Strategy. If the recommendations in this report are agreed, the Rehousing Strategy will be prepared for ongoing community engagement during the outline planning period.
- 5.5 **Support for redevelopment:** information gathered, in particular from the home visits, highlighted that there is strong support for replacing rather than retaining Robin Hood Gardens, with 81% preferring this option. This was substantiated at the keynote event where, following a panel discussion, majority indicated their support by an informal show of hands for the proposed redevelopment of the main Robin Hood Gardens blocks.
- 5.6 **Desire to remain in the area:** many residents expressed a strong desire to have an opportunity to return, or to remain in the area, with 77% saying they would wish to stay in the neighbourhood following redevelopment.
- 5.7 **Concerns about RSL tenure:** during the course of the consultation event and through a subsequent petition, many residents have reiterated their loyalty to Council tenure. 36% interviewed would consider an RSL rented home whilst many indicating they would also wish to remain Council tenants, if this were possible; it was explained during consultation that this might preclude the opportunity to apply for a new home in Blackwall Reach itself, as under current Government regulations these are likely to be developed and managed by an RSL partner.
- 5.8 Consultation showed there is:-
- strong support for demolition and the provision of new affordable homes;
 - a likelihood that many residents would like to remain in the area, to benefit from its regeneration.
- 5.9 As set out in Section 9 below, Members are asked to note that more detailed ongoing community engagement work is planned to address the concerns that some tenants have about RSL tenure, and thus reassure

those who may wish to take up the proposed option to rent a new affordable RSL home in the area.

5.10 Information will be provided to explain that RSL tenure is a viable and secure option for local people who need to rent an affordable home, on comparable terms with Council tenure, particularly given the Government's requirement for parity of rent levels between RSL and Council homes by 2012.

5.11 Other issues arising from the consultation include:

- The **requirement for full decant of the affected homes**, and how this will be managed in a way that tenants can understand, and that limits inconvenience.
- **The potentially high number of hidden or emergent households** – this would be gauged fully when the Council carries out individual housing needs assessments, following the proposed award of decant status, but it may impact on the decant process.
- The **desire of most residents with children at Woolmore Primary School for their needs to be considered** when temporary and / or permanent rehousing offers are made, so that they can remain as near to the school as possible.
- The **need for Woolmore Primary School to continue to function fully during regeneration** works, and to be made larger, rather than be replaced, with no loss of staff or pupils in the interim.
- The **need for clear advice and assistance on the rehousing process**, especially among the elderly, sick or disabled.
- **Tenants' desire to know when key decisions will be made**, who will make them, and the rational processes behind them. This will be addressed through ongoing engagement and specific consultation on decants and rehousing.
- **Timescales and phasing of the programme**, to minimize disruption to the community, and to enable options to return and/or remain for those wishing to do so.
- **Need for continued community engagement** on a range of issues, particularly decant and rehousing.
- **Consideration of the proximity of future community facilities and provision of an improved Mosque.**
- **Noise pollution concerns** regarding the tunnel approach road.

- **Connectivity improvements** required to the South and West of the area.
- Adjustment of the red-lined Development Framework area **to prevent blight by removing the existing private developments** in Bullivant Street, Delta Building and Indigo Mews.

5.12 **The statutory consultees and key stakeholders** all responded positively to the draft Regeneration Framework. The Greater London Authority, Transport for London, Docklands Light Railway and London Thames Gateway Development Corporation all supported the overall regeneration proposals and all wish to play a role in the ongoing evolution of the project. A summary of the respective representations are contained in Appendix 3 to this report. The respective bodies identified a number of detailed issues which will need to be addressed as the proposals are worked up in more detail in the preparation of the outline planning application. These include:

- the need to ensure that **decking over the Blackwall Tunnel approach road** does not create level differences which may restrict permeability
- further **justification for tall buildings** in this location
- the importance of ensuring that there is **sufficient capacity within education and transport facilities** to accommodate the additional population as well as appropriate provision of open space for both the development itself and the wider community
- the need to ensure that any **development does not compromise the operational requirements of the Docklands Light Railway**

5.13 **A formal representation** was submitted on behalf of Avrin & Sons Limited of Prestage Way (Appendix 3). The representation expressed general support of the framework but objected to the inclusion of their client's site within the Framework, stating that it should be able to be brought forward independently from the wider regeneration proposals. However, this would be contrary to the fundamental objective of the Framework which is to ensure that new development is undertaken on a comprehensive basis rather than a piecemeal, individual site basis in order that the aims and objectives of achieving a sustainable community can be successfully delivered.

6 DEVELOPING A REHOUSING STRATEGY

Addressing Tenants and Homeowners Needs

6.1 A number of recommendations are made to Members to enable the further development of the Blackwall Reach regeneration proposals, and in recognition of the key issues and concerns raised by tenants and home owners during the consultation process. These recommendations include:-

6.1.1 That decant status be granted for the affected homes in Robin Hood Gardens, Anderson House, Mackrow Walk and Woolmore Street, deferred to September 2008, to allow:-

- review by LBTH of the wider lettings implications arising from regeneration related decants across the borough;
- development of a detailed Rehousing Strategy, in liaison with English Partnerships and community representatives through the Local Voices Group, including indicative phasing and a clear decant strategy, to reduce the requirement for double-decants and temporary rehousing, as far as possible.

6.1.2 That existing tenants should have an option to return, if they wish, to the new (RSL) homes for affordable rent, subject to developing the terms after consideration of the issues raised by the wider lettings review and the Rehousing Strategy.

6.1.3 Noting that secure Council tenants wishing to remain in Council tenure will be able to apply for alternative Council accommodation which meets their requirements, through the decant process. It will be explained to tenants why this will probably preclude them from returning to the new homes on Blackwall Reach, as these are likely to be built and managed by RSL partners.

6.1.4 Noting that officers will develop a strategy, in liaison with English Partnerships, for the buy-back and precautionary compulsory purchase of affected home owners, for future consideration by Cabinet. This includes a requirement that RSL or developer partners must make provision in any scheme for replacement homes on an affordable, flexible ownership (e.g. shared equity) basis, for existing resident home owners who wish to remain in the area, but may not be able to purchase at full market value.

6.1.5 Recognition that the adoption of the Development Framework may blight the privately owned homes in the locations listed in para.2.3. It is therefore proposed that LBTH officers be permitted to negotiate voluntary buy-backs with home owners wishing to leave the area, to make their own arrangements. Offers would be made in accordance with standard Council practice, which is based on legal guidelines, and has been the subject of previous reports to Cabinet. Partner RSL's are required to follow the same approach.

- 6.2 When leaseholders' or freeholders' homes are repurchased, they receive the full current market value of their property. Leaseholders who occupy their properties as their "principal" homes receive an additional 10% of the final market value as a statutory "Home Loss" payment. Leaseholders who do not occupy their homes may be eligible for an extra 7.5% of the purchase price as a "Basic Loss Payment," if they have maintained their property.
- 6.3 To help displaced leaseholders move to their new homes, their reasonable moving costs are paid: for example, solicitors' and valuers' professional fees, the hire of private removal companies, disconnection and reconnection of cookers, washing machines, and all associated domestic costs of moving from one property to another, including an allowance for carpets and curtains etc.
- 6.4 In addition to this standard option the buy-back strategy would reflect that a future RSL partner may be able to offer further options when leaseholders' homes are purchased. These options would be developed in consultation with affected home owners, English Partnerships and the future RSL partners, and would include provision of replacement homes on an affordable, flexible ownership (shared equity) basis. Other options might be lease swaps and "do it yourself" shared ownership options, for residential leaseholders prepared to find their own replacement properties.
- 6.5 The aim is that home owners are treated fairly, and that resident owners have opportunities to remain living on the improved estate if this is their preference.

Appointment of RSL Partner for St Matthias Site

- 6.6 Cabinet approval is being sought separately in a report titled "St Matthias Site Disposal" to dispose of the Council owned St Matthias site to English Partnerships. This will enable the site to come forward as the first phase of the Blackwall Reach Regeneration Project. In particular it will enable English Partnerships and the Council to secure new development that will provide initial re-housing of residents from Robin Hood Gardens – which is to be replaced under the wider regeneration proposals – as part of a wider mixed tenure scheme.
- 6.7 English Partnerships will lead the procurement of an RSL partner for the St Matthias site, in close liaison with LBTH, to ensure that the requirements and standards of both organisations are fully met. The intention is to procure a mixed tenure scheme which is likely to maximise the number of affordable homes for rent and shared ownership / equity, to help meet the decant requirements of residents affected by the proposed redevelopment.
- 6.8 Authorisation is sought in recommendation 2.7 for LBTH officers to assist in English Partnership's procurement of an RSL partner for the

St Matthias site, to bring forward proposals to commence the first phase of new-build homes as quickly as possible.

Securing Vacant Possession

- 6.9 The costs of securing vacant possession of tenanted and privately owned properties in the locations listed in para. 2.3 can be contained within the project and will be cashflowed through the following means:-
- 6.9.1 Ring-fencing part of the capital receipt from the leasehold disposal of St Matthias site to English Partnerships to cashflow the initial costs of leaseholder buyouts – this part to be repaid to the Council’s Local Priorities Programme next financial year.
- 6.9.2 English Partnerships has an in-principle commitment (subject to their Board approvals) to further invest in the project to help meet any short to medium term gap funding requirements. This will be dependent on all project partners agreeing what is the best value and most sustainable delivery mechanism as part of the detailed business planning process which will follow the adoption of a preferred option. A report will follow on this when an in principle agreement has been reached will all prospective partners.

7. AMENDMENTS TO THE DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK

- 7.1 The consultation identified a number of areas where the proposals for the physical development could be improved. The consultation also identified substantial support for a redevelopment option because of the decay and design problems of Robin Hood Gardens. Residents have strongly articulated that this support is linked to the detail of the Rehousing Strategy and particularly around housing costs, landlord and overcrowding issues.
- 7.2 Having reviewed the regeneration benefits to the community of a comprehensive approach and the technical and financial disadvantages of a refurbishment option, it is proposed that the improvements to the framework option be incorporated into a revised demolition and rebuild option (the former option 2. A key part of the revised option is the more clearly articulated set of Council commitments about the process and the desired outcomes of the housing strategy which are outlined in section 6.
- 7.3 The physical amendments are as follows:-
- 7.3.1 **Connectivity** - Cotton Street has been included within the boundaries of the project to overcome the difficulties residents experience trying to cross such a busy road

- 7.3.2 **Minimising Blight** - The red line setting out the boundary of the Blackwall Reach area has been adjusted to exclude the homes on Bullivant Street, Indigo Mews and Delta Building, which might otherwise be blighted as a result of the uncertainty about possible redevelopment in the area.
- 7.3.3 **Community facilities** - Issues will be taken forward as part of the outline planning permission. The location and accessibility of these were considered important, as was the capacity to accommodate a growing community for example within the school and mosque.
- 7.3.4 **Decking Options (over the tunnel approach)** - The problems of the tunnel approach experienced by the residents are fully acknowledged in terms of noise, air pollution and connectivity. The proposal for decking as a solution is being assessed to ascertain whether this is technically and financially feasible within the context of the whole scheme. The technical team will also explore further the design quality and personal safety concerns raised by the GLA about the impact of building an isolated deck 6m above ground level. It is anticipated that this matter will be resolved in early 2008 and will inform the outline planning application.

Alternative methods to improve the acoustic and air quality around the proposed development are being considered. These include:

- Ensure the existing accommodation meets the acoustic and air quality standard.
 - Provide an acoustic barrier on the west side of the Blackwall Tunnel Approach, which will also improve air quality, and improve east west connectivity by the introduction of a bridge.
 - Improvements to the appearance of the Transport for London and police control facilities.
- 7.4 **Wider Regeneration Initiatives** - The proposed development will help attract investment to the Borough and will result in enhanced educational, community and public realm facilities. It will help cement the Borough's relationship with English Partnerships as the National Regeneration Agency committed to regenerate sustainable communities through working collaboratively with other public sector partners. The scheme and the connectivities proposed should assist neighbouring areas and give rise to opportunities for further local and funding initiatives that will be discussed with Members as they emerge.

- 7.5 The retention of Robin Hood Gardens is not considered viable for a number of reasons, because it achieves far fewer affordable homes within the regeneration scheme. Retaining Robin Hood Gardens would mean less land available to work with, and less new development. This in turn would reduce the number of new homes it would be possible to build by up to a thousand, and as a consequence less affordable homes as a proportion, and fewer receipts from sales to fund some of the wider regeneration proposals.
- 7.6 Retention would mean losing a quarter of the potential green space, restricting the area to 1.5 hectares rather than 2 hectares possible with a wider redevelopment. There would also be less community and health facilities with 1,150m² rather than 1,650m² of floorspace available, and significant 500m² reduction in the space available for new education facilities to enlarge Woolmore School.
- 7.7 If Robin Hood Gardens were retained it would still need to be renovated to the Government's Decent Homes Standard. Due to its poor condition this will require substantial works to the interior of each Council rented home. It is possible that this work would require a temporary decant. Extensive works will also be required to the exterior of the buildings. It would also be very difficult for structural reasons within the existing building blocks to provide larger units to respond to the evidence overcrowding.
- 7.8 The projected costs of full scale renovation to deliver sustainable improvements are likely to be more than £20 million. As things currently stand, Robin Hood Gardens, including the surrounding blocks, will form part of the stock that will be managed by Tower Hamlets Homes (Arms Length Management Organisation) on behalf of the Council.
- 7.9 Even if Tower Hamlets Homes achieves a minimum two-star status at an Audit Commission inspection there is not likely to be sufficient capital investment available to achieve the wider regeneration objectives, including substantially more new replacement affordable homes for local people, and the other community benefits, which could be delivered by the proposed scheme.
- 7.10 If the existing Council homes are retained there would also be an implication for leaseholders as some of the works required would carry a recharge contribution.
- 7.11 **Poplar Mosque** - Negotiations will be required with representatives of Poplar Mosque on the corner of Woolmore Street and Bullivant Street regarding reprovision of this facility. It is recognized that the Mosque has a key role in the local community, and negotiations will include the offer of providing appropriate new premises within the wider development.

- 7.12 **Design** - It is envisaged that a regeneration scheme, if agreed, should provide opportunities for new homes in the area for existing residents, within a vibrant and sustainable new residential and business community. The basic design concepts are outlined in the appended Framework, see chapters titled 'The Vision' (Page 15) and 'Building Blocks for a Sustainable Community' (Page 16).
- 7.13 A key aim of the regeneration of Blackwall Reach is to provide high-quality, well designed homes that meet existing and future needs of residents and which they can afford. It is also recognized that new buildings should adhere to best practice guidance including 'By Design – Better Places To Live' and 'The Urban Design Compendium', including requirements that new buildings must:–
- relate well to the new open spaces provided, encouraging natural surveillance of these areas;
 - have building materials and finishes of the highest quality;
 - be designed to ensure that appropriate amenity space is incorporated, including children's playspaces;
 - employ innovative design solutions to ensure that family housing and higher-density urban housing can be provided together;
 - be designed so that there is no difference in quality of materials or design between social rented, intermediate and market housing.
 - be designed as sustainable homes and addressing carbon reduction.

8 PLANNING ISSUES

Planning Policy Context

- 8.1 English Partnerships and LBTH have worked within the planning policy context established by the London Plan, the Lower Lea Valley Opportunity Area Planning Framework and the Council's Interim Planning Guidance – in particular the Leaside Area Action Plan – to prepare a Development Framework that will enable the sustainable regeneration of the area.
- 8.2 The Draft Development Framework, approved by Cabinet, set a positive planning context for the regeneration area, building on the Leaside Area Action Plan's vision for Blackwall Reach as a location suitable for high density mixed use residential, employment (industrial and office), retail and community uses.
- 8.3 English Partnerships has continued to work with LBTH to ensure that the Development Framework is in line with the objectives that all key stakeholders have for the area to ensure that the regeneration area benefits are maximised. A planning strategy approach has been set out in order to identify the key processes and milestones for preparing the

necessary planning applications following approval of the Development Framework. This incorporates the Council's own procedures for pre-application discussions. The Strategy includes the statutory requirements relating to Environmental Impact Assessment and will enable detailed consideration to be given to the evolving design of Blackwall Reach proposals to ensure the highest design standards, delivery of the necessary linkages to the wider area and ensure appropriate treatment of development abutting conservation areas.

- 8.4 As part of this Strategy, English Partnerships intends to submit an Outline Planning Application, which should be capable of determination without reliance on further detailed applications or reserved matters, based upon the Development Framework for the Blackwall Reach Regeneration Area, which will establish the development parameters for the regeneration.
- 8.5 A Detailed Planning Application will need to be taken forward to enable the commencement of first phase of the scheme. Timescales for this are still to be agreed.

9 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- 9.1 The regeneration partners, English Partnerships and Tower Hamlets are committed to developing an accessible and meaningful approach to ongoing resident involvement in the Blackwall Reach Regeneration Project. The initial consultation and engagement work has provided the foundations for the initiation of a Local Voices Group (LVG), which it is hoped, will become the principle way for the partners to engage with key community stakeholders for the foreseeable future. Two Local Voices Group meetings have been held to date.
- 9.2 English Partnerships has made a commitment to funding the costs of community engagement consultants, capacity building opportunities and further newsletters so that the LVG can develop the skills and knowledge to discuss and influence the complex technical and planning issues associated with this regeneration.
- 9.3 There will be ongoing consultation with specific groups such as Woolmore School and Poplar Mosque.
- 9.4 Recommendation 2.8 proposes that wider community engagement activity will need to focus on:-
 - Consult on the proposals in the Development Framework as these are worked up in more detail to form an outline planning application.
 - Enable residents aspirations to be understood and thereby accommodated within the outline planning process. The partners

have committed to working with the LVG to develop a residents' charter to articulate these aspirations

- Provide more information about the proposed Rehousing Strategy, decant process and option to return, and provide tenants with comparative information about RSL and Council tenures, to help them decide whether to opt to return to a new RSL home, or for an alternative Council home through the decant process. It is planned to do this initially through the LVG and then to report back to residents as a whole.

9.5 If deferred decant status is awarded, as recommended, a household housing needs analysis would be undertaken as part of the pre-decant preparation. This will also give an opportunity to explain the decant process and the likely housing options available on a more individual basis.

10 PROGRAMME

10.1 If a scheme is developed and agreed, the Council and English Partnerships would work together closely as delivery agents for the regeneration.

10.2 The timetable set out below illustrates the proposed broad redevelopment programme as it is currently projected.

Key Milestones	Target Date
LBTH Approve Development Framework	Spring 2008
Submit Outline Planning Application	September 2008
Consultation on Planning Application	September 2008
Resolution to approve Planning Application	December 2008
Planning Approval granted	January 2009
Works on site start	September 2009
Works completion	2015

10.3 The works would be phased over different sites in the regeneration area, each commencing when the site becomes available. The first phase is new homes targeted for completion by 2010/11 on the St Matthias site, which would provide decant rehousing opportunities for residents from Blackwall Reach.

11 CONCURRENT REPORT OF THE ASSISTANT CHIEF EXECUTIVE (LEGAL)

11.1 The Development Framework will in due course become a Supplementary Planning Document established by the Planning and

Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 and Planning Policy Statement PPS12. This has statutory status as part of Local Development Framework.

11.2 The requirements of section 105 of the Housing Act 1985 as to consultation with Residents are being complied with under the current consultation process. Any future use of compulsory purchase powers will be part of a separate report in due course.

12 COMMENTS OF THE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

12.1 This report updates Cabinet on the outcome of the consultation to date regarding the proposed Blackwall Reach regeneration and seeks approval of the amended development framework, arising from that consultation, as Interim Planning Guidance for the area.

12.2 The Development Framework will form the basis from which to develop outline planning consent, although it is intended that further community engagement will be undertaken prior to submission of an application. The costs of community consultation and engagement will be borne by English Partnerships as the lead agency in the proposed development.

12.3 As part of the housing strategy for tenants and homeowners in the area, authority is sought to negotiate voluntary buy-backs. Initial funding for this, subject to Cabinet approval, will be through utilisation of part of the receipt arising from the sale of the St. Matthias site, plus additional funding from English Partnerships. There may be, in the short-term, an adverse impact on rental income due to the likelihood of increased turnover resulting from the designation of decant status with regard to tenanted properties.

12.4 At this stage, except for potential expenditure outlined in paragraph 12.3 above, the key costs to the Council relate to officer time and associated costs in developing the scheme. These will be contained within the Major Project Development budget.

13 COMMENTS OF THE DIRECTOR OF CHILDRENS' SERVICES

13.1 The expansion of Woolmore Primary School as part of the development will form a key element of the overall strategy to ensure there are sufficient primary school places in the borough for the increasing population. The school will be part of the wider delivery of community services and will be planned for community use of facilities out of school hours.

14 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 14.1 The proposed regeneration programme is specifically aimed at addressing the causes and consequences of social exclusion.
- 14.2 An Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA) Scoping report is included in the background papers to this report, and there is a commitment for a full EqIA to be produced as part of the Outline Planning Application.

15 ANTI-POVERTY IMPLICATIONS

- 15.1 The statistical 'Output Area' the Blackwall Reach Regeneration Project falls in was identified in the 2001 census as one of the most deprived in England (ranked 1,189 out of 32,482 most deprived being 1). This project aims to revive the community and create a new sustainable community to fully meet the needs of local people now and in the future.

16 SUSTAINABLE ACTION FOR A GREENER ENVIRONMENT

- 16.1 The development framework itself recognises that proposals should address all aspects of environmental sustainability, and will aim to meet and exceed the sustainability targets set out in the London Plan.
- 16.2 In addition, The London Borough of Tower Hamlets and English Partnerships commissioned Capita Symonds Ltd to undertake an Interim Sustainability Appraisal (ISA) of the Options proposed in the Draft Development Framework. Although not a statutory requirement, this Sustainability Appraisal (SA) has been undertaken to deliver a more sustainable approach to future development, and broadly adheres to the Department for Communities and Local Government's Sustainability Appraisal Guidance document 'Sustainability Appraisal of Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Documents' (November 2005), whilst also incorporating the requirements of Strategic Environmental Assessment as set out in the European Union Directive 2001/42/EC.
- 16.3 In summary, the proposals outlined in the Draft Blackwall RDF (August 2007), if implemented, should result in the realisation of significant social, economic, and environmental benefits for present and future residents of the Site to be realised.
- 16.4 Measured relative to the Baseline Case (i.e. if no action was taken to regenerate Blackwall Reach) , the option of redevelopment of Robin Hood Gardens in combination with measures to address the impact of the Blackwall Tunnel Approach Road is assessed as delivering the greatest sustainability gain, providing the greatest benefits to present and future

residents on the Site. There are minor environmental drawbacks, with increased waste arisings, both of a temporary (demolition and construction) and permanent nature (household waste arisings) , as well as the possibility of a net increase in CO2 emissions, largely caused by a slight growth in local population. However, these negative effects will largely be offset through the construction of new energy efficient housing.

16.5 The Outline Planning Application will be subject to a full Environmental Impact Assessment which will provide a more detailed appraisal of the environmental impacts of the development together with identification of necessary mitigations measures.

17 RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

17.1 This consultation may have prompted anxiety within the community. The development framework sets out a series of principles which seek to reassure residents and other land users about future land ownership, the replacement and enhancement of affordable housing provisions and the replacement of any displaced community facilities.

17.2 The recommendations in this report recognise the need to engage further with tenants and homeowners to address their specific concerns in the contexts of the achievement of the Council's wider regeneration objectives. This included amendments to the framework to undertake to meet planning requirements in a collaborative way for the long term.

18 APPENDICES

Appendix 1 - Blackwall Reach Regeneration Project Development Framework.

Appendix 2 - Map of the Blackwall Reach area.

Appendix 3 - Details of formal representations.

Appendix 4 - Local Government Act 1972 Section 100D (as amended)
Background Papers given limited circulation on CD ROM in conjunction with this report.

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Agenda Item 6.2

Committee: OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY	Date: 1 April 2008	Classification: Unrestricted	Report No.	Agenda Item No.
Report of: Assistant Chief Executive Originating Officer(s): John Williams, Service Head, Democratic Services			Title: Cabinet Decision Called-in: Draft Ocean New Deal for Communities Delivery Plan 2008/09 Wards: Limehouse, St. Dunstons & Stepney Green, Mile End & Globe Town.	

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 The attached report of the Corporate Director, Development and Renewal was considered by the Cabinet on 5th March 2008 and has been "Called In" by Councillors Dulal Uddin, Abjol Miah, Harun Miah, Fozol Miah and M. A Munim for further consideration. This is in accordance with the provisions of Part Four of the Council's Constitution.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 That the Committee consider the contents of the attached report, review the Cabinet's provisional decisions arising and decide whether to accept them or refer the matter back to Cabinet with proposals, together with reasons.

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

List of "Background Papers" used in the preparation of this report

Brief description of "background paper"

Cabinet report

Name and telephone number of holder
and address where open to inspection

John S Williams
02073644204

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1** The attached report of the Corporate Director, Development and Renewal was considered by the Cabinet on 5th March 2008 and has been “Called In” by Councillors Dulal Uddin, Abjol Miah, Harun Miah, Fozol Miah and M. A Munim for further consideration. This is in accordance with the provisions of Part Four of the Council’s Constitution.

4. THE CABINET’S PROVISIONAL DECISION

- 4.1** The Cabinet after considering the attached report provisionally agreed:-
1. That the 2008/09 New Deal for Communities (NDC) Delivery Plan, as set out in Appendix 1 to the report (CAB 137/078), be approved;
 2. That the Corporate Director of Development and Renewal, after consultation with the Lead Member Regeneration and Community Partnerships, be authorised to finalise the plan, making any appropriate and necessary minor amendments prior to submission to Government Office for London; and
 3. That it be noted that any significant changes to the draft 2008/09 NDC Delivery Plan, which represent key decisions for the Authority, will be submitted to the Cabinet for consideration.

5. REASONS FOR THE ‘CALL IN’

- 5.1** The Call-in requisition signed by the five Councillors listed above gives the following reasons for the Call-in:

The report seeks approval for the ONDC delivery plan for 2008/9. The ONDC draft ‘Delivery Plan’ reports the cutting off of funding to several projects, as part of an exit strategy. It significantly reduces resident involvement and abandons the core principles of resident choice and consultation which were supposed to define this ‘community-led’ programme.

It seeks to make far-reaching changes to the tenure, social, economic and inevitably also the ethnic mix of the Ocean estate and is contrary to the wishes of tenants and leaseholders.

1. Governance

A Community Interest Company (CIC) is proposed to run ONDC in its final years and to ‘manage...regeneration processes’. (4.7) This Company has only two council and three resident representatives out of 14 on an interim board.

It is not clear what its legal and other status is, to whom it is accountable and what control it will have over council and other public assets. These questions must be clarified.

Nor is it clear what the relationship is between this and the proposed Ocean Regeneration Trust (ORT) which will 'take on ownership and management of community facilities' (appendix 1, 4.1).

This will have a maximum of 12 Board Directors, with no information on how or by whom these are selected and appointed.

No detail of the role, function and regulation of the CIC or ORT is included. Members should not be asked to authorise in principle the transfer of £millions of public assets without seeing draft rules (Memorandum and Articles of Association) and legal comments on these.

2. RSL Involvement

Despite the 'NO' vote rejection transfer to an RSL, the proposals give RSL(s) a central role on Ocean, through a leasing and sub-leasing process – first from LBTH to ORT, and then from ORT to RSL(s). There is no justification offered for what an RSL would contribute and why they are necessary to these arrangements. RSL involvement would mean extra costs in administration, bureaucracy and legal costs of creating two leasing and management agreements. For tenants and leaseholders they offer worse conditions in terms of tenure security, accountability and costs, and this has been rejected by an overwhelming vote.

3. Housing plans

ONDC reports that £13.5 million has been spent on housing in years 1-7 of the programme, including £3.9 million of LBTH funding on leaseholder buybacks. The total projected spend from LBTH on leaseholder buybacks is £9.6 million by 2010 (see Appendix 1 Annexe 5 Table D 7310 p223)

A thorough and critical reappraisal is needed of how funding is being used to allow demolition of structurally sound blocks to make way for private development.

There is a continued total failure to consider the option of most importance to residents: maximising funding for improvements, with a 'transformational' programme of refurbishment and improvement and building new council housing. Refurbishment has been central to other NDC programmes and programmed imaginatively, can be done using ONDC as well as other funding.

Firm technical evidence is required before demolition of seven blocks of structurally sound homes, when other blocks on the estate are in poorer condition.

4. Community Centres and Facilities

The ORT plans are dependent on demolition of Dame Colet, Haileybury, St Dunstan's Resource Centre and LIFRA hall to create development sites. There has been no cost/benefit analysis of retaining these facilities for community use and/or adapting some of them for shared residential use.

LIFRA hall for example is a modern building and significant legacy from the Limehouse Fields/SHADA redevelopment.

5. Homeless

The proposals involve rehousing up to 300 homeless households currently living on the estate, many long-term residents with children in local schools. It is essential that we have an assessment of the impact on these families, and on borough-wide housing allocations. Are these families given an option to remain or return to the Ocean estate?

6. ALTERNATIVE COURSE OF ACTION PROPOSED:

6.1 The Councillors submitting the Call-in requisition have proposed the following alternative course of action:

A further report is required to:

1. Clarify proposed governance and accountability arrangements. There should be clear democratic accountability, with Council and resident representatives making up a majority on Boards.
2. Housing proposals should be reassessed against alternative proposals (including those in the outline Tenants and Residents Plan outlined to O&S 4. 6.07), in an open process to demonstrate that the Option pursued is cost effective and best serves the needs of residents of the Ocean estate and of Tower Hamlets, now and for future generations.

7. CONSIDERATION OF THE "CALL IN"

7.1 The following procedure is to be followed for consideration of the "Call In":

- (a) Presentation of the "Call In" by one of the "Call In" Members followed by questions.

- (b) Response from the Lead Member/officers followed by questions.
- (c) General debate followed by decision.

N.B. – In accordance with the Overview and Scrutiny Committee Protocols and Guidance adopted by the Committee at its meeting on 6 June, 2007, any Member(s) who presents the “Call In” is not eligible to participate in the general debate.

- 7.2** It is open to the Committee to either resolve to take no action which would have the effect of endorsing the original Cabinet decisions, or the Committee could refer the matter back to the Cabinet for further consideration setting out the nature of its concerns and possibly recommending an alternative course of action.

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Committee: Cabinet	Date: 5 th March 2008	Classification: Unrestricted	Report No:	Agenda Item No:
Report of: Corporate Director of Development and Renewal		Title: Draft - Ocean New Deal for Communities – Delivery Plan for 2008/09		
Originating Officer(s): Jackie Odunoye - Head of Housing Strategy		Wards Affected: Limehouse, St. Dunstons & Stepney Green, Mile End & Globe Town		

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report seeks Cabinet approval of the draft New Deal for Communities Delivery Plan for the 2008/09 financial year. The Council, as the Accountable Body for the programme, is required to approve the Annual Delivery Plan prior to its submission to the Government Office for London (GOL) for approval and completion of the funding agreement.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

The Cabinet is recommended to:

- 2.1 Approve the 2008/09 draft New Deal for Communities Delivery Plan as set out in Appendix 1.
- 2.2 Authorise the Corporate Director of Development and Renewal, after consultation with the Lead Member Regeneration and Community Partnerships, to finalise the plan, making any appropriate and necessary minor amendments prior to submission to Government Office for London.
- 2.3 Note that any significant changes to the draft 2008/09 NDC Delivery Plan, which represent key decisions for the Authority, will be submitted to the Cabinet for consideration.

Local Government Act 1972 Section 100D (As amended)

List of "Background Papers" used in the preparation of this report

Brief description of "Background paper"

New Deal for Communities - NDC Delivery Plan 2008/09

Name and telephone number
of holder and address where open
to inspection

Dave Clark
4th Floor Mulberry Place
0207 364 4644

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Each financial year, in its role as Accountable Body, the Council is required to approve the Annual Delivery Plan for the NDC Programme. The Delivery Plan provides a detailed breakdown of the proposed expenditure for the financial year and describes the project activities to be undertaken together with project milestones and key indicators of performance.
- 3.2 Once the Delivery Plan has been approved, it will be forwarded to the Government Office for London (GOL) for approval. GOL will then issue a contract to the Council for expenditure on the programme. Following approval of the Delivery Plan by GOL, each project is appraised and approved through processes set out in and governed by the official NDC guidance.
- 3.3 The purpose of this report is to provide Members with a summary of the Delivery Plan for the NDC Programme in the 2008/09 financial years. Cabinet must approve the Delivery Plan prior to its submission to GOL.

4. OVERVIEW

- 4.1 The Ocean New Deal Programme started in 2000 and runs until 2010 with a total funding allocation of £56.6 million. The programme is now entering its final phase with the focus for expenditure facilitating the comprehensive regeneration through the Ocean Regeneration Trust.
- 4.2 The original NDC outcomes have been revised and refined over the last 12 months to take account of the outcome of the CLG Rapid Review, which followed residents' decision to reject the stock transfer option.
- 4.3 Overall, the NDC programme has steadily improved in recent years. A basket of indicators/evaluations highlights education, community safety, and health interventions as the best performing areas.
- 4.4 However a key challenge remains for the programme to work with residents to enable them to benefit from the employment opportunities that exist within the borough and the surrounding areas.
- 4.5 Furthermore a key priority for the remainder of the programme is facilitating the housing regeneration of the estate. This includes implementation of the first phase of a large scale redevelopment as set out in the original vision for transformational regeneration for the area. This also incorporates the successful implementation and sustainability of the community facilities strategy.

Governance and Succession

- 4.6 During last year, and following the CLG review, new proposals were drawn up to deliver the redevelopment of the Ocean Estate and establish a new governance mechanism to achieve this. As already outlined above, this new mechanism is a successor vehicle to continue delivery of the remaining NDC Programme and to manage the transformational regeneration processes.
- 4.7 The governance structure will be a Community Interest Company with an interim board consisting of a maximum of 14 people. This will be comprised of an independent Chair, two council representatives, 3 resident representatives, two RSL/developer representatives and 6 specialist directors from a variety of technical backgrounds.
- 4.8 The board will be supported by three sub boards leading on separate areas of work as follows:
- Neighbourhood renewal board - the role will be to continue the delivery of the remainder of the NDC programme, work with residents to continue to identify and meet local needs and to bid for external funding to enable a succession plan of continued community based activity beyond the end of the NDC programme
 - Housing management board - the role will be involved with developing proposals for the revised Masterplan for the estate, to build local capacity to take responsibility for management of the local housing stock and shape local policies on provision of housing and estates management, building in continuous improvement capacity, on Ocean
 - Development board - the role will be to participate in the tender evaluation process and to make recommendations on the approval of the scheme most suited to provide the best outcomes for residents. There will be an ongoing role of risk management and mitigation and ensuring that appropriate resident communication and consultation arrangements are in place.

Year 9 - 10 Priorities

In years 9 - 10 the seven theme areas will be focussed around three Crosscutting themes to better reflect our future core strategy and priorities. These themes are as follows:

Crosscutting Theme	Ten Year Outcomes
Community that's Active and Strong	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Empower and encourage residents to participate fully in their community, in decision-making and delivery of local services• Reduce the proportion of residents who see young people hanging around as a serious problem• Improve arts, leisure and play facilities in the area• Improve the health and well being of people in the area• Improve health and social care available and accessible to people in the area
Learn, Work and Achieve	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Raise the level of educational attainment of school pupils• Promote opportunity by increasing participation and achievement through learning• Raise employment levels by tackling the barriers to employment• Promote and support a culture of enterprise and business opportunity
Good Quality Homes and a Neighbourhood that's Safe & Desirable	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Create an attractive well managed environment with good quality open spaces• Promote the development of well maintained, desirable homes that provide an affordable range of housing choices for local people• Influence the delivery of high quality value-for-money services that meet the needs of residents

- Reduce crime and anti-social behaviour and residents' fear of crime
- Reduce the impact of drug-related activity in the area

5. OCEAN NEW DEAL FOR COMMUNITIES 2008/9 (YEAR 9)

5.1 The total forecast NDC supported expenditure for 2008 - 2009 is some £2million, although this is subject to ongoing negotiations with GoL. The key projects of the Delivery Plan are outlined below.

1240 Ocean Collections – *ongoing since 2003*

Enables the collecting, archiving and recording of information and activities relating to the NDC Programme. Will include community events, publications and an internship programme.

1500 Community Facilities – *new project*

The Community Facilities Project will help identify expenditure to rebuild and refurbish community facilities as part of the wider housing programme development.

2113 Ocean Mathematics Project – *ongoing since 2001*

This project has changed attitudes and practice in schools, amongst pupils and families, and in the wider community in order to raise expectations and achievements in the short and long term. This will continue the work of phase 2, and currently the project is in transition, as it becomes a social enterprise selling services.

2125 Widening Participation – *ongoing since 2005*

A partnership project with Tower Hamlets College and Queen Mary's University to jointly fund a range of activities to encourage local post 16 students to enter higher education. The project offers student bursaries to young people who are going to University of Higher Education Colleges.

3113 Jobs in Health – *new project*

A project to develop partnerships with the PCT, Barts and the London and Tower Hamlets college in order to provide a route into employment in the healthcare workforce.

3200 Jobs, Training and Enterprise – *ongoing since 2007*

Provision of employment advice, guidance and support to unemployed and inactive residents. Outreach to engage residents in enhancing their employment prospects. Support for residents to find, train for and secure

employment. A programme of mentoring and support to set up community/social enterprise activity.

3425 Workspace and Community Asset Bases – *new project*

This project will provide and manage workspace units to help promote and develop local business and enterprises; it will identify and develop appropriate workspace in Stepney for organisations in the NDC area. Workspaces will be provided at 'affordable rents.

4260 Resident Wardens Service – *ongoing since 2004*

The aim of this project is to support independent living by acting as a 'bridge' between the elderly residents and service providers as well as community development and cohesion; reducing isolation amongst older residents and delivering activities that will create a sense of 'community'.

4290 Cancer Screening on the Ocean – *ongoing project since 2006*

This project works in partnership with the GP surgery to increase cancer screening among the residents on the Ocean.

**7310 Combined Redevelopment Programme & Built Environment
- *ongoing since 2002***

Redevelopment of parts of the Ocean Estate will comprehensively transform the housing stock by creating multi-tenure, multi use homes designed and built to reflect varying needs and uses of the Ocean community in to the 21st Century. It will actively seek to ensure full participation in design and project development. Funding realised from the cross-funding proposals will also be utilised to improve remaining homes to the Decent Homes Plus standard.

8600 Delivery, Evaluation and Communication – *ongoing since 2006/7*

This project supports the delivery of the Ocean NDC programme to 2010, ensuring the framework of probity, systems, structures and processes are in place and enforced in the area of delivery. As well as provide evaluation and audit methodologies, which will be delivered by internal and external agencies to ensure value for money, identify gaps in service and using an evidence based approach enable the ORT Board to decide on the continuance of projects. The communication part of the project aims to raise and maintain awareness of the NDC Programme among the community and key stakeholders. The project will improve the image and reputation of the NDC Organisation locally and nationally improve access to the services, facilities and benefits the NDC programme provides and encourage greater involvement and participation by local people.

6. THE ACCOUNTABLE BODY ROLE

- 6.1 The role of the Accountable Body in relation to NDC programmes is clearly defined within NDC Guidance. In simple terms, the Council is responsible for overall programme management and financial control. Management and control processes across all programmes are continually reviewed and strengthened, as appropriate, to ensure full compliance with the Guidance.

7. CONCURRENT REPORT OF THE ASSISTANT CHIEF EXECUTIVE (LEGAL)

- 7.1 According to the published Guidance, for the purposes of the funding agreement an Accountable Body has to be appointed on behalf of the Partnership, which, in this case is the Council. In this capacity, the Council will be required to meet the liabilities, which flow from the conditions of the grant funding. The Council will have the legal responsibility for the grant money awarded and to ensure that good quality management and project appraisal arrangements are in place.
- 7.2 The recommendations to the report require that, under the Council's own powers of Delegation, the Corporate Director, Development and Renewal, shall be requested to approve the final plan before its submission to GOL, with the proviso that any matter which is a key decision should be referred back to the Cabinet.

8. COMMENTS OF THE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

- 8.1 Cabinet is asked to approve the Draft NDC Delivery Plan for 2008/9. In order to ensure effective delivery of the projects it is essential that the Delivery Plan is agreed by GOL. The programme is in accordance with the scheme, approved by the Council in June 2007.
- 8.2 As Accountable Body, the Council must ensure that proper arrangements are in place for effective programme and financial management. The Council also bears the financial risk, should any claw-back issues arise.
- 8.3 Subject to 8.2 above, all agreed expenditure incurred to support the NDC projects is reimbursed through New Deal for Communities specific grant.

9. EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 The draft Delivery Plan contains projects aimed at addressing the causes and consequences of social exclusion. The projects would be unable to proceed if the Delivery Plan was not approved.

10. ANTI-POVERTY IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 The Ocean NDC area, home to approximately 6,500 people was identified in the 2000 Indices of Deprivation as being one of the most deprived areas of the country. All projects and activities funded as part of the NDC Programme are designed to tackle the causes and effects deprivation including poverty.

11. SUSTAINABLE ACTION FOR A GREENER ENVIRONMENT

- 11.1 Several of the projects include environmental improvements and site assembly with related environmental benefits. The specifications for all such works will be consistent with the Council's commitments to develop sustainability and a greener environment.

12 RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

- 12.1 The Council as the 'Accountable Body' needs to ensure that it fulfils all of the Responsibilities/obligations as set out in the funding agreement and guidance manual for the programme. In a worst case scenario the Council can be subject to claw-back of grant. Examples of claw-back would include:

- ◆ Non delivery of falsification of agreed outputs
- ◆ Incurring ineligible expenditure

- 12.2 Robust project and financial management arrangements together with effective monitoring arrangement continue to ensure that risks are mitigated and the Council's exposure minimised.

APPENDICES

Appendix 1 - 2008/09 draft New Deal for Communities Delivery Plan.

Agenda Item 8.1

Overview and Scrutiny	Date: 1 st April 2008	Classification:	Report No:	Agenda Item No:
Report of: Assistant Chief Executive Originating Officer(s) Michael Keating Alan Steward		Title: TOWER HAMLETS INDEX - MONITORING REPORT DEC 2007 - JAN 2008 WARD(S) AFFECTED: N/A		

1 Introduction / Summary

- 1.1 This report introduces the end of January monitoring report for the Tower Hamlets Index 2007/08. The set of indicators that constitutes the Tower Hamlets Index reflects the Strategic Plan 2006-11 and Local Area Agreement. This is the second year that this set has been reported. Appendix 1 provides an overview of performance and comments on each indicator. Appendix 2 provides charts for a better overview of the performance trends over time. Appendix 3 is the annual performance summary.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 That the Committee notes and comments on the performance as identified in paragraph 4 of this report.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT, 2000 (SECTION 97)	
<i>LIST OF "BACKGROUND PAPERS" USED IN THE DRAFTING OF THIS REPORT</i>	
Brief description of background papers: Tower Hamlets Index Monitoring Reports Strategic Plan 2006/07 Best Value Performance Plan 2006/07	Name and telephone number of holder and address where open to inspection: Michael Keating, 020 7364 3183 Mulberry Place, 6th Floor

3 Background

- 3.1 The Tower Hamlets Index consists of key Strategic Plan indicators through which we measure progress towards the Council's 12 Strategic objectives.
- 3.2 The Tower Hamlets Index has been designed as a tool for Corporate Directors and their staff to accelerate improvement or sustain excellent performance in priority areas. It also assists Members in monitoring the overall rate of improvement across the council.
- 3.3 Each directorate has set annual targets to assist the Council in reaching its ambition of being one of the top performers in Inner London, and in the top 25% in Greater London by 2010. These targets are integrated into the service planning, team planning and performance management arrangements within each directorate.
- 3.4 We undertake an annual assessment of our ranking on all Tower Hamlets Index indicators which are Best Value Performance Indicators and which enable comparisons with other authorities. We monitor our performance monthly on a wider suite of Index indicators which includes local PIs for which national comparisons are not available. The bi-monthly Index also excludes all indicators for which data is available only annually. In some cases proxy indicators replace the annual indicators – for example, school attendance instead of annual test and examination result indicators.

4. How we are doing

- 4.1 Performance against the fifth bi-monthly monitoring of these indicators for the period December 2008 - January 2009 is set out in the Appendices enclosed.
- 4.2 Currently **15** of the performance indicators (34.88%) are on track to achieve their end of year target (GREEN). Areas where performance is well above the estimated level for the end of January target are as follows:
- SP104 - Increased number of under 18s accessing drugs treatment
 - SP218 – Processing of new housing and council tax benefits
 - SP304 – Number of businesses/social enterprises assisted to improve their performance
 - SP307 - Number of people aged 24 and under in receipt of Jobseekers Allowance (and not on New Deal) helped into paid employment of over 16 hours a week for at least 13 consecutive weeks or more
 - SP410 – Under 16s attending study support sessions
 - SP509 - Increased attendance at Local Area Partnership events
 - SP510 – Telephones answered within customer promise
- 4.3 A total of 7 (16.28%) indicators are at AMBER, with actions in place to ensure that they get back on track to meet the end of year target.
- 4.4 A total of 21 (48.84%) indicators are at RED and based on the Manager's comments, they may not meet their year-end targets. These are:
- SP101 - Number of violent crimes

- SP108 - Cleanliness of land and highways
- SP111 - Recycling
- SP205 - Residents satisfied with the Council's repair service
- SP211 - Older people to permanent residential and nursing care
- SP212 - Adult and older clients receiving a review
- SP301 - Major planning applications
- SP303 – Other planning applications
- SP308 - Unemployed young people
- SP309 - Local residents claiming unemployment benefit
- SP404a - Overall attendance rates - primary
- SP404b - Overall attendance rates – secondary
- SP405a – Unauthorised absence rates – primary schools
- SP408 – Number of under 16s users of Idea stores and libraries
- SP409 – Total number of library items issued to under 16s
- SP412 - Library visits
- SP505 – Working days/shifts lost to sickness
- SP506 – Invoices paid on time
- SP510 – Telephones answered within customer promise
- SP511 – Letters responded to on time
- SP513 – Complaints completed on time

4.5 Our analysis shows that, of the RED indicators, our performance on over half of them (12) is relatively good, with top quartile performance and / or improving performance. Our performance on the remaining 9 needs further consideration, as the missed target is combined with lower quartile performance and/ or performance deteriorating or not improving (when compared to 2006/07 year-end data). These indicators are:

- SP108 – Cleanliness (litter and detritus)
- SP204 – Average time taken to re-let local authority housing
- SP301 – Major planning applications determined within 13 weeks
- SP303 – Other planning applications determined in 8 weeks
- SP308 – Young people in TH aged 18-25 claiming unemployment related benefits
- SP408 – Under 16s who are active users of the Idea Stores and libraries
- SP505 – Working days/shifts lost to sickness absence per employee
- SP506 – Undisputed Invoices Paid on Time
- SP511 – Letters responded to within customer promise standard

4.6 In this fifth monitoring round of 2007/08 there are 34.88% GREEN and 65.12% RED/AMBER indicators by comparison to the same time last year when there were 41.86% GREEN and 58.14% RED/AMBER.

Dec-Jan	GREEN	AMBER	RED
2006/07	18 (41.86%)	4 (9.30%)	21 (48.84%)
2007/08	15 (34.88%)	7 (16.28%)	21 (48.84%)

Compared to the fourth monitoring round of 2007/08 when there were 41.03% GREEN and 58.97% RED/AMBER indicators.

		GREEN	AMBER	RED
2007/08	April-May	17 (42.50%)	20 (50.00%)	3 (7.50%)
	June-July	20 (47.62%)	15 (35.71%)	7 (16.67%)
	Aug-Sep	15 (38.46%)	15 (38.46%)	9 (23.08%)
	Oct-Nov	16 (41.03%)	17 (43.59%)	6 (15.38%)
	Dec-Jan	15 (34.88%)	7 (16.28%)	21 (48.84%)

The tables above shows that the number and proportion of GREEN indicators has decreased, compared to the previous period and also decreased compared to the same period in the previous year.

4.6 The accuracy of our forecasting improves as we get closer to year-end. As a result, a number of THI PIs where Manager's comments indicated in November that we would return to target by year-end (AMBER) were re-assessed in January and now indicate that the year-end target may not be met (RED). In many cases the forecast is that the target will be missed by a very small percentage (see Appendix 3 Summary for year-end forecasts):

- SP101 – Wounding: number of violent crimes (common assault plus ABH/GHB) per 1000 population
- SP204 – Average time taken to re-let local authority housing.
- SP205 – Percentage of residents satisfied with the Council's repairs service
- SP212 – Adult and older clients receiving a review as a percentage of those receiving a service.
- SP303 – Percentage of other planning applications determined in 8 weeks.
- SP405a Unauthorised absence rates - primary (proxy for 601, 602 & 603)
- SP408 – Number of under 16s who are active users of the Idea Stores and libraries
- SP409 – Total number of library items issued to under 16s - Enhancing young people
- SP505 – Number of working days/shifts lost to sickness absence per employee.
- SP506 – Percentage of Undisputed Invoices Paid on Time
- SP510 – % of telephones answered within the customer promise standard
- SP511 – % of letters responded to within customer promise standard
- SP513 – Percentage of complaints completed in time - Council as a whole - Stage 1

4.7 Problems referenced in previous reports in calculating one indicator are ongoing at the time of producing this report: SP210 – Bed and Breakfast. There is one indicator that is reported on quarterly: SP310 – Increased supply of employment opportunities. One indicator does not have a preferred direction of travel (Audit Commission's directive): SP215 - Percentage of children looked after with three or more placements.

5 Best Value Performance Plan Summary

5.1 2007/08 is the final year that we are statutorily required to publish by the end of March 2008 a Best Value Performance Plan summary with predicted performance for 2007/08 for our key indicators. This is attached as Appendix

3. We have prepared this summary document based on the text in the Council Tax leaflet and priority areas identified refreshing of the Community Plan and Local Area Agreement.

- 5.2 As part of the consultation feedback from the resident involvement and engagement, residents expressed the desire to see:
- A balance in the text between areas where we have done well, and areas where we need to improve.
 - A comparison of performance in their ward, not just for the whole borough.

We will have taken account of these comments in the summary that will be published in EastEndLife on 31 March 2008.

Due to the statutory publication deadline the Summary includes forecast performance data for 2007/08. The final year-end data will be published in the Best Value Performance Plan. This will be presented to Overview and Scrutiny on 10 June, with statutory publication on 30 June 2008.

6 Overview & Scrutiny's feedback on November - December report

When considering the last Tower Hamlets Index, Overview and Scrutiny raised a number of issues. These are summarised below.

Overview and Scrutiny asked about the Performance Review Group, referred to in the Manager's comments. The Group is comprised of the Chief Executive, the Corporate Director, Adults, Health & Well-Being, and the Lead Member for Performance and Resources. The Group meets monthly to review performance across the Council focusing on the key areas requiring improvement.

On SP212 (Adults receiving a review), Overview and Scrutiny asked how the target was set. They were advised that all targets are set to achieve top quartile within three years, taking into account previous years outturns, and need analysis. Where this is not realistic, targets are challenged to try to ensure that they are stretching. Attainment of the current year target would place us in the top quartile.

Regarding SP516 (Top 5% earners from an ethnic minority), Overview and Scrutiny questioned why that particular definition (top 5%) was selected, and not a narrower group of employees (top 1%). This indicator is nationally set which enables us to compare our performance. As it refers to a relatively small number of officers, a narrower measure could lead to individuals being identified.

Overview and Scrutiny considered SP404a&b (Attendance rate at primary and secondary school). It was explained that our main focus is on persistent absence, and we perform well on this measure.

7. Finance

- 7.1 It is important that performance monitoring takes account of financial performance so that it can be shown to have been achieved within existing resources and therefore to be broadly sustainable.

- 7.2 The latest corporate financial monitoring information available relates to the third quarter of 2007/08, to 31st December 2007 and will be reported to Cabinet on 5th March 2008. For the General Fund, this indicates a project underspend for the year against Directorate budgets of £0.608m and is an increase of £316,000 from the second quarter's budget monitoring report.
- 7.3 Four out of six Directorates however, are now projecting overspends for 2007/2008 and several directorates have identified risk areas primarily where volatility to costs or uncertainty surrounds the final outturn figure. These are primarily within administrative buildings, Idea Stores and fluctuations in planning and land charge fees which Directorates are monitoring closely to manage these recurrent cost pressures. None of the Directorates concerned are currently indicating that their actions to contain costs will have a negative impact on performance indicators. The Housing Revenue Account is projected to break even. Although it is not possible to be specific about individual performance indicators, this tends to indicate that, in general, current levels of performance can continue to be achieved within the resources allocated in the budget.
- 7.4 Financial monitoring within Directorates takes place on a monthly basis, and Directorate Management Teams should monitor use of resources alongside service performance to ensure that performance is sustainable and to give early warning of any issues to be addressed.
- 7.5 In addition, the Performance Review Group focuses on performance and where it could be useful can look at allocating resources to support performance improvement.
- 8. Equalities Implications**
- 8.1 The Council's ambitious targets for service delivery are focused on meeting the needs of the diverse communities living in Tower Hamlets. The Tower Hamlets Index reflects the priority the Council gives to equality and diversity issues, and includes specific equality indicators.
- 9. Comments from the Chief Finance Officer**
- 9.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from the recommendations of this report. Any specific financial implications relating to the performance indicators have been incorporated in the officer comments attached to this report.
- 10. Concurrent Report of the Assistant Chief Executive (Legal)**
- 10.1 The Local Government Act 1999 places a duty on the Council to secure continuous improvement in the way its functions are exercised having regard to a combination of economy, efficiency and effectiveness. Performance monitoring using the Index combined with implementation of the Strategic Plan will assist in discharging that obligation.
- 11 Sustainable Action for a Greener Environment**

11.1 A number of the Indicators contribute directly towards a greener environment, including addressing abandoned cars, and improving the cleanliness of streets. The Council will ensure that in monitoring and reporting on the Tower Hamlets Index, the environmental impact locally will be kept to a minimum.

12. **Anti Poverty Comments**

12.1 A number of the indicators in the Index specifically address unemployment and homelessness families, targeting some of the most vulnerable communities in Tower Hamlets. A number of the other indicators address service improvements that have a greater impact on those communities in most need of Council services.

13. **Risk Management Implications**

13.1 In line with the Council's risk management strategy, the implementation of the Tower Hamlets Index will assist the Cabinet, Corporate Directors and relevant service managers in delivering the ambitious targets set out in the Strategic Plan. Where any difficulties or slippage arise, the process will create an opportunity for Members and Corporate Directors to discuss remedial action and keep progress under regular review.

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TH Index December 2007 – January 2008 monitoring

PI Ref No	Description	Outturn 06/07	Jan Actual	Jan Estimate	Annual Target	Preferred Outcome	Traffic Light	Responsible Officer
<u>SP101</u>	Wounding: number of violent crimes (common assault plus ABH/GHB) per 1000 population	22.9	18.2	17.5	20.15	Lower	RED	Andy Bamber
<p>Comments: We remain above target to the end of January 2007 and anticipate being over target at the end of financial year. This is despite having considerable success in reducing violence in the Borough in the year to date. For example, common assault has reduced by 9.2% this year compared to last year and wounding (grievous bodily harm and actual bodily harm) have reduced by 6.4%. This year's target is the last year of a 3-year LPSA target agreed with Central Government in early 2005. It is unlikely that this will be met, despite the good performance this year and the fact that the trend for violence is down over the past 3 years.</p>								
<u>SP104</u>	Increased number of under 18s accessing drug treatment	711	876	663	732	Higher	GREEN	Andy Bamber
<u>SP105</u>	Reduction in overall crime rate (BCS Comparator Offences)	18,592	14,364	15,091	18,109	Lower	GREEN	Andy Bamber
<u>SP108</u>	The proportion of relevant land and highways (expressed as a percentage) that is assessed as having combined deposits of litter and detritus that fall below an acceptable level.	22.0	22.7	12	12.0	Lower	RED	Heather Bonfield

Appendix 1

PI Ref No	Description	Outturn 06/07	Jan Actual	Jan Estimate	Annual Target	Preferred Outcome	Traffic Light	Responsible Officer
<p>Comments: Data from the second of three tranches indicated a slight performance improvement in the combined litter and detritus scores (tranche 1 performance was 24); however the year end target can not be met. Data are being analysed to indicate trends in land classes and target areas for sustained improvement. The outturn for the year will depend on third tranche data since the index is an average of all data combined. If similar improvement is maintained at the levels of tranche 2, the estimated outturn would be around 23% (Top Quartile is 14.6 and below, 2nd quartile is 25 and below).</p>								
<u>SP111</u>	Percentage of household waste which has been sent by the authority for recycling.	11.72	13.6	20	22.00	Higher	RED	Heather Bonfield
<p>Comments: Performance continues to improve as a result of actions under the Recycling Improvement Plan for 2007/08. Activities undertaken so far have included increasing the number of properties and organisations collected from and introducing a new late afternoon and evening collection round to create a more flexible service for collecting from properties that are hard to access during the day, such as flats over shops as well as commercial premises. Canvassing of low rise properties has been undertaken. Overall, it is predicted that performance will accelerate but not quickly enough to meet the end of year target.</p>								
<u>SP203</u>	Percentage of urgent repairs completed in government time limits	96.59	97.96	96.9	97.2	Higher	GREEN	Maureen McEleney
<u>SP204</u>	Average time taken to re-let local authority housing.	34.3	35.07	32	31	Lower	RED	Maureen McEleney
<p>Comments: Performance for the month of January was just over 35 days. Performance in January was impacted by the Christmas break. Not expected to reach end of year target.</p>								

Appendix 1

PI Ref No	Description	Outturn 06/07	Jan Actual	Jan Estimate	Annual Target	Preferred Outcome	Traffic Light	Responsible Officer
<u>SP205</u>	Percentage of residents satisfied with the Council's repairs service	90.22	87.83	91	91	Higher	RED	Maureen McEleney
<p>Comments: The January actual is the year to date figure. In the last two months we have achieved 90% and 89.58% and are more in line with results achieved when the surveys were carried out in house. It is forecasted that we will narrowly miss the end of year target.</p>								
<u>SP210</u>	Average length of stay in bed and breakfast accommodation of households which include dependent children or a pregnant woman and which are unintentionally homeless and in priority need.	3.67	Data not available	3.5	3.50	Lower		Colin Cormack
<p>Comments: This indicator measures time spent in bed and breakfast, invariably in previous years, by families permanently rehoused this year. The new Housing IT system, SX3, is not currently able to retrieve this historic data. If necessary, end of year reporting will be based on a manual trawl and count of files. However, this would not be cost effective for bi-monthly reporting. The indicator measures past performance only, and will cease to be collected after this year. The use of bed and breakfast for even short periods has fallen steadily in the last three years, with a 17% reduction in the number of placements between 2005/6 and 2006/7 and a further 18% fall between 2006/7 and 2007/8.</p>								
<u>SP211</u>	Number of supported admissions of older people to permanent residential and nursing care per 10,000 population aged 65 or over (formerly C26).	74.6	62.43	58.33	70	Lower	RED	Deborah Cohen

Appendix 1

PI Ref No	Description	Outturn 06/07	Jan Actual	Jan Estimate	Annual Target	Preferred Outcome	Traffic Light	Responsible Officer
<p>Comments: We remain slightly below target but a reduction of one admission below the projected number would bring us back on target. Top band performance is defined by the Commission for Social care Inspection as anything below 90 admissions per year per 100,000 older people.</p>								
SP212	Adult and older clients receiving a review as a percentage of those receiving a service.	84.9	66.95	71.67	86	Higher	RED	Deborah Cohen
<p>Comments: We remain slightly below this ambitious target, but well within the top band for this performance indicator. Top band performance is defined by the Commission for Social care Inspection as between 60 and 90%.</p>								
SP214	Percentage of child protection cases which should have been reviewed during the year that were reviewed.	100	100	100	100	Higher	GREEN	Kamini Rambellas
SP215	Percentage of children looked after at 31 March with three or more placements during the year	10.95	11.6	10.15	10.00	None		Kamini Rambellas
<p>Comments: There is a Placement Stability Group which ensures that all placements at risk of breaking down are monitored to prevent unnecessary moves. However it is not always in the child's best interest to keep them in their current placement, and despite management action, it is becoming increasingly unlikely that the end of year target will now be achieved. We still hope to exceed the 06/07 out turn. Our performance remains better than statistical neighbour and national averages and continuing action in this area ensures that performance is maximised.</p>								

Appendix 1

PI Ref No	Description	Outturn 06/07	Jan Actual	Jan Estimate	Annual Target	Preferred Outcome	Traffic Light	Responsible Officer
<u>SP218</u>	Average time for processing new housing benefit and council tax benefit claims (days).	28.49	25.0	28.1	28	Lower	GREEN	Maureen McEleney
<u>SP301</u>	Percentage of major planning applications determined within 13 weeks.	38.33	51.67	60.00	60.00	Higher	RED	Michael Kiely
<p>Comments: Although the interval target is currently unmet, performance has been maintained throughout the year; this is despite the disproportionately high number of major strategic proposals being submitted in the Borough. The reasons for not achieving the interval target remain as follows: There are a high proportion of major determinations that relate to extremely old cases, some of which have required detailed S106 agreements which have taken a long time to conclude. We have been working in partnership with both internal and external legal services to ensure more effective negotiation of S106 agreements. However this process has impacted on performance. We continue to deal with an increasing number of very large applications. Tower Hamlets makes up almost a third of Inner London's strategic applications according to figures provided by the Greater London Authority. It is extremely difficult to determine these very large applications within the target of 13 weeks due to the nature of consultation, referral and environmental impact assessment requirements. We are one of a small number of local authorities working with English Partnerships to assess how very large applications can be managed so that they do not have a detrimental impact on efficiency of determinations. There has remained a significant level of staff turnover during the year, as private sector companies continue to be more aggressive and competitive in the market. Although we have continued to undertake a rigorous recruitment process, there have been inevitable performance issues arising from hand-over and capacity building. The new National Indicator proposal for this activity is subject to the outcome of recent consultation. The paper proposes that any application that is made part of a Planning Performance Agreement and an agreed timetable with the developer adhered to, will be excluded from the calculation.</p>								
<u>SP302</u>	Percentage of minor planning applications determined in 8 weeks.	80.49	84.16	80.45	80.5	Higher	GREEN	Michael Kiely
<u>SP303</u>	Percentage of other planning	84.18	86.71	88.30	88.30	Higher	RED	Michael Kiely

Appendix 1

PI Ref No	Description	Outturn 06/07	Jan Actual	Jan Estimate	Annual Target	Preferred Outcome	Traffic Light	Responsible Officer
	applications determined in 8 weeks.							
<p>Comments: Government's target on this indicator is 80%. Most authorities perform well due to the high proportion of householder applications that are easy to fast-track and make up the majority of caseloads within BV109c. In LBTH we have very few householder applications and therefore this indicator will always be very challenging for us in which to achieve top quartile performance. We continue to work hard to do so. We are improving the pre-application part of the process to raise the quality of the applications we receive so that we can process them more efficiently. Work is also underway to improve the quality of advice that we provide, both in reception and via the Internet, so that users of the service are better informed about what they need to do in order to use it effectively. Performance management of caseloads have also been significantly improved and cases are now much better managed to ensure that performance is maximised. The prediction is that we will miss our yearly target with just over 1%.</p>								
<u>SP304</u>	Number of businesses / social enterprises assisted to improve their performance	43	72	36	40	Higher	GREEN	Jackie Odunoye
<u>SP306</u>	Percentage of young people in Tower Hamlets aged 16-18 not in education, employment or training	10.8	8.0	8.72	8.2	Lower	GREEN	Mary Durkin
<u>SP307</u>	Number of people aged 24 and under in receipt of Jobseekers Allowance (and not on New Deal) helped into paid employment of over 16 hours a week for at least 13 consecutive weeks or more	139	163	89	250	Higher	GREEN	Jackie Odunoye
<u>SP308</u>	Percentage of young people in Tower Hamlets aged 18 - 25	20.7	17.7	16.1	16.0	Lower	RED	Jackie Odunoye

Appendix 1

PI Ref No	Description	Outturn 06/07	Jan Actual	Jan Estimate	Annual Target	Preferred Outcome	Traffic Light	Responsible Officer
	claiming unemployment-related benefits							
<p>Comments: The figure continues to improve slightly. Work with partners is continuing to have an impact locally but issues referred to previously continue to hamper real progress. We will not be able to reach year end target.</p>								
SP309	Percentage of local residents claiming unemployment-related benefits	8.6	7.4	8.0	8.0	Lower	GREEN	Jackie Odunoye
SP310	Increased supply of employment opportunities in key growth sectors prompted directly through the Employment Consortium	1354	N/A	N/A	1400	Higher		Jackie Odunoye
<p>Comments: Monitored Quarterly</p>								
SP404a	Improved overall attendance rates at primary school (proxy for LAA 601 & 602)	93.39	93.87	95.50	95.50	Higher	RED	Helen Jenner
<p>Comments: This performance is a result of Eid falling during term time, it therefore affected attendance. We have however strengthened our guidance to schools asking them to close during Eid. Performance is better than Statistical Neighbours last annual outturn. We are unlikely to meet our annual target, but it is envisaged that attendance over the spring and summer terms will improve.</p>								
SP404b	Improved overall attendance	92.48	92.50	93.00	93.00	Higher	RED	Helen Jenner

Appendix 1

PI Ref No	Description	Outturn 06/07	Jan Actual	Jan Estimate	Annual Target	Preferred Outcome	Traffic Light	Responsible Officer
	rates at secondary school (proxy for LAA 601, 602 & 603)							
<p>Comments: This is a result of Eid falling during term time, therefore affecting attendance. We have however strengthened our guidance to schools asking them to close during Eid. November's figures are better than the last national average and statistical neighbours annual outturn figures. We are unlikely to meet our annual target, however it is envisaged that attendance over the spring and summer terms will improve.</p>								
<u>SP405a</u>	Unauthorised absence rates - primary (proxy for 601, 602 & 603)	1.24	1.18	0.95	0.95	Lower	RED	Helen Jenner
<p>Comments: We have recorded an improvement over the past year however, this remains an ambitious target. We have put in place rigorous monitoring of persistent absences which has impacted positively on performance in this area. It is worth noting that the Local authority takes a robust line on unauthorised absence and does not authorise holidays during term time, which accounts for a significant proportion of the days missed and recorded as unauthorised. We expect the improvement trend to continue in the next period.</p>								
<u>SP405b</u>	Unauthorised absence rates - secondary	2.05	1.94	1.90	1.90	Lower	AMBER	Helen Jenner
<p>Comments: There has been an improvement over the past year however, this remains an ambitious target. We have put in place rigorous monitoring of persistent absence which has impacted positively on performance in this area. It is worth noting that the Local authority takes a robust line on unauthorised absence and does not authorise holidays during term time, which accounts for a significant proportion of the days missed and recorded as unauthorised. We expect the improvement trend to continue in the next period.</p>								
<u>SP408</u>	Number of under 16s who are active users of the Idea Stores and libraries	13473	11,279	19,272	19272	Higher	RED	Ian McNicol

Appendix 1

PI Ref No	Description	Outturn 06/07	Jan Actual	Jan Estimate	Annual Target	Preferred Outcome	Traffic Light	Responsible Officer
<p>Comments: The Idea Stores are currently in the middle of bedding in a new IT system. Work is continuing to calibrate the new system to ensure that the active users are captured. This figure may need adjustment following completion of this work. Taking this into account membership numbers for under 16s continue to be static. However, SP409 demonstrates that we are having success in encouraging under 16s to borrow more. Although about 250 new members are added each month a similar number lapse membership or move out of this category on their 16th birthday. Class visit programmes have been redesigned to introduce all schoolchildren to library services at key stages. New programme started in January. All sites are actively aiming to contact lapsed users and children who use libraries and Idea Stores (e.g. to use PCs) but do not borrow and who therefore are not considered 'active members'. We don't forecast to reach end of year target</p>								
<u>SP409</u>	Total number of library items issued to under 16s	266,303	240,031	278,500	317000	Higher	RED	Ian McNicol
<p>Comments: A review of services showed the high incidence of under 16s who use services and attend activities but who do not borrow items. Following a successful pilot at Idea Store Canary Wharf, all children's activities will, from February onwards, include a short break during which children are actively encouraged to choose and borrow books. We don't expect to reach the ambitious end of year target.</p>								
<u>SP410</u>	Number of young people under 16 attending study support sessions	750	718	505	765	Higher	GREEN	Ian McNicol
<u>SP411</u>	Total number of under 19s completing a course in Idea Stores, libraries and learning centres	1741	1,280	1,173	1,760	Higher	GREEN	Ian McNicol
<u>SP412</u>	Number of physical visits to public library premises per 1000 population	9265.00	8,116	8,235	9,881.07	Higher	RED	Ian McNicol

Appendix 1

PI Ref No	Description	Outturn 06/07	Jan Actual	Jan Estimate	Annual Target	Preferred Outcome	Traffic Light	Responsible Officer
Comments: Number of visitors at end of January was 1,727,026. This represents an increase of 8% in comparison to the cumulative figure at the end of January 2007.								
<u>SP501</u>	Budget Performance	-2,536,000	-608,000	0	0	Lower	GREEN	Alan Finch
<u>SP505</u>	Number of working days/shifts lost to sickness absence per employee.	7.92	8.7	7.8	7.75	Lower	RED	Deb Clarke
Comments: This is a 0.2% increase against last return. This is most likely linked to the National outbreak of the Norovirus and normal December increase in colds and flu type absences. However there is an upward trend which requires careful monitoring and continued priority of absence management. An action plan has been agreed and will be monitored by CMT.								
<u>SP506</u>	Percentage of Undisputed Invoices Paid on Time	91.87	85.20	94.75	96	Higher	RED	Paul McDermott
Comments: The workload of the team continues to be processed on a timely basis. Sample analyses will be undertaken over the remaining weeks of the financial year to establish precisely where delays are occurring in order that they can be addressed and if necessary reported to CMT. We are not forecasting to met the end of year target.								
<u>SP509</u>	Increased attendance at Local Area Partnership events	5,202	5,593	5,410	5250	Higher	GREEN	Shazia Hussain
<u>SP510</u>	% of telephones answered	69	69.15	53.0	77	Higher	RED	Claire Symonds

Appendix 1

PI Ref No	Description	Outturn 06/07	Jan Actual	Jan Estimate	Annual Target	Preferred Outcome	Traffic Light	Responsible Officer
	within the customer promise standard							
<p>Comments: Overall cumulative performance dipped marginally (by 0.7%) in January due to; (a) the annual demand peaks in the return to work from the Christmas/New Year break and (b) dips in staffing levels due to staff extending the New Year break and vacancies in the Contact Centre which have now been addressed by recruitment. The outturn for the year is estimated at 70% against a target of 77%.</p>								
<u>SP511</u>	% of letters responded to within customer promise standard	N/A	69.3	90	90	Higher	RED	Claire Symonds
<p>Comments: Issues around data collection previously discussed remain relevant to this indicator. The projected outturn is the average monthly performance to date.</p>								
<u>SP512</u>	% of calls handled by the customer contact centre	N/A	42.5	44	45	Higher	AMBER	Claire Symonds
<p>Comments: Performance on this indicator maintained at a high level, marginally short of target. Based on improvement over the year, the outturn figure is expected to reach the 45% target.</p>								
<u>SP513</u>	Percentage of complaints completed in time - Council as a whole - Stage 1	65	69	76	80	Higher	RED	Ruth Dowden

Appendix 1

PI Ref No	Description	Outturn 06/07	Jan Actual	Jan Estimate	Annual Target	Preferred Outcome	Traffic Light	Responsible Officer
<p>Comments: Moving closer to end of year target but still needs considerable improvement. Improvement plan in place for CLC. Housing Directorate is improving but slightly inconsistent performance. We are not expected to reach end of year target.</p>								
SP515a	Percentage of attendees at LAP events who are from targeted communities: BME residents	54	26	48	48	Higher	AMBER	Shazia Hussain
<p>Comments: There was one particular event in LAP 8 which did not attract a high number of BME residents. The theme of the event was very particular - understanding planning processes and therefore was not of interest to everyone as it was requested by particular Steering Group members. The venue also is perhaps not regularly used or visited by BME communities. Additionally LAP 8 has 28.2% higher white population than the rest of Tower Hamlets.</p>								
SP515b	Percentage of attendees at LAP events who are from targeted communities: Bangladeshi residents	39	7	33	33	Higher	AMBER	Shazia Hussain
<p>Comments: A particular LAP 8 event did not attract any Bangladeshi residents. This was disappointing however when reviewing it was realised the venue may not have been suitable as it was not one regularly used by BME groups and the event theme of planning, as it was chosen by several Steering Group members, may not have been of interest to the Bangladeshi community. Additionally LAP 8 has a 50.7% lower Bangladeshi community than the rest of the Borough.</p>								
SP515c	Percentage of attendees at LAP events who are from targeted communities: Somali residents	5	0.8	5	5	Higher	AMBER	Shazia Hussain

Appendix 1

PI Ref No	Description	Outturn 06/07	Jan Actual	Jan Estimate	Annual Target	Preferred Outcome	Traffic Light	Responsible Officer
<p>Comments: A particular LAP 8 event did not attract any Somali residents. This was disappointing however when reviewing it was realised the venue may not have been suitable as it was not one regularly used by BME groups. The very specific event theme of finding out about planning processes, as it was chosen by several Steering Group members, may not have been of interest to the Somali community. Additionally LAP 8 has a 8.3% lower Somali community than the rest of the Borough.</p>								
SP515d	Percentage of attendees at LAP events who are from targeted communities: Young residents (16 - 25)	35	5.8	15	15	Higher	AMBER	Shazia Hussain
<p>Comments: The LAP 8 event was about finding about planning processes which was envisaged as being of little interest to young people. The LAP 5 and 6 Olympics event was a Question Time format. Although we did manage to attract 12% of young residents for this event, if the format had been more engaging for young people - there may have been better attendance from them.</p>								
SP516	The percentage of the top 5% of Local Authority staff who are from an ethnic minority.	15.26	17.29	17.5	18.00	Higher	AMBER	Deb Clarke
<p>Comments: Improving and close to target.</p>								
SP517	Percentage of top 5% of earners of Local Authority staff that are women.	53.21	52.45	50	50	Higher	GREEN	Deb Clarke

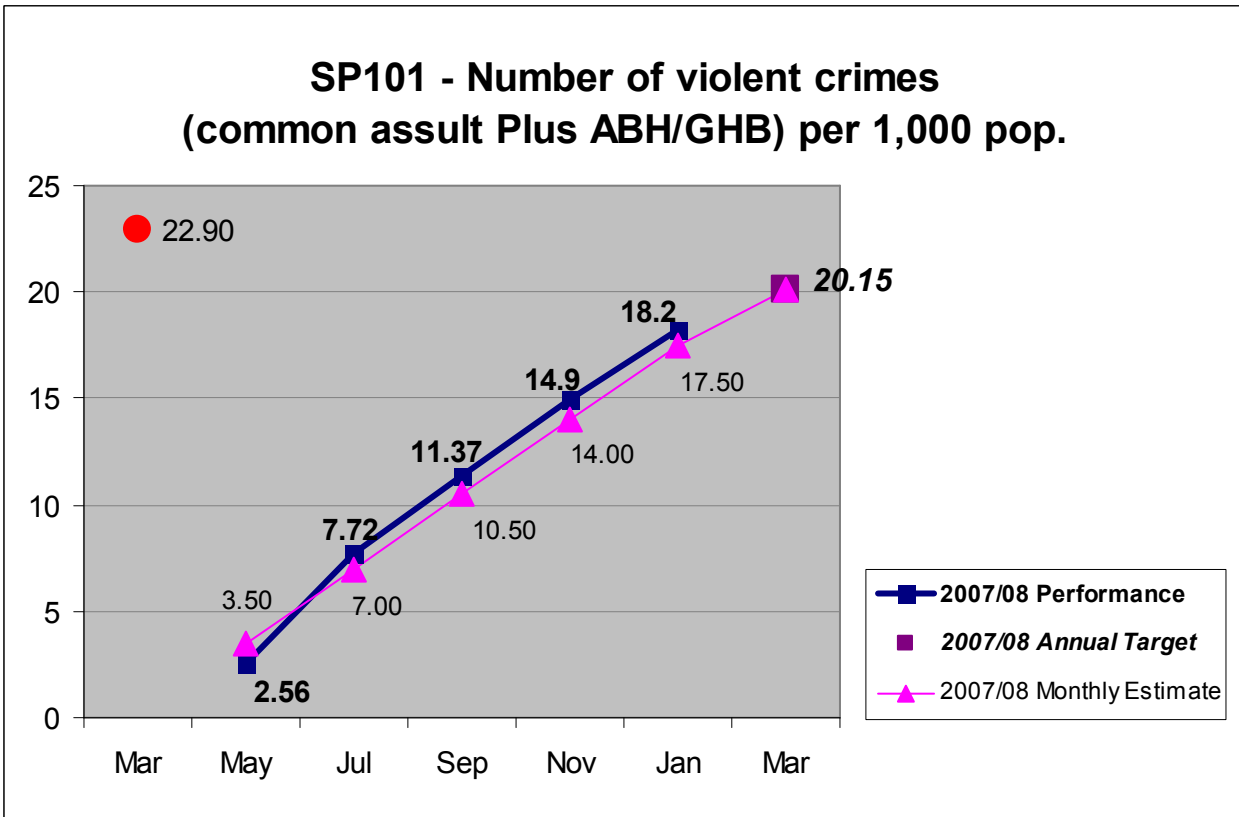
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**Tower Hamlets Index
Performance Charts
December 2007 - January 2008**

Traffic Light

RED

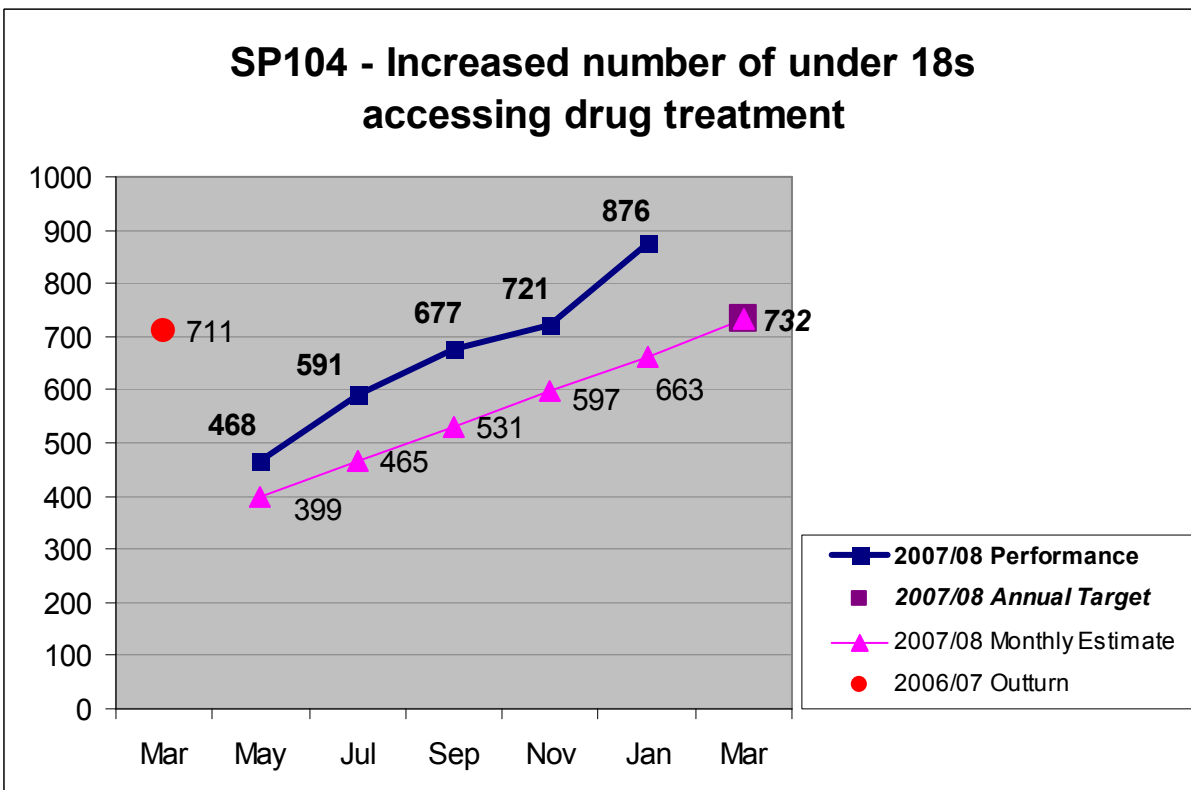
Lower Performance is better



Traffic Light

GREEN

Higher Performance is better

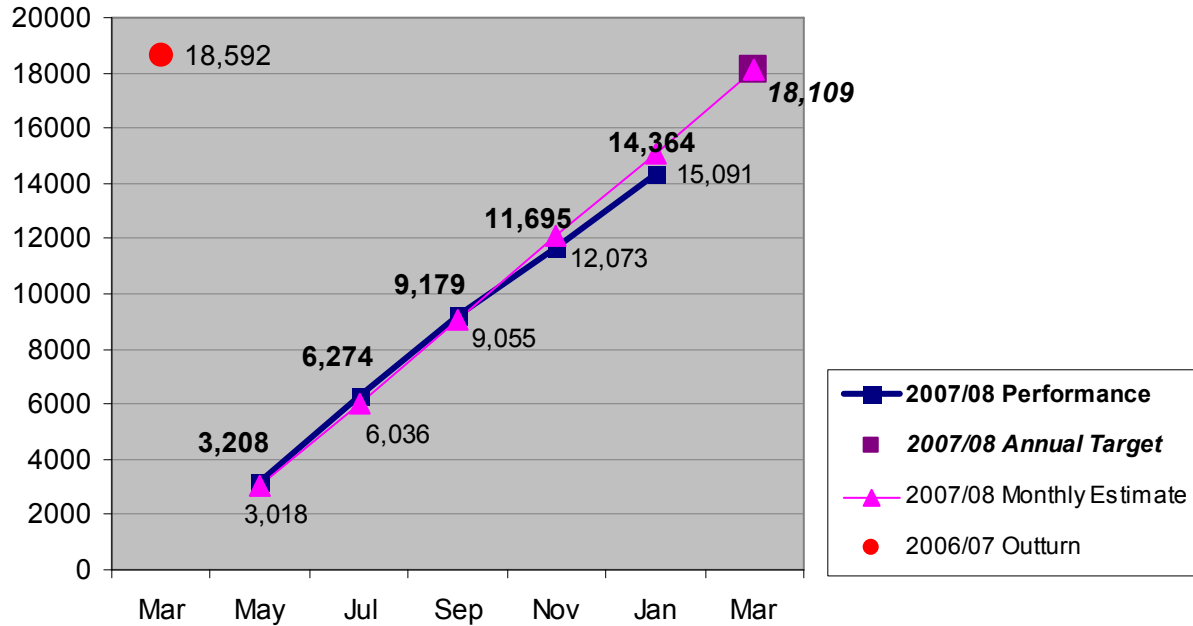


Traffic Light

GREEN

Lower Performance is better

SP105 - Reduction in overall crime rate (BCS Comparator Offences)

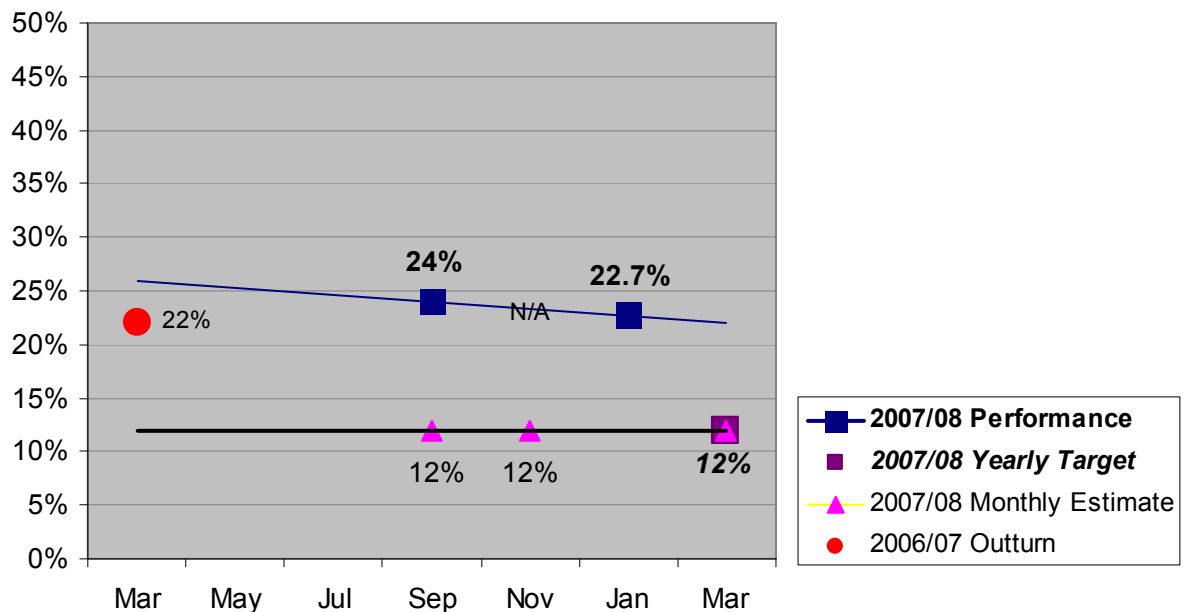


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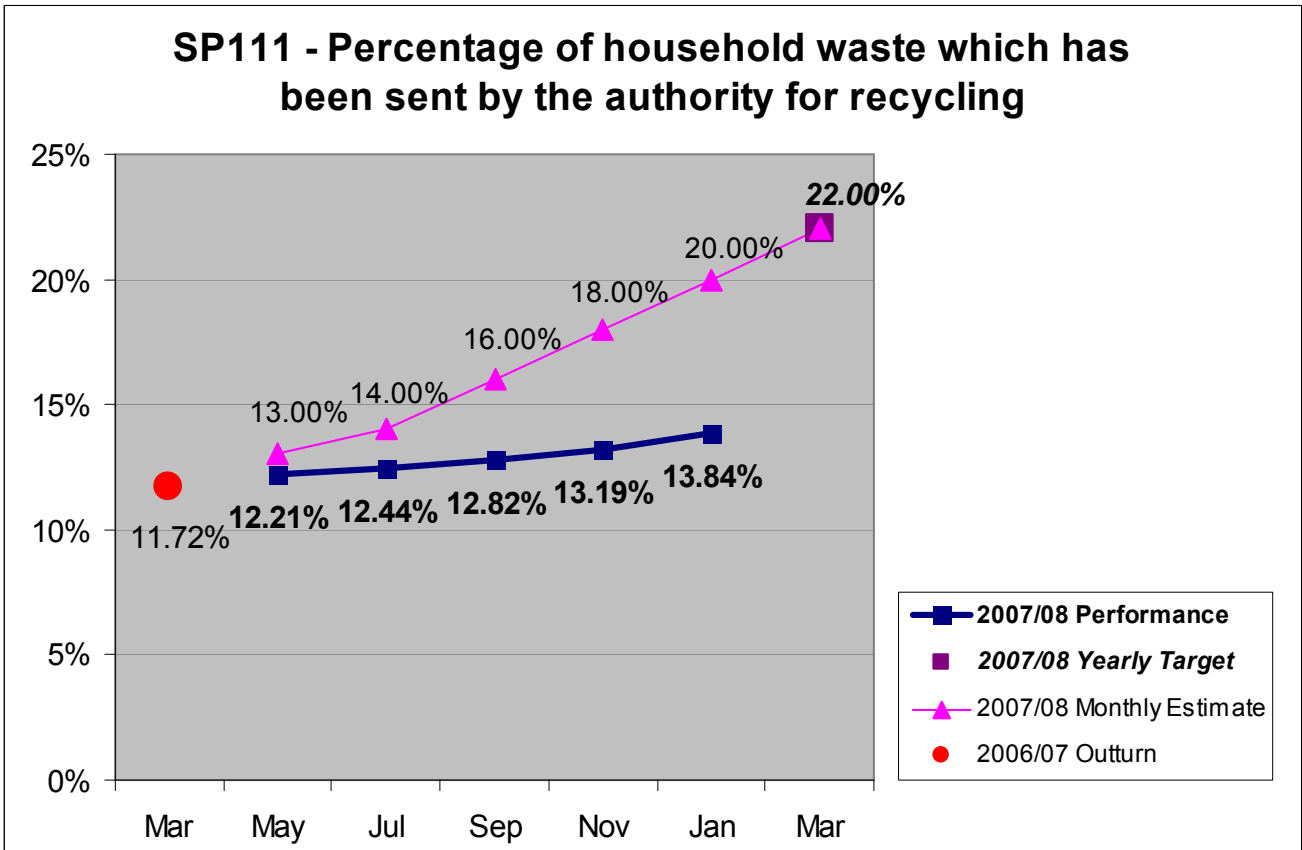
Lower Performance is better

SP108- The proportion of relevant land and highways that is assessed as having combined deposits of litter and detritus that fall below an acceptable level



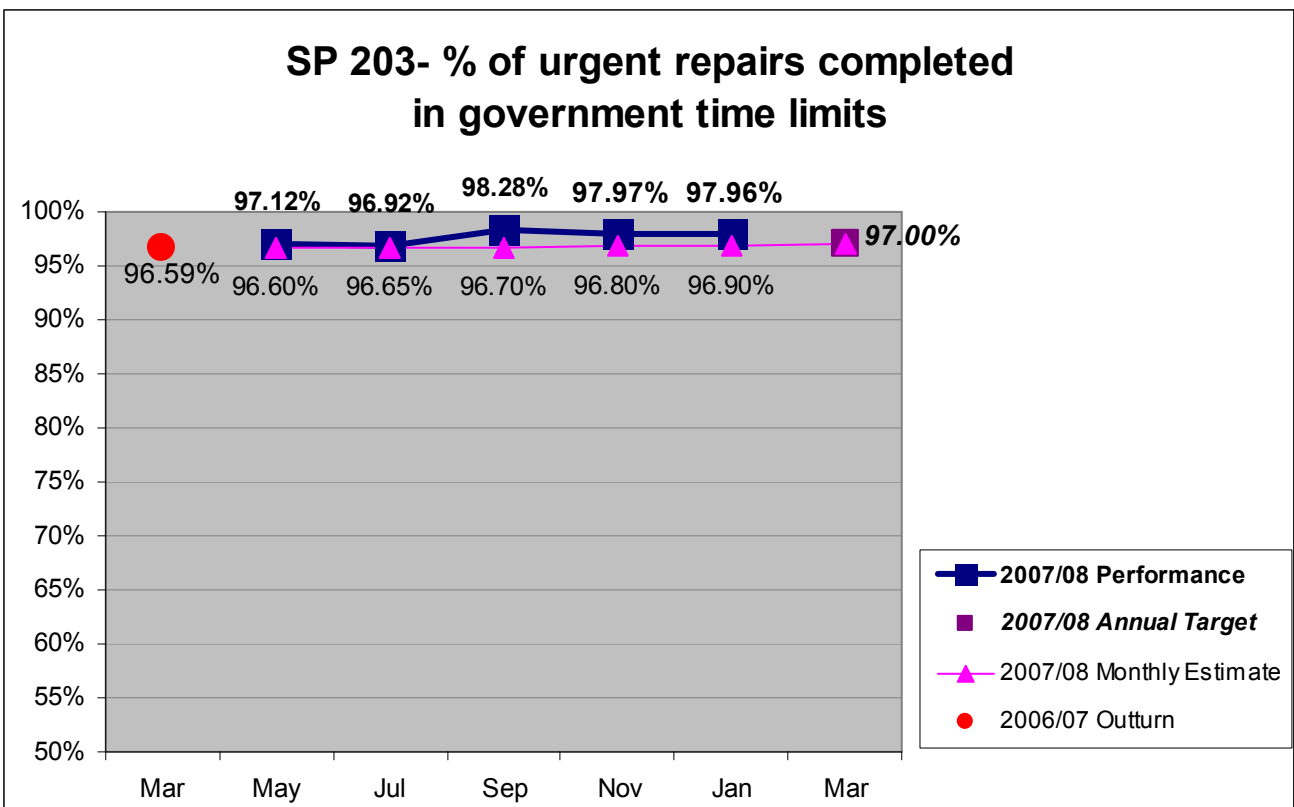
Traffic Light
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Higher Performance is better



Traffic Light
GREEN

Higher Performance is better

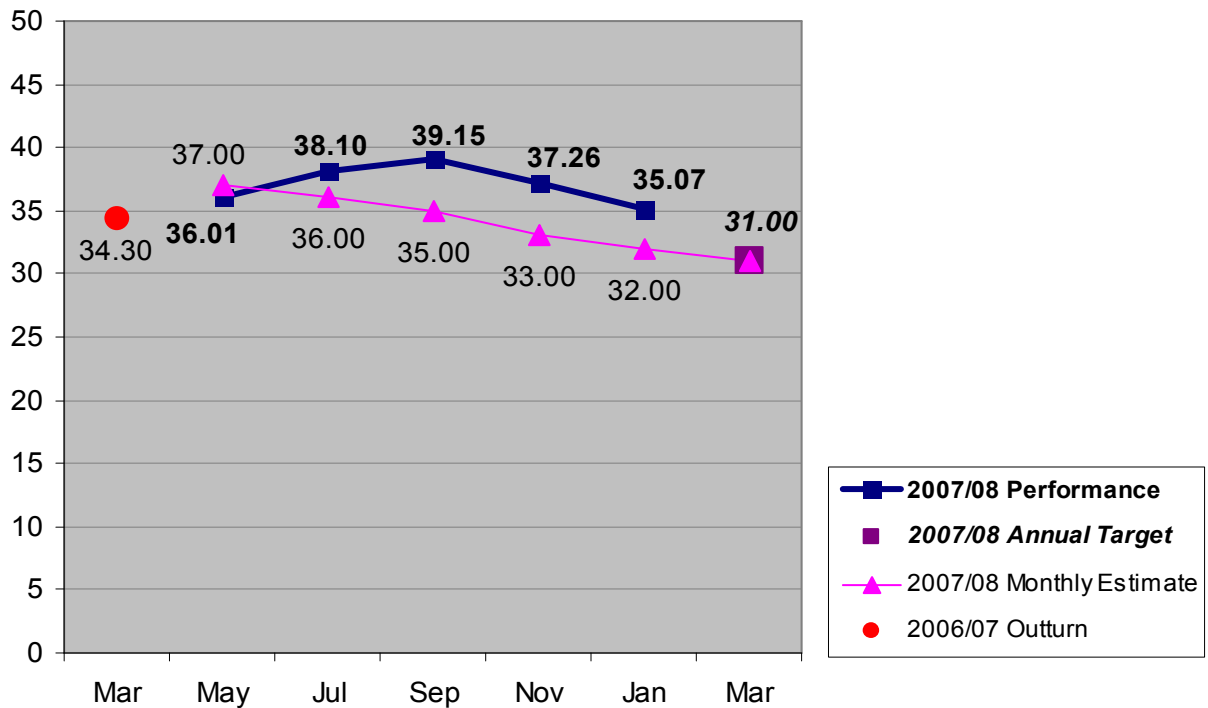


Traffic Light

RED

Lower Performance is better

SP204 - Average re-let time for local authority dwellings (days)

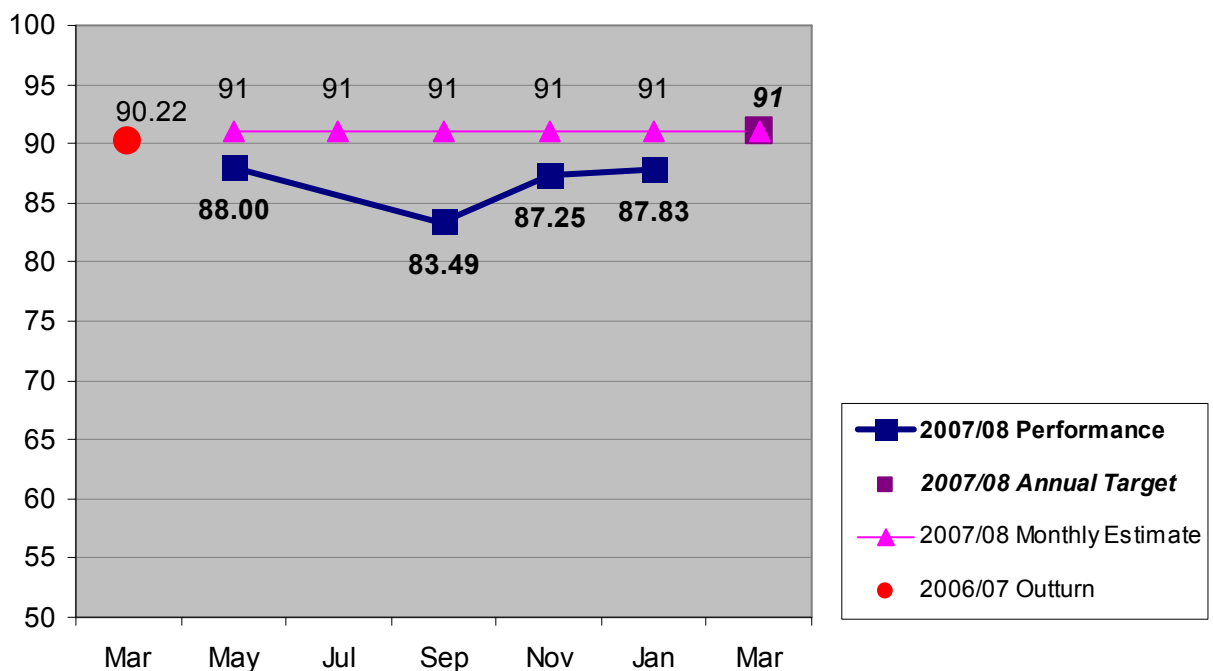


Traffic Light

RED

Higher Performance is better

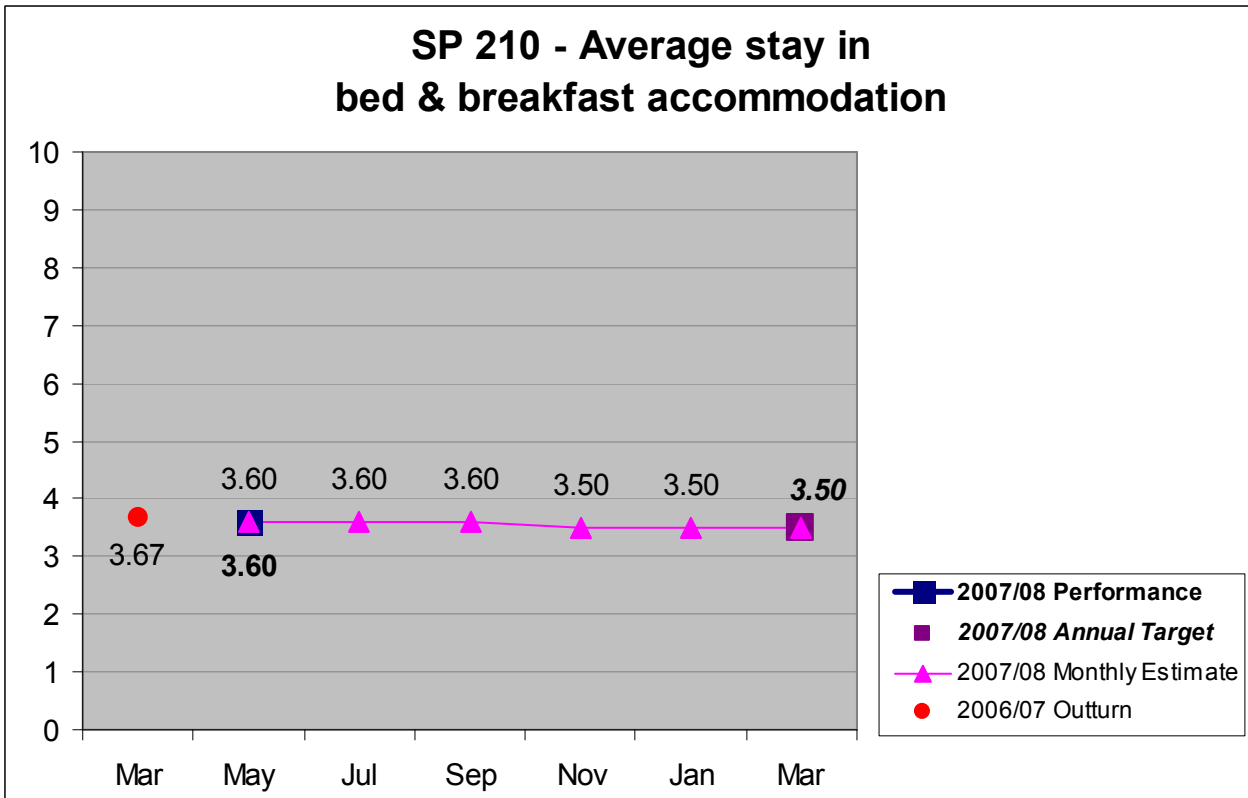
SP205 - Residents satisfied with the Councils repair service



Traffic Light

data not available

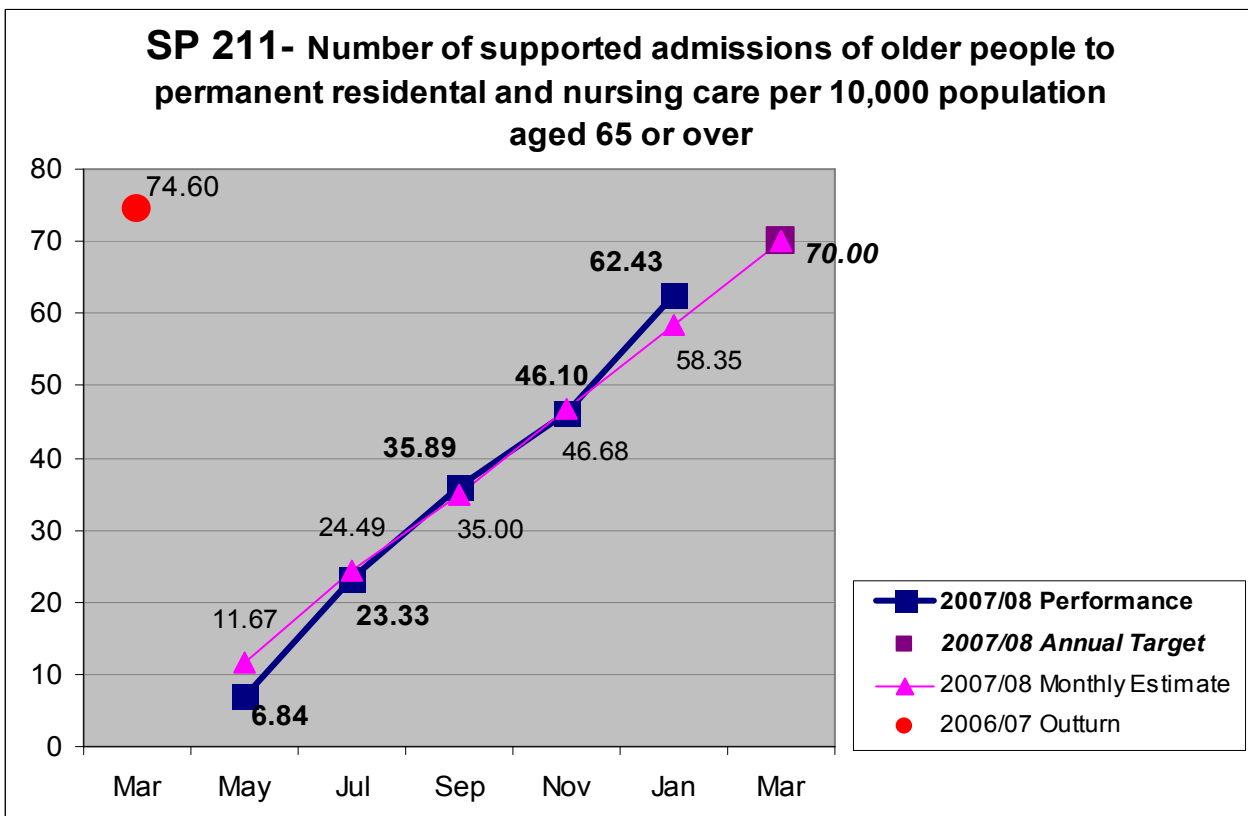
Lower Performance is better



Traffic Light

RED

Lower Performance is better

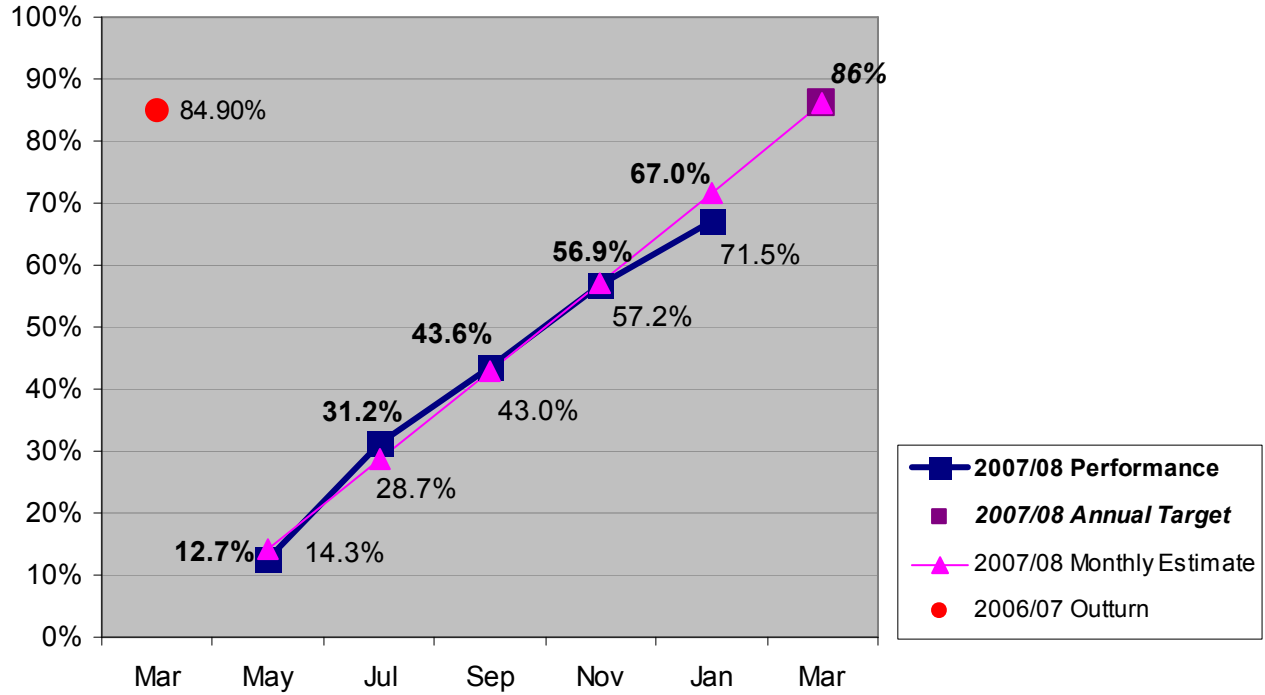


Traffic Light

RED

Higher Performance is better

SP212 - Adult and older clients receiving a review

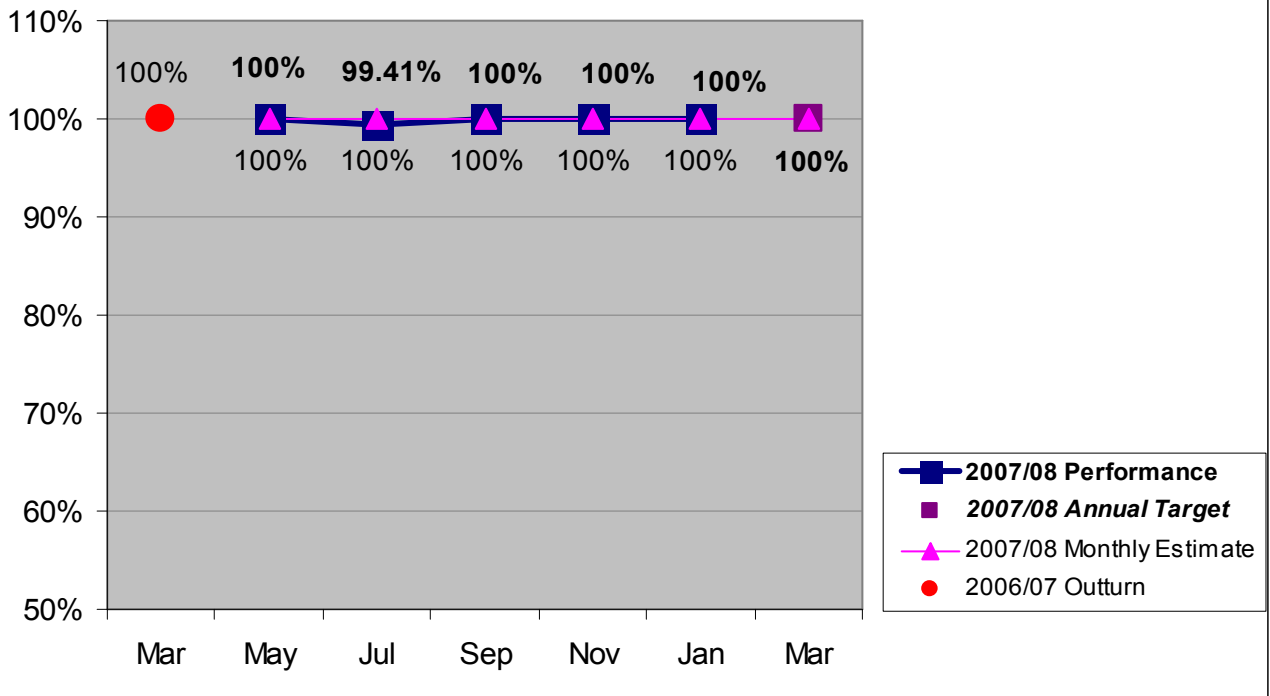


Traffic Light

GREEN

Higher Performance is better

SP214 - Review of child protection cases

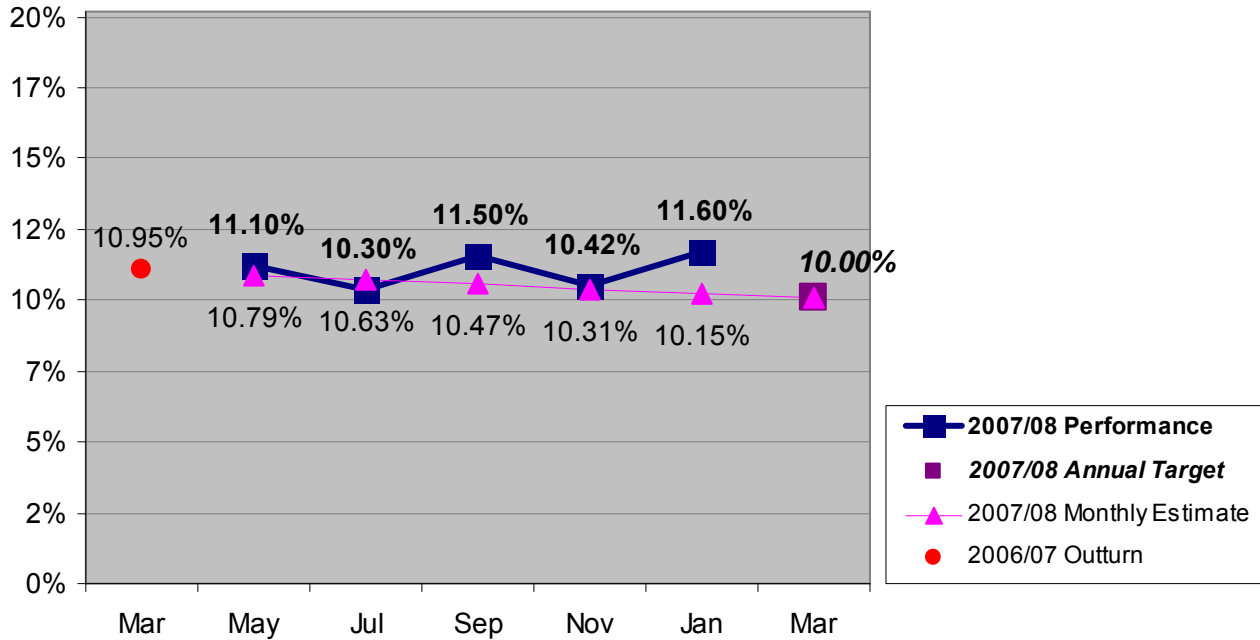


Traffic Light

N/A

Lower Performance is better

SP215 - % of children looked after at 31 March with three or more placements during the year

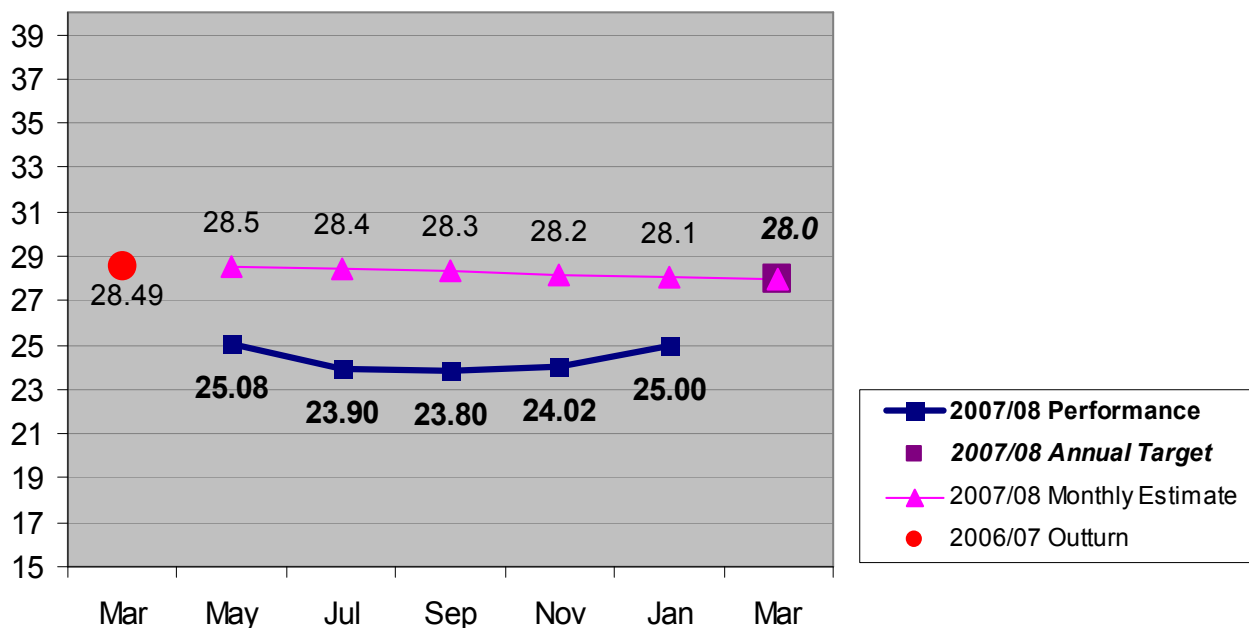


Traffic Light

GREEN

Lower Performance is better

SP218 - Average time for processing new housing benefit and council tax benefit claims (days)

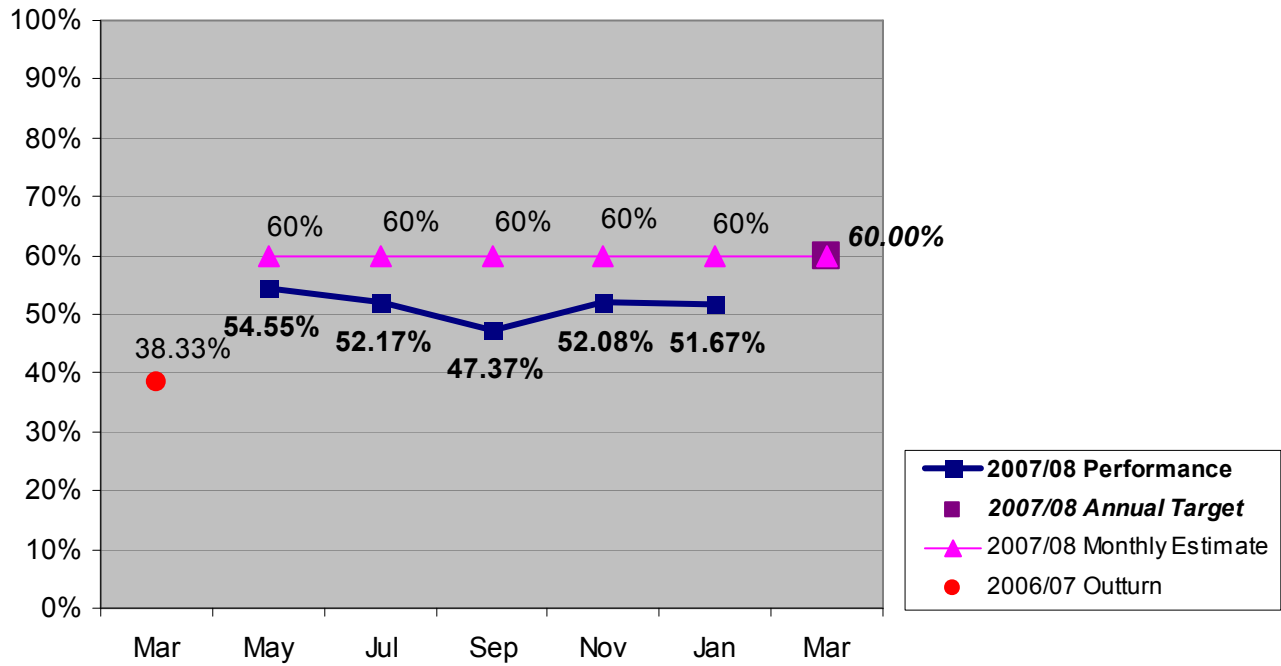


Traffic Light

RED

Higher Performance is better

SP301 - % of major planning applications determined within 13 weeks

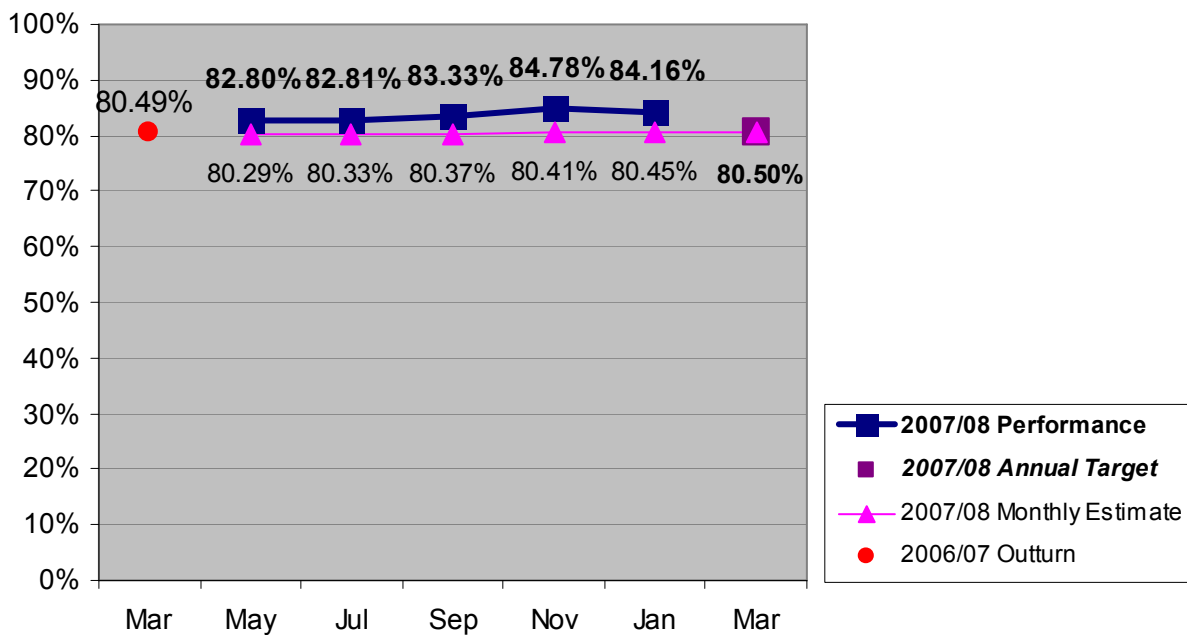


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Higher Performance is better

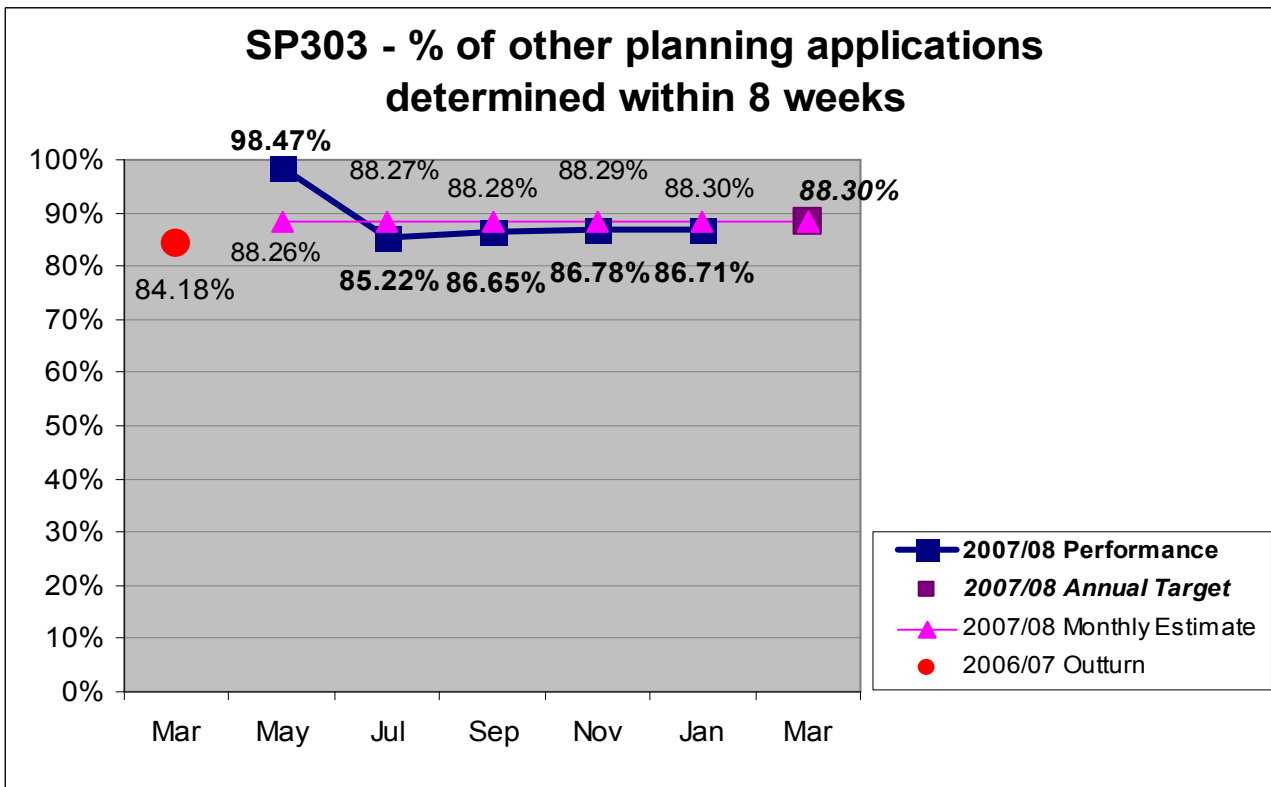
SP302- % of minor planning applications determined within 8 weeks



Traffic Light

RED

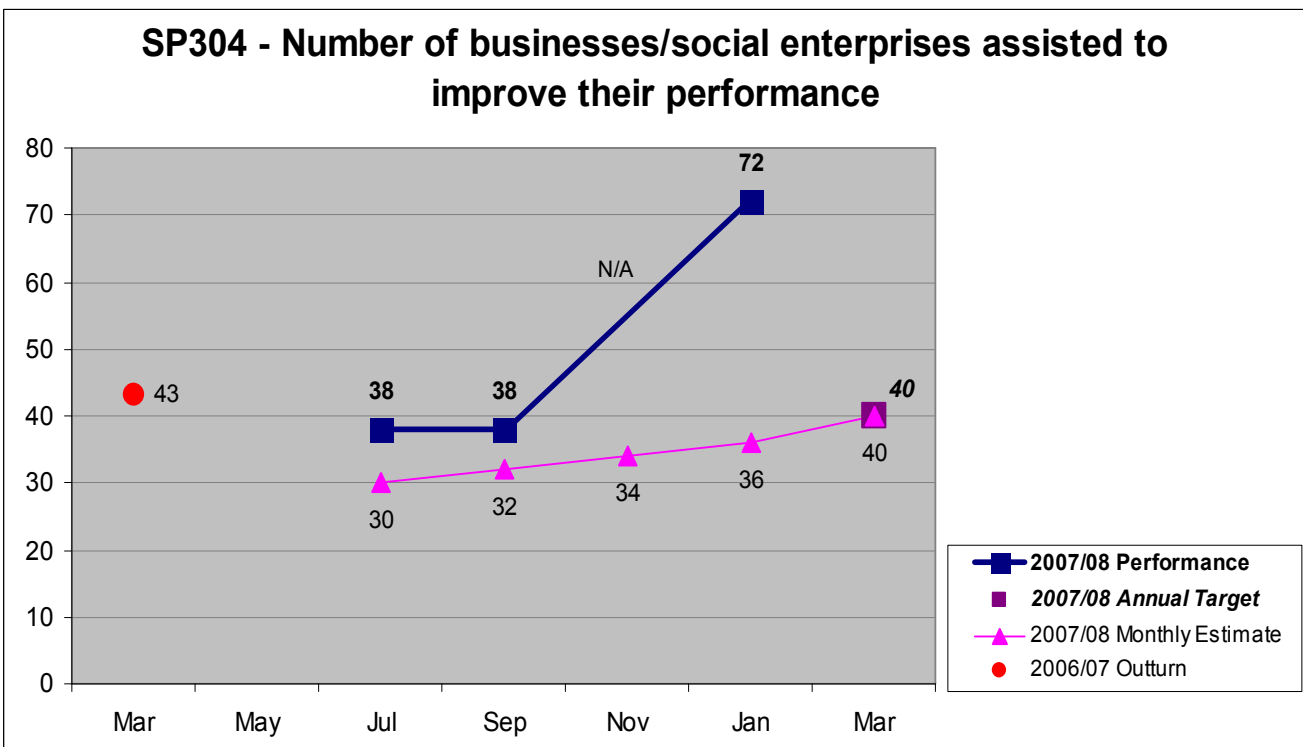
Higher Performance is better



Traffic Light

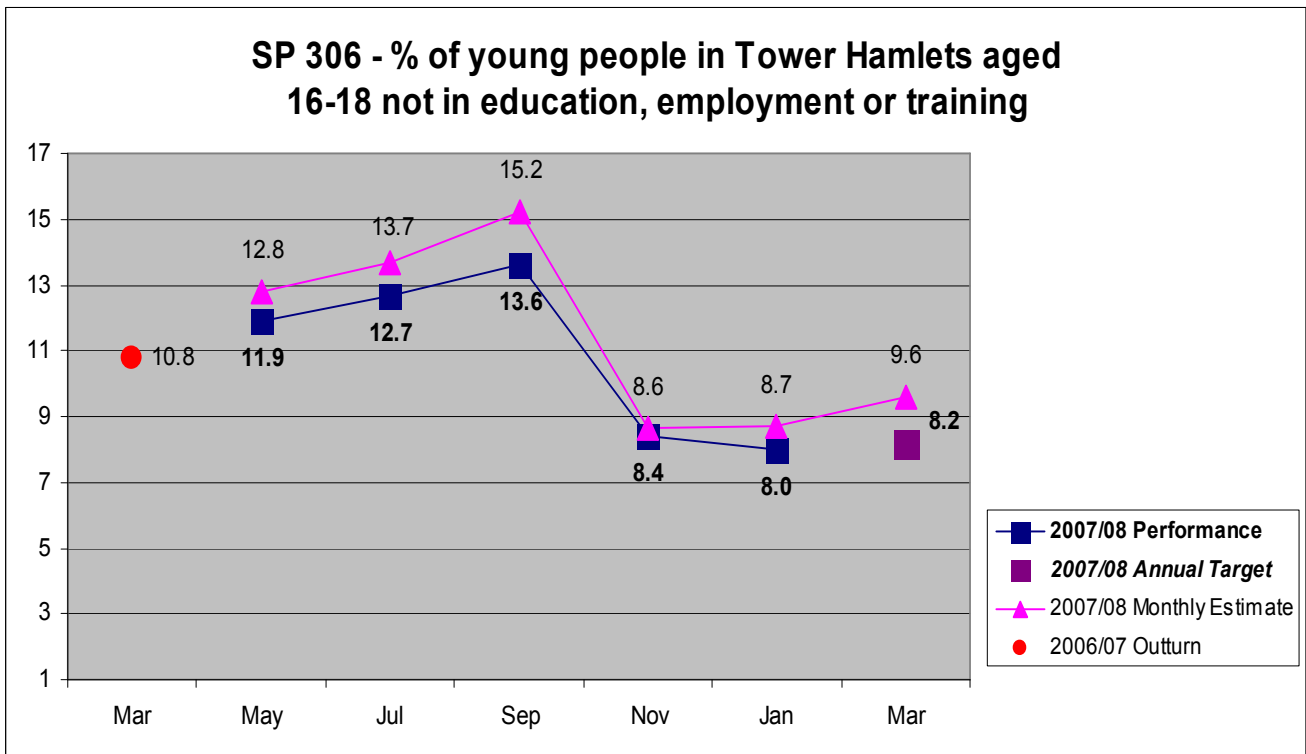
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Higher Performance is better



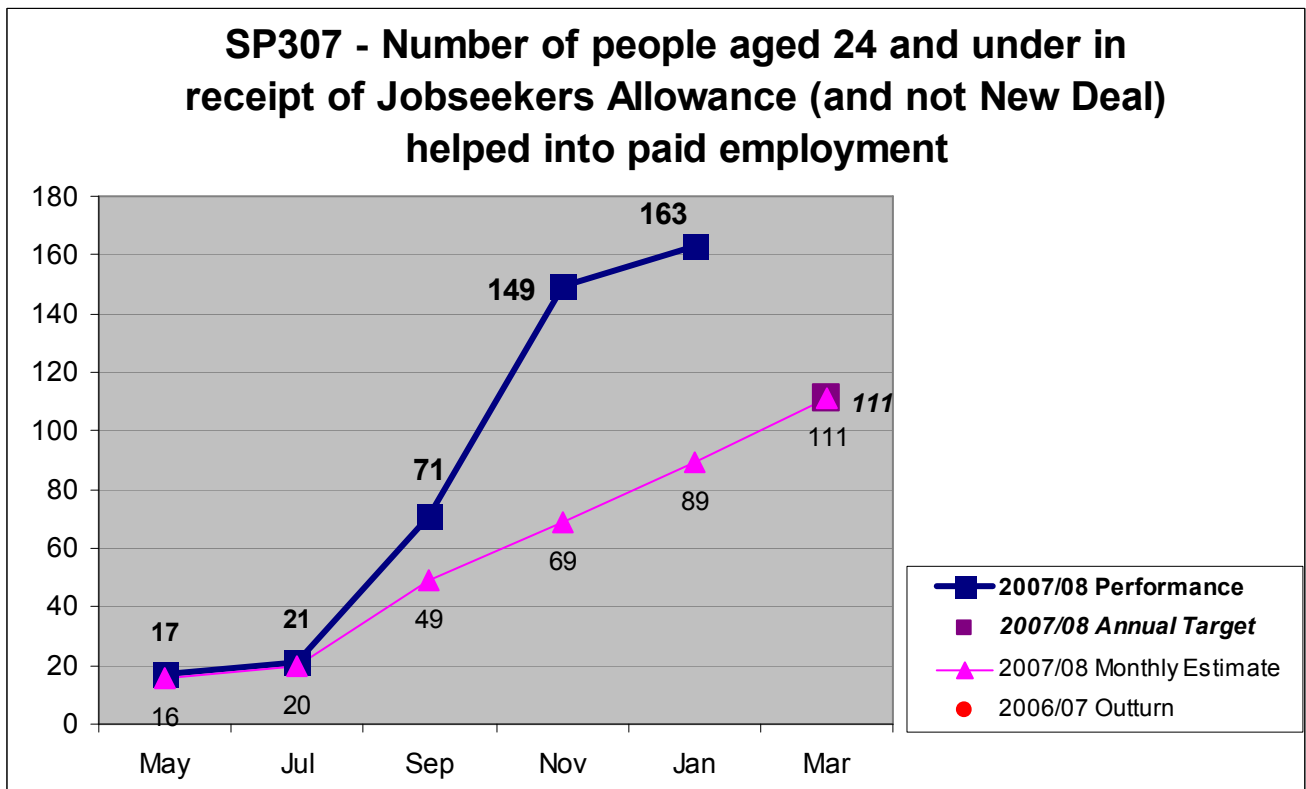
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Lower Performance is better



Traffic Light
GREEN

Higher Performance is better

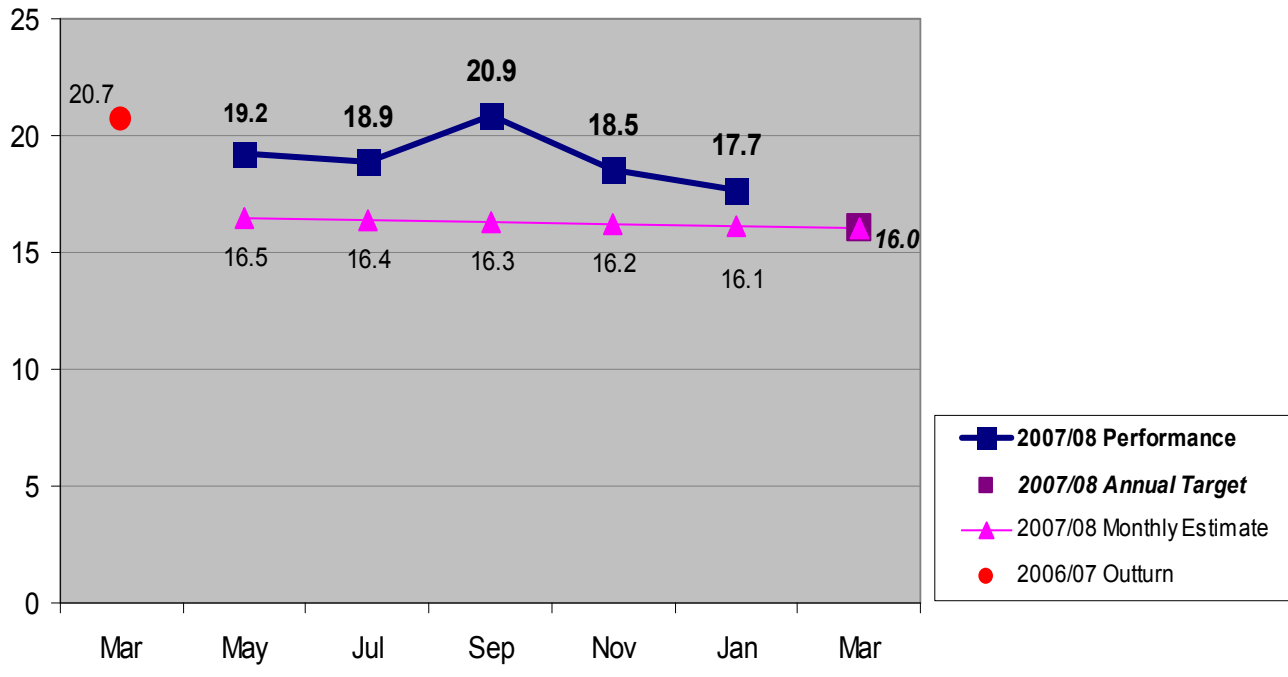


Traffic Light

RED

Lower Performance is better

SP308 - % of young people in T H aged 18-25 claiming unemployment-related benefits

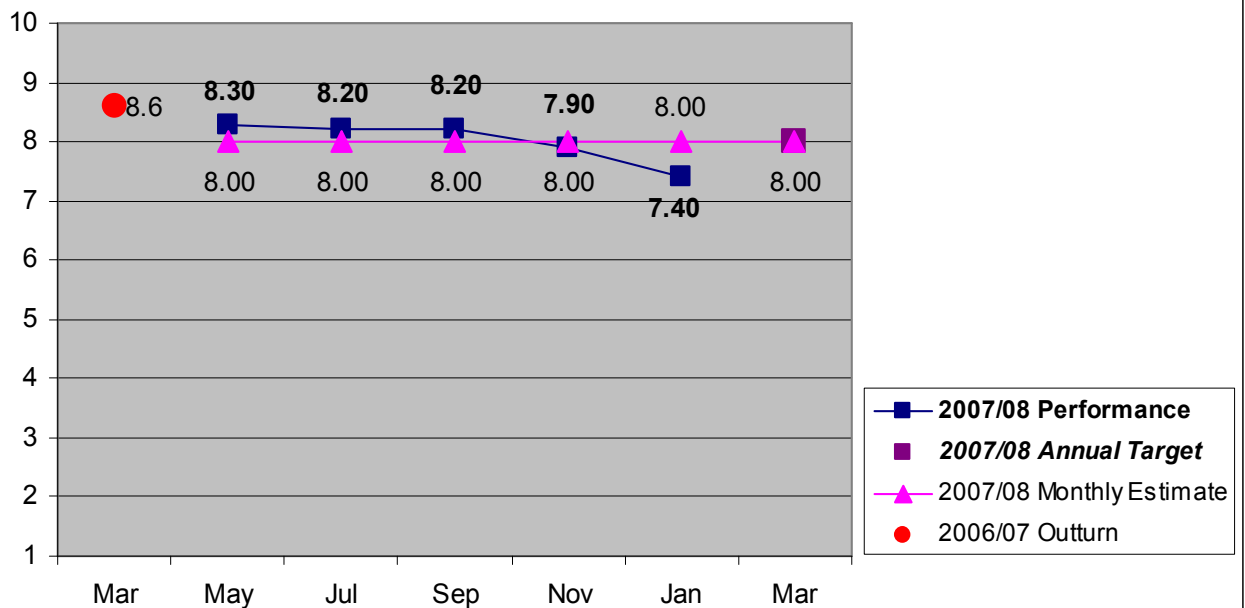


Traffic Light

GREEN

Lower Performance is better

SP309 - % of local residents claiming unemployment-related benefits

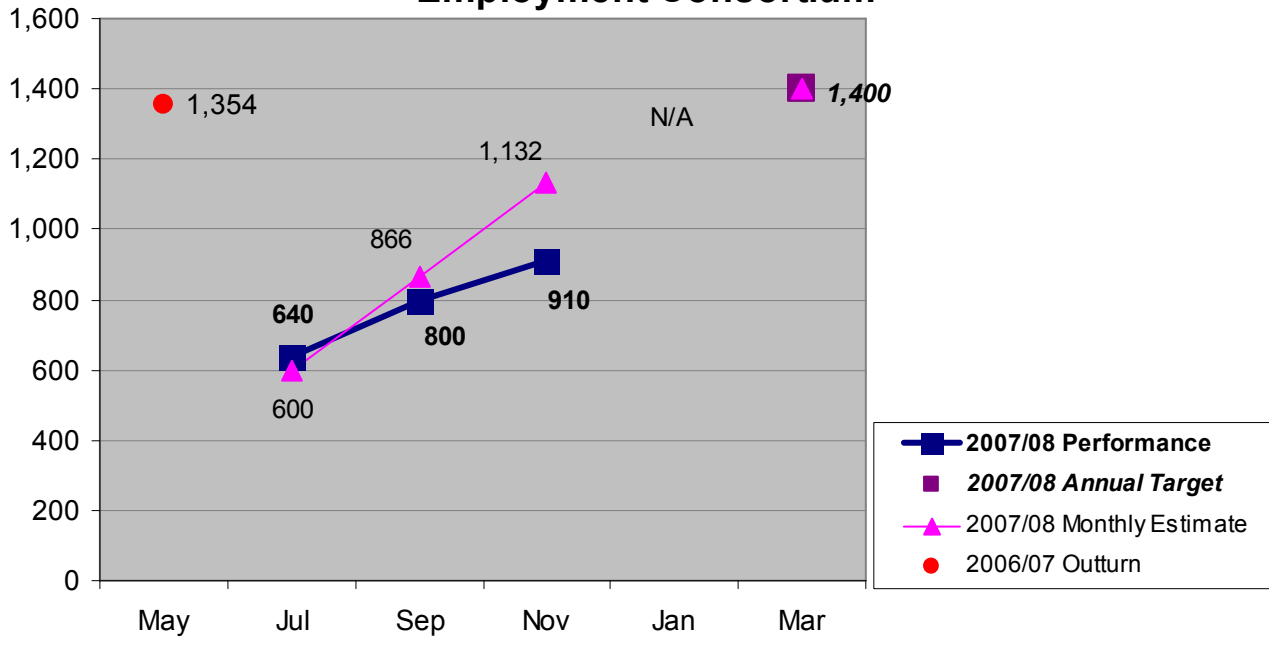


Traffic Light

N/A

Higher Performance is better

SP310- Increased supply of employment opportunities in key growth sectors prompted directly through the Employment Consortium

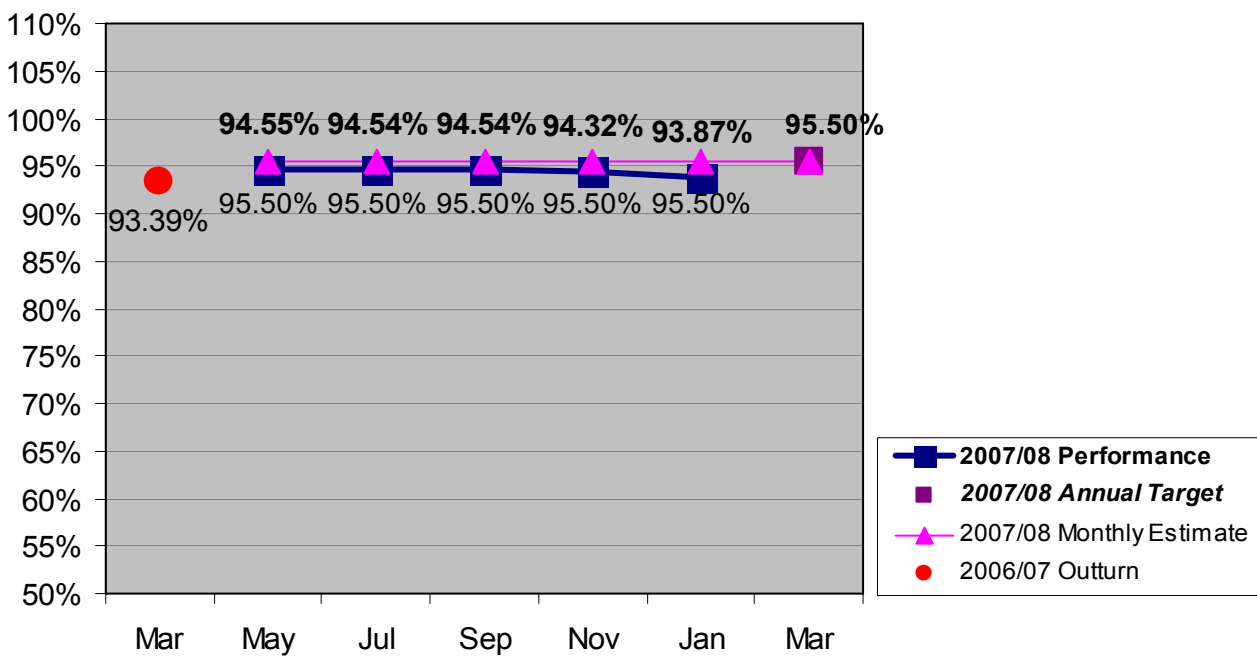


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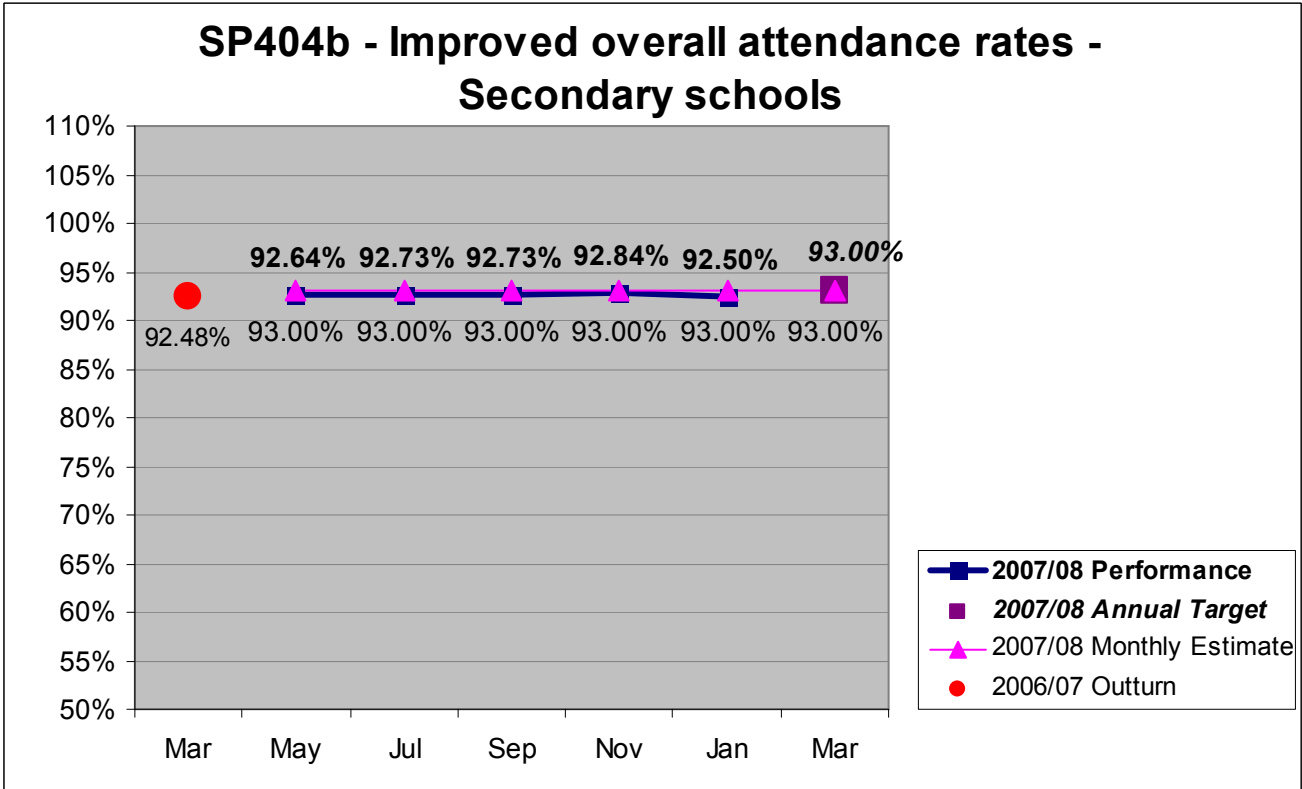
Higher Performance is better

SP404a - Improved overall attendance rates at primary schools



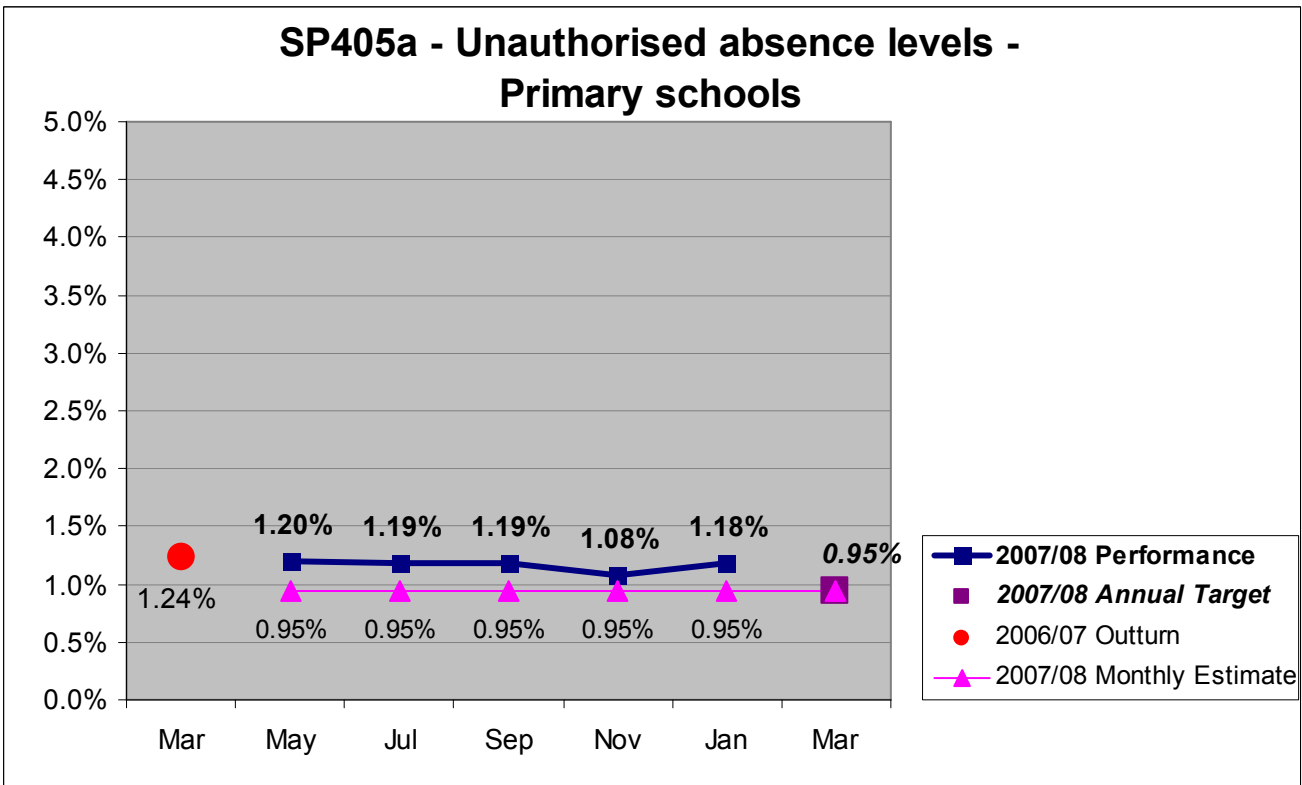
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RED

Higher Performance is better



Traffic Light
RED

Lower Performance is better

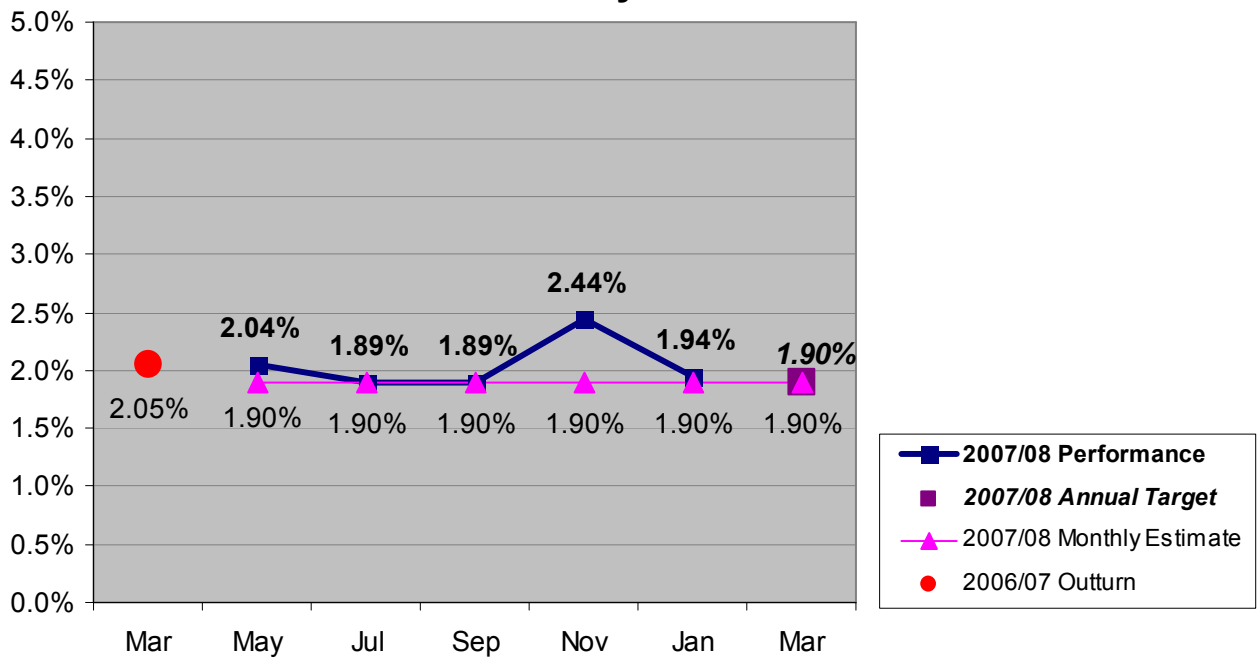


Traffic Light

AMBER

Lower Performance is better

SP405b - Unauthorised absence levels - Secondary schools

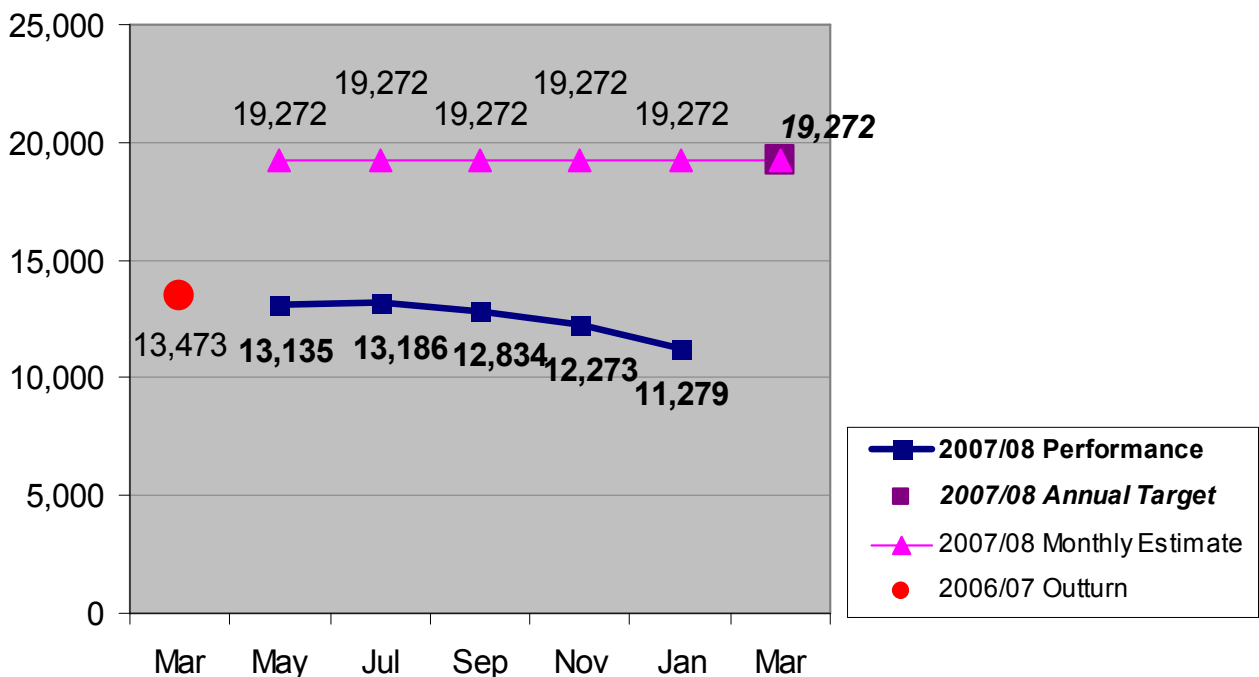


Traffic Light

RED

Higher Performance is better

SP408 - Number of under 16s who are active users of the Council's Idea Stores & libraries -

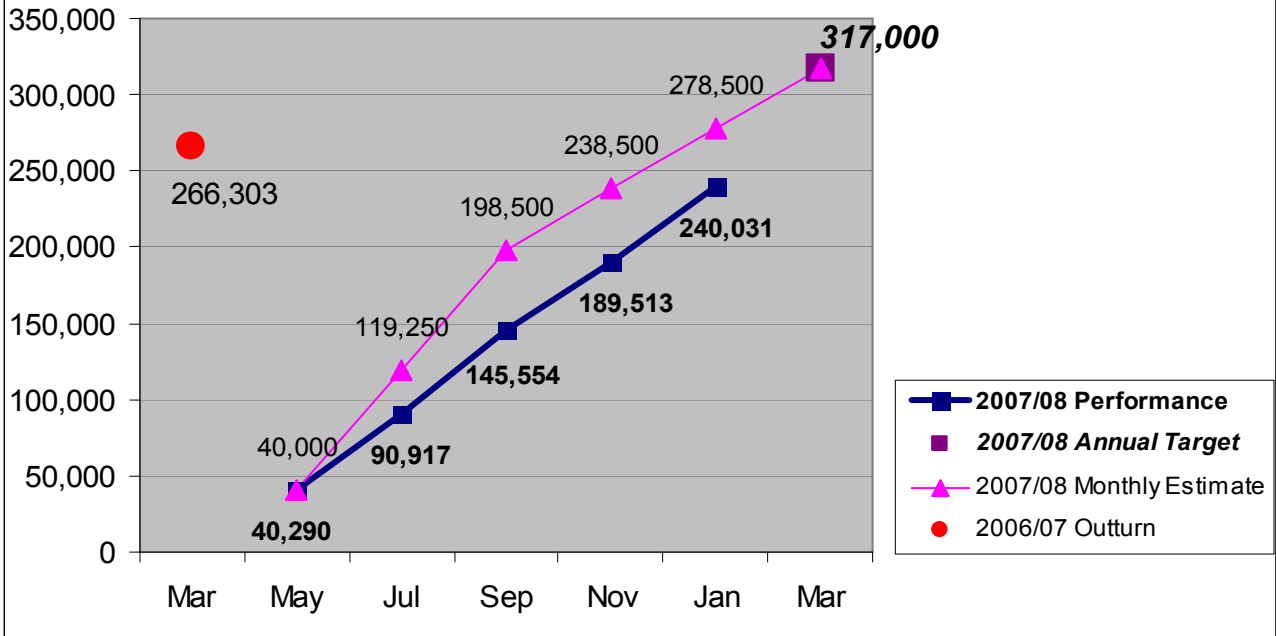


Traffic Light

RED

Higher Performance is better

SP409 - Total number of library items issued to under 16s

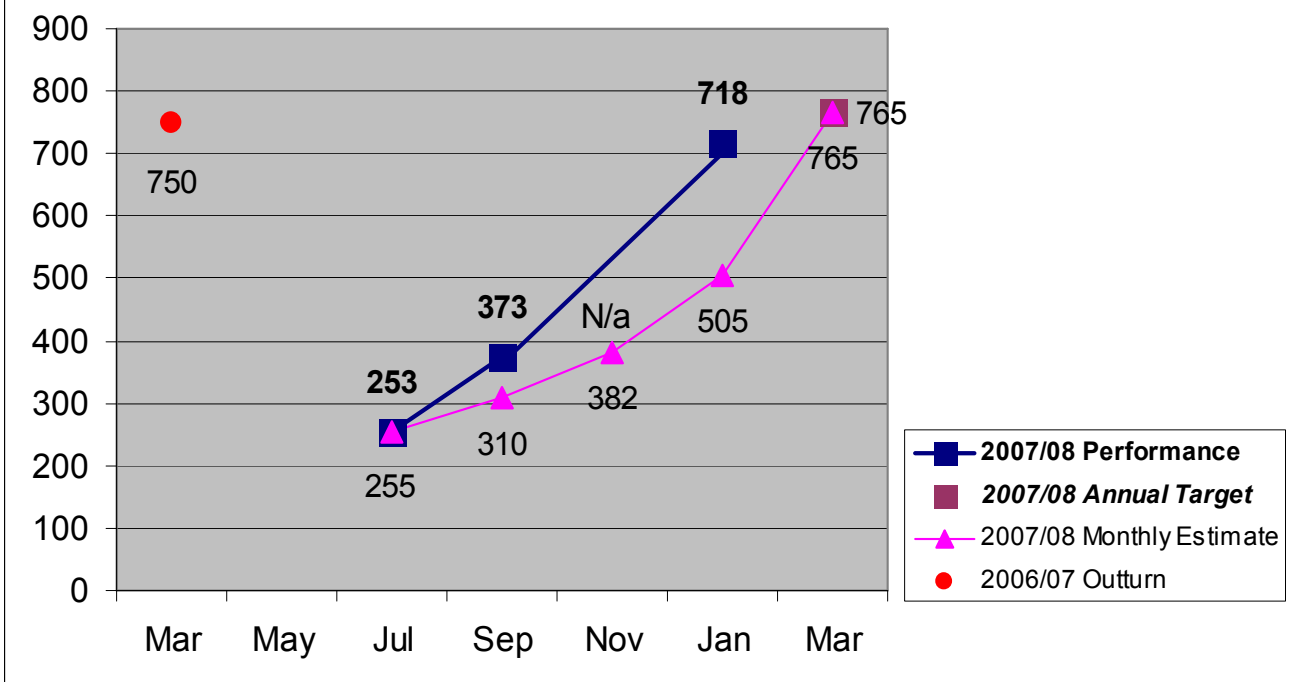


Traffic Light

GREEN

Higher Performance is better

SP410 - Number of young people under 16 attending study support sessions

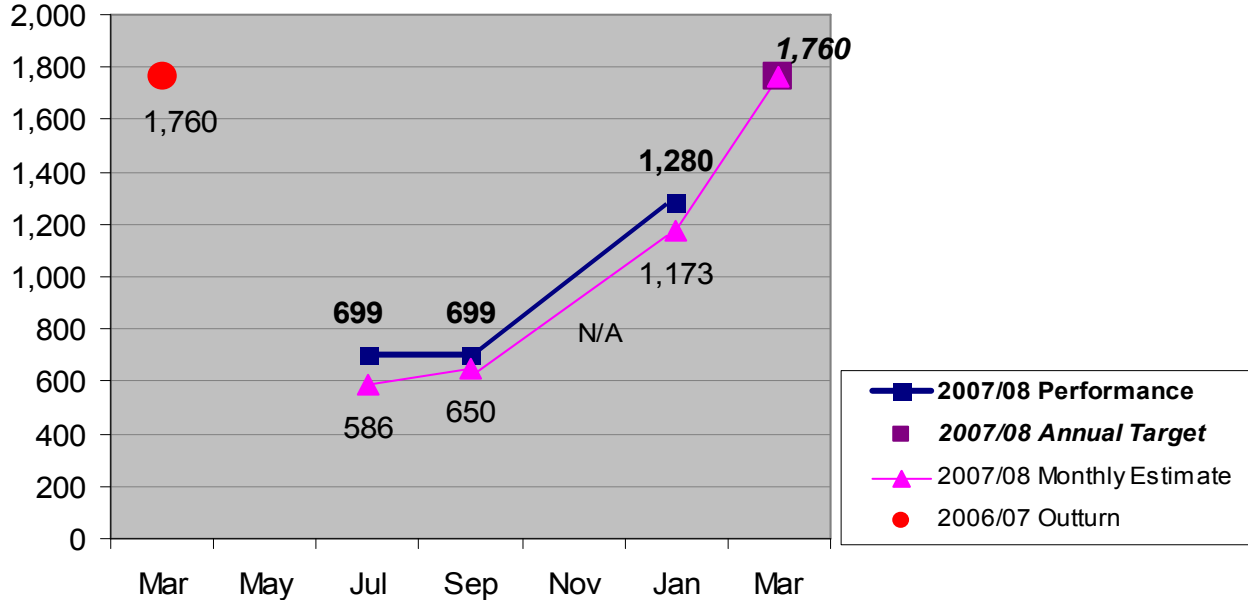


Traffic Light

GREEN

Higher Performance is better

SP411 - Total number of under 19s completing a course in Idea Stores, libraries and learning centres

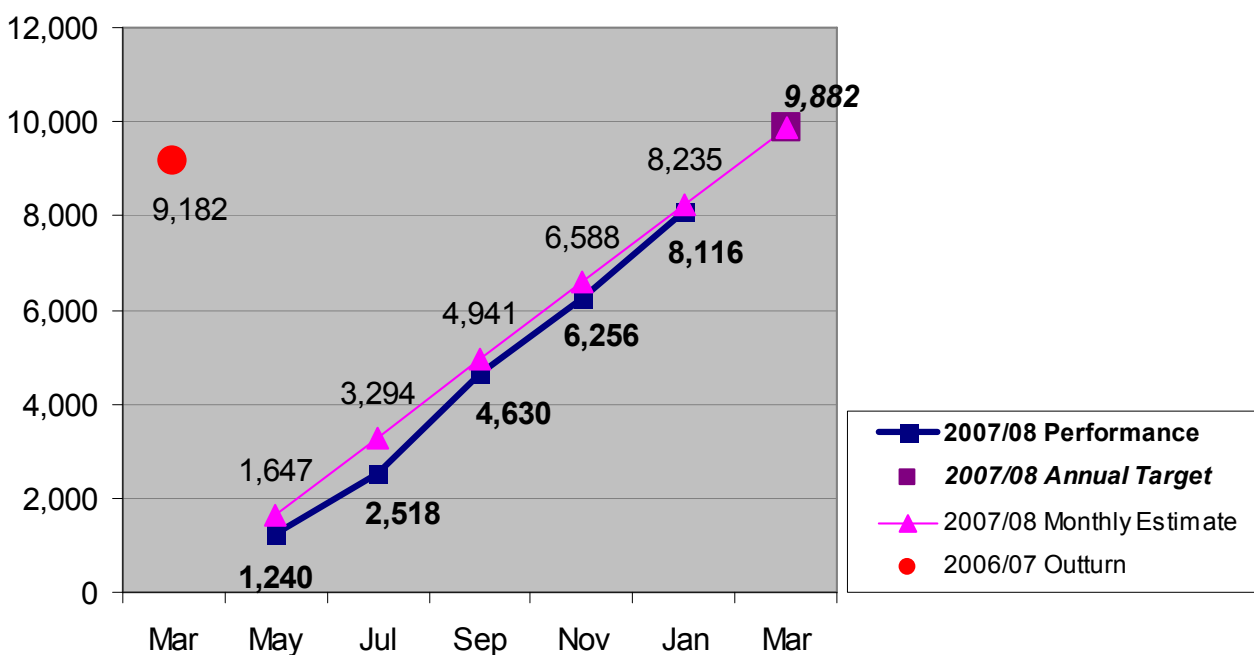


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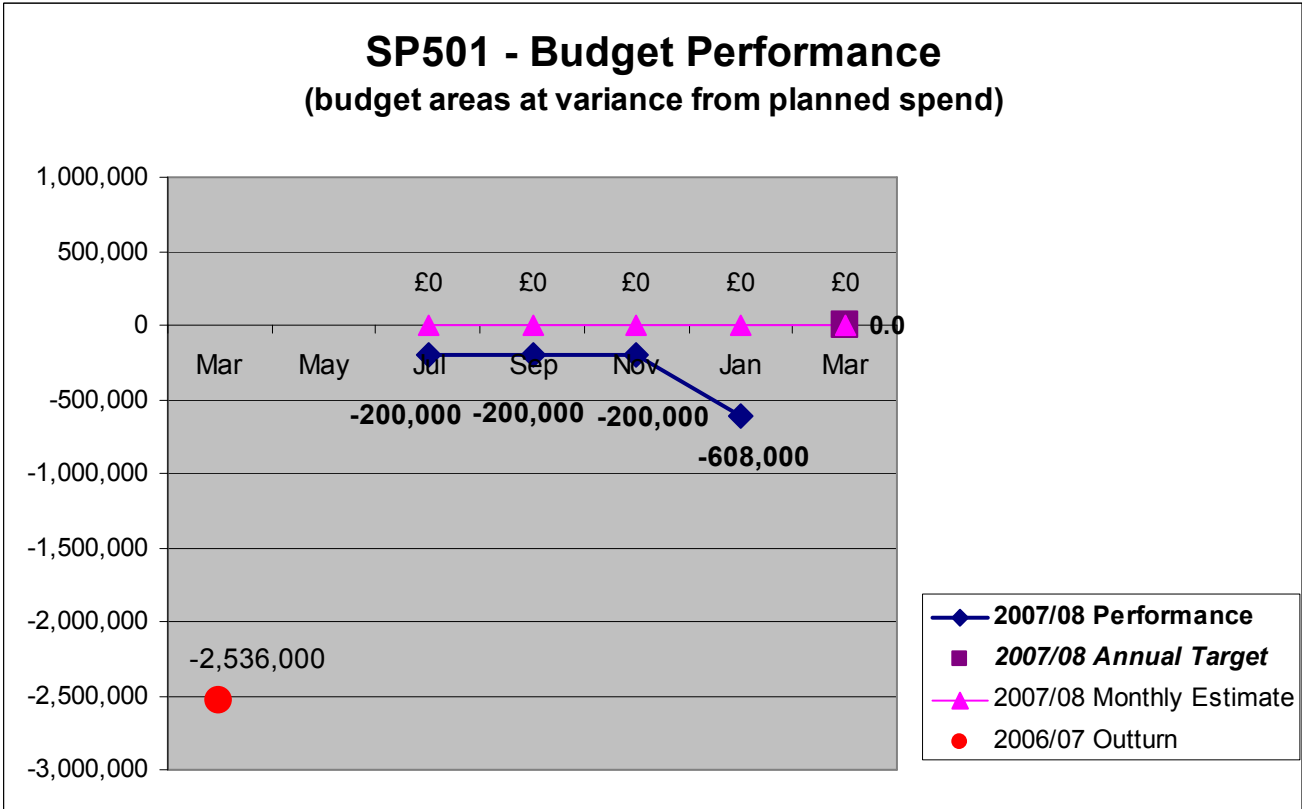
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Higher Performance is better

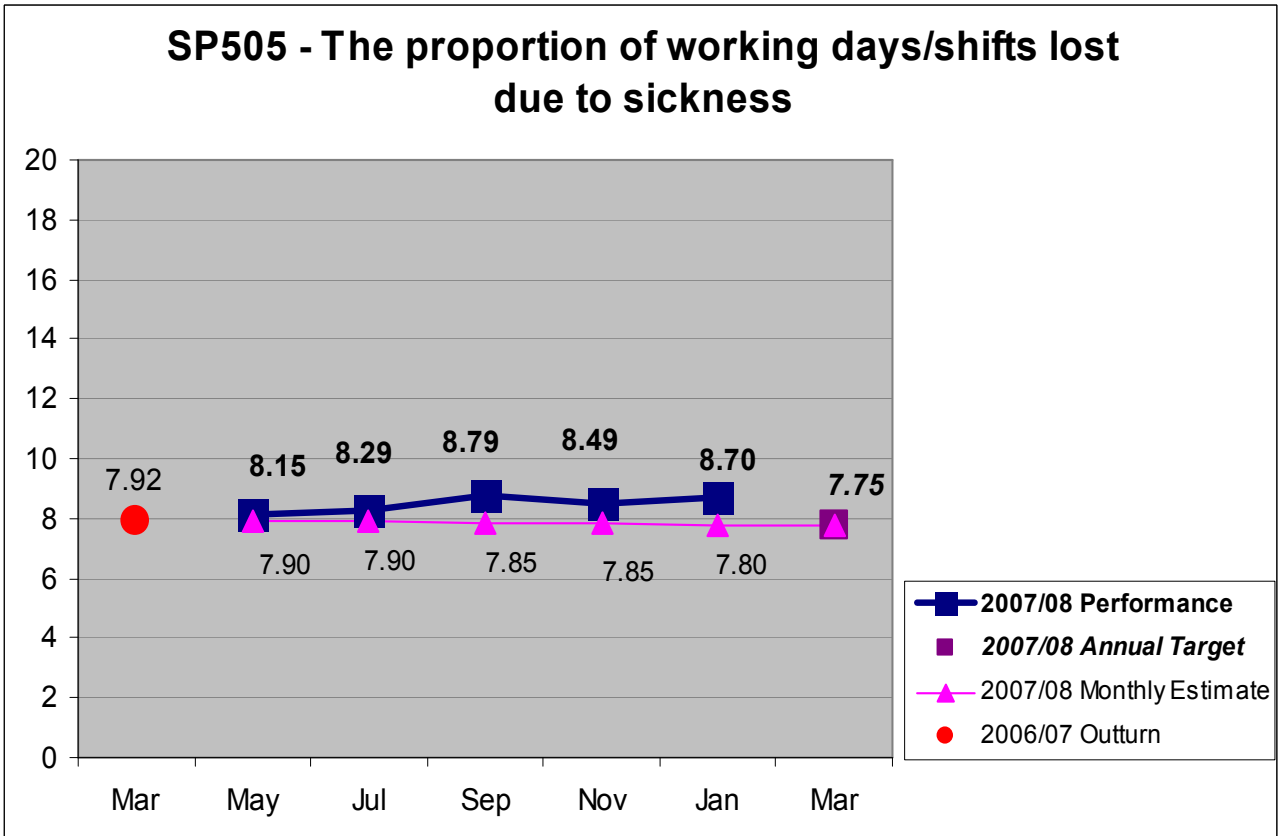
SP412 - Number of physical visits to public library premises per 1000 population



Lower Performance is better

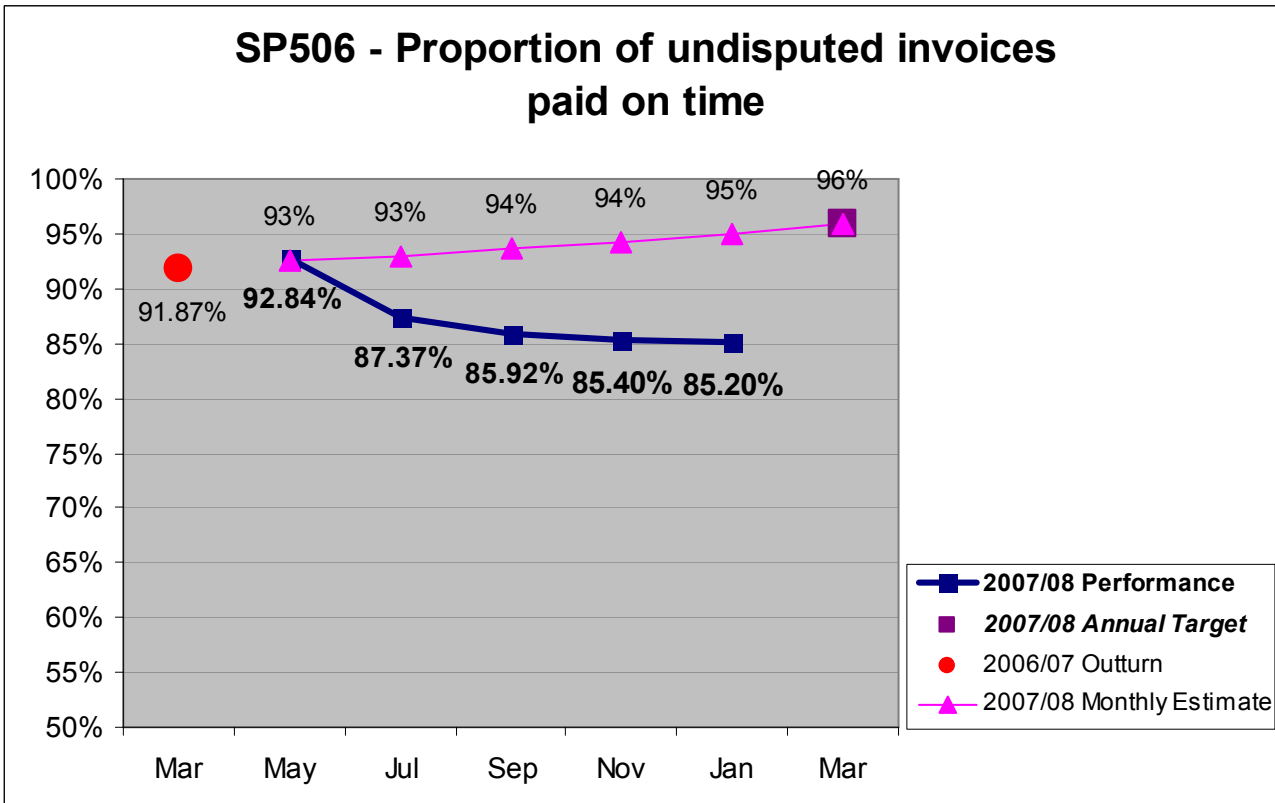


Lower Performance is better



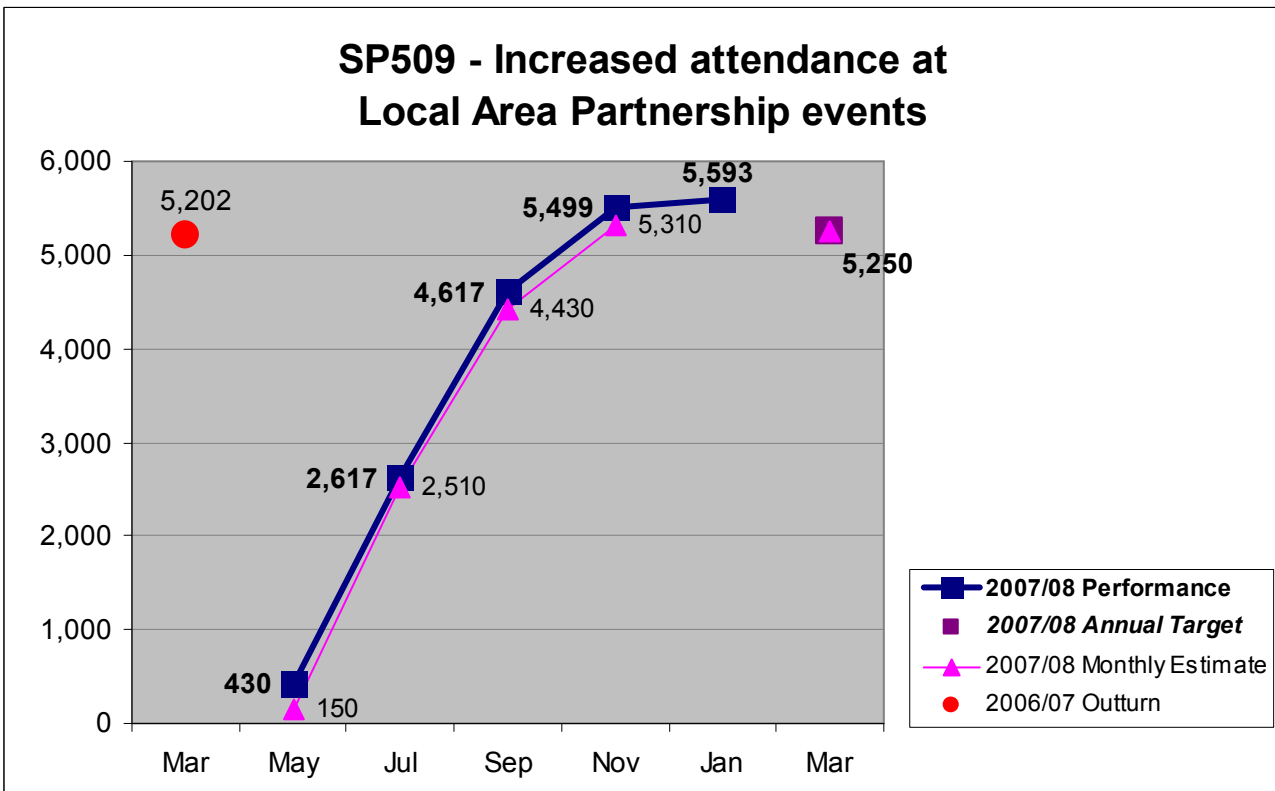
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Higher Performance is better



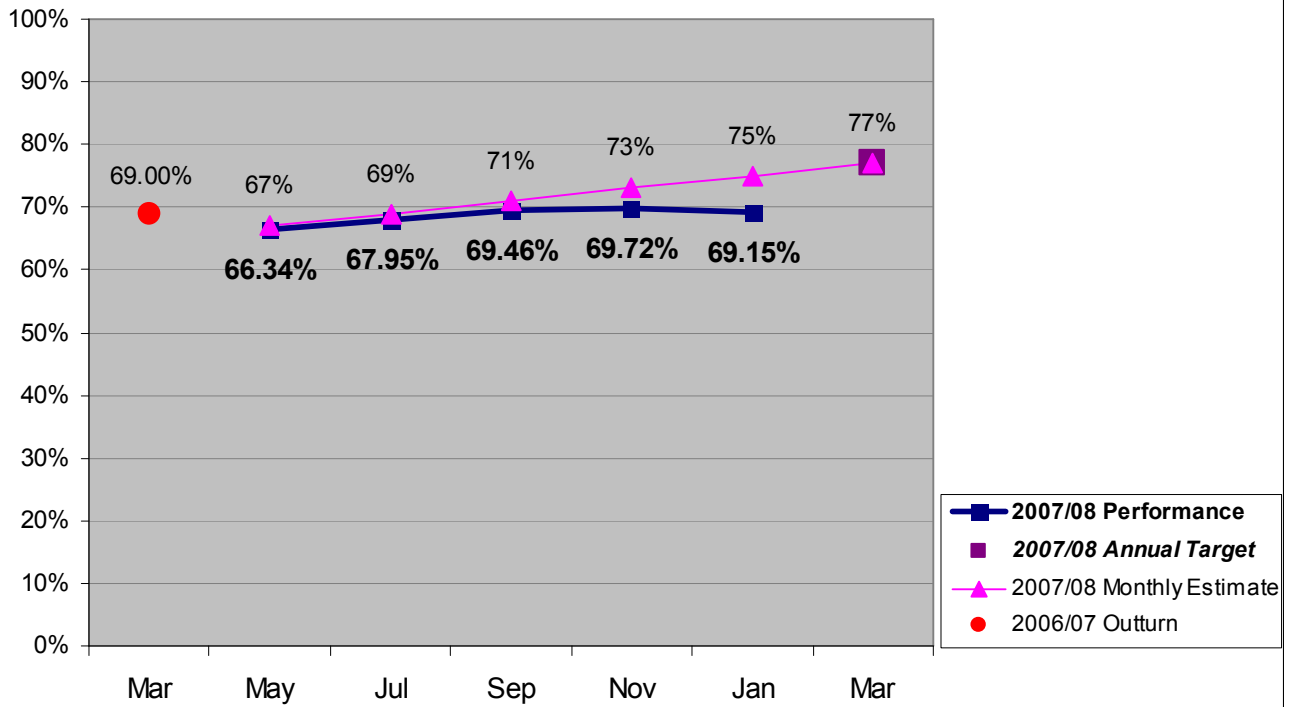
Traffic Light
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Higher Performance is better



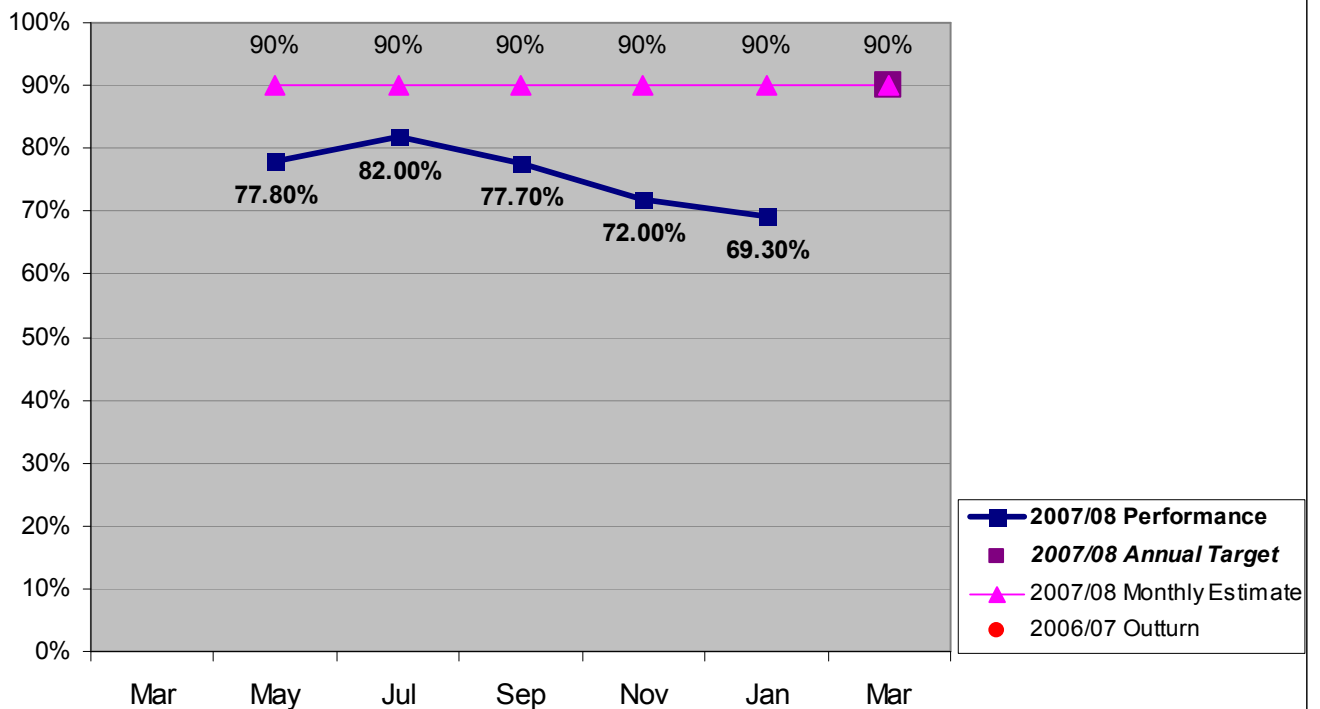
Higher Performance is better

SP510 - % of telephones answered within the customer promise standard

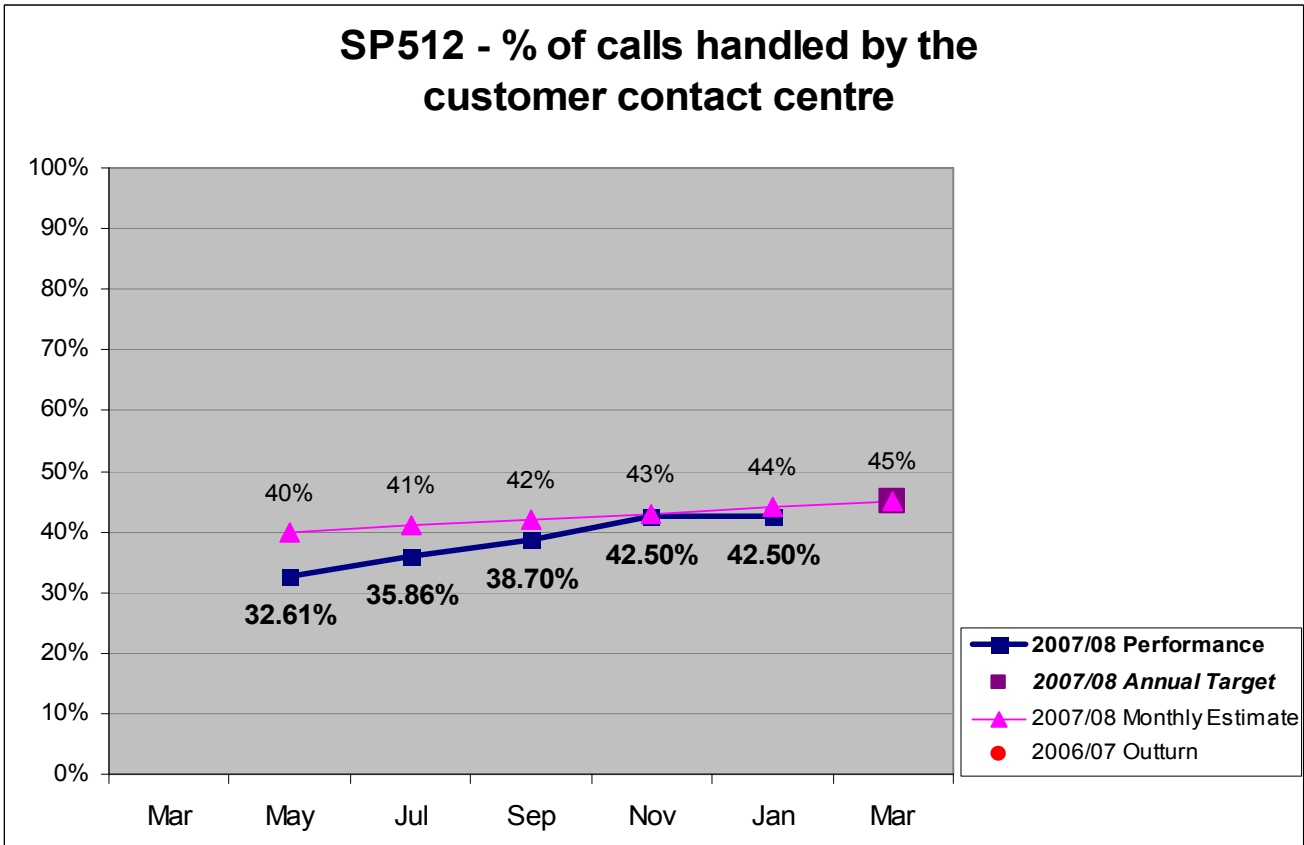


Higher Performance is better

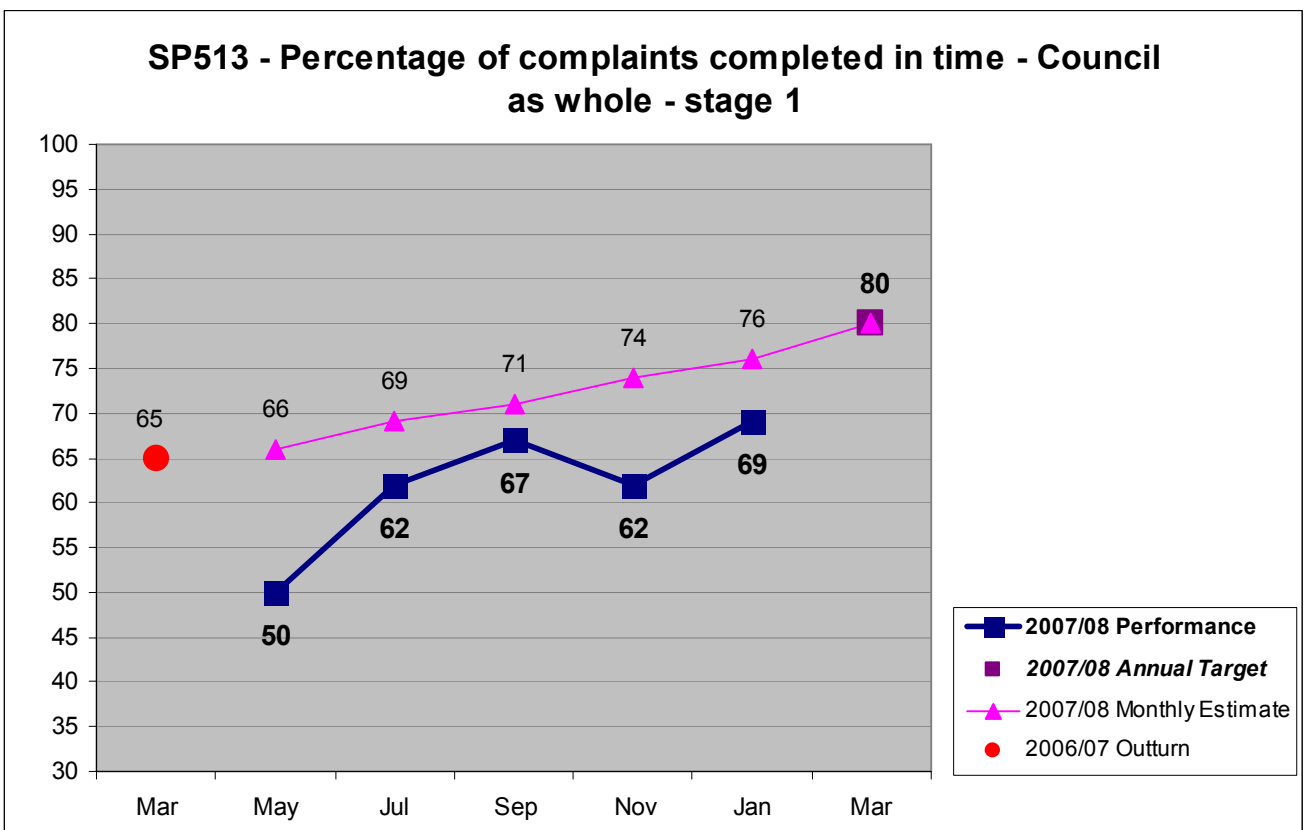
SP511 - % of letters responded to within customer promise standard



Higher Performance is better



Higher Performance is better

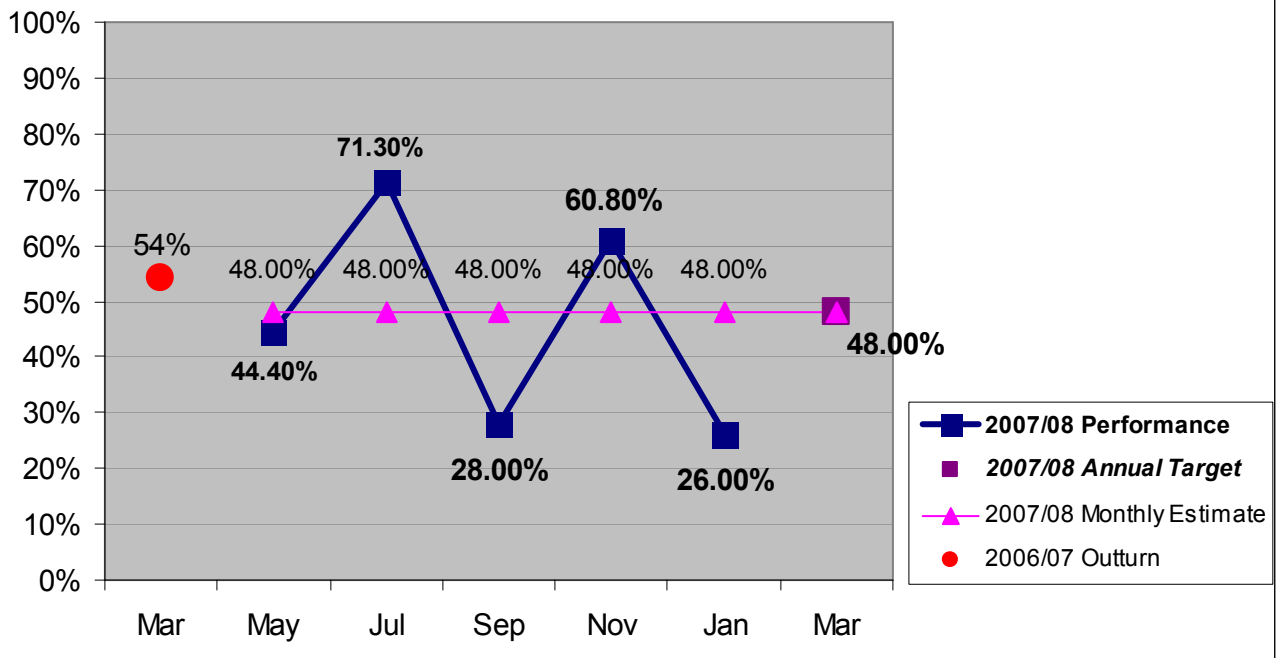


Traffic Light

AMBER

Higher Performance is better

SP515a - % of attendees at LAP events who are from targeted communities: BME residents

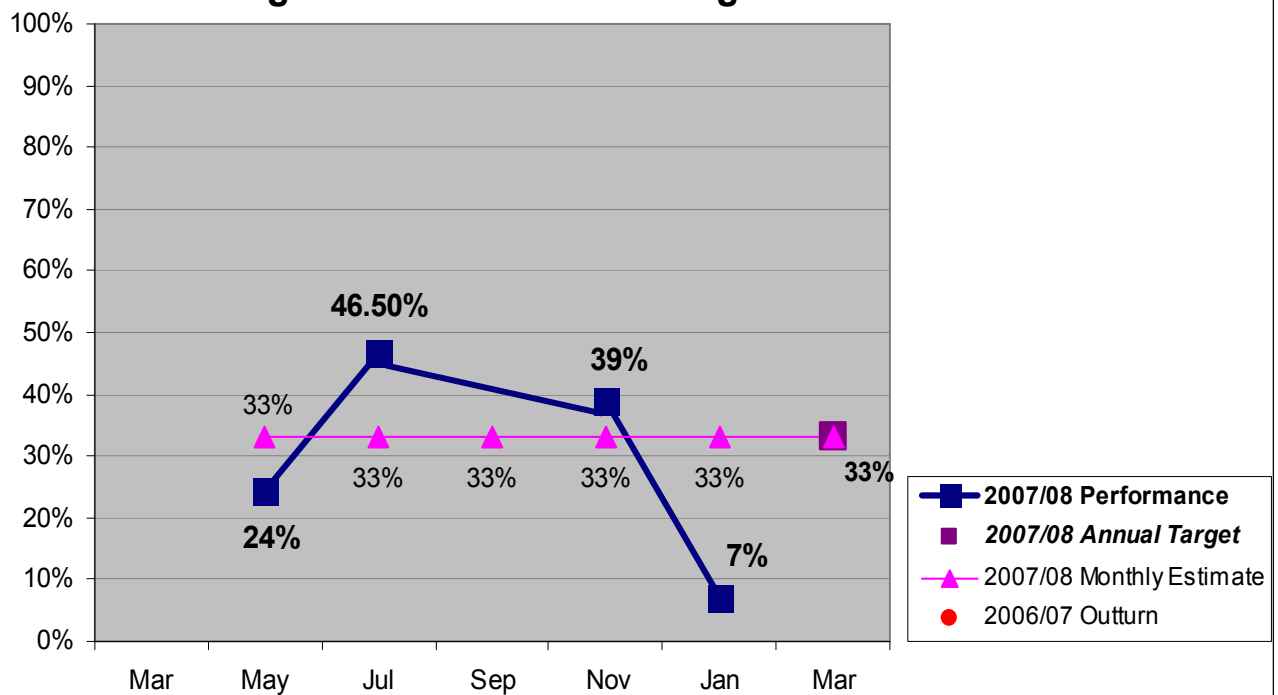


Traffic Light

AMBER

Higher Performance is better

SP515b - % of attendees at LAP events who are from targeted communities: Bangladeshi residents

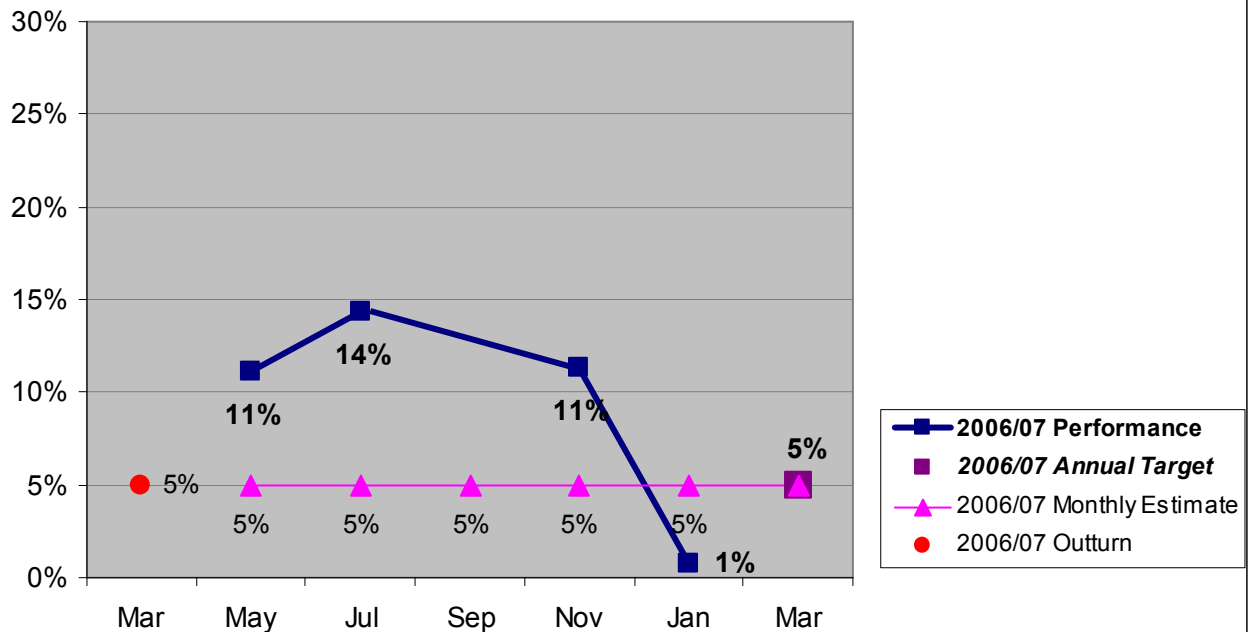


Traffic Light

AMBER

Higher Performance is better

SP515c - % of attendees at LAP events who are from targeted communities: Somali residents

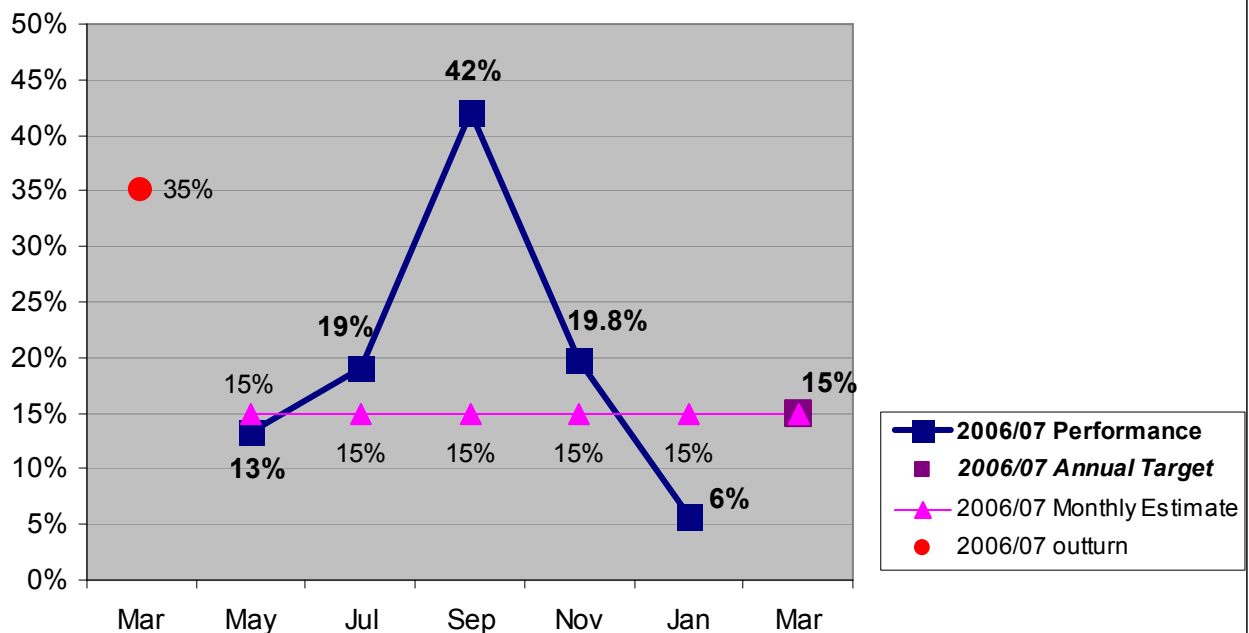


Traffic Light

AMBER

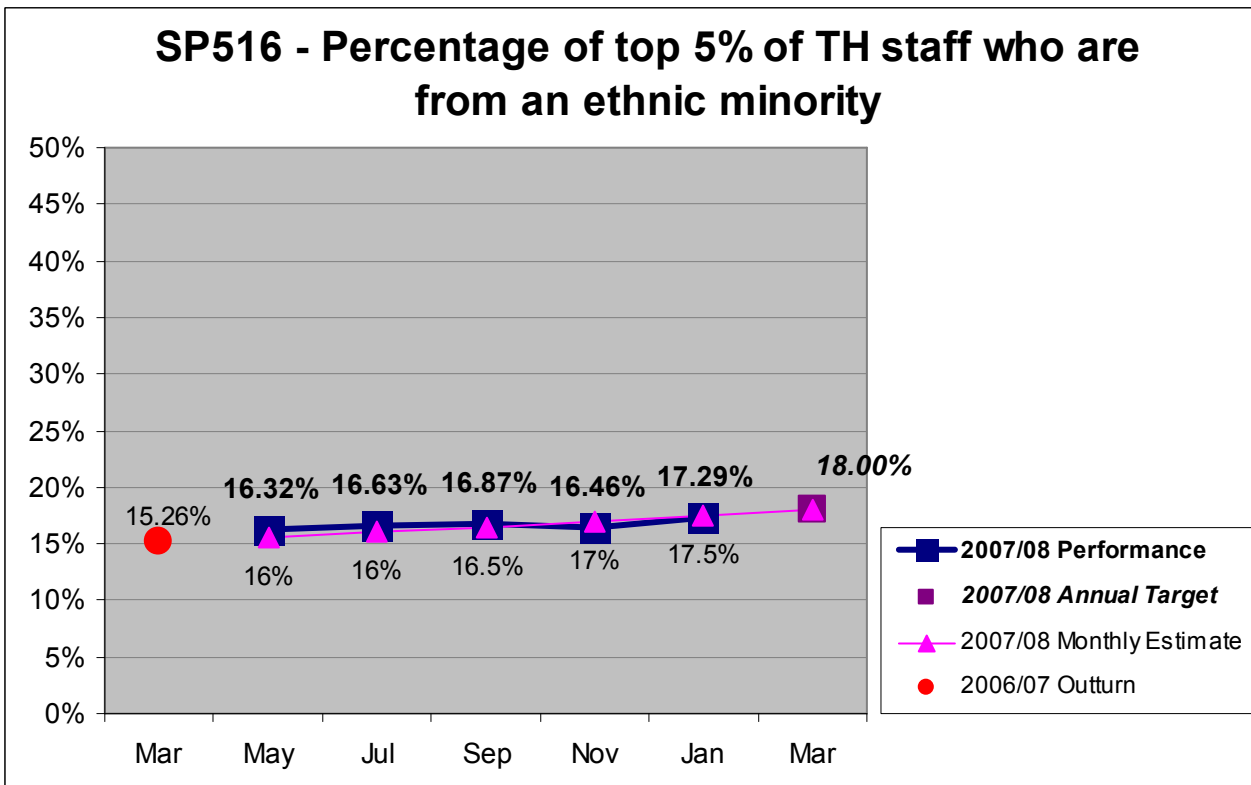
Higher Performance is better

SP515d - % of attendees at LAP events who are from targeted communities: 16 - 25



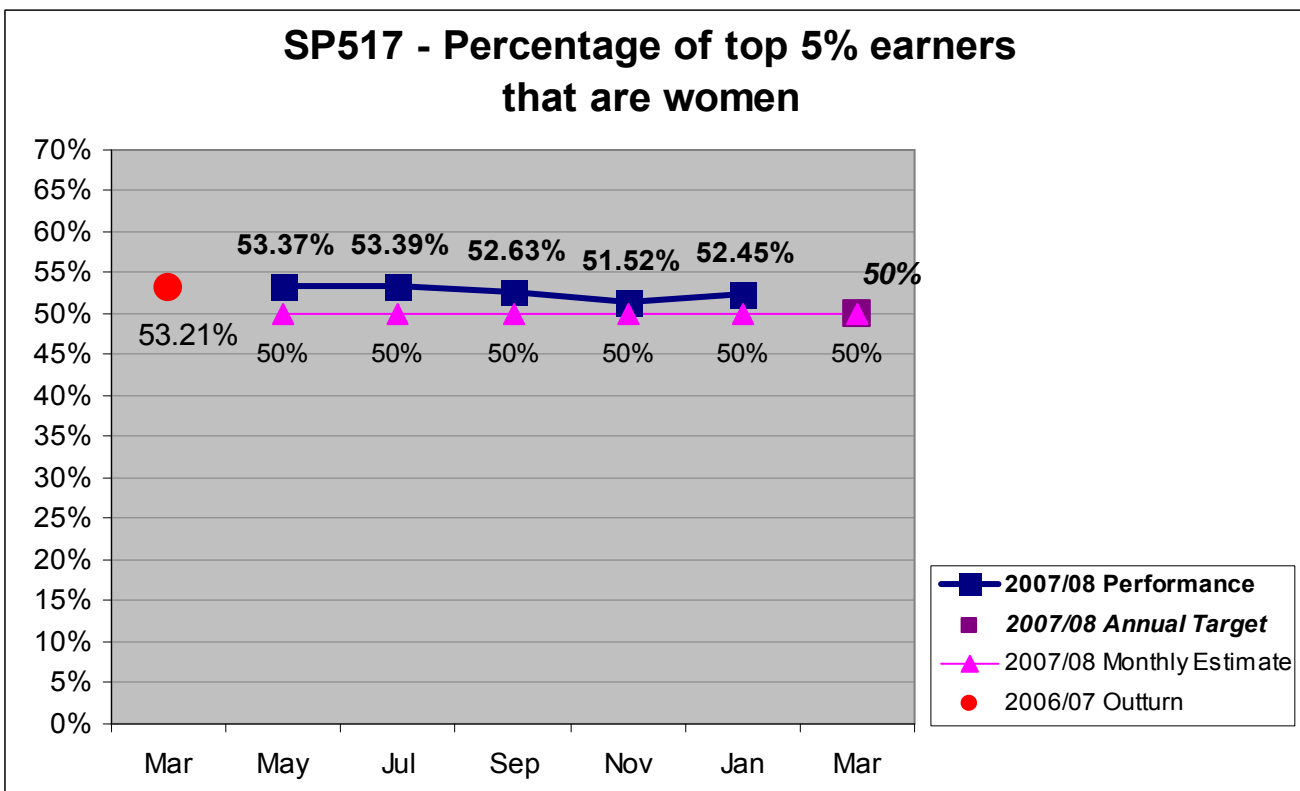
Traffic Light
AMBER

Higher Performance is better



Traffic Light
GREEN

Higher Performance is better



Our performance 2007/08



Our improvement story

Tower Hamlets Council is improving the services it provides.

This supplement tells you exactly how we are improving and sets out how we perform against our targets and compared with other London boroughs.

We have asked you what our main focus for spending should be. As in previous years, your feedback is that you want us to

focus on making the borough cleaner and greener; and that you would like us to work with partners like the police to make the borough safer.

Over the year, we have focused our efforts on these areas, for example, by tackling youth-on-youth crime.

The Audit Commission has judged Tower Hamlets Council as improving strongly – the highest rating – for the second

year running. Three quarters of our performance indicators have improved, bringing the Council into the top six most improved councils in the country.

We know we need to do more, and will continue to improve our services in your priority areas, by directing efficiency savings to help us achieve ambitious targets for further improvement for

2008/09. These will be published in our Annual Report and Performance Plan at the end of June this year.

This supplement sets out our performance under each of the Community Plan themes: Living safely; Living well; Learning achievement and leisure; Creating and sharing prosperity; and Excellent public services.

The following pages outline

how we are performing in these areas. If you have any comments on our performance or views about how you would like to see this information presented in future please contact the Council's Strategy and Performance Team: Town Hall, Mulberry Place, 5 Clove Crescent, London E14 2BG
lucy.sutton@towerhamlets.gov.uk
Tel: 020 7364 4361

A better place for Living Safely

Feeling safe where you live

We want everyone to enjoy living and working in Tower Hamlets and to be free from crime and the fear of crime. We're determined work with you, the police, the voluntary and private sectors and other organisations to tackle crime. And our work is proving successful.



- Our Beacon award-winning partnership work to reduce re-offending has been acknowledged by auditors as "innovative" – and is showing results.

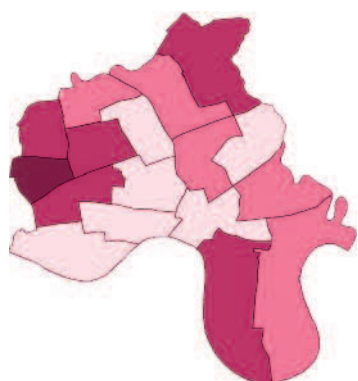
What we have done in the last year

- The past six months have seen recorded crime figures fall. Residential burglary is down by 5% on top of a 22% reduction the year before.
- Motor vehicle crime is down 1.2% this year and 33% over the past three years.
- Assaults are down 7.9% and personal robbery is down by 24% on last year

What we are aiming to improve next year

- We intend to strengthen our partnership work to reduce crime, especially violent crime.
- Build on our success at reducing re-offending and
- Reduce the number of arson incidents
- Rate of improvement in recorded crimes by London borough between 2003-2006

Overall number of recorded crimes in Tower Hamlets 2006/07 – by ward

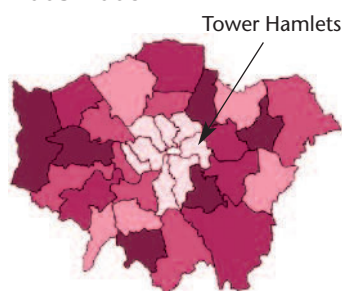


The highest levels of British Crime Survey type crimes are recorded in the Spitalfields and Banglatown ward. This is related to the night time economy in Spitalfields and Brick Lane, large numbers of visitors and high levels of poverty. Since this data was recorded, we have successfully worked in partnership to address anti-social behaviour and drug activity amongst young men, including the imprisonment of the leader of a drugs ring.

Increased Community Safety

Indicator	Last yr	This yr	Improving	Year-on-year trend	Aiming
Number of under 18s accessing drug treatment	711	900	✓		Higher
Number of violent crimes per 1,000 population	22.9	21.8	✓		Lower
Overall number of recorded crimes	18592	17236	✓		Lower

Rate of improvement in recorded crimes by London borough between 2003-2006



- Key:
- A darker shade signifies worse performance
 - A lighter shade signifies better performance

Taking pride in where you live

With your help we want to continue to tackle unsociable behaviour such as dog-fouling, dropping litter, graffiti and dumping and we want to reduce car pollution to make the borough a cleaner, greener place.

What we have done in the last year

- Our parks retained all our Green Flag awards, and we achieved Best Park in London for King Edward Memorial Park
- We are a Fairtrade Borough

and source "green" energy for our key Council buildings.

- We have increased the proportion of recycling from nearly 12% to 15%.

Where we are aiming to improve next year

- We plan to further improve our recycling rate.
- Reduce CO2 emissions produced across the borough to give us all cleaner air and
- Work with our contractor to make our streets consistently clean and tidy.

Cleaner Safer Streets

Indicator	Last yr	This yr	Improving	Year-on-year trend	Aiming
Percentage of household waste recycled	11.72%	13.86%	✓		Higher
Land and highways below an acceptable level of cleanliness	22%	23%	✗		Lower

A better place for Living Well

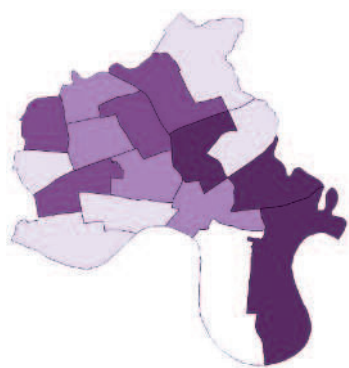
More homes of a decent standard

We continue to work on improving health in the borough, looking to increase the number of decent and affordable homes and the quality of care services.

What we have done in the last year

- 2,585 new homes have been built in the borough, and 1,036 affordable new homes were completed.
- We have developed detailed proposals to secure £190m of Government investment in our housing stock and we established a new arm's-length management organisation (ALMO).

Proportion of Council housing not meeting the Decent Homes standard in Tower Hamlets – By Ward



This indicator doesn't count the homes that have been transferred to housing associations through Housing Choice. For example, Millwall ward does not contain any Council housing. Since the introduction of the DH standard in 2001, the Housing Choice process has seen the transfer of around 6,500 Council properties to local Registered Social Landlords, securing funding of over £420m of investment to transform these estates.

The creation of a new arm's length management organisation (ALMO), Tower Hamlets Homes, could release £190m of Government funding to bring our Council housing up to the Decent Homes standard.

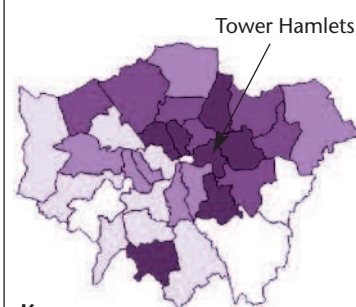
Improved outcomes for Vulnerable Children and Adults

Indicator	Last yr	This yr	Improving	Year-on-year trend	Aiming
Admissions of older people to residential and nursing care	74.6	74.92	✗		Lower
Adult and older clients receiving a review	84.9%	80.34%	✗		Higher
Child protection cases which were reviewed	100%	100%	✓		Higher
Children looked after with three or more placements during the year	10.95%	10.7%	✓		Lower

Where we are aiming to improve next year

- We plan to further improve the quality of our housing service through the creation of an ALMO, Tower Hamlets Homes.
- Working with our contractors, we'll ensure that repairs are done faster, and are right first time.
- Granting planning permission for another 20,000 new homes, including larger family units.

Proportion of Council housing not meeting the Decent Homes standard in London 2006/07



Key:

- A darker shade signifies worse performance
- A lighter shade signifies better performance

What we have done in the last year

- We have helped more of you to stay in your own homes through pioneering partnership projects such as Link Age Plus.
- The new Barkantine Centre provides access to GPs, nurses, dieticians, a children's centre and the Mental Health Team amongst other services.
- 31 (out of 38) GP practices now provide additional services on Saturdays and later opening hours.
- Three new mobile dental clinics operate across the borough.
- We're encouraging healthy lifestyles too, helping 2,151 of you to quit smoking last year.

Where we are aiming to improve next year

- We hope to help more of you to give up smoking.
- We'll support those of you who care for others and
- Working with our partners we'll improve the health of children and prevent obesity.

More homes of a Decent Standard

Indicator	Last yr	This yr	Improving	Year-on-year trend	Aiming
Urgent repairs completed in Government time limits	96.59%	97.2%	✓		Higher
Average time taken to re-let council homes	34.3	33.8	✓		Lower
Residents satisfied with the council's repairs service	90%	90%	=		Higher
The proportion of council homes which were non-decent at 1 April 2007	61.74%	58.9%	✓		Lower

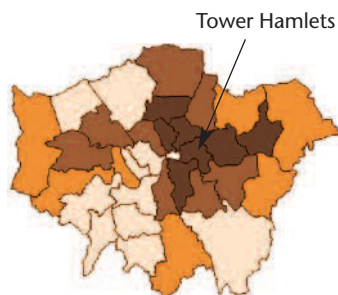
Improving health and social care

We work closely with health partners to ensure services make a real difference to every day lives. Our adult social care services have been assessed as performing at the very highest level for the last four years.

A better place for Creating and Sharing Prosperity

We have been working hard with businesses and other partners to create employment and ensure local people have the skills to compete for these jobs.

Numbers of working age residents claiming benefits in London July 2006



Key:

- A darker shade signifies worse performance
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What we have done in the last year

- We have contributed towards the new Langdon Park DLR station, improving access for you and acting as a catalyst for regeneration.
- We have helped 524 local people into work last year, through Earn as You Learn,

77% of whom were from black and minority ethnic communities.

- We are offering an Olympic pre-volunteering programme to help you improve your skills and gain valuable experience.
- High Street 2012 was launched to improve the

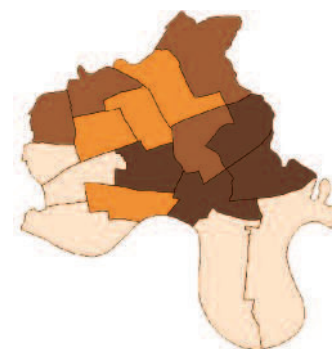
look and feel of the route from the city to the Olympic Park that runs through Tower Hamlets.

- We have reduced significantly the number of young people not in education, employment or training from 10.8% to 8.0%.

Developing the Local Economy

Indicator	Last yr	This yr	Improving	Year-on-year trend	Aiming
Average time for processing new benefit claims	28.49	25	✓		Lower
16-18 year-olds not in education, employment or training	10.8%	8%	✓		Lower
Number of people aged 24 and under helped into paid employment	139	163	✓		Higher

Working age residents claiming benefits in Tower Hamlets August 2006 – By Ward



This map shows that the areas of the borough with the lowest numbers of people claiming Department of Work and Pensions benefits are in the City fringes and the Isle of Dogs.

A better place for Learning, Achievement and Leisure

Improved education attainment

Like you, we want the very best for people living and growing up in Tower Hamlets. We have invested in education and skills to maximise young people's opportunities to gain employment.

What we have done in the last year

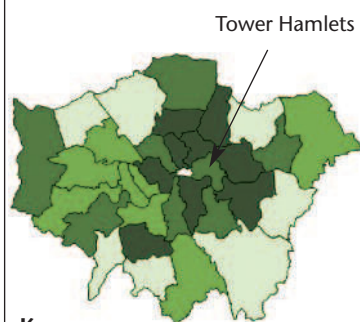
- Our primary school children are now reading, writing and adding up as well as any kids across the country;
- GCSE results improved once again and over the last ten years, performance in Tower Hamlets has improved more than anywhere else in the country.

Where we are aiming to improve next year

- We'll help more children and young people to obtain good GCSEs and A-Levels or NVQs, to better prepare them for employment.
- We'll build on our success at primary level, to make

- success at school a good habit.
- We'll continue to narrow the achievement gap so that all our boys and girls achieve good results, no matter where they live or their ethnicity.

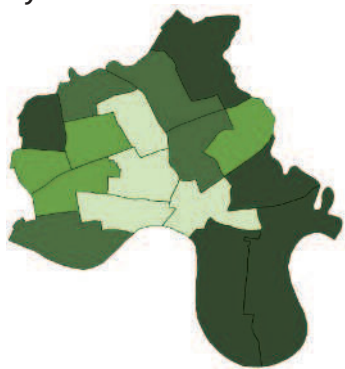
Percentage of pupils attaining 5 or more GCSEs grades A*-C in London 2006/07



Key:

- A darker shade signifies worse performance
- A lighter shade signifies better performance

Percentage of pupils attaining 5 or more GCSEs grades A*-C in Tower Hamlets – By Ward of residence



This map shows children living in some areas perform better than others.

The variation in attainment is being addressed by tailored support to individual schools. This uses information about predicted pupil performance to ensure that we provide tailored and appropriate support to each school. Support is concentrated in schools where attainment is lower. This includes special homework clubs and one-to-one tuition is in place to help raise the standards for all our young people.

Improved Educational Attainment

Indicator	Last yr	This yr	Improving	Year-on-year trend	Aiming
15-year-old pupils achieving 5 or more GCSEs A*-C or equivalent	55.7%	59.4%	✓		Higher
Pupils achieving 5 GCSEs grades A*-G or equivalent including English and Maths	88.3%	91.1%	✓		Higher
A Level average points score per student	606.5	621.5	✓		Higher
Overall attendance rates at primary schools	93.39%	93.75%	✓		Higher
Overall attendance rates at secondary schools	94.48%	92.67%	✗		Higher
Unauthorised absence rates – primary schools	1.24%	1.16%	✓		Lower
Unauthorised absence rates – secondary schools	2.05%	1.91%	✓		Lower

Increased Participation in Leisure and Cultural Activities

Indicator	Last yr	This yr	Improving	Year-on-year trend	Aiming
Under 16s who are active users of the Idea Stores and libraries	13,473	14,500	✓		Higher
Total number of library items issued to under 16s	266,303	298,500	✓		Higher
Young people under 16 attending study support sessions	750	760	✓		Higher
Under 19s completing a course in Idea Stores, libraries and learning centres	1,741	1,760	✓		Higher
Visits to libraries per 1,000 population	9,265	9,726	✓		Higher

Increased participation in leisure and cultural activities



Living in Tower Hamlets, you're never short of things to do. Our arts and events programme includes some of the best cultural activities in the country. There's something for everyone to enjoy.

What we have done in the last year

- 3 (out of 7) leisure centres have been refurbished this year to include the latest fitness equipment and

facilities. Attendances at our Leisure Centres are over 1.45 million.

- Our award-winning Idea Stores and libraries continue to increase in popularity with more than 2.1 million of you visiting to borrow, use and learn this year. This is bucking the national trend.

Where we are aiming to improve next year

- We plan to improve health and well-being in the borough through encouraging more adults to take up sport.
- We'll continue to invest in Idea Stores and we will invest further in our open spaces and leisure facilities.

Reducing Poverty

Indicator	Last yr	This yr	Improving	Year-on-year trend	Aiming
Major planning applications determined within 13 weeks	38.33%	55%	✓		Higher
Minor planning applications determined in 8 weeks	80.49%	84%	✓		Higher
Other planning applications determined in 8 weeks	84.18%	87%	✓		Higher
Number of businesses/social enterprises helped	43	72	✓		Higher



Where we are aiming to improve next year

- We'll build on our successes, attracting and retaining young people in education and training.

- We'll help adults with learning disabilities and mental health issues into work and
- Make it easier for more of you to get off benefits and into work. **Page 109**

A better place for Excellent Public Services

With the sixth lowest council tax in the country we're delivering value for money services designed to meet your needs.

We listen to what you say about your services so we can improve them. Last year we listened to the views of 3,100 people from our residents' panel as well as conducting seven surveys and 44 focus groups on specific topics in different parts of the borough. A clear message from residents is that the Council



has a lead in strengthening relationships between different parts of the community. Creating the environment for this to happen continues to be a key part of our work.

What we have done in the last year

- 'Bridging communities' is an initiative that seeks to build cohesion among and between different communities. The shared sense of belonging which comes from this is vital for our future success as 'One Tower Hamlets'.
- We've made more than £2 million efficiency savings

Effective Council Services and Democracy

Indicator	Last yr	This yr	Improving	Year-on-year trend	Aiming
Budget Performance	-£2,536,000	-£608,000	✓		N/A
Increased attendance at Local Area Partnership (LAP) events	5202	6153	✓		Higher
Percentage of complaints completed in time	65%	73%	✓		Higher

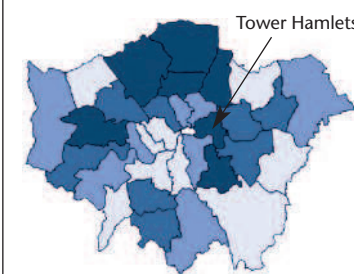
- across the board and have reinvested this money into frontline services such as community safety.
- More and more of you have

been making the most of the Local Area Partnership events in your area – 75% more than four years ago.

Where we are aiming to improve next year

- Working with communities to ensure we all treat each other with respect and consideration.
- Continuing our cohesion work so that everyone feels like they belong in Tower Hamlets.
- Encouraging our workforce to live healthily, which will contribute to reducing staff sickness levels so that we are among the best in London.

Proportion of top 5% of earners employed by London councils that are women in 2006/07



- Key:
- A lighter shade signifies worse performance
 - A darker shade signifies better performance

Staff Effectiveness and Equality

Indicator	Last yr	This yr	Improving	Year-on-year trend	Aiming
Days lost to sickness absence per employee	7.92	9.5	✗		Lower
Percentage of the top 5% of council staff who are from an ethnic minority	15.26%	17.29%	✓		Higher
Percentage of the top 5% of council staff that are women	53.21%	52.45%	✓		Higher

Finances

Our Financial performance in 2007/08

In 2007/08, the Council set a revenue budget of £280.1m and a Council Tax of £836.37 for the average home - band D. (This doesn't include the tax charged by the Mayor of London, known as the GLC precept). The budget for schools from the Dedicated Schools Grant was £215.9m.

We expect to underspend budgets slightly by £608,000 (0.2%). This underspend is because we received more income from investments, reduced our borrowing costs and made higher efficiencies. Capital expenditure in 2007/08 is expected to be £70.848m.

Our Finances in 2008/09

For 2008/09, we set a revenue budget of £295.5m and a Council Tax of £865.64 for band D (excluding the GLC precept). The budget for schools in 2008/09 funded by the Dedicated Schools Grant is £222.7m.

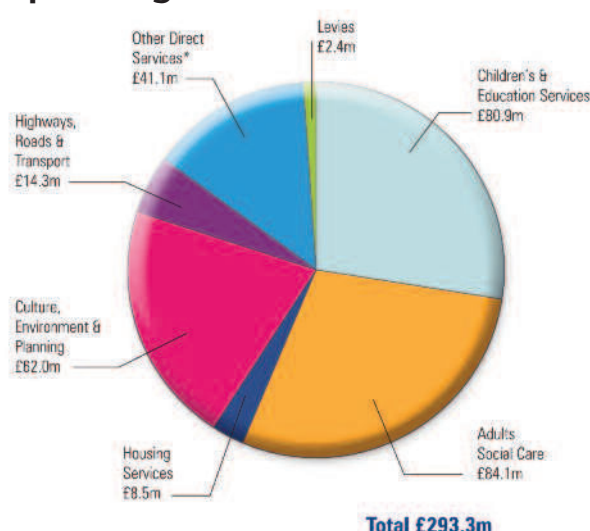
To keep the Council Tax low, we'll be making significant efficiency savings and finding better ways of working. This will enable us to reinvest £6.3million in frontline services, such as recycling, support for older people and street cleaning.

There will also be £3.4m extra for those priority services which

Level of council tax (Band D)

Year	Tower Hamlets (£)	GLA (£)	Total (£)
2004-05	767	241	1,008
2005-06	797	252	1,049
2006-07	797	288	1,085
2007-08	836	304	1,140
2008-09	865	310	1,175

Net spending on services in 2008/09



you have told us are important to you, including a continued focus on CCTV, doing more to tackle anti-social behaviour and more work to raise recycling levels.

We're committed to delivering outstanding, value for

money services and ensuring that Council tax increases are affordable for you. The average council tax payer in Tower Hamlets will pay just 50p a week extra and the council tax remains amongst the lowest in

Monday - Friday
9.00am - 5.00pm



Ref:
THBVP/07/53

English	For free translation phone
Arabic	للترجمة المجانية الرجاء الاتصال هاتفياً.
Chinese	欲索取免費譯本，請致電。
French	Pour une traduction gratuite, téléphonez
Hindi	मुफ्त अनुवाद के लिए फोन कीजिए
Malayalam	സൗജന്യമായ തർജ്ജിമയ്ക്കായി ബന്ധപ്പെടുക
Somali	Turjubaan lacag la'aan ah ka soo wac telefoonka.
Portuguese	Para uma tradução grátis, telefone.
Bengali/Sylheti	বিনাখরচে অনুবাদের জন্য টেলিফোন করুন
Gujarati	મફત ભાષાંતર માટે ફોન કરો.
Punjabi	ਮੁਫਤ ਅਨੁਵਾਦ ਲਈ ਫੋਨ ਕਰੋ
Urdu	مفت ترجمے کے لئے ٹیلیفون کیجیے۔
Serbo-Croat	Za besplatne prevode pozovite
Spanish	Para obtener una traducción telefónica gratuita llame al:
Russian	Перевод – бесплатно. Звоните.
Albanian	Për një përkthim falas telefononi.
Tamil	இலவச மொழிபெயர்ப்புக்கு தொலைபேசி செய்யவும்.
Greek	Για δωρεάν μετάφραση, τηλεφωνήστε.
Turkish	Ücretsiz çeviri için telefon edin.
Vietnamese	Điện thoại để được thông dịch miễn phí.
Kurdish	بۆ وەرگیران (تەرجومەکردن) بە خۆرای، تەلهفۆن بکە.
Lithuanian	Del nemokamo vertimo skambinkinte
Polish	Po bezpłatne tłumaczenia prosimy dzwonic

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Version 7 - 9/2006

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