



Meeting of the

TOWER HAMLETS COUNCIL

Wednesday, 15 October 2008 at 7.30 p.m.

A G E N D A

VENUE

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

If you require any further information relating to this meeting, would like to request a large print, Braille or audio version of this document, or would like to discuss access arrangements or any other special requirements, please contact:

John S Williams, Service Head, Democratic Services
Tel: 020 7364 4204, E-mail: johns.williams@towerhamlets.gov.uk



Chief Executive's
Directorate

Democratic Services
Tower Hamlets Town Hall
Mulberry Place
5 Clove Crescent
London E14 2BG

Tel **020 7364 4204**
Fax **020 7364 3232**

www.towerhamlets.gov.uk

**TO THE MAYOR AND COUNCILLORS OF THE LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER
HAMLETS**

You are summoned to attend a meeting of the Council of the London Borough of Tower Hamlets to be held in **THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, 1ST FLOOR, TOWN HALL, MULBERRY PLACE, 5 CLOVE CRESCENT, LONDON, E14 2BG** at **7.30 p.m.** on **WEDNESDAY, 15 OCTOBER 2008**

Martin Smith
Chief Executive

LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

COUNCIL

WEDNESDAY, 15 OCTOBER 2008

7.30 p.m.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

To receive any apologies for absence.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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. MINUTES

**PAGE
NUMBER
3 - 52**

To confirm as a correct record of the proceedings the unrestricted minutes of the ordinary meeting of the Council held on 25th June 2008.

**4. TO RECEIVE ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE MAYOR,
LEADER OF THE COUNCIL, MEMBERS OF THE CABINET
OR THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

5. TO RECEIVE ANY DEPUTATIONS OR PETITIONS

53 - 56

The deputations and petitions that have been received for presentation to the Council Meeting are set out in the attached agenda item 5. Any further requests received before the deadline of Thursday 9th October will be circulated separately to Members.

**6. TO RECEIVE QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE
PUBLIC**

No written questions from members of the public have been submitted for response at this meeting.

**7. TO RECEIVE QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE
COUNCIL**

57 - 64

(Maximum of 30 minutes allowed)

The questions which have been received from Members of the Council are set out in agenda item 7.

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

8 .1 Report of the Cabinet Meeting of 10th September 2008 65 - 116

1. Crime and Drugs Reduction Partnership Plan 2008-2011

9. TO RECEIVE REPORTS AND QUESTIONS ON JOINT ARRANGEMENTS AND EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS

9 .1 Joint Arrangements

No business under this heading to be considered.

9 .2 External Organisations

No business under this heading to be considered.

10. OTHER BUSINESS

10 .1 Review of proportionality and appointments to committees and panels of the Council 117 - 120

11. TO CONSIDER MOTIONS SUBMITTED BY MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL 121 - 132

The motions submitted by Members of the Council for debate at this Council Meeting are set out in agenda item 11.

Agenda Item 2

DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS - NOTE FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

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.

LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL

HELD AT 7.30 P.M. ON WEDNESDAY, 25 JUNE 2008

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

Members Present:

Councillor Helal Abbas	Councillor Ann Jackson
Councillor Ohid Ahmed	Councillor Denise Jones
Councillor Rajib Ahmed	Councillor Dr. Emma Jones
Councillor Rofique U Ahmed	Councillor Azizur Rahman Khan
Councillor Anwara Ali	Councillor Rania Khan
Councillor Shahed Ali	Councillor Shiria Khatun
Councillor M. Shahid Ali	Councillor Abjol Miah
Councillor Tim Archer	Councillor Fozol Miah
Councillor Rupert Bawden	Councillor Harun Miah
Councillor Lutfa Begum	Councillor Abdul Munim
Councillor Philip Briscoe	Councillor Tim O'Flaherty
Councillor Alibor Choudhury	Councillor Ahmed Adam Omer
Councillor Stephanie Eaton	Councillor Joshua Peck
Councillor Rupert Eckhardt	Councillor Lutfur Rahman
Councillor Marc Francis	Councillor Oliur Rahman
Councillor Peter Golds	Councillor M. Mamun Rashid
Councillor Fazlul Haque	Councillor Mohammed Abdus Salique
Councillor Shafiqul Haque	Councillor A A Sardar
Councillor Clair Hawkins	Councillor David Snowdon
Councillor Alexander Heslop	Councillor Bill Turner
Councillor Shirley Houghton	Councillor Dulal Uddin
Councillor Ahmed Hussain	Councillor Abdal Ullah
Councillor Sirajul Islam	Councillor Salim Ullah
Councillor Waiseul Islam	Councillor Motin Uz-Zaman

The Mayor, Councillor Mohammed Abdus Salique in the Chair

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors Abdul Asad, Carli Harper-Penman and Abdul Matin and for lateness from Councillors Rupert Bawden and Fozol Miah.

RESOLVED

That the apologies for absence and lateness be noted.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors made declarations of interest in items included on the agenda as follows:

Councillor	Item	Type of interest	Reason
Helal Abbas	11.1	Personal	Board member – Tower Hamlets Community Housing
Helal Abbas	11.3	Personal	Leaseholder
Helal Abbas	11.4	Personal	Member & shareholder of Co-operative
Ohid Ahmed	5.2.2	Personal	Attends mosque mentioned in petition
Ohid Ahmed	8.3	Personal	Employed by Leaside Regeneration
Ohid Ahmed	11.3	Personal	Leaseholder, Poplar Harca
Ohid Ahmed	11.9 & 11.10	Personal	Spouse employed at surgery
Rajib Ahmed	11.3	Personal	Leaseholder
Rofique Ahmed	5.2.2	Personal	Attends Mosque
Rofique Ahmed	11.3	Personal	Leaseholder
Anwara Ali	11.9	Personal	Employed as GP
Anwara Ali	11.10	Personal	Employed as GP
Shahid Ali	11.3	Personal	Leaseholder
Lutfu Begum	11.9 & 11.10	Personal	Employed by PCT
Alibor Choudhury	5.2.2	Personal	Local Ward Councillor
Stephanie Eaton	5.1.3	Personal	Leaseholder, Island Homes
Rupert Eckhardt	10.1	Personal	Director of Company that provides advice on property development
Marc Francis	11.11	Personal	Employee of Shelter
Peter Golds	10.1	Personal	Professional interest in the subject
Fazlul Haque	5.1.1	Personal	Local Ward Councillor
Fazlul Haque	11.3	Personal	Leaseholder

Shafiqul Haque	5.2.2	Personal	Member of mosque
Shafiqul Haque	11.1	Personal	Board member, Tower Hamlets Community Housing
Clair Hawkins	5.1.1	Personal	Governor of Tower Hamlets College
Alex Heslop	11.3	Personal	Leaseholder
Alex Heslop	11.4	Personal	Member of Co-operative Party and shareholder in co-operative
Shirley Houghton	5.1.3	Personal	Local Ward Councillor
Ahmed Hussain	11.9 & 11.10	Personal	Employed by PCT
Sirajul Islam	11.1	Personal	Board member – Tower Hamlets Community Housing
Waiseul Islam	11.1	Personal	Board member, Tower Hamlets Community Housing
Denise Jones	11.9	Personal	Non-executive Board Member, Tower Hamlets PCT
Azizur R. Khan	11.3	Personal	Leaseholder
Rania Khan	5.2.3	Personal	Local Ward Councillor
Harun Miah	11.3	Personal	Leaseholder
Harun Miah	11.9	Personal	Local Ward Councillor
Md. Abdul Munim	11.1	Personal	Local Ward Councillor
Joshua Peck	8.3	Personal	Employee of Heritage Lottery Fund
Oliur Rahman	5.2.2	Personal	Local Ward Councillor
A. A. Sardar	5.2.2	Personal	Chair, Council of Mosques
A. A. Sardar	11.1	Personal	Board Member, Poplar Harca
Bill Turner	11.4	Personal	Member, Co-operative Party and shareholder in co-operative
Bill Turner	11.9 & 11.10	Personal	Council's nominee on the Foundation of adjacent NHS trust
Abdal Ullah	5.1.1	Personal	Vice-Chair of Tower Hamlets College

Abdal Ullah	11.3	Personal	Leaseholder
Salim Ullah	11.3	Personal	Leaseholder
Motin Uz-Zaman	11.1	Personal	Board member, Poplar Harca
Motin Uz-Zaman	11.3	Personal	Leaseholder

3. MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the Annual Council meeting held on Wednesday 21st May 2008 be confirmed as a correct record of the proceedings and the Mayor be authorised to sign them accordingly.

4. TO RECEIVE ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE MAYOR, LEADER OF THE COUNCIL, MEMBERS OF THE CABINET OR THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Prayer Break

The Mayor informed Members that he intended to adjourn the meeting at 9.25pm for approximately 15 minutes to provide Members with an opportunity to observe prayers.

5. TO RECEIVE ANY DEPUTATIONS OR PETITIONS

DEPUTATIONS

5.1.1 Future of the Bethnal Green Centre

At the invitation of the Mayor, Mr. Roberto Foth addressed the meeting about the future of the Bethnal Green Centre as set out in the circulated deputation. A member of staff also addressed the meeting about the facilities available at the Centre.

Mr. Foth responded to questions by Members of the Council.

Councillor Clair Hawkins, Lead Member, Children's Services then responded to the matters raised by the deputation.

RESOLVED

That the deputation be referred to the Corporate Director, Children's Services for a written response on any outstanding matters within 28 days.

5.1.2 Recognising and establishing a policy on Faith and Religion

At the invitation of the Mayor, Mr. Hussain addressed the meeting in support of the deputation requesting a clear Council policy on religious activities and facilities.

Mr. Hussain responded to questions by Members of the Council.

Councillor Sirjaul Islam, Deputy Leader of the Council, then responded to the matters raised by the deputation.

RESOLVED

That the deputation be referred to the Assistant Chief Executive for a written response on any outstanding matters within 28 days.

5.1.3 Island Homes Housing Association

At the invitation of the Mayor, Ms Jenny Fisher addressed the meeting concerning the Island Homes Housing Association. Ms Fisher re-iterated the points made in the printed deputation and asked the Council to investigate and instigate a process of mediation.

Ms. Fisher responded to questions by Members of the Council.

Councillor Marc Francis, Lead Member for Housing and Development, then responded to the matters raised by the deputation.

RESOLVED

That the deputation be referred to the Corporate Director, Development and Renewal for a written response on any outstanding matters within 28 days.

PETITIONS

5.2.1 Traffic calming on Abbott Road, E14

At the invitation of the Mayor, Mr. Iqbal Hossain addressed the meeting in support of the petition requesting traffic calming and safety measures on Abbott Road, E14. He re-iterated the points raised in the written petition and asked when the Council would introduce a scheme to calm the traffic and help the residents to have a better quality of life.

Mr. Hossain responded to questions by Members of the Council.

Councillor Abdal Ullah, Lead Member for Cleaner, Safer, Greener, responded to the matters raised in Mr. Hossain's petition.

RESOLVED

That the petition be referred to the Corporate Director, Communities, Localities and Culture for a written response on any outstanding matters within 28 days.

5.2.2 Management and regulation of community projects and premises in Stepney

At the invitation of the Mayor, Mr. Ali and Mr Noor Uddin Ullah addressed the meeting in support of the petition.

During the presentation Councillor Helal Abbas raised a point of order in relation to the naming of individuals. The Service Head Democratic Services advised that an individual who was not a council officer or member could be named in the course of discussion but that incorrect or unsubstantiated comments must not be made about any person.

The petitioners raised a number of issues in relation to the management and regulation of the Shahjalal Mosque and Community Centre and asked the Council to carry out an audit and oversee the organisation's AGM.

Mr. Ali and Mr Ullah responded to questions from Members of the Council.

Councillor Joshua Peck, Lead Member for Performance and Resources, responded to the matters raised in the petition and presentation.

RESOLVED

That the petition be referred to the Corporate Director, Development and Renewal for a written response on any outstanding matters within 28 days.

5.2.3 Parking on the Crossways Estate

At the invitation of the Mayor, Mr. George Bailey addressed the meeting regarding the parking situation on the Crossways Estate. Mr Bailey stated that the Swan Housing Association had sold spaces to non-residents and requested that a sub-committee be set up to look into the issue.

Mr. Bailey responded to questions from Members of the Council.

Councillor Marc Francis, Lead Member for Housing and Development, responded to the matters raised in the written petition.

RESOLVED

That the petition be referred to the Corporate Director, Development and Renewal for a written response on any outstanding matters within 28 days.

6. TO RECEIVE WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Three questions were submitted by members of the public for response by members of the Cabinet as listed in agenda item 6. The questions, together in each case with the response of the relevant Lead Member and a summary of any supplementary question and response, are set out below.

6.1 Question from Mr. Terry McGrenera to the Lead Member for Cleaner, Safer, Greener, Councillor Abdal Ullah:

How many fixed penalty notices have the Environmental Services department issued over the past two years?

Response of the Lead Member:

There were 2114 fixed penalty notices issued by the Environmental Services department over the past two years.

No supplementary question was asked within the two minute time limit available.

6.2 Question from Ms. Johanna Kaschke to the Lead Member for Housing and Development, Councillor Marc Francis:

I would like to know whether it would influence the authority in considering improvements to council blocks if a lot of "poor" leaseholders are unable to pay towards those improvements and whether the council would be likely not to carry out the improvements if this is the case. I call them poor leaseholders because some could just about afford to purchase a cut price home and now have no money to pay towards block/estate improvements and they would not always want to sell their homes. Would the council want to keep leaseholders happy by carrying out fewer improvements to the blocks?

Ms Kaschke was unable to attend the meeting and would therefore receive a written answer to her question.

6.3 Question from Mr. Alan Tucker to the Lead Member for Housing & Development, Councillor Marc Francis:

The consultation on the development of the Safeway site in Roman Road has raised an unprecedented level of objections to the plans. The building proposed dwarfs the surrounding properties. The density of the build is nearly twice that set out in planning guidelines. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee voiced concerns about this build from the outset and asked that the terms of the lease should have appropriate controls.

At the Cabinet meeting in January assurances were given that the

concerns raised would be addressed in planning. Cabinet was also told that the developer was weeks away from completing negotiations with a major food retailer to provide the supermarket that is badly needed to stop the decline of the area.

Has any retailer actually signed a contract with the developers to provide a substantial sized supermarket and if so what size is it?

Response of the Lead Member:

The Council's previous Cabinet resolved to grant a development lease for the Safeways site last December. This decision was reaffirmed by that Cabinet despite the representations made by myself and my Overview & Scrutiny Committee colleagues in January.

This lease makes provision for a food retail supermarket in any development.

A planning application was submitted by the developers in December. However, Mr Tucker will know that as a result of the petition of 2,000 residents that I supported, and subsequent discussions between myself and the developer's architect, a revised planning application has now been submitted.

The residential buildings proposed for the south of the site in this application are basically one floor lower than in the original application.

This application is now under active consideration by planning officers. The consultation on it resulted in several hundred objections, which will be taken account of in the course of officers' deliberations.

It would be inappropriate for me to comment on the application itself as this is a matter for the Strategic Development Committee. However, I can report that the Board of Tesco's has decided to occupy a 25,000 sq ft supermarket in the development, subject to planning permission being granted.

Summary of supplementary question from Mr Tucker:

Will the Council take into account the 3000 objections, mostly about the proposed building on the car park?

Summary of Lead Member's response:

I cannot comment on the Planning Application itself as that is a matter for the Strategic Development Committee.

I can assure Mr Tucker and other residents in Bow, that all Councillors on this side of the Chamber are acutely conscious of both the desperate need for a supermarket on Roman Road and the concerns of local residents about the proposed redevelopment.

I can also assure him that when this application comes before it, the Strategic Development Committee will take all the relevant material considerations into account before making its decision.

At this point (9.25pm), the meeting adjourned to allow Members to observe prayers.

The meeting resumed at 9.45pm and Mr. Williams announced that the revised projected end time for the meeting would be 10.50pm.

7. TO RECEIVE QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

Twenty six questions were submitted by Councillors for response by members of the Cabinet as listed in agenda item 7. The questions, together in each case with the response of the relevant Lead Member and a summary of any supplementary question and response, are set out below.

7.1 Question from Councillor Ann Jackson to the Lead Member for Housing and Development, Councillor Marc Francis:

How many social rented homes were built in Tower Hamlets in 2007/8?

Response of the Lead Member:

704 social rented homes were built in 2007/08, broken down as follows:

1 Bed	2 Bed	3 Bed	4 Bed	5 Bed	6Bed	Total
179	310	163	36	10	6	704

Therefore 21% of these homes are family sized.

That is in addition to the 662 social rented homes built in 2006/07 and 667 built in 2005/06 – a total of over 2,000 social rented homes built here in just three years.

I can also say that last year, there were around 1,600 lettings to families and single people on the housing waiting list.

Summary of supplementary question from Cllr Jackson:

What plans does the Council have in place to ensure that our residents' interest is considered and firmly promoted by Councillors and officers as their top priority for all housing, planning and development decisions, both in terms of social and key worker/affordable housing provision?

Summary of Lead Member's response:

I agree that it is crucial that we build on this success and we intend to further increase the number of family-sized and other social rented homes built in future years up to 1,400. The new Community Plan, Local Development Framework and Housing Strategy provide the framework and focus to achieve this.

7.2 Question from Councillor Peter Golds to the Lead Member for Culture and Leisure, Councillor Rofique Ahmed:

Despite promises to the contrary over a long period, it would appear that the council is planning to split up and disperse the Borough's archive which is acknowledged as being one of the finest collections in the country. This proposal has been opposed by academics, residents, all political parties and east enders in general. Why is the Labour Council doing this in the face of such opposition?

Response of the Lead Member:

A Council decision has not yet been made in relation to the future of Bancroft library which houses the Local History Study Service and Archive. Members are scheduled to consider this matter in the near future alongside options for the future location of Local History Study service and archives. Public consultation relating to the Local History study and archive service took place in June 2007 and the views of more than 50 consultees will be considered by Members in determining the future location of these services.

Summary of supplementary question from Cllr Golds:

Can I have an assurance that the archives will be preserved on one site for future generations to use?

Summary of Lead Member's response:

I can give an assurance that this will be the case.

7.3 Question from Councillor Abjol Miah to the Lead Member for Regeneration, Localisation and Community Partnerships, Councillor Ohid Ahmed:

The Olympic Delivery Authority have protected, under The London Olympic Games and Paralympic Games Act 2006, the following as trademarks:

- The Olympic symbol
- The Paralympic symbol
- The London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic emblems

- The words 'London 2012' and '2012'
- The words 'Olympic', 'Olympiad', 'Olympian'
- The words 'Paralympic', 'Paralympiad', 'Paralympian' and their plurals and things very similar to them – e.g. 'Paralympix'
- The Olympic motto: 'Citius Altius Fortius'
- The Paralympic motto: 'Spirit in Motion'
- The Team GB logo
- The Paralympics GB logo
- The British Olympic Association logo
- The British Paralympic Association logo
- London2012.com (and various derivatives)

This will preclude almost any commercial, social, charitable venture in Tower Hamlets utilising the Olympics to promote activities despite it taking place in our borough.

Can the Leader of the Council explain what provisions is the council seeking to negotiate with the ODA for exemptions to this punitive exercise in order to ensure our local community is able to secure the maximum benefit of hosting the games?

Response of the Lead Member:

The London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games (LOCOG) is a private company responsible for staging the 2012 Games and is funded privately through the exploitation of Marks relating to the 2012 Games including by the licensing of the Games Marks to sponsor organisations. This is why the Marks referred to in the question are protected.

However a non commercial brand has been proposed for use by all London Boroughs by LOCOG for certain specific non – commercial purposes which are given as

- Use on a single flag to be displayed outside the Licensee's Town Hall (and or other locations with written consent)
- Use on the Licensee's website home page and other pages dedicated to the 2012 Games
- Use on signs to be displayed at main entry points to the Borough
- Use on Licensee publications and newsletters relevant to the 2012 Games

The LOCOG licence proposal is that all London Boroughs are able to use the designation Host Borough. The 5 Host Boroughs have responded to the LOCOG proposal objecting to the lack of differentiation between the 5 East London Boroughs which accommodate most of the Olympic Venues and the Olympic Park and have made reference to the fundamental principle in the bid to host the Games that a London games would regenerate some of the most deprived areas of London i.e. East London and that part of the

regeneration process is around raising the profile and perception of east London as a place in which to live and work. The use of the Olympic Games branding to support this aspirations is a key issue for the Boroughs.

In response the 5 Boroughs have suggested a hierarchy giving appropriate designation, greater 2012 image association and more extensive application rights for the 5 Boroughs i.e. placing the 5 Boroughs at the top of the hierarchy with most rights and benefits. The 5 Borough response was made in May and discussions are ongoing.

A non commercial 2012 Mark know as the Inspire Mark has been developed for community and not for profit organisations delivering projects and events genuinely inspired by the London 2012 Games. Non commercial organisations can apply to have their project or event (as opposed to the organisation) recognised through the Inspire programme. The Inspire mark will be awarded to specific projects and events which are:

- Genuinely inspired by the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games.
- Well planned and managed.
- Fully funded from non-commercial sources and with no commercial association.
- Innovative and inspiring.
- Likely to achieve at least one of LOCOG's key outcomes.

It is also worth noting that Tower Hamlets has also developed its own Games brand for which a Trade Mark application has been made which will help to engage and support the community in benefiting from the Olympic Games.

Summary of supplementary question from Cllr A. Miah:

The team of officers in Tower Hamlets is smaller than in other boroughs. Tower Hamlets does not currently give the appearance of a Host Borough. Is there evidence-based research showing evidence of a legacy?

Summary of Lead Member's response:

Your points are noted. In fact Tower Hamlets is ahead of a number of other boroughs. Additional staff are being recruited and the benefits for Tower Hamlets will be visible very shortly.

7.4 Question from Councillor Stephanie Eaton to the Lead Member for Housing and Development, Councillor Marc Francis:

What does he plan to do to reduce the level of overcrowding in the Borough's residential accommodation?

Response of the Lead Member:

This Council is acutely conscious of the impact of overcrowding on the health, well-being and educational attainment of young children. We are determined to take the decisive action necessary to deal more with this problem.

Already more than 700 family sized social rented homes have been built in the past three years. But we must do more.

We are developing a new overcrowding strategy building on previous good practice and recent Government guidance on overcrowding reduction. This will be published in the autumn and will include both short-term proposals to free up more existing family-sized homes, more knockthroughs.

It will also details ambitious plans for a big increase in the construction of new social housing with three or more bedrooms.

Summary of supplementary question from Cllr Eaton:

You mentioned additional resources. As the budget is set and a three-year budget strategy in place, could we have details as to where this money will come from and whether this will result in cuts elsewhere?

Summary of Lead Members' response:

There will be no cuts to front line services. Additional funding will be made available in this area and next week we will be bringing forward a short-term action plan which will include an incentive scheme, a knock-through programme and other elements. However, this is only the start of a substantial programme and the provision of more family sized and other social rented homes is a top priority for the Leader of the Council and myself.

7.5 Question from Councillor Lutfu Begum to the Lead Member for Housing and Development, Councillor Marc Francis:

Can the Leader please tell me the basis on which service charges for leaseholders are calculated? Is this based on geographical area, social housing, leaseholder etc? Some of the residents in social housing in Tower Hamlets are paying service charges of £600-700 per year. Why are Malting, Brewster, Barleycorn, Oast Court and Kiln Court paying services charges of £2000 per year? Most of these

residents are leaseholders and pensioners who bought flats by the right to buy scheme. Presently they are having serious financial burdens placed on them. Can you explain why there is this huge difference in service charges in the same borough? Can you find out if they are being mistakenly over charged? If not, the service charges need to reduce to the level that other Tower Hamlets residents are paying.

Response of the Lead Member:

Service charges are required to be recovered from leaseholders in accordance with the terms of individual leases and in compliance with statutory obligations placed on social landlords. Service Charge Estimates are issued at the start of each financial year which sets out the costs we estimate will be incurred over the year ahead.

Actual costs are based on invoices received for externally supplied services (such as responsive maintenance to communal areas) and an apportionment of costs incurred for services supplied by Council staff (such as block cleaning). Actual costs may vary considerably between properties located in different blocks and estates depending on the services received. For example, blocks receiving a communal heating service have boiler fuel and maintenance costs while others have lift and door entry costs.

I hope Councillor Begum would agree with me that neither tenants nor Council Tax payers should be forced to pay more to cover costs of leaseholders?

Summary of supplementary question from Cllr Begum:

Many people including older residents are suffering hardship and I would ask you to carry out a proper investigation into the service charges and how they are calculated?

Summary of Lead Member's reply:

The average charges in each of these blocks based on the 2006/07 actual charges are:

Malting	£1,868
Brewster	£1,156
Oast	£1,383
Kiln	£1,520
Barleycorn	£ 938

Only Malting is close to the figure of £2,000 quoted in the question and a concierge charge of an average of £850 makes up a considerable proportion of this charge.

Brewster House also has a concierge charge - but as this is provided remotely from Malting the charge is lower at an average of £191.

Oast and Kiln have communal heating and therefore a significant element of their charge is made up of this (Oast has an average of £498 and Kiln has an average of £579).

In Barleycorn way, where there are no lifts, no concierge or communal heating, the charge is substantially lower.

If Cllr Begum wishes to discuss individual bills I am happy to do so.

7.6 Question from Councillor Fazlul Haque to the Lead Member for Children's Services, Councillor Clair Hawkins:

How will the £3.8 million London Youth Offer granted to Tower Hamlets by the Labour Government and Ken Livingston be invested in improving youth services for the Borough's young people?

Response of the Lead Member:

The £3.8 million is the total funding for two years (2008/09 and 2009/10) and includes existing funding within the Area Based Grant and other ring-fenced grants from the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) and the London Development Agency (LDA).

The funding is specifically for the continuation on two existing successful initiatives:

- The Positive Activities for Young People (PAYP) programme, aimed at 8-19-year-olds who are at risk of social exclusion and community crime; and
- The Youth Opportunity and Capital Funds (YOF/YCF), which puts buying power directly in the hands of young people by providing funding for them to run their own projects to improve things to do and places to go in their area.

A breakdown of the total figure across the two years, full objectives of these initiatives and the details of schemes to be funded will be included in a more detailed written response.

Under the PAYP programme, the funding will be for used for holiday activities, crime reduction and NEET reduction activities to address the key priorities agreed in our Strategic Children and Young People's Plan to: "improve early intervention and preventative work pre-16, particularly for those identified as being at risk", "extend engagement in constructive and law abiding activities" and "increase numbers in education, employment and training, including from specific targeted groups".

In relation to the Youth Opportunity Fund, young people from our existing Youth Opportunity Fund grants panel have been involved in developing the ideas for this funding. The funding will be for used for young people-led grants (last year over 127 groups benefited from grants typically between £1500 and £5000, with over 5000 young people benefiting); Tower Hamlets Youth Partnership (the funding will enable the four Local Youth Partnerships to deliver three projects per year in each of our four localities); and the Young Mayor's Project. These activities address the key priorities agreed in our Strategic Children and Young People's Plan to "increase the participation of children and young people in decision making and community life" and "provide high quality places to go and things to do that meet the needs of young people".

We expect that over two-thirds of all funding will go into activities delivered by or in partnership with the Third Sector.

Summary of supplementary question from Cllr F. Haque:

Weavers Ward has issues relating to young people. What additional money will be invested locally?

Summary of Lead Member's response:

I am aware of the issues in Weavers Ward and can assure you that funding will be distributed so that every area of the borough has adequate provision. I would also hope that through the Youth Opportunity Fund, local young people will put forward their ideas for positive activities.

7.7 Question from Councillor Tim Archer to the Lead Member for Housing and Development, Councillor Marc Francis:

Can the lead member for housing outline what the delays have been in setting up Tower Hamlets Homes, why these have occurred and what he will do differently to ensure that the ALMO is actually successful?

Response of the Lead Member:

We anticipate that ministerial consent to the establishment of Tower Hamlets Homes will be received in the near future.

We have carried out the necessary preparation work so that we are ready to 'go live' as soon as possible after that consent is received.

In some important aspects there will be no difference for residents. The council will still own the stock, tenants will still be council tenants and leaseholders will still be council leaseholders. Residents' rights and responsibilities will not change. The council will still be responsible for housing policy and for setting rents.

The work to establish the ALMO has already focused minds in Housing Services and among Board members much more closely on how to drive up performance management of this service and we will work closely in partnership with the Board to ensure that the Management Agreement is fulfilled and those improvements are delivered.

Five of the 15 seats on the Board are taken by residents - tenants and leaseholders. Having worked with them, I can assure all members that none of them are shy of challenging officers around the weaknesses that they perceive in the service.

However, Tower Hamlets Homes will bring some important benefits for residents:

- the opportunity to bring in millions of pounds of additional funding – money that would not otherwise be available
- an absolute focus on housing management and on improving the service to reach the two-star or ‘good’ standard from the Audit Commission in order to be eligible for that funding.
- new opportunities for residents to have a say on their housing service

Summary of supplementary question from Cllr Archer:

The ALMO should have been up and running by April 2008 and it is now nearly July. We have an example of a failing ALMO in a neighbouring borough. What will you do differently in this borough to make sure that the ALMO is successful?

Summary of Lead Member’s response:

The Council was originally working to a date that would have enabled ‘go live’ in April 2008, but that was always a little ambitious, particularly in terms of finalizing the detailed management agreement, the protocols, recruitment of a Senior Management Team and allowing the Board to bed in.

The Shadow Board, the Council and the Government agreed a more realistic date. This extra month or so has allowed all that work to be completed and will enable the Board and its Senior Management Team to focus on improving frontline services right from the outset. The leader of the Council and Majority Group Members are fully committed to the success of the ALMO.

In accordance with Rule 12.10 (expiry of time limit) questions 7.8 to 7.26 were not put. Written responses would be forwarded to the questioners.

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

8.1 Annual Report of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee 2007/08

Councillor Marc Francis introduced the annual report of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and commented on the work undertaken by the committee during 2007/08. Cllr Francis thanked all those Members and officers who had contributed to the work described in the report and recorded in particular his thanks to Afazul Hoque, the Acting Scrutiny Policy Manager.

Members from each political group echoed Councillor Francis' comments and commended the work of the Councillors and Co-opted Members on the committee.

At this point Councillor Joshua Peck moved that the question be put. On being put to the vote, this was unanimously agreed.

It was then **MOVED** by Councillor Marc Francis, **SECONDED** by Councillor Alex Heslop and

RESOLVED

That the Council note the annual report of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee 2007/08.

8.2 Report of the Cabinet Meeting of 7th May 2008

(i) Mail Forwarding Business Registration

The meeting considered the report of Cabinet held on 7th May 2008 regarding mail forwarding business registration.

In relation to the list of acceptable identification in appendix 1 to the report, Councillor Tim Archer asked whether there should be a requirement for the documents specified to be less than a stipulated period (e.g. three months) old. The Leader of the Council undertook to respond to Councillor Archer on this point.

It was **MOVED** by Councillor Lutfur Rahman, **SECONDED** by Councillor Sirajul Islam and

RESOLVED

That the Mail Forwarding Registration functions under section 75 of the London Local Authorities Act 2007 will come into force in the London Borough of Tower Hamlets on the appointed day of 25th August 2008.

8.3 Report of the Cabinet Meeting of 11th June 2008

(i) Tower Hamlets Community Plan 2020 and Local Area Agreement

(ii) Strategic Plan, Annual Report and Best Value Performance Plan

The meeting considered the report of the Cabinet Meeting on 11th June 2008 in relation to the above items.

An addendum sheet was tabled setting out proposed amendments to the circulated Tower Hamlets Community Plan and Local Area Agreement documents.

Councillor Lutfur Rahman introduced the report of the Cabinet and proposed that the two items be taken together. He commended the plans to the Council and considered that they set out a clear vision for the Borough, shared by the Council and its partners, and a performance management framework to make this vision a reality and maintain excellent services for local people.

Councillor Ohid Ahmed seconded the proposal and thanked officers, partners and Members, including the former Leader of the Council, Councillor Denise Jones, for their work in bringing the documents forward. Other Members addressed the meeting and welcomed the proposed plans.

Councillor Stephanie Eaton asked that Members be informed of any amendments agreed by officers in accordance with the recommendations in the reports.

At this point, Councillor Tim Archer **MOVED** that in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 14.1.13 (motion to extend the meeting under Rule 9) the meeting be extended by 30 minutes. Councillor Peter Golds seconded the motion.

The procedural motion to extend the meeting was put to the vote and was **defeated**.

It was then **MOVED** by Councillor Lutfur Rahman, **SECONDED** by Councillor Ohid Ahmed and

RESOLVED

1. That the Tower Hamlets Community Plan 2020 and Local Area Agreement 2008-11 attached as appendices 1 and 3 to the report be approved subject to the amendments set out in the tabled addendum and to any further appropriate amendments to ensure that they are accurate and reflect the views of members.
2. That the Chief Executive, after consultation with the Leader of the Council (and Chair of the Partnership), the Lead Member, Regeneration, Localisation and Community Partnerships and the Vice-

Chair of the Partnership, be authorised to make appropriate amendments to the Tower Hamlets Community Plan 2020 and Local Area Agreement 2008-11 in advance of final publication.

3. That the Council's Strategic Plan 2008/09 and Best Value Performance Plan as set out in appendices 1 and 3 to the report be approved subject to any appropriate amendments to ensure that the plans are accurate, coherent and reflect the views of members.
4. That the Chief Executive, after consultation with the Leader of the Council and the appropriate Lead Member, be authorised to make appropriate and necessary amendments to the Strategic Plan 2008/09 and BVVP (2007/2008) in advance of final publication.

9. TO RECEIVE REPORTS AND QUESTIONS ON JOINT ARRANGEMENTS AND EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS

9.1 Joint Arrangements

There was no business under this heading to be considered.

9.2 External Organisations

There was no business under this heading to be considered.

At this point (10.50 p.m.) the Service Head, Democratic Services advised that the time limit for the meeting had been reached. The guillotine procedure as set out in Council Procedure Rule 9.2 would therefore come into effect.

Councillor Tim Archer then **MOVED** a procedural motion to bring forward item 11.3 (motion on leaseholder services) to be the next item on the agenda. However the Service Head, Democratic Services, informed the meeting that Council Procedure Rule 9.2 allowed only for a vote on items of business for decision and specifically excluded motions submitted under Rule 13. The procedural motion was therefore not in order.

10. OTHER BUSINESS

10.1 Proposed amendments to the Council's Constitution: Development Procedure Rules/Planning Code of Conduct

Under Council Procedure Rule 9, the recommendations in the report of the Assistant Chief Executive and the amendment tabled by Councillor Shafiqul Haque were each deemed formally moved and seconded.

The amendment moved by Councillor Haque and seconded by Councillor Rofique U. Ahmed was put to the vote and **agreed**.

The substantive motion as amended was then put to the vote and it was

RESOLVED

That the revised Planning Code of Conduct (Part 5.2); Development Procedure Rules (Part 4.8) and Development Committee Functions and Delegations (Part 3.3.4) be agreed for inclusion in the Council's Constitution as set out in appendices A to C attached to these minutes.

11. TO CONSIDER MOTIONS SUBMITTED BY MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

Motions 11.1 to 11.12 as listed below were not considered due to lack of time, the meeting having been closed following item 10.1 above in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 9 (Duration of meeting).

- 11.1 Motion submitted by Councillor Mamun Rashid regarding Community Centre for Tarling Estate**
- 11.2 Motion submitted by Councillor Stephanie Eaton regarding ID Cards**
- 11.3 Motion submitted by Councillor Timothy Archer regarding Leaseholder Services**
- 11.4 Motion submitted by Councillor Alex Heslop regarding support for the Co-operative and Social Enterprise Sector**
- 11.5 Motion submitted by Councillor Oliur Rahman regarding security for visitors to Bangladesh**
- 11.6 Motion submitted by Councillor Shahed Ali regarding webcasting/pro-active access to Council Committee meetings**
- 11.7 Motion submitted by Councillor Philip Briscoe regarding Special Constables**
- 11.8 Motion submitted by Councillor Harun Miah regarding the Arms Trade**
- 11.9 Motion submitted by Councillor Ahmed Hussain regarding the future of the GP surgeries in Tower Hamlets**
- 11.10 Motion submitted by Councillor Abjol Miah regarding PCT and GP practice contracting**
- 11.11 Motion submitted by Councillor Md. Abdul Munim regarding Financial Rescue Schemes**

11.12 Motion submitted by Councillor Dulal Uddin regarding the East London Line

The meeting ended at 10.52 p.m.

Chair,
Council

APPENDIX A

5.2 – Planning Code of Conduct

CONTENTS

Section	Subject
1.	Relationship to the Members' Code of Conduct
2.	Development Proposals and Interests under the Members' Code of Conduct
3.	Pre-Determination in the Planning Process
4.	Contact with Applicants, Developers and Objectors
5.	Lobbying of Councillors
6.	Lobbying by Councillors
7.	Pre-application discussions
8.	Post-Submission Application Discussions
9.	Site Visits
10.	Public Speaking at Meetings
11.	Relationship between Members and Officers
12.	Applications submitted by Members, Officers and the Council
13.	Decision Making
14.	Training
15.	Appendix A attached

Planning Code of Conduct

Introduction

The aim of this Code

to ensure that in the planning process there are no grounds for suggesting that a decision has been biased, partial or not well founded in any way.

The key purpose of Planning:

to manage development in the public interest.

Your role as a Member of the Planning Authority:

to make planning decisions openly, impartially, with sound judgement and for justifiable reasons.

When the Code applies:

this code applies to Members at all times they are involved in the planning process. This includes, where applicable, when part of decision making meetings of the Council in exercising the functions of the Planning Authority or when involved on less formal occasions, such as meetings with officers or the public and consultative meetings. It applies as equally to planning enforcement matters or site specific policy issues as it does to planning applications.

If you have any doubts about the application of this Code to your own circumstances you should seek advice early, from the Monitoring Officer and preferably well before any meeting takes place.

1. Relationship to the Members' Code of Conduct

1.1 **Do** apply the rules in the Members' Code of Conduct first, which must always be complied with.

1.2 **Do** then apply the rules in this Planning Code, which seek to explain and supplement the Members' Code of Conduct for the purposes of planning matters. If you do not abide by this Code, you may put:

- the Council at risk of proceedings on the legality or maladministration of the related decision which may lead to that decision being quashed; and

- yourself at risk, if the failure is also likely to be a breach of the Members' Code of Conduct, a complaint could be made to the Council's Standards Committee.

2. Development Proposals and Interests under the Members' Code of Conduct

2.1 **Do** refer to the Members' Code of Conduct (contained in part 5.1 of the Council's Constitution) for assistance in identifying personal and prejudicial interests or seek advice prior to attending a meeting.

- you will have a **personal interest** in any business where it relates to or is likely to affect:-

a) An interest that you must **register**

- **Do** remember that even if your interest is noted the register of interests, you must declare it in meetings where matters relating to that interest are being discussed.

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 item being discussed more than it would affect the majority of inhabitants of the ward affected by the decision.

- Where you have a personal interest it will also be a **prejudicial interest** in a matter if all of the following conditions are met:-

a) A member of the public, who knows the relevant facts, would **reasonably think your personal interest is so significant** that it is likely to prejudice your judgment of the public interest.

and if it either

- b) - Is a matter that affects your financial interests (or of a body with which you are associated); **or**
 - Relates to a regulatory matter (such as determining a planning application) or to a licensing matter.

and

- c) It is a matter which does not fall within one of the **exempt categories** of decisions (listed in paragraph 6.2 of the Members Code of Conduct).

2.2 **Do** disclose the existence and nature of your interest at any relevant meeting, including informal meetings or discussions with developers or applicants. Preferably, disclose your interest at the beginning of the meeting or as soon as it becomes apparent to you.

- **Do** remember that the ultimate responsibility for declaring an interest rests with you.

2.3 **Effect of having a personal interest in a matter;**

you may stay and take part in the debate and decision on that item.

2.4 **Effect of having a personal prejudicial interest in a matter;**

you must leave the meeting room/chamber for the duration of consideration and decision on the item and not seek to influence the debate or decision unless

If you have followed the Council's Development Procedure Rules (contained in part 4 of the Council's Constitution); exercising your public speaking rights, you may address the Committee (or meeting) make your representations, or answer questions (if any). However, you must immediately leave as soon as you have finished addressing the Committee. You cannot remain in the meeting room or in the public gallery during the debate or decision on the matter.

and

- Remember you must not seek to improperly influence a decision in which you have a prejudicial interest.

2.5 **Where your interest is personal and prejudicial;**

Do then act accordingly:-

- **Don't** participate, or give the appearance of trying to participate, in the making of any decision on the matter.
- **Don't** try to represent your Ward views, get another Member to do so instead.

- **Don't** get involved in the processing of the application.

- **Don't** seek or accept any preferential treatment, or place yourself in a position that could lead the public to think you are receiving preferential treatment, because of your position as a councillor.

- **Do** be aware that, whilst you are not prevented from seeking to explain and justify a proposal in which you have a personal and prejudicial interest to an appropriate officer, in person or in writing, the Code places greater limitations on you in representing that proposal than would apply to a normal member of the public.

2.6 **Do** remember if you are not a Planning Committee Member, the above rules also applies to you. If you do exercise your public speaking rights (as in accordance with the Council's Development Procedure Rules) and therefore wish to address the Planning Committee;

- You will also need to declare a personal or prejudicial interest.

- If you have a prejudicial interest in the matter, you will have to leave the meeting immediately after addressing the Committee. Remember you cannot remain in the meeting room or public gallery during the debate and decision on that item.

2.7 **Do** also ensure if you are a visiting Member (and just wish to observe the meeting) you must also disclose, if relevant the existence and nature of any your interests which you may have.

3. Pre-determination in the Planning Process

3.1 Pre-determination is a legal concept. The phrase pre-determination is used in situations where a decision maker either has, or appears to have a closed mind, that is he/she has made up his/her mind in advance of proper consideration of an issue and the planning merits of an application. Accordingly it is advised:-

- You must not make up your mind, or appear to have made up your mind on how you will vote on any planning matter prior to formal consideration of the matter at the meeting of the Committee and of your hearing the officer's presentation and evidence and arguments on both sides. If you have an interest in a local lobby group or charity or pressure group you may appear pre-determined by actions and statements made in the past. You should take advice from the legal adviser to the Committee on how to deal with this.

- It must be noted that if you are pre-determined then taking part in the decision will put the Council at risk of a finding of maladministration and of legal proceedings on the grounds of there being a danger of bias or pre-determination or, a failure to take into account all of the factors enabling the proposal to be considered on its merits.
- 3.2 **Do** be aware that you may appear pre-determined where the Council is the landowner, developer or applicant and you have acted as, or could be perceived as being, a chief advocate for the proposal.
- This would amount to more than a matter of membership of both the Cabinet and Planning Committee, but that through your significant personal involvement in preparing or advocating the proposal you will be, or perceived by the public as being, no longer able to act impartially or to determine the proposal purely on its planning merits. (See paragraph 12 below for guidance on applications submitted by the Council).
- 3.3 **Do** recognise that being a Member of a political group you are allowed to be predisposed in relation to planning policies of the Council or to planning policies of your political party, providing that predisposition does not give rise to a public perception that you have due to your political membership have predetermined a particular matter (please refer to paragraphs 5 and 6 below relating to Lobbying).
- 3.4 **Do** follow the guidelines below, when considering a planning application or any other planning matter:-
- act fairly and openly;
 - approach each planning issue with an open mind;
 - carefully weigh up all relevant issues;
 - do not take into account irrelevant issues;
 - do determine each item on its own planning merits;
 - avoid behaviour which may give rise to a public perception that you may have predetermined the item; and
 - avoid behaviour which may give rise to a public perception that you may have been unduly influenced in reaching a decision.

4. Contact with Applicants, Developers and Objectors

4.1 **Do** refer those who approach you for planning, procedural or technical advice to officers within the planning directorate.

4.2 **Don't** agree to any formal meeting with applicants, developers or groups of objectors where you can avoid it. Where you feel that a formal meeting would be useful in clarifying the issues, you should not seek to arrange a meeting yourself but should request the Service Head Development Decisions to organise it.

- If such a meeting takes place it will be properly recorded on the application file and the record of the meeting will be disclosed when the application is considered by the Committee.

4.3 If you do arrange a private meeting with a developer you must declare this at the Planning Committee meeting.

- consider whether or not it would be prudent in the circumstances to make notes when contacted; and
- report to the Service Head Development Decisions any significant contact with the applicant and other parties, explaining the nature and purpose of the contacts and your involvement in them, and ensure that this is recorded on the planning file.
- follow the rules on lobbying.

4.4 In addition - presentations by Applicants/Developers:

- **Don't** agree to attend a planning presentation where it has not been organised by an officer.
- However, if it cannot be avoided and you attend on your own **do** inform the Service Head Development Decisions that you have done so.
- **Do** ask relevant questions for the purposes of clarifying your understanding of the proposals.
- **Do** remember that the presentation is not part of the formal process of debate and determination of any subsequent application, this will be carried out by the appropriate Planning Committee.
- **Do** be aware that a presentation is a form of lobbying and you must not express any strong view or state how you or other Members might vote.
- **Do** remember that if you do attend a presentation any hospitality or gifts received over the value of £25.00 must be disclosed and registered.

- **Do** also remember to declare if appropriate, at Planning Committee that you have attended a presentation given either by the applicant/developers.

5. Lobbying of Councillors

- 5.1 **Do** explain to those lobbying or attempting to lobby you that, whilst you can listen to what is said, it may prejudice your impartiality and your ability to participate in the Committee's decision making if you are asked to express either:
- 5.2
- an intention to vote one way or another or,
 - such a firm point of view that it amounts to the same thing.
- 5.3 **Do** remember that your overriding duty is to the whole community not just to the residents and businesses within your ward. You have a duty to make decisions impartially, and you should not improperly favour, or appear to improperly favour, any person, company, group or locality. If you feel you must make representations for your ward you can now declare this make your representations but you must then leave before the debate and vote.
- 5.4 **Don't** accept gifts or hospitality from any person involved in or affected by a planning proposal. If a degree of hospitality is entirely unavoidable, ensure you must comply with the provisions in the Members Code of Conduct on Gifts and Hospitality.
- 5.5 **Do** pass on any lobbying correspondence you receive to the Service Head Development Decisions at the earliest opportunity.
- 5.6 **Do** promptly refer to the Service Head Development Decisions any offers made to you of planning gain or constraint of development, through a proposed s.106 Planning Obligation or otherwise.
- 5.7 **Do** inform the Monitoring Officer where you feel you have been exposed to undue or excessive lobbying or approaches (including inappropriate offers of gifts or hospitality), who will in turn advise the appropriate officers to follow the matter up.
- 5.8 **Do** note that, unless you have a personal and prejudicial interest, you will not appear to be pre-determined or to have breached this Planning Code of Good Practice through:

- listening or receiving viewpoints from residents or other interested parties;
- making comments to residents, interested parties, other Members or appropriate officers, provided they do not consist of or amount to pre-judging the issue and you make clear you are keeping an open mind;
- seeking information through appropriate channels; or
- being a vehicle for the expression of opinion or speaking at the meeting as a Ward Member, provided you explain your actions at the start of the meeting or item and make it clear that, having expressed the opinion or ward/local view, you have not committed yourself to vote in accordance with those views and will make up your own mind having heard all the facts and listened to the debate.

6. Lobbying by Councillors

- 6.1 **Don't** become a member of, lead or represent a national charity or local organisation whose primary purpose is to lobby to promote or oppose planning proposals. If you do, you will appear to be biased and are likely to have a personal and prejudicial interest. You will be required to withdraw from the debate and decision on that matter.
- 6.2 **Do** join general groups which reflect your areas of interest and which concentrate on issues beyond particular planning proposals, but disclose a personal interest where that organisation has made representations on a particular proposal. **Do** also make it clear to that organisation and the Planning Committee that you have reserved judgement and the independence to make up your own mind on each separate proposal.
- 6.3 **Don't** excessively lobby fellow Councillors regarding your concerns or views nor attempt to persuade them that they should decide how to vote in advance of the meeting at which any planning decision is to be taken.
- 6.4 **Don't** decide or discuss how to vote on any application at any sort of political group meeting, or lobby any other Member to do so.

7. Pre-Application Discussions

- 7.1 **Do** try to attend public meetings which may be organised as part of the Council's pre-application process (contained in the Council's Planning tool kit). All Members are encouraged to participate in pre-application discussions.

- **Do** remember that both this Code and the Members' Code of Conduct will apply when attending such meetings. In particular public presentations may be given.

8. Post-Submission Application Discussions

- **Do** try to attend, where briefing sessions (generally for major applications) have been arranged (by officers) for Members.
- Planning Committee Members are encouraged to attend these sessions as it will give them an opportunity to better understand the Council's planning policies and its economic objectives
- **Do remember** this may involve the developer making a presentation. Please be guided by this Code and the Members' Code of Conduct when you attend.

9. Site Visits

9.1 Site visits by Members determining schemes are an essential part of determining a planning application. It is good practice for Members to visit an application site before a meeting, so that they can familiarise with the site or surrounding area.

9.2 **Do** try to attend the pre-Committee site visits organised by the Council. However, where it is not possible to attend the organised site visit and you carry out a site visit on your own follow the guidelines below:-

- Notify the Service Head Development Decisions of your intention to visit (which will be recorded on the file).
- Carry it out discreetly and do not make yourself known to the applicants or neighbour.
- Treat the site visit only as an opportunity to seek information and to observe the site. It is important to ensure that site visits do not become an impromptu lobbying opportunity for the applicant or objectors.
- **Don't** hear representations from the applicant or any other party have regard to the provisions on Lobbying of Councillors in paragraph 5 above, and advise them that they may make

representations in writing to the Council and direct them to relevant officers.

- **Don't** express opinions or views on the application to anyone as this may lead to an allegation of apparent bias or pre-determination.
- **Do** have close regard to this Code and the Members' Code of Conduct during your visit.

9.3 **Do** ensure that where you have attended without an officer any new information which you gain from the site visit, is reported back to the case officer so that this officer can report this to all members of the planning committee if relevant.

9.4 **Do** not request a site visit once the application has reached the determination stage, unless you feel it is really necessary, and the Committee may decide to revisit the site because:-

- particular site factors are significant in terms of the weight attached and it would be difficult in the absence of a site visit to assess the application or there are significant policy or precedent implications and specific site factors need to be carefully addressed.

10. Public Speaking at Meetings

Do ensure that you comply with the Council's Development Procedure Rules (contained in the Council's Constitution) with regard to public speaking.

Don't allow members of the public to directly communicate with you during the Committee's proceedings (orally or in writing) as this may give the appearance of bias.

11. Relationship between Members and Officers

11.1 **Don't** put pressure on officers to put forward a particular recommendation, likewise when officers are advising Members they must give impartial policy advice on planning material considerations and the recommendations as set out in the report without seeking to persuade Members. (This does not prevent you from asking questions or submitting views to the Service Head Development Decisions, which may be incorporated into any committee report).

11.2 **Do** recognise that officers involved in the processing and determination of planning matters must act in accordance with the Council's Code of Conduct for Officers and their Professional Code(s) of Conduct.

12. Applications submitted by Members, Officers and the Council

12.1 **Do** be aware that it is perfectly legitimate for planning applications to be submitted by Members, officers (including any former Members/officers) and the Council. However, it is vital to ensure that they are handled in a way that gives no grounds for accusations or favouritism. Accordingly the matter will be dealt with as follows;

- If a Member or an officer submit their own proposal to the Council which they serve, they should take no part in its processing or the decision making process.
- Members who act as agents for people pursuing a planning matter with the authority should take no part in its processing or the decision making process.
- If an application is submitted either by a Member or officer he/she should notify the Monitoring Officer. Also, if a Member wishes to act as an agent on a planning matter the Monitoring Officer should be notified.
- In respect of former Members or former officers this requirement shall apply for a period of three years following their departure from the Council.
- The matter will be referred to the Corporate Director, Development and Renewal, who shall decide whether or not the application should be referred to Committee, or determined under delegated powers, if the application is in accordance with development plans and all other material planning considerations.
- The consideration in Committee of the application from a Member would be considered as being a prejudicial interest and the Member would be required to withdraw from any consideration of the matter.
- The Member should not address the Committee as the applicant but should appoint an independent agent to represent his/her views.

- Members of the Committee must consider whether the nature of any relationship with the person (either a Member or an officer) applying for planning permission requires that they make a declaration of interest and if necessary also withdraw from the meeting.

12.2 **Application submitted by the Council**

- Proposals for a Council's own development can give rise to suspicions of impropriety. It is perfectly legitimate for such proposals to be submitted to and determined by the Local Planning Authority. Proposals for a Council's own development will be treated no differently from any other application.
- **Do** be aware if you are a Cabinet Member who is also a Member of the Planning Committee you may have been heavily committed or involved in an area of policy/issue relating to an application, if so, you must consider whether you have an interest which should be disclosed. Seek advice from the legal adviser to the Committee.

13. **Decision Making**

- 13.1 **Do** ensure that, if you request a proposal to go before the Committee rather than be determined through officer delegation, that your reasons are recorded and repeated in the report to the Committee.
- 13.2 **Do** come to meetings with an open mind.
- 13.3 **Do** comply with section 38(6) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2007 and make decisions in accordance with the Development plan unless material considerations indicate otherwise. Attached at Appendix 'A' are the Council's Guidelines for determining planning applications.
- 13.4 **Do** come to your decision only after due consideration of all of the information reasonably required upon which to base a decision. If you feel there is insufficient time to digest new information or that there is simply insufficient information before you, request that further information. If necessary, defer or refuse.
- 13.5 **Don't** vote or take part in the meeting's discussion on a proposal unless you have been present to hear the entire debate, including the officers' introduction to the matter. If an application has previously been deferred the same Committee Members will be asked to reconsider the application when it is returned to Committee.

- 13.6 **Do** have recorded the reasons for Committee's decision to defer any proposal.
- 13.7 **Do** make sure that if you are proposing, seconding or supporting a decision contrary to officer recommendations or the Development Plan that you clearly identify and understand the planning reasons leading to this conclusion/decision. These reasons must be given prior to the vote and be recorded. Do be aware that you may have to justify the resulting decision by giving evidence in Court or at Enquiry in the event of any challenge.
- 13.8 Prior to deciding the matter before the Committee Members must consider the advice that either planning, legal or other officers give the committee with respect to the recommendation or any proposed amendment to it.

14. Training

- 14.1 **Don't** participate in decision making at meetings dealing with planning matters if you have not attended the mandatory planning training prescribed by the Council. The training programme will cover issues relating to probity in planning, principles in planning to reflect government guidance and case law. The following guidelines will be applied:-
- For newly appointed Members and substitute Members the training will be in two separate sessions; one on the planning process (including the principles of planning) the other on probity in planning;
- and
- For all other Members and substitute Members who have attended a training seminar within 12 months of the last seminar attended they need only attend a refresher session on planning and probity.
- 14.2 **Do** endeavour to attend any other specialised training sessions provided, since these will be designed to extend your knowledge of planning law, regulations, procedures, Codes of Practice, Development Plans and best practice beyond the minimum referred to above and thus assist you in carrying out your role properly and effectively.
- 14.3 This training will be open to all Members and brief handouts will be provided where appropriate.

COUNCIL GUIDELINES FOR DETERMINING PLANNING APPLICATIONS
APPLICATIONS UNDER THE TOWN & COUNTRY PLANNING
ACT 1990 (TCPA)

- (i) The emphasis in determining applications is upon a plan led system. Section 38(6) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 requires all planning applications to be determined in accordance with the Development Plan (i.e. the adopted Tower Hamlets Unitary Development Plan (UDP) 1998 as saved September 2007 and the adopted London Plan 2004 (as amended by Early Alterations December 2006) and any other material considerations. If the Development Plan is material to the application then the statutory position is that the application must be determined in accordance with the Development Plan unless material considerations indicate otherwise.
- (ii) The term "other material considerations" has a wide connotation as expressed by the following judicial comment:-
".....I find it impossible, however, to accept the view that such considerations are limited to matters relating to amenity.....it seems to me that any consideration which relates to the use and development of land is capable of being a planning consideration".
- (iii) Material considerations include national planning guidance in the form of Government Circulars, Planning Policy Guidance Notes, Non-Statutory Development Control Guidelines and case law. A ministerial statement may be a material consideration.
- (iv) Examples of material considerations are:-
- (a) appearance and character of development;
 - (b) traffic generation, highway safety and parking;
 - (c) Overshadowing, overlooking and loss of privacy;
 - (d) noise, disturbance or other loss of amenities;
 - (e) layout and density of buildings;
 - (f) relevant planning policies.
- (v) Matters which are not material considerations include:-
- (a) boundary disputes, covenants or other property rights;
 - (b) personal remarks (e.g. the applicant's motives);
 - (c) reduction in property values;
 - (d) loss of private view over the land.

- (vi) The personal circumstances of an applicant for planning permission are not generally a material consideration because they do not relate to the character or use of the land. However, in exceptional circumstances they may outweigh other material planning considerations. Where this is the case, specific and valid reasons must be given to justify the exception.
- (vii) What constitutes a material consideration is a matter of law. The weight to be attached to the consideration is a matter of planning judgement for the decision-maker having regard to the planning evidence. In attaching weight to any offers of community benefit accompanying any planning application, Members must be mindful of the Advice in Circular 1/97 Planning Obligations (Section 106 Agreements) as to the legality and materiality of such offers.
- (viii) It is essential to consider thoroughly any advice given by a statutory consultee or relevant Government Department, including views expressed by English Heritage or the Environment Agency.
- (ix) The view of local residents are relevant when determining a planning application, but it must be recognised that such opposition cannot be a reason in itself for refusing or granting planning permission unless founded on valid planning reasons, which are supported by substantial evidence (Circular 9/93 - Annex 3, Paragraph 15).
- (x) Account should be taken of previous Council decisions, appeal decisions in relation to the site, or other related appeal decisions.
- (xi) It is not permissible to prevent, inhibit or delay development which could reasonably be permitted.
- (xii) Planning Conditions should only be imposed for a planning purpose and not for any ulterior one. They must fairly and reasonably relate to the development. Thus it is essential to avoid conditions which are unnecessary, unreasonable, unenforceable, imprecise or irrelevant.

APPENDIX B

4.8 Development Procedure Rules

CONTENTS

Rule	Subject
1	Scope
2	Reports
3	Addendum Update Reports
4	Representations and Petitions
5	Order of Proceedings
6	Public speaking
7	Councillors Expressing their public speaking rights
8	Councillors who are not Members of the Committee
9	Decisions contrary to officer recommendations
10	Decisions contrary to the Development Plan
11	Deferrals
12	Site visits before a Committee meeting
13	Formal Site visits by the Committee
14	Delegated powers
15	Referral of a Planning Application to Development Committee

1. SCOPE

- 1.1 These rules apply to all meetings of the Development Committee, Strategic Development Committee and Council in relation to the determination of planning applications.
- 1.2 As the determination of planning applications is a quasi-judicial function these rules provide processes and procedures which fulfil legal requirements of impartiality and natural justice.

2. REPORTS

- 2.1 All applications are the subject of written reports with officer recommendations. Reports will be produced in a standard form approved by the Corporate Director, Development and Renewal, and will identify and analyse major material considerations of which the Committee need to take account when exercising its planning judgment.
- 2.2 In addition to the written report, illustrative material is usually available at least 30 minutes before the meeting at the meeting to explain the scheme and the planning files will also be available for inspection.

3. ADDENDUM UPDATE REPORTS

- 3.1** It is common for material (such as late representations) to be received after the close of the agenda. This needs to be brought to the attention of the Committee so that it can be taken into account. Such material will be presented to Committee in written form at least 30 minutes before the beginning of the meeting in the Addendum Update Report which will comprise a summary of whatever has been raised, in the same way as representations are summarised in the main Committee report.
- 3.2** When such material is made available to members it will also be placed on the public planning file along with all the other papers for the application, subject only to any public exclusion restrictions.
- 3.3** The practicality of producing such a report means there has to be a cut-off point for receipt of late material which is noon on the day of the meeting. Generally material received after this time will not be reported to the Committee though the Corporate Director, Development and Renewal, has an absolute discretion in this regard.
- 3.4** Material must not be distributed to Committee members by members of the public (including public speakers) or other Members of the Council during the course of the meeting.

4. REPRESENTATIONS AND PETITIONS

- 4.1** All representations and petitions upon a particular application which are received prior to the cut-off point are summarised either in the main Committee report or in the addendum update report. Copies of these representations and petitions are available for inspection at the meeting.

5. ORDER OF PROCEEDINGS

- 5.1** Except as otherwise stated on the agenda, generally meetings take place at Tower Hamlets Town Hall, Mulberry Place, 5 Clove Crescent, London E14 2BG commencing at 7:30 pm
- 5.2** At the discretion of the Chair the agenda may be re-ordered at the meeting.
- 5.3** The procedure for considering each application shall be as follows:
- 5.3.1** The item will be introduced by the Corporate Director, Development and Renewal, or his/her representative
 - 5.3.2** An objector who has registered to speak in accordance with the procedure in Rule 6 will address the Committee
 - 5.3.3** The applicant/agent or supporter (if registered to speak in accordance with the procedure in Rule 6) will address the Committee

- 5.3.4** Committee and non-committee Member(s) may address the Committee for up to 3 minutes
 - 5.3.5** The Corporate Director, Development and Renewal, or his/her representative, will present the report and introduce the main issues
 - 5.3.6** Through the Chair, Committee members may ask questions of clarification
 - 5.3.7** The Committee will consider the item and reach a decision.
- 5.4** In order to be able to vote upon an item, a Member must be present throughout the whole of the Committee's consideration including the officer introduction to the matter.
- 5.5** In the event that any contributor addresses the Committee through an interpreter, additional time may be allowed but the interpreter must not use the additional time to introduce new material.
- 5.6** The minutes of the meeting will record the members and officers present at the meeting and record any declarations of interest made by members or officers.
- 6. PUBLIC SPEAKING**
- 6.1** Where a planning application is reported on the "Planning Applications for Decision" part of the agenda, individuals and organisations which have expressed views on the application will be sent a letter that notifies them that the application will be considered by Committee. The letter will explain the provisions regarding public speaking. The letter will be posted by 1st class post on Wednesday in the week prior to the meeting.
- 6.2** When a planning application is reported to Committee for determination the provision for the applicant/supporters of the application and objectors to address the Committee on any planning issues raised by the application, will be in accordance with the public speaking procedure adopted by the relevant Committee from time to time.
- 6.3** All requests to address a Committee must be made to the Committee clerk by 4pm on Friday prior to the day of the meeting. It is recommended that email or telephone is used for this purpose. This communication must provide the name and contact details of the intended speaker. Requests to address a Committee will not be accepted prior to the publication of the agenda.
- 6.4** After 4pm on the Friday prior to the day of the meeting the Committee clerk will advise the applicant of the number of objectors wishing to speak.
- 6.5** The order of public speaking shall be as stated in Rule 5.3.

- 6.6 Public speaking shall comprise verbal presentation only. The distribution of additional material or information to members of the Committee is not permitted.
- 6.7 Following the completion of a speaker's address to the Committee, that speaker shall take no further part in the proceedings of the meeting unless directed by the Chair of the Committee.
- 6.8 Following the completion of all the speakers' addresses to the Committee, at the discretion of and through the Chair, Committee members may ask questions of a speaker on points of clarification only.
- 6.9 In the interests of natural justice or in exceptional circumstances, at the discretion of the Chair, the procedures in Rule 5.3 and in this Rule may be varied. The reasons for any such variation shall be recorded in the minutes.
- 6.10 Speakers and other members of the public may leave the meeting after the item in which they are interested has been determined.

7. COUNCILLORS EXERCISING THEIR PUBLIC SPEAKING RIGHTS

- 7.1 A Councillor who is a member of the determining Committee and who wishes to address the meeting but has a prejudicial interest is permitted to speak in accordance with Rule 6 above and must immediately leave the room once he/she has finished addressing the meeting. The Councillor cannot remain in the public gallery to observe proceedings on the matter.

8. COUNCILLORS WHO ARE NOT MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

- 8.1 Councillors who are not members of the determining Committee may make written representations to the Council about a planning application in the same way as can any other interested person.
- 8.2 A Councillor who is not a member of the determining Committee but who attends a meeting must declare any personal or prejudicial interest. The declaration of a prejudicial interest will preclude the member from remaining in attendance during consideration of the relevant item but not during the stages set out at Rules 5.3.1 to 5.3.4 above. The Member may address the meeting as set out in Rule 5.3.4.
- 8.3 A Councillor who is not a member of the determining Committee who speaks at a meeting must include within the speech details of any contact with the applicant, agent, adviser or other interested party and whether or not the speech is made on behalf of such person(s) or any other particular interest.
- 8.4 A Councillor who is not a member of the determining Committee but who is present at a meeting should sit separately from the Committee members, so as to demonstrate clearly that he/she is not taking part in the discussion, consideration or vote.

8.5 A Councillor who is not a member of the determining Committee must not communicate in any way with members of the Committee or pass papers or documents to them before or during the meeting.

9. DECISIONS CONTRARY TO OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS

9.1 Where a Committee proposes to make a decision contrary to the officer recommendation (whether for approval or refusal) and that decision would not necessarily be contrary to the provisions of the Development Plan, in order to ensure that members are clear of the basis upon which they are proposing to vote advice from officers should be sought. That advice will be based upon the material considerations that have been heard by the Committee and whether there are grounds that could be defended in the event of an appeal or legal challenge.

9.2 Where a vote on the officer recommendation is lost, it is necessary for a new motion to either grant or refuse the application to be proposed. The Committee should receive advice from officers as to the appropriate form that the new motion should take.

10. DECISIONS CONTRARY TO THE DEVELOPMENT PLAN

10.1 The law requires that where the Development Plan is relevant, decisions must be taken in accordance with it unless material considerations indicate otherwise. If a Committee intends to approve an application which is contrary to the Development Plan, the material considerations must be clearly identified and the justification for overriding the Development Plan clearly demonstrated. The application will have to be advertised in accordance with Article 8 of the Planning (General Development Procedure) Order 1985 and, depending upon the type and scale of development proposed, may also have to be referred to the Department for Communities and Local Government. If the officer report recommends approval of a departure, the justification should be included, in full, in that report.

10.2 If a Committee is minded to make a decision contrary to the officer recommendation (whether for approval or refusal) and that decision would be contrary to the provisions of the Development Plan, such motion may only contain the Committee's initial view and must be subject to a further report detailing the planning issues raised by such a decision. Further consideration of the matter must be adjourned to a future meeting of the Committee when officers will present a supplemental report setting out the proposed new position and explaining the implications of the decision.

10.3 If, having considered a supplemental report, the Committee decides to determine the application contrary to the Development Plan, a detailed minute of the Committee's reasons, which as a matter of law must be clear and convincing, shall be made and a copy placed on the application file.

11. DEFERRALS

- 11.1** Where it is necessary to defer the determination of an application, the matter will be placed on the list of “Deferred, Adjourned and Outstanding Items” in the agenda to enable further consideration as soon as possible. Generally where the reason for deferral does not involve any substantive new information being brought before the Committee (for example, following deferral for a site meeting or clarification of an issue) the Committee will be updated by means of the addendum update report and can usually proceed to determine the application at the next meeting. In such circumstances at the re-convened consideration there will be no further public speaking pursuant to Rule 6.
- 11.2** Where deferral is for a more substantive reason (such as renegotiating part of the proposal) then it would generally be appropriate for a fresh report to be presented to the Committee in the “Planning Applications for Decision” part of the agenda in order to ensure that that the Committee is apprised of all material considerations. Where a new full report is presented to Committee, public speaking pursuant to Rule 6 is permitted.
- 11.3** Such applications will be placed on the list of deferred items at the beginning of the agenda so that the Committee has a record of all applications that stand deferred.
- 11.4** Where an application is deferred and its consideration recommences at a subsequent meeting only Members who were present at the previous meeting will be able to vote. If this renders the Committee inquorate then the item will have to be reconsidered afresh. This would include public speaking rights being triggered again.

12. SITE VISITS BEFORE A COMMITTEE MEETING

- 12.1** It is advisable that members are familiar with the sites of the applications on the agenda to enable them to make informed decisions on the planning applications before them and to avoid deferring those decisions pending site visits.
- 12.2** Where members visit the site themselves before the meeting, care must be taken to ensure that they comply with the Planning Code of Conduct at Part 5 of this Constitution. Such visits should be carried out discreetly and members should not make themselves known to the applicant or to neighbours. Accordingly members should avoid going onto the actual application site or a neighbouring property. The reason for this is that contact between a member of the Committee and the applicant or a local resident could be misinterpreted as lobbying. If such contact is made this should be declared in Committee, but this should not in itself prevent that member from taking part in the consideration of that application, provided that the member has followed the advice in the Planning Code of Conduct.

13. FORMAL SITE VISITS BY THE COMMITTEE

- 13.1** A formal site visit will be arranged where the Committee have resolved on a majority vote to visit the site or if in the opinion of the Corporate Director Development and Renewal a site visit is recommended. . Site visits should only be selected where there is a clear and substantial benefit to be gained.
- 13.2** The procedure for formal site visits by the Committee shall be as follows:
- 13.2.1** Arrangements for visits will not normally be publicised or made known to applicants, agents or third parties.
 - 13.2.2** Where permission is needed to go on land, contact will be made with the owner by officers, but the owner cannot take any part in the visit, other than to effect access onto the site.
 - 13.2.3** The purpose of a site visit is to enable Members to inspect the site and to better understand the impact of the development. The Committee must not receive representations or debate issues during a site visit.
 - 13.2.4** An application cannot be determined at a formal site visit by a Committee and must be considered at the next appropriate meeting of the Committee.
 - 13.2.5** The Committee Clerk will make a note of the meeting and include it in the Update Report
 - 13.2.6** Failure to attend a Formal Site Visit shall not bar a Member from voting on an item at the meeting that considers the item provided the Member is satisfied that he/she is sufficiently familiar with the site.

14. DELEGATED POWERS

- 14.1** The recommendations in the reports to Committees do not set out the full wording of planning conditions or reasons for refusal, but are a summary of them. This communicates the details of the recommended decision more clearly than many pages of detailed conditions or grounds. It is for the Corporate Director, Development and Renewal, to communicate the detailed wording to applicants pursuant to delegated powers. Where a particular concern about the precise wording of a condition or ground has been expressed at a meeting the Corporate Director will make the final wording available for inspection.
- 14.2** At the beginning of the agenda there is a general resolution to give delegated powers to the Corporate Director, Development and Renewal, to vary or add conditions or reasons for refusal. The reason for this is that there can sometimes be a delay before a decision is issued (such as waiting for the signing of a legal agreement or views from the Mayor of London) and something may arise which necessitates a minor amendment or an addition.

Power is delegated to the Corporate Director to obviate the need for further reference to Committee and delay to the process. The exercise of the power by the Corporate Director must not exceed the substantive nature of the Committee's determination and any amendment or addition which would do so shall be referred back to the Committee.

15. REFERRAL TO COMMITTEE OF A PLANNING APPLICATION DELEGATED TO THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR, DEVELOPMENT AND RENEWAL

15.1 Any planning application which would be determined under delegated powers may be referred to the Development Committee pursuant to the following procedure.

15.2 Within four weeks of the date of a planning application first being publicised any four Members of the relevant Committee may request that the application be referred to the Committee for determination by completing and signing a Planning Application Referral Request which shall be delivered to the Service Head, Development Decisions.

APPENDIX C

3.3.4 Development Committee

<p>Membership: Nine Members of the Council. Up to three substitutes may be appointed for each Member</p>	
Functions	Delegation of Function
<p>1. Planning Applications</p> <p>a) To consider and determine recommendations from the Corporate Director, Development and Renewal to grant planning permission for applications made under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 to grant listed building consent or conservation area consent for applications made under the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 and to grant hazardous substances consent for applications made under the Planning (Hazardous Substances) Act 1990, including similar applications delegated to the Council to determine by other bodies (such as the Olympic Delivery Authority under the London Olympic Games and Paralympic Games Act 2006) that meet any one of the following criteria:</p> <p>i) Proposals involving the erection, alteration or change of use of buildings, structures or land with more than 35 residential or live-work units.</p> <p>ii) Proposals involving the erection, alteration or change of use of buildings, structures or land with a gross floor space exceeding 10,000 square metres.</p> <p>iii) Retail development with a gross floor space exceeding 5,000 square metres.</p> <p>iv) If in response to the publicity of an application the Council receives (in writing or by email) either more than 20 individual representations or a petition (received from residents of the borough whose names appear in the Register of Electors or by a Councillor and containing signatures from at least 20 persons with residential or business addresses in the borough) raising material planning objections to the</p>	<p>The Corporate Director, Development and Renewal (or any officer authorised by her/him) has the authority to make decisions on planning matters with the exception of those specifically reserved to the Development Committee, unless:-</p> <p>(i) these are expressly delegated to her/him or</p> <p>(ii) where it is referred to the Committee in accordance with Development Procedure Rule No 15</p>

development, and the Corporate Director, Development and Renewal considers that these objections cannot be addressed by amending the development, by imposing conditions and/or by completing a legal agreement.

- b) To consider and determine recommendations from the Corporate Director to refuse planning permission for applications made under the Acts referred to in (a) above, where in response to the publicity of an application the Council has received (in writing or by email) more than 20 individual representations supporting the development or a petition in the form detailed in (a) (iv) supporting the development.
- c) To consider and determine recommendations from the Corporate Director, Development and Renewal for listed building or conservation area consent applications made by or on sites/buildings owned by the Council.

(Representations either individual letters or petitions received after the close of the consultation period will be counted at the discretion of the Corporate Director, Development and Renewal)

2. Observations

- d) To respond to requests for observations on planning applications referred to the Council by other local authorities Government departments statutory undertakers and similar organisations where the response would be contrary to policies in the adopted development plan or raise especially significant borough-wide issues

3. General

- e) To consider any application or other planning matter referred to the Committee by the Corporate Director Development and

<p>Renewal where she/he considers it appropriate to do so (for example, if especially significant borough-wide issues are raised).</p> <p><i>It shall be for the Corporate Director Development & Renewal to determine whether a matter meets any of the above criteria.</i></p>	
<p>Quorum 3 members of the committee</p>	

This page is intentionally left blank



COUNCIL MEETING

WEDNESDAY 15th OCTOBER 2008

DEPUTATIONS AND PETITIONS

AGENDA ITEM NO. 5

**REPORT OF THE SERVICE HEAD,
DEMOCRATIC SERVICES**

SUMMARY

1. The Council's constitution provides that a maximum of three deputations and three petitions are received at any meeting. These are taken in the order of receipt. This report sets out the deputations and petitions submitted by members of the public for presentation at Council on 15th October 2008.
2. Members will note that the report includes the maximum three petitions for the meeting. One deputation is also included. The final deadline for receipt of deputation requests is noon on Thursday 9th October and any further deputations received before that date will be circulated to Members prior to the meeting.
3. In each case the members of the deputation/petitioners may address the meeting for no more than five minutes. Members may then question the deputation/petitioners for a further five minutes. The relevant Lead Member or Chair of Committee may then respond to the deputation or petition for up to three minutes.
4. Any outstanding issues will be referred to the relevant Corporate Director for attention who will respond to those outstanding issues in writing within 28 days.
5. Members should confine their contributions to questions and answers and not make statements or attempt to debate.

5.1 DEPUTATIONS

One deputation has been received as set out below.

5.1.1 Deputation from Tower Hamlets Leaseholders Association about Leaseholder service charges

“The Tower Hamlets Leaseholders Association calls on the executive to carry out a comprehensive external audit of leaseholder service charges in order to establish that the method of calculation is correct and lawful, and that the allocation and apportionment of the charges is accurate, reasonable and fair.

Leaseholders in Tower Hamlets consider that ordering the external audit is the only way of re-establishing confidence and trust between homeowners and the landlord and the only way of creating a partnership between the stakeholders which is essential in order to move forward.”

5.2 PETITIONS

Three petitions have been received as set out below.

5.2.1 Petition from Mr. Mohammed Zakir Hussain and others regarding a Muslim Graveyard

“During the election of 2006, this council and then councillors also those that were running to become councillors (most of them are elected members today and are on the administration group) have promised that they will provide a Muslim Graveyard for the Muslim community of Tower Hamlets. Subsequently the Bow Gas site was identified, discussed and dropped. Currently the council has agreed to subsidise £200.00 (which no one knows about) towards any burial that needs to be taken place and has negotiated an interim temporary space in LB Newham. This is not what the Muslim resident of Tower Hamlets have voted the current administration for. Among other things the Muslim graveyard was one of the reasons the Muslims of Tower Hamlets have voted you mainly the Labour administration in again.

We ask the Council (Mainly the Labour Councillors) to note:

- That it/they have promised to deliver a Muslim Faith Burial space not a “Interfaith Cemetery”
- That it/they have promised to provide the space in Tower Hamlets and not in Newham or any other borough
- That a Muslim burial site would be designed with prayer facilities and facilities related to the Muslim Burial procedure
- That Muslim Burial is different then other Burial facilities

- That the Muslim graves can be turned every twenty-five years or as when necessary to make space for other new burials (According to the common law every fifty years)

We the Residents of this Council believe:

- That the council can provide the Muslim Burial as promised
- That we do not want the subsidy of £200.00 or a burial space in Newham or in any other borough
- That they want a permanent space where they can lay to rest their close and loved ones and in future themselves
- That only the financial feasibility is holding the council to deliver the promise
- That dead man/woman cannot ever be financially feasible and should not be measured with the pound sign
- That with proper intention and will the council can secure the Bow Gas site as promised

We the residents call upon this council and those responsible to ensure:

- That negotiation should start again with the Bow Gas works site
- That the site when available should be secured for and designed for a Muslim burial space
- That the council built in a financial strategy to secure the site for the asked price of £5M
- That the council creates a clear pathway and strategy to secure the Bow Gas site when it is available in ten years time.”

5.2.2 Petition from Mr. Rafik Ahmed, Rabbi Ashfak Hussain, Mohammed Amir Uddin and others to ban the following book from marketing in Tower Hamlets and lobby UK wide ban

“Kalapanir Hatchhani, Biletey Bangaleer Itihash

Author: Golam Morshid (Professor of UEL – SOAS)

Publication: Abshor Prokashona Sangstha

46/1 Hemandra Das Road, Shutrapur, Dhaka – 1100

Printing: New Pubali Mudralaya

46/1 Hemandra Das Road, Shutrapur, Dhaka – 1100

We the residents of Tower Hamlets are concerned over the above book being sole in UK; especially in Tower Hamlets as the book promotes haterate among the ethnic Bangladeshi communities. We therefore bring this before you asking the council to do anything and everything within its power to ban the book from being shelved in shops in Tower Hamlets.

We ask the Council to note:

- That the book Kalapanir Hathchani, Jan 2008 (Author Gulam Murshid) has created a haterate among the local Asian communities mainly in Bangladeshi's
- That the book has mis-led the community to a myth that is completely untrue
- That the book promotes haterate among the local Bengali community

We know that this Council believes in:

- Promoting community cohesion
- Dis-encouraging haterate among communities
- Promoting healthy communities and would intervene as and when necessary to reduce haterate and inequality in all or any communities in the borough
- Any literature containing haterates should not be allowed in Tower Hamlets

We call upon this Council and those responsible to ensure:

- That the book Kalapanir Hathchani, 2008 (Author Gulam Murshid) not to be shelved in any Idea Store
- That the Tower Hamlets Trading Standards Agency sent letters to all Ethnic and high street Bookshops not to shelf this book
- That the council lobbies the government to ban this book entering the UK market."

5.2.3 Petition from Mrs Theresa Shiyabola, African Women's Welfare Association and others regarding the Tower Hamlets Sickle Cell and Thalassaemia Centre in St. Margaret's House

"We the undersigned are supporting the Tower Hamlets Sickle Cell and Thalassaemia Centre in St. Margaret's House, 15A Old Ford Road, London, E2 9PL. We disagree with the decision to cease their funding. We support a motion to the full Council to be passed successfully"

LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

COUNCIL MEETING

WEDNESDAY 15 OCTOBER 2008

**QUESTIONS SUBMITTED BY
MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL**

AGENDA ITEM NO. 7

**REPORT OF THE SERVICE HEAD,
DEMOCRATIC SERVICES**

SUMMARY

1. Set out overleaf are the questions submitted by Members of the Council for response by Members of the Executive at the Council meeting on Wednesday 15th October 2008.
2. Questions are limited to one per member per meeting, plus one supplementary question unless the member has indicated that only a written reply is required and in these circumstances a supplementary question is not permitted.
3. Oral responses are time limited to two minutes. Supplementary questions and responses are also time limited to two minutes each.
4. There is a time limit of thirty minutes for consideration of Members' questions with no extension of time allowed and any question not dealt within this time will be dealt with by way of a written response. The Mayor will decide the time allocated to each question.
5. Members must confine their contributions to questions and answers and not make statements or attempt to debate.

QUESTIONS

Set out overleaf are the questions which have been received.

7.1 Question from Councillor Ahmed Omer to the Lead Member for Children's Services, Councillor Clair Hawkins

Can the Lead Member for Children's Services tell us whether there will be any much-needed investment in Youth Services in the borough?

7.2 Question from Councillor Tim Archer to the Lead Member for Culture and Leisure, Councillor Rofique Ahmed

Would the Lead Member please confirm what the current position is regarding securing the future of Poplar Baths?

7.3 Question from Councillor Abjol Miah to the Leader of the Council, Councillor Lutfur Rahman

Would the Council Leader agree that the report from End Child Poverty, an umbrella organisation including some 130 children's charities, that Tower Hamlets continues to have the highest proportion of children living in poverty of any borough in London or council in the country, more than 42,000 children in total, is a scandal and shows that the government's proposals to halve the number of children in poverty have failed in Tower Hamlets, despite the relative success acknowledged by End Child Poverty in educational achievement in the borough, that child poverty is closely correlated to lack of work and dependence on benefits, that the growth of jobs in Canary Wharf has had no apparent effect on this unemployment and low incomes and that the council needs to completely reconsider its anti-poverty strategy in the face of this failure?

7.4 Question from Councillor Stephanie Eaton to the Lead Member for Cleaner, Safer, Greener, Councillor Abdal Ullah

What is the Council's target for meeting National Indicator NI35 (Building resistance to violent extremism), what financial resources are being put into meeting this target by the Borough and how is performance against this target being assessed?

7.5 Question from Councillor Fazlul Haque to the Lead Member for Cleaner, Safer, Greener, Councillor Abdal Ullah

Can the Lead Member for Cleaner, Safer, Greener tell us if there are any plans to increase the number of Police officers in the borough over the next two years?

7.6 Question from Councillor Dr. Emma Jones to the Lead Member for Cleaner, Safer, Greener, Councillor Abdal Ullah

Would the Lead Member inform us as to what the council is doing to ensure that a fuller use is made of the river as part of the public transport network?

7.7 Question from Councillor Fozol Miah to the Lead Member for Housing & Development, Councillor Marc Francis

Could the Lead Member identify the number of Council rented and RSL properties which have not had heat insulating refurbishment including double glazing since 1997 and therefore how many Council-rented and RSL properties remain heating inefficient and expensive for their tenants and could he confirm when it is planned they will get this vital refurbishment and what other plans the Council is intending to bring forward to address the growing problem of fuel poverty in this borough?

7.8 Question from Councillor Tim O'Flaherty to the Lead Member for Employment and Skills, Councillor Alibor Choudhury

What is the Council doing to facilitate greater participation in the workforce by disabled residents?

7.9 Question from Councillor Ann Jackson to the Lead Member for Culture and Leisure, Councillor Rofique Ahmed

Can the Lead Member for Culture and Leisure please give us an update on the progress of the Heritage Lottery Fund bid for improvements to Victoria Park?

7.10 Question from Councillor Shirley Houghton to the Lead Member for Cleaner, Safer, Greener, Councillor Abdal Ullah

The Lead Member for Cleaner, Safer, Greener recently issued a press statement about his plans to encourage the use of environmentally friendly electric cars in Tower Hamlets. Can he provide details of these plans, including the strategy for charging point provision, resident parking reductions and reducing carbon emissions of the Tower Hamlets vehicle fleet, including specific delivery timescales, street locations and budgetary implications?

7.11 Question from Councillor Harun Miah to the Lead Member for Housing and Development, Councillor Marc Francis

Could the Lead Member specify for each year since 1997 what has been the change in the total Council and RSL property to rent in the borough, specifying whether this is a decline or an increase and providing both the percentages involved and how many one, two, three, four and five bedroom properties involved in either the increase or decrease?

7.12 Question from Councillor Azizur Rahman Khan to the Lead Member for Culture and Leisure, Councillor Rofique Ahmed

What does the Lead Member intend to do to address the concerns of residents about noise and anti-social behaviour in the Borough's Idea Stores and does he recognise the value in retaining traditional libraries in the Borough?

7.13 Question from Councillor Waiseul Islam to the Lead Member for Employment and Skills, Councillor Alibor Choudhury

Can the Lead Member for Employment and Skills tell me how many local women were employed in Canary Wharf last year and whether there is a target to increase this figure?

7.14 Question from Councillor Philip Briscoe to the Leader of the Council, Councillor Lutfur Rahman

What is the per household collection cost of Council Tax, how does this cost vary with Direct Debit payments, how many households currently pay by Direct Debit, and are there any discounts offered to residents for paying by Direct Debit?

7.15 Question from Councillor Mohammed Abdul Munim to the Lead Member for Cleaner, Safer, Greener, Councillor Abdal Ullah

Could the Lead Member provide the total number of PCSOs from BME communities who are employed in the borough as a percentage and in absolute numbers out of the total number of PCSOs, provide the same percentage and absolute numbers for police officers in the borough and give his reaction to the fact that the senior management team in Tower Hamlets Metropolitan Police has no officers from the BME community at all, despite the fact that this is a borough with a very high percentage of people who are from BME communities, and would the Lead Member deplore as I do the way in which the Metropolitan Police Commissioner has been forced to resign by the Mayor of London and agree that we need to continue to support the

diversity and community policing initiatives taken by Sir Ian Blair and see these initiatives extended and fulfilled properly?

7.16 Question from Councillor Abdul Matin to the Lead Member for Cleaner, Safer, Greener, Councillor Abdal Ullah

Could the Lead Member provide details of the training, security checks, and powers of the proposed THEOs (Tower Hamlets Enforcement Officers) and can be advise what restraints, protection equipment, personal security devices and communications equipment will be issued to the THEOs?

7.17 Question from Councillor Rania Khan to the Lead Member for Children's Services, Councillor Clair Hawkins

Can the Lead Member for Children's Services tell us whether the year-on-year improvement of GCSE results in the borough has continued this year?

7.18 Question from Councillor Ahmed Hussain to the Lead Member for Housing and Development, Councillor Marc Francis

Can the Lead Member explain why the RSLs are bullying the residents of Burdett Estate in my ward over parking and development; can he assure us that the development of the health centre will be built on St. Paul's Way despite the credit crunch; can he let us know when the British Estate Residents will be pardoned from the chaotic and misery that the RSL has created?

7.19 Question from Councillor Dulal Uddin to the Lead Member for Housing and Development, Councillor Marc Francis

Could the Lead Member inform the Council as to whether English Heritage has yet decided to list Robin Hood Gardens and whether the council has drawn up any plans yet to try to secure the investment, estimated by some at £20 million, that would then be needed to bring Robin Hood Gardens up to the standard of a listed building, which is commonly thought to be a treasured piece of architecture, and to provide the community in Robin Hood Gardens with the standard of homes they have both a right to and deserve?

7.20 Question from Councillor Salim Ullah to the Leader of the Council, Councillor Lutfur Rahman

Can the Leader of the Council tell us whether, in the light of death threats received by himself and the Service Head, Democratic Services following his reasonable request that non-Muslim members refrain from eating Iftar packs set aside for Muslim members until after the breaking of the fast, it would be expedient to ban all food and drink from future Council meetings in order to prevent accusations of favouritism in the future?

7.21 Question from Councillor Peter Golds to the Lead Member for Culture and Leisure, Councillor Rofique Ahmed

In view of the growing concern amongst former and present residents of the Borough about the Council's intention regarding its outstanding archive collection, will the Lead Member indicate as to why there has been £24 million of public funding for "Rich Mix" and yet the Council declines to allocate a fraction of this sum to preserving the record of the rich heritage of our Borough for future generations?

7.22 Question from Councillor Mamun Rashid to the Lead Member for Housing and Development, Councillor Marc Francis

Could the Lead Member confirm that he is aware that residents on the Tarling Estate believe they require a large community facility to meet their needs and also confirm whether the Council has any plans to try to find or help obtain the £400,000 additional funding estimated to be necessary to ensure that the residents do get the facility they need?

7.23 Question from Councillor Motin Uz-Zaman to the Lead Member for Cleaner, Safer, Greener, Councillor Abdal Ullah

Can the Lead Member provide an update on SNT (Safer Neighbourhood Team) officers, including PCSOs (Police Community Support Officers). How many are there in post, how many vacancies are there and how many have been in post longer than 2 years? Additionally, could the Lead Member explain the line of accountability there is to the Council?

7.24 Question from Councillor Rupert Eckhardt to the Lead Member for Performance and Resources, Councillor Joshua Peck

In the light of recent reports regarding Local Authority budgets, what is the impact to date of rising fuel and food costs and falling revenues from property searches on the Council accounts and can we be reassured that the hard pressed Council Tax payer is not going to get lumbered with a massive rise next year?

7.25 Question from Councillor Carli Harper-Penman to the Leader of the Council, Councillor Lutfur Rahman

Would the Leader please outline the importance of participation in quasi-judicial and scrutiny committees by members from across the Council and the risks that might be faced by residents if a particular group within the Council were to abdicate these responsibilities for a period of, for example, five or six months?

7.26 Question from Councillor David Snowdon to the Lead Member for Performance and Resources, Councillor Joshua Peck

Would the Lead Member please outline the policy for setting pay for contractors and temporary staff?

7.27 Question from Councillor Alex Heslop to the Lead Member for Housing and Development, Councillor Marc Francis

Can the Lead Member for Housing and Development assure us that he is doing everything possible to ensure that a significant portion of homes built as a result of the Olympics will be affordable?

This page is intentionally left blank

REPORT OF THE CABINET

10 SEPTEMBER 2008

To receive the report of the Cabinet at its meeting held on Wednesday **10 September 2008**.

The Members who attended our meeting were: -

Councillor Lutfur Rahman (Chair)	(Leader of the Council)
Councillor Sirajul Islam (Vice-Chair)	(Deputy Leader of the Council)
Councillor Rofique U. Ahmed	(Lead Member, Culture and Leisure)
Councillor Anwarra Ali	(Lead Member, Health and Wellbeing)
Councillor Alibor Choudhury	(Lead Member, Employment and Skills)
Councillor Marc Francis	(Lead Member, Housing and Development)
Councillor Clair Hawkins	(Lead Member, Children's Services)
Councillor Abdal Ullah	(Lead Member, Cleaner, Safer, Greener)

Other Members present: -

Councillor Shahid Ali	
Councillor Abdul Asad	(Chair Overview and Scrutiny Committee)
Councillor Stephanie Eaton	(Leader Liberal Democrat Group and Scrutiny Lead Member: A Health Community)
Councillor Peter Golds	(Leader Conservative Group)
Councillor Ann Jackson	(Scrutiny Lead Member: One Tower Hamlets)
Councillor Denise Jones	
Councillor Abjol Miah	(Leader of the Respect Group)

1. Crime and Drugs Reduction Partnership Plan 2008-2011(CAB 041/089)

Our Councillor Rofique U. Ahmed declared a personal interest in Agenda item 8.1 "Crime and Drugs Reduction Partnership Plan 2008-11". The declaration of interest was made on the basis that Councillor Ahmed was a representative of the Authority on the governing body of the Olympic Development Agency.

We considered a report (attached as Appendix A to this council report) which informed us that: -

- The twin objectives of the attached draft Crime and Drugs Reduction Partnership Plan 2008-11 were:-
 - To highlight this Authority's priorities and guide related work as a partnership.
 - To meet statutory requirements.
- Outlined contextual background as follows:-
 - The plan was a statutory document for all boroughs under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998.
 - The plan was embedded in this Authority's strategic framework as a delivery plan for our 2020 Community Plan. Specifically it was the delivery plan for the 'Tackling and Preventing Crime' priority under the Safe and Supportive Community theme.
 - The plan was based on the priority and target setting work led by the Living Community Plan Action Group (CPAG) over the previous 10 months.
 - Following extensive consultation with partners and residents the plan had been agreed by at the Living Safely CPAG on 15th July 2008.
 - An action plan has also been agreed, reflecting the specific activities underpinning the broader commitments in the Crime and Drugs Reduction Partnership Plan.
 - These documents had been produced in accordance with statutory and best practice guidelines.
- The Crime and Drugs Reduction Partnership Plan 2008-11 formed part of this Authority's Budget and Policy framework, as defined in it's Constitution, and approval of such policy matters were reserved to full Council.
- The Home Office recently reviewed Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships and embedded new requirements in the Police and Justice Act 2006. The requirement to produce a 3 year Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership Plan (CDRP Plan) remained in place. However, rather than this remain static local areas had to refresh the priorities and delivery plan that the document is based on every year.
- This annual review was based on the new requirement for Local Strategic Partnerships to produce a Strategic Assessment – priorities identified in partnership, through a thorough analysis of data, including consultation data, about crime and anti-social behaviour in this borough.
- The contents of the Crime and Drugs Reduction Partnership Plan were also clarified. It now must include:
 - Priorities arising from the Strategic Assessment
 - A performance management framework, illustrating how performance against these priorities will be measured
 - A delivery plan, including partners' contributions and how they will be resourced
 - Details of how community engagement fed in to the development of the plan
- There was a further requirement to produce a summary document, whose content is specified. This Authority was required to publish this by the end of July 2008, in a format that makes it accessible to diverse communities. This requirement has been met by the publication of this Authority's Community Safety Booklet.

- Summarised the main content of the Crime and Drugs Reduction Partnership Plan, in accordance with statute and Home Office guidance.
- Summarised the development process for the Crime and Drugs Reduction Partnership Plan.
- Summarised the priorities and cross cutting themes of the Crime and Drugs Reduction Partnership Plan for 2008/09.
- Outlined both recent and ongoing consultation and resident engagement in relation to the draft Crime and Drugs Reduction Partnership Plan.
- Informed us of further work to be undertaken in relation to the Crime and Drugs Reduction Partnership Plan.

We considered and noted the advice and comments of our Overview & Scrutiny Committee, in respect of the report before us, detailed in a paper presented to us for our consideration, by our Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Councillor Asad.

Our Corporate Director Communities, Localities and Culture, Mr Halsey, at the request of our Chair in introducing the report before us:

- Briefly summarised the salient points contained therein:-
 - Informing us that the Plan before us for endorsement and onward recommendation to full Council, was a statutory document, which this Authority was now required to update annually, reflecting priorities facing this borough and targets agreed by our Living Safely Community Plan Action Group, following extensive consultation with partners and local residents.
 - Drawing our attention to:
 - ◆ The developmental process for the Plan set out at paragraph 4.2 of the report before us.
 - ◆ The types of crime prioritised in 2008/09 following a strategic assessment of available data.
 - ◆ A Home Office review over the coming 6 months of Tower Hamlets Partnership governance arrangements and other matters which it was hoped would result in this Authority achieving exemplar status in this area.
- Addressing the matters raised by our Overview and Scrutiny Committee, held on 9th September 2008, in relation to the report before us; as set out in the tabled sheet of Budget and Policy Framework advice and comments presented by our Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee earlier in our proceedings.

A discussion followed, during which we broadly welcomed the proposed Crime and Drugs Reduction Partnership Plan, and which included the following points:-

- With reference to page 20 of the Plan “Our Priorities 2008/09 and Delivery Plan – Violent Crime” whilst we welcomed the prominence given to domestic violence, we considered that additional clarity and detail was required in relation to the work to be undertaken with the perpetrators of such violence as well as that with the victims.

- Anecdotal evidence was relayed which appeared to indicate that information explaining how to establish a Neighbourhood Watch had not been forthcoming, from the Safer Neighbourhoods Team, to residents wishing to participate in such a scheme. We considered that this Authority should facilitate the establishment and participation in such schemes and our Chief Officers should ensure such information was readily available.
- With reference to Appendix 2 to the Plan “Our Performance 2005-2008” we noted weak performance in relation to concern about crime:
 - The target of reducing the proportion of residents that cited crime as a concern to 35% had an outturn of 55%.
 - The target of reducing the proportion of residents that felt unsafe in their area at night to 25% had an outturn of 45%.

We considered that the indicators revealed a serious level of anti social behaviour bordering on crime, which was affecting resident perceptions of Tower Hamlets as a place, and that this phenomenon required examination and the development of options for mitigating measures. Our Corporate Director Communities, Localities and Culture, Mr Halsey, acknowledged the performance issues highlighted, commenting that he was acutely aware of public perceptions in relation to the maintenance of the Public Realm, and was intending to address these in a report that would shortly be presented to us. It was intended that these measures could be linked to localised services provided out of core hours.

- With reference to page 23 of the Plan “Our Priorities 2008/09 and Delivery Plan – Resilience and Counter Terrorism” we considered that Police activities necessary in this sphere should be carried out in a manner which did not divide the Community nor create a sense of victimisation or resentment and we sought clarification as to how the Police were working with the Community to address such concerns.
- We considered that the Corporate Director Communities Localities and Culture was slow to respond to the identification, by Ward Councillors, of issues in the public realm impacting on public safety such as overgrown trees and undergrowth and poor lighting, and we sought clarification as to whether this could be addressed as part of the Plan.
- This Authority’s activities in custodial institutions to give support to former offenders, with particular reference to prevention of homelessness, was commended, and we noted the award of Beacon Council status in this area.
- Our Lead Member Cleaner Safer Greener, Councillor Ullah, commented that although the direction of travel in relation to crime was good, this Authority still needed to address the perceptions of residents. Our Councillor Ullah us that the Home Secretary had expressed a keen interest in the development in Tower Hamlets of a community safety award for residents contributing in this area. With regard to anti social behaviour such as littering our Councillor Ullah considered the way forward to be a uniformed presence on the part of this Authority alongside the police and Safer neighbourhood officers.

We endorsed the Crime and Drugs Reduction Partnership Plan 2008-11, attached at Appendix 1 to the report (CAB 041/089) before us, and agreed that Council be recommended to approve the plan.

We therefore recommend Council to: -

Approve the Crime and Drugs Reduction Partnership Plan 2008-11, attached at Appendix 1 to the report (CAB 041/089), **(Attached at Appendix A to this Council report)**.

**Councillor Lutfur Rahman
Chair of the Cabinet**

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 SECTION 100D (AS AMENDED)
LIST OF "BACKGROUND PAPERS" USED IN THE PREPARATION OF THIS REPORT

Brief description of "background paper" number of holder	Tick if copy supplied	If not supplied, name and telephone
Cabinet Agenda – 10/09/08 Draft Minutes Cabinet Meeting 10/09/08.		Angus Taylor 020 7364 4333

This page is intentionally left blank

Committee: Cabinet	Date: 10 th September	Classification: Unrestricted	Report No:	Agenda Item:
Report of: Corporate Director Stephen Halsey Originating officer(s) Andy Bamber, Head of Community Safety Service		Title: Crime and Drugs Reduction Partnership Plan 2008-11 (CDRP Plan) Wards Affected: All		

1. SUMMARY

The draft Crime and Drugs Reduction Partnership Plan 2008-11 (CDRP Plan) is attached.

1.1 The twin objectives of the document are:-

- To highlight our priorities and guide our work as a partnership
- To meet statutory requirements

1.2 Background:

- The plan is a statutory document for all boroughs under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998
- The plan is embedded in our strategic framework as a delivery plan for our 2020 Community Plan. Specifically it is the delivery plan for the 'Tackling and Preventing Crime' priority under the Safe and Supportive Community theme.
- The plan is based on the priority and target setting work led by the Living CPAG over the past 10 months.
- Following extensive consultation with partners and residents the plan was agreed by at the Living Safely CPAG on 15th July 2008
- An action plan has also been agreed, reflecting the specific activities underpinning the broader commitments in the plan.
- The documents have been produced in accordance with statutory and best practice guidelines.

1.3 The CDRP Plan forms part of the Budget and Policy framework for the Council under the Council's Constitution.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

Cabinet is recommended to endorse the crime and drugs reduction partnership plan 2008-11 attached at appendix 1 to this report and agree that full council be recommended to approve the plan.

Local Government Act, 1972 Section 100D (As amended)
List of “Background Papers” used in the preparation of this report

None

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The Home Office recently reviewed Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships (CDRPs) and embedded new requirements in the Police and Justice Act 2006. The requirement to produce a 3 year Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership Plan (CDRP Plan) remained in place. However, rather than this remain static local areas had to refresh the priorities and delivery plan that the document is based on every year.
- 3.2 This annual review was based on the new requirement for Local Strategic Partnerships to produce a **Strategic Assessment** – priorities identified in partnership, through a thorough analysis of data, including consultation data, about crime and anti-social behaviour in the Borough.
- 3.3 The contents of the CDRP Plan were also clarified. It now must include:
- Priorities arising from the Strategic Assessment
 - A performance management framework, illustrating how performance against these priorities will be measured
 - A delivery plan, including partners’ contributions and how they will be resourced
 - Details of how community engagement fed in to the development of the plan
- 3.4 There is a further requirement to produce a summary document, whose content is specified. We are required to publish this by the end of July, in a format that makes it accessible to diverse communities. This requirement has been met by the publication of our Community Safety Booklet.

4. CONTENT AND DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

4.1 Content Overview

The main content of the plan, in accordance with statute and Home Office guidance, is: -

- Introduction by CDRP chairs
- Links to the Community Plan and LAA
- Our Approach
- Our Performance (against previous plan)
- Overview of Priorities and Consultation
- Details of each priority with targets
- Partnership Delivery Structure

4.2 Development Process

The Living Safely CPAG has overseen the development of the plan over the past 10 months. The diagram below shows the development process



4.3 Priorities and Cross Cutting Themes

In terms of crime types our priorities for 2008/09 are:

- Acquisitive Crime - particularly robbery, burglary and motor vehicle crime
- Anti-Social Behaviour – including arson, graffiti, and rowdy behaviour
- Class A Drug Supply – enforcement against drug dealing
- Hate crime and incidents – i.e. incidents where the victim is targeted because of their race/ethnicity, religion/belief, gender/gender identity, disability, age, sexual orientation or any other actual or perceived difference
- Resilience and Counter-Terrorism – ensuring our communities are resistant to violent extremism
- Violent Crime - particularly domestic violence, sexual violence and alcohol related violence

In addition to these we have identified a number of cross-cutting themes:

- Criminal justice – ensuring offenders are effectively brought to justice
- Drug use - services for those with drug and alcohol problems
- Reducing reoffending - providing effective services to ex-offenders
- Juvenile crime – aiming to reduce reoffending by young people and the victimisation of young people.

4.4 Consultation and Resident Engagement

Consultation on a draft plan took place between 19th June and 3rd July 2008. This included presentations at all DMTs and CMT, one to one meetings with key partners and extensive distribution to Living Safely CPAG, Programme Boards, key police and voluntary sector partners and CSS staff. Over 50 individual responses were received and the plan has been redrafted to reflect this feedback.

In addition, whilst the plan is going through the approval process it will be placed on the Tower Hamlets website as a draft and residents will be invited to comment.

5. FURTHER WORK

Between August and October 2008 there will be a Governance Review of the Partnership Structure (everything from the CDRP (Living Safely CPAG) downwards) by the Home Office. The new structure will be implemented from April 2009. The next Strategic Assessment, for 2009/10, will be agreed in November 2008. In addition the Partnership is going to develop a Strategic Assessment dedicated to the Olympics – we will be the first of the 5 Boroughs to do this work.

6. COMMENTS OF THE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

- 6.1 There are no specific financial implications emanating from this report (which seeks Cabinet approval to the Crime and Drugs Reduction Partnership Plan 2008-11) as all aspects of the delivery of the plan will be contained from within existing budgets.

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

- 7.1 The Crime & Disorder Act 1998 (as amended by the Police & Justice Act 2006) provides that each borough should formulate and implement a strategy for the reduction of crime and disorder (including anti social behaviour and other behaviour adversely affecting the local environment); and) a strategy for combating the misuse of drugs, alcohol and other substances in the area.
- 7.2 Prior to formulating the strategy the responsible authorities must carry out a review of the levels and patterns of crime and disorder in the area, prepare an analysis of the results of that review and publish a report of that analysis.
- 7.3 The strategy should include the objectives of the authorities together with long and short term performance targets for measuring whether the objectives are achieved.
- 7.4 It is a statutory requirement that the strategy is kept under review each 3 year period for the purposes of monitoring its effectiveness and making any necessary changes that are necessary or expedient. This report fulfils the statutory requirements.

8. EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 The evidence shows that both economically disadvantaged groups and BME communities are disproportionately impacted by crime. The strategy also addresses issues such as hate crime and domestic violence, which impact disproportionately on particular groups. The strategy is therefore expected to make an important contribution to reducing inequality in the borough. Equalities implications of any interventions form a key part of any project planning and associated services regularly carry out Equalities Impact Assessments.

9. ANTI-POVERTY IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 There is a proven link between poverty and crime, with the poorest in society disproportionately affected both as victims and offenders. Reduction in crime is associated with increasing inward investment and increased prosperity.

10. SUSTAINABLE ACTION FOR A GREENER ENVIRONMENT

- 10.1 The strategy includes actions which will improve the local environment and work to ensure more sustainable solutions to designing out crime are incorporated into new developments. The implementation of Better Tower Hamlets Teams is developing strong partnerships between Police, Anti Social Behaviour and Enviro-crime enforcement services which will reduce littering, graffiti, illegal dumping and abandoned cars.

11. RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

- 11.1 Risks centre around the non-delivery of targets due to reduction in resourcing nationally or locally. There is also the risk that, in the life of the strategy, new crime priorities may emerge. To this end, detailed plans will be agreed annually, based on a review of outcomes, resources and local circumstances.

12. APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership Plan 2008-11

This page is intentionally left blank

APPENDIX 1

Stronger and Safer Communities

Tower Hamlets Partnership

Crime and Drugs Reduction Strategy
2008 – 2011

Year 1: April 2008 – March 2009

Cutting Crime  **TOGETHER**

The Tower Hamlets Partnership

Contents

Introduction - Our Crime Reduction Blueprint	3
Our Community Plan and Local Area Agreement	4
Our Approach	5
Our Performance 2005 – 08 (summary)	7
Our Priorities 2008 – 09 and Delivery Plan	9
Serious Acquisitive Crime	10
Anti-Social Behaviour	12
Class A Drug Supply	15
Hate crime	17
Violent Crime	19
Resilience and Counter-Terrorism	23
Drug use	25
Reducing Reoffending	27
Juvenile Crime	29
Criminal justice	31
Appendix 1: Partnership Delivery Structure	32
Appendix 2: Our Performance: 2005 - 2008	35

Introduction - Our Crime Reduction Blueprint

Councillor Abdal Ullah
Lead Member for Cleaner, Safer, Greener

Residents repeatedly say that crime is their number 1 priority for the borough. Those of us working with our communities know that reducing crime is an essential part of enabling them to meet their full potential. Resident and partners are united in a view that crime, anti social behaviour and drugs will not be tolerated in Tower Hamlets.

By working together we have had considerable success in reducing crime – overall crime in Tower Hamlets has dropped over 24% between 2003/04 and 2007/08. Yet concern about crime, as measured by our Annual Residents' Survey, has increased over the past 2 years. This means that we still have more challenging work to do. We will continue to do whatever is necessary to stop unacceptable behaviour, and improve the quality of life for everyone living or working in the borough.

This document is our blueprint for reducing crime, anti social behaviour and drugs. It is a delivery strategy for *Our Community Plan* and *Local Area Agreement*. The issues are complex so we have developed a multi-faceted response, an overview of which is in the section on *Our Approach*.

We have:

- Looked at *Our Performance* over the past year, to improve our accountability to local people.
- Developed Our Priorities for the borough over the next year, based on data from across the partnership.
- Worked in Partnership to produce Our Action Plan for delivering a stronger and safer Tower Hamlets.

It has been developed with the involvement of a wide range of partners including residents, police, council, fire service, probation, health, voluntary, faith and community groups, and businesses. To ensure that our strategy is responsive we will refresh it every year. We welcome public scrutiny and will publicly report on our performance, at Local Area Partnership meetings and ward panels, and in East End Life.

We have the highest aspirations for our communities. Working together to deliver this strategy will help these be realised.

Our Community Plan and Local Area Agreement

The vision of the *2020 Community Plan* is to “*improve the quality of life for everyone who lives and works in the borough.*” To turn this vision into reality, the Plan is split into four themes – each designed to respond to the challenges and opportunities in the Borough and deliver lasting improvements for local people.

The four themes are:

- A Great Place to Live
- A Prosperous Community
- A Safe and Supportive Community
- A Healthy Community

Underpinning all these themes is a desire to build **One Tower Hamlets** - a borough where people have the same opportunities as their neighbours. This is our commitment to make all sure all of our work responds to the wishes of individual communities.

The Crime and Drugs Reduction Strategy is a key delivery plan for the Safe and Supportive Communities theme of the 2020 Community Plan. The Safe and Supportive Community theme is at the heart of our vision for Tower Hamlets and reflects our belief that cutting crime and anti-social behaviour is about improving quality of life. Our supportive approach enables everyone, particularly young people, to fulfil their potential, channelling their energies in a positive way.

Within the Safe and Supportive Community theme there are 3 priorities:

- Tackling and preventing crime
- Empowering older and vulnerable people and supporting families
- Focussing on early intervention

The Crime and Drugs Reduction Strategy cuts across all these priorities, but is the key delivery plan for the first, tackling and preventing crime. This will be delivered by:

- Reducing crime and promoting successes effectively to reduce concerns about crime
- Reducing re-offending through holistic intervention with all who become involved with the criminal justice system
- Making crime prevention a key element of all service planning through implementing Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, as the statutory basis upon which partners throughout the public sector are required to consider the impact on crime of their wider decision making.

The strategy recognises the abuse of older people and other vulnerable adults is a key community safety issue requiring co-ordinated partnership work.

We will use our **Local Area Agreement 2008-11** to deliver the first 3 years of the 2020 Community Plan. The Crime and Drugs Reduction Strategy is also the delivery plan for the crime, anti social behaviour and drugs elements of this.

Our Approach

We recognise that inequality and crime are strongly linked. As such, reducing crime is inextricably linked with improving services across the board – such as housing, schools and healthcare.

Alongside this long term work we are employing a range of complimentary approaches to specifically reduce crime, anti social behaviour, drugs and concern about crime. The table below gives an overview of these:

	Working with Our Community	Working with Offenders and Those at Risk of Re/Offending	Working in Neighbourhoods
Short Term Provide an effective response to crime when it happens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Provide accessible and effective crime reporting ▪ Support and protect victims and witnesses ▪ Feed back when action is taken ▪ Ensure effective multi agency responses to the abuse of vulnerable people 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Provide effective investigation and enforcement ▪ Bring offenders to justice ▪ Utilise the full range of available tools and powers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Deliver neighbourhood enforcement and policing ▪ Focus local services in hotspots
Medium Term Prevent crime happening and stop it from happening again	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Community led activity ▪ Communicate our successes ▪ Deliver advice, information and training ▪ Work proactively with repeat victims and vulnerable people ▪ Utilise community intelligence ▪ Raising awareness in the community of adult protection issues, encouraging recognition, reporting, and intervention 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Resettle ex-offenders ▪ Proactively work with those at risk and their families ▪ Deliver diversionary programmes ▪ Provide effective drugs and alcohol services ▪ Utilise restorative approaches ▪ Provide parenting programmes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Improve the environment in hotspots ▪ Develop CCTV capacity further ▪ Manage estates and neighbourhoods ▪ Design out crime
Long Term Remove the causes of crime	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Increase community cohesion by bringing residents from different backgrounds together ▪ Support and engage parents and carers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Establish an early prevention / intervention approach 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Regenerate neighbourhoods

Across all this work we will make use of our 4 hallmarks of good practice:

1. We will actively seek the views of local people and respond to them
2. We will focus our approaches to the needs of the borough's diverse communities
3. We will target our work on the basis of a strategic assessment of our priorities
4. We will achieve value for money by focusing our resources on those things that most effectively achieve successful outcomes

Our Performance: 2005 - 2008

Every year, our Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership considers evidence from partners and the views of residents in setting targets about how well it expects services to perform. Services in Tower Hamlets are accountable to the local community for their performance. We aim to regularly feedback to residents on how we are progressing. This section gives an overview of the Tower Hamlets Partnership's performance for the last 3 years, in each priority area.

In summary, out of our 47 key targets we:

- Successfully achieved 30 (64%)
- Failed to achieve 8 (17%)
- Made good progress on 9 (19%) but with further work to be done

In terms of performance in each of our priority areas:

- **Crimes against property**
In spite of excellent reductions in vehicle crime, robbery, residential burglary and theft from the person between 2005 and 2008, serious acquisitive crime remains slightly higher than the average of both our group of similar boroughs nationally and London. That is a gap we intend to close further.
- **Violent crime**
Over the past 3 years we have seen reductions in violence (defined as common assault, actual bodily harm and grievous bodily harm) in the borough. We have also seen a significant improvement in sanctioned detection rates for both domestic violence and rape, and a reduction in the time taken before victims of domestic violence seek help from a specialist agency. Tower Hamlets Police are in the top 5 in London for their response to Domestic Violence and are an example of best practice in responding to cases of forced marriage.
Violent crime remains slightly higher than the average of both our group of similar boroughs nationally and London but again the gap is closing.
- **Anti-Social Behaviour**
Progress has been made in reducing arson and criminal damage, and we have successfully stepped up our use of Anti Social Behaviour Orders and Acceptable Behaviour Contracts. 87% of those given ABCs in Tower Hamlets did not go on to enter the Criminal Justice System. The borough has become cleaner and abandoned vehicles are removed more effectively. However perception of anti social behaviour amongst residents remains high when compared to the rest of London.
- **Drug Misuse and Drug Related Crime**
We have significantly stepped up our enforcement action against those who supply and misuse drugs, to the point where more people were arrested for Class A supply and possession offences in Tower Hamlets last year than in any other London Borough. We have also been successful at involving drug misusing offenders in drugs services. We

have increased the number of young people and adult problematic drug users in treatment. We have improved our ability to retain drug users in treatment for longer times.

However, we need to make our services even more accessible, because there are still not enough adult problematic drug users accessing treatment.

- **Hate Crime**

The proportion of sanctioned detections for race and homophobic related crime has increased. The strategy predicted an increase followed by a reduction in reported hate crime. This has materialised, with a significant reduction in reports in 2007/08 compared with 2006/07. A similar trend has been seen across London.

- **Youth Crime**

We have seen a decrease in the proportion of young people who receive custodial sentences. However, the number of people entering the Youth Justice system for the first time has increased slightly. We have seen good reductions in reoffending, particularly from referral order panels and we would like this rate to reduce further, to bring us into line with other Boroughs. Overall, most targets were met and substantial improvements were made on those items where targets were missed.

- **Concern about Crime**

Surveys show a significant reduction in residents' perception of key types of anti social behaviour as a problem. Examples include young people hanging around, people using or dealing drugs, damage to vehicles and property. However perception of these areas as a problem is still high compared to the rest of London. In addition, we have seen an increase in residents' concern about crime, and a decrease in their feelings of safety at night.

Full details of performance against all targets can be found in Appendix 1 at the end of this document.

Our Priorities: 2008 - 2009

The Partnership set priorities for this year during a process called the **Strategic Assessment**. This involved a comprehensive gathering and analysis of data from across the partnership, with contributing agencies including the Police, Council, Fire Service, Registered Social Landlords and Victim Support.

Community views also played a key part in developing our priorities. We analysed data from all consultation exercises undertaken in the last 3 years. In addition in 2007/08 we conducted 10 focus groups with diverse groups within the community to identify concerns and appropriate responses. We also conducted a survey with 1,100 residents asking them about key issues, including anti social behaviour, policing and hate crime. Analysis of these fed into our Strategic Assessment which was then discussed by residents at our Police and Community Safety Board.

The strategic assessment and the priorities for 2008/09 were agreed by the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership.

In terms of **Crime Types** our priorities are:

- Acquisitive Crime - particularly robbery, burglary and motor vehicle crime
- Anti-Social Behaviour – including arson, graffiti, and rowdy behaviour
- Class A Drug Supply – enforcement against drug dealing
- Hate crime and incidents – i.e. incidents where the victim is targeted because of their race/ethnicity, religion/belief, gender/gender identity, disability, age, sexual orientation or any other actual or perceived difference
- Resilience and Counter-Terrorism – ensuring our communities are resistant to violent extremism
- Violent Crime - particularly domestic violence, sexual offences and alcohol related violence

In addition to these we have identified a number of **Cross-Cutting Themes**:

- Criminal justice – ensuring offenders are effectively brought to justice
- Drug use - services for those with drug and alcohol problems
- Reducing reoffending - providing effective services to ex-offenders
- Juvenile crime – aiming to reduce reoffending by young people and the victimisation of young people.

These priorities are well owned by local experts at the appropriate **Programme Board** (see Appendix 1 below). Programme Boards are responsible for making change happen on the ground and have such developed a **Delivery Plan** for their priority. Where appropriate these delivery plans have been made publicly available.

Acquisitive Crime

This work focuses on residential burglary, robbery and motor vehicle crime. Using an intelligence and evidence based approach, we have targeted this work in areas where it will make most difference, such as around markets and transport hubs. Public transport specialists such as Transport for London and British Transport Police will be working even more closely to ensure people are safe on journeys in Tower Hamlets. Organisations with a large number of commuters will be particularly engaged in this work including businesses and schools, who will continue to take an active role in travel planning and monitoring around peak periods.

We will continue to invest heavily in preventing this type of crime by designing out the environmental factors that make an area vulnerable. This includes influencing the way that new developments impact upon people's safety. We will use CCTV to uncover hidden criminal activity and identify perpetrators, for example by using facial recognition technology.

We recognise that perpetrators of these crimes are often repeat offenders, and there is a well established drugs link to acquisitive crime. We will therefore work closely with colleagues in projects such as the Priority Prolific Offenders Scheme and the Drug Intervention Programme.

To help residents and businesses to feel safer, we will be clear about actions they or we can take, and will provide an enhanced service to those who are repeat victims. We will work closely with groups who are vulnerable to particular types of crime, such as university students, older people and businesses. The community's role, for example, participating in Neighbourhood Watch schemes, will be crucial in helping us achieve our ambitious targets in this area.

Communications

We will effectively communicate our work on acquisitive crime, including: -

- Promotion of "immobilise" for registering valuable goods
- Promotion of Neighbourhood Watch
- Surveys on concern about victimisation
- Engaging in roadshows and days of action
- Press strategy and local news stories
- Provision of information and advice around acquisitive crime, through the community safety booklet and other regular media announcements

One Tower Hamlets

We will ensure our work in this area is focussed on the needs of diverse communities. We know that young people, including students, are more likely to be victims of certain acquisitive crimes, and therefore have a strong focus on this. This includes working with schools and enabling safer transport arrangements for young people. We also acknowledge the protection of vulnerable adults as a priority here and continue to fund crime prevention improvements to vulnerable adults' property.

Performance Information

Local Area Agreement Indicator

No.	Indicator	Baseline	Targets		
			08/09	09/10	10/11
NI16	Serious Acquisitive Crime Rate	35.5 per 1,000 population (06/07)	-4.2%	-1.9%	-1.9%

Other Key Indicators

No.	Indicator	Baseline	Targets		
			08/09	09/10	10/11
AC1	Residential Burglary	15.98 per 1,000 population	-2.5%	-1%	-1%
AC2	Theft from motor vehicle	14.1 per 1,000 population	-7.9%	-3%	-2%
AC3	Theft of motor vehicle	5.5 per 1,000 population	-1%	-1%	-1%
AC4	Personal robbery	6.42 per 1,000 population	-1%	-2.5%	-2.5%
AC5	Serious acquisitive crime sanction detection rate	9.8%	11.7%	Not set	Not set

Key Document

- [Acquisitive Crime Programme Board Delivery Plan](#)

Anti-Social Behaviour

We aim to tackle anti-social behaviour (ASB) in all its forms, working through local frontline services, such as the Better Tower Hamlets Teams, introducing Neighbourhood Enforcement Officers and increasing the visibility of all our partners in local neighbourhoods through events like Estate Action Weekends on Crime and Grime. By having more face to face contact with residents, listening to their concerns and feeding back with factual information and the action we have taken to help, we aim to increase their confidence and tackle concern about anti-social behaviour. We will have a particular focus on young people, with voluntary and community groups providing diversionary activities which bring youth into contact with older generations. We will target specialist resources where necessary, such as providing a dedicated Arson Taskforce, and a graffiti "tag identification system".

As for those causing ASB, we investigate reports, taking statements and investing in cutting edge evidence gathering techniques, in order to build cases and bring perpetrators to justice. This will mean using the most effective and proportionate tool to resolve the problem and may include things such as Acceptable Behaviour Contracts (ABCs) and Anti-Social Behaviour Orders (ASBOs). On occasion, we may consult with the community on the use of Good Behaviour Zones or Drinking Control Zones to disperse people from an area and divert them into other activities. Tools like restorative justice will become increasingly important, as we seek interventions that bring about changes in attitude and make a long-term difference. Working with those causing the problem, alongside their family and community, we aim to bring people together, and prevent the same thing happening again.

The success of this work is heavily predicated on the work of partners such as schools, Tower Hamlets Homes and social landlords. High quality interaction between services will enable us to improve standards across the board. We are also reliant upon the help of residents - establishing a good two way communication between them and the agencies that are there to help.

Communications

We will effectively communicate our work on anti social behaviour including: -

- Advertising
- Produce and distribute a quarterly e-bulletin containing news about the work we are doing to tackle anti-social behaviour and information about how residents can get involved
- Media relations and engagement work including PR event
- Provision of useful safety tips, contacts and key information and advice around anti-social behaviour, through the community safety booklet and other regular media announcements
- Develop and run a series of community events, supported by leaflet drops, to tackle attitudes to ASB
- Roll-out communications campaign to raise awareness of reporting ASB, the Council reporting line, and the function it serves
- We will consider advertising ASBOs and other enforcement actions in a sensitive, appropriate and proportionate way

One Tower Hamlets

We will ensure our work in this area is focussed on the needs of diverse communities. This means making our reporting systems accessible to all and being aware of how our use of tools and powers affects different groups. We know that young men are overrepresented as recipients of enforcement action and are taking action on this through the Council's Gender Equality Scheme. We are careful not to stigmatise young people, to understand the concerns of older people and to work inter-generationally to build relationships. When we hold events and engage with families and the community, we will collect equalities monitoring information and review who we engage with. We recognise that vulnerable adults are overrepresented in victim and perpetrator cohorts and will ensure that support is provided, if necessary alongside any enforcement action taken.

Performance Information

Local Area Agreement Indicators

No.	Indicator	Baseline	Targets		
			08/09	09/10	10/11
NI.21	Dealing with local concerns about anti - social behaviour and crime by the local council and police	To be baselined (New Indicator)	Not set	TBC	TBC
NI.33	Arson incidents	50.61%	49.1%	47.7%	46.2%

Other Key Indicators

No.	Indicator	Baseline	Targets		
			08/09	09/10	10/11
NI.17	Perceptions of anti social behaviour	49% (07/08)	44%	43%	41%
NI.22	Perceptions of parents not taking responsibility for the behaviour of their children in the area	81% (07/08 Outturn)	73%	71%	69%
NI.23	Perceptions that people in the area are not treating one another with respect and consideration	53.6% (07/08 Outturn)	50%	47%	44%
NI.24	Satisfaction with the way the police and local council dealt with antisocial behaviour	To be baselined (New Indicator)	Not set	TBC	TBC
NI.25	Satisfaction of different groups with the way the police and local council dealt with anti social behaviour	To be baselined (New Indicator)	Not set	TBC	TBC
NI.27	Understanding of local concerns about anti social behaviour and crime by the local council and police	To be baselined (New Indicator)	Not set	TBC	TBC
NI.41	Perceptions of drunk or rowdy behaviour as a problem	41.8% (07/08 Outturn)	40%	38%	36%

Key Documents

- [Anti Social Behaviour Programme Board Delivery Plan](#)
- [Anti Social Behaviour Procedure](#)
- [Anti Social Behaviour Performance Report](#)
- [Weekly Anti Social Behaviour briefing](#)

Class A Drug Supply

Drug dealing consistently emerges as Tower Hamlets residents' biggest concern. By showing that we are taking action against drug dealers, we hope to help ensure this is less of a problem for our residents. Our new educational programme to de-glamorise the image of drug dealing amongst young people is a particularly important preventative measure. This involves creating a DVD and lesson plan pack, which will be piloted in secondary schools and act as a sustainable resource for use by teachers and those working with young people.

Our neighbourhood drug dealing project is a key example of how our work in this area is community led. We respond to areas where drug dealing is very visible and makes residents feel unsafe. When an area is consistently identified as a problem by partners and the community and has intelligence and evidence to support this, problem solving experts devise a range of enforcement tactics to catch offenders and confiscate their drugs and their earnings from them. This is where the support of the community is most needed, to provide intelligence and evidence through which we can bring offenders to justice.

We want to make it more difficult to buy drugs in Tower Hamlets. Our extensive market analysis and intelligence gathering enables us to identify and disrupt the market for drugs. We also need to adapt our tactics to the changing nature of dealing.

Communications

We will effectively communicate our work on drug supply including: -

- Publicise victim support available for those reporting drug crime
- Stamp Out Drug Dealing campaign
- Zero tolerance of drug dealing marketing
- Tackling youth perceptions of drug dealing
- Monthly data distribution
- Senior level briefings
- Ensure regular and consistent publicity of partnership drug enforcement activities
- Develop and run a series of community events, supported by leaflet drops, to raise awareness of how to report drug use and dealing
- Roll-out communications campaign to raise awareness of how to report drug use and dealing
- Provision of key information and advice around drug use and supply, through the community safety booklet and other regular media announcements
- Advertise drug seizure figures, arrests and other enforcement actions in a proportionate way

One Tower Hamlets

We will ensure our work in this area is focussed on the needs of diverse communities. We have a good understanding of the profiles of different drugs markets, which enables us to target resources accordingly. We take a preventative approach by targeted work to change attitudes of young people.

Performance Information

Local Area Agreement Indicator

No.	Indicator	Baseline	Targets		
			08/09	09/10	10/11
NI.42	Perceptions of drug use or drug dealing as a problem	68% (06/07 LGUSS)	65%	62%	60%

Other Key Indicators

No.	Indicator	Baseline	Targets		
			08/09	09/10	10/11
NI.38	Drug related (Class a drugs) offending rate	Delayed 09/10	None	TBC	TBC
DS1	Class A Possession Arrests	439	461	Not set	Not set
DS2	Class A Supply Arrests	189	227 (+20%)	Not set	Not set
DS3	Number of Drugs Act Search Warrant Executed	200	210 (+5%)	Not set	Not set

Key Document

- [Drug Use and Supply Programme Board Delivery Plan](#)

Hate Crime and Incidents

We take an integrated approach to tackling hate crime. We take all forms of hate seriously, whatever the motivation of the perpetrators or identity of the victim(s). Our strategy for tackling hate focuses on three key areas

- Ensuring victims get the best possible protection and support
- Working together to hold perpetrators accountable
- Prevention through promoting awareness, encouraging reporting and building community cohesion

We promote and encourage reporting of hate crime, providing victims with a range of accessible options. Our third party reporting project provides victims with the opportunity to report in confidence at safe, community locations.

We provide support and advocacy to victims and vulnerable witnesses of hate crime to help them live safely and independently in their homes through specialist voluntary sector victim support workers and the Council's Victim and Witness Support Team. Our Hate Crime Victims Needs Research Project will ensure that the most vulnerable victims in our community can be heard and understood and that services can be developed to meet their needs.

We make every effort to ensure that perpetrators of hate crime are held accountable for their actions and the Police and Council have set targets to improve performance in this area. We monitor and manage responses to cases across agencies. We also work closely with faith groups and the inter-faith forum.

Our Hate Incidents Panel ensures that key agencies work together to manage responses to hate incidents that gives a clear message to offenders that Tower Hamlets is No Place for Hate.

We will invest in building the capacity of individuals and communities to challenge hate and build preventative approaches through our Hate Crime Champions project which will be extended to involve young people in positive activities to prevent crime and promote community cohesion.

Communications

Our No Place for Hate Campaign links to national and international campaigns and community festivals promoting community cohesion and a zero tolerance approach to all forms of hate.

One Tower Hamlets

Hate crime is a manifestation of prejudice and discrimination, where the perpetrators hostility against an identifiable group of people is a key factor in determining who is victimised. Taking robust and effective action to tackle hate crime is a key element of wider diversity and equality strategies. Our hate crime strategy focuses on the needs and concerns of people from all communities of interest.

Performance Information

No.	Indicator	Baseline	Targets		
			08/09	09/10	10/11
HC1	Increase the percentage of enforcement action in Hate Crime cases	35%	70%	80%	90%
HC2	Racist crime sanctioned detection rate	35%	38%	Not set	Not set
HC3	Homophobic crime sanctioned detection rate	37.8%	44%	Not set	Not set

Key Documents

- [Race and Hate Crime Inter Agency Forum Delivery Plan](#)
- [Hate Crime Manual](#)

Violent Crime

Our approach to violent crime is focussed on developing targeted responses to different forms of violence, including domestic violence, sexual violence and alcohol related violence. This includes work specifically addressing knife crime. Work on youth on youth violence is lead by the YOT Management Board, for which see the Juvenile Crime section below. Our partners, such as the PCT, Victim Support, Tower Hamlets Homes, housing associations and licensed premises interact with us through a range of fora. Support and advocacy is made available to victims of all forms of violence.

Alcohol Related Violence

We recognise that the majority of violence offences have a link to alcohol and that many of our violent crime hotspots are located near licensed premises. We are currently developing an alcohol arrest referral scheme to enable us to provide a tailored response to this problem. We will build on the strong partnership between the Council Licensing department, police and owners of licensed businesses.

We seek to prevent alcohol related violence wherever we can, through advance planning, for example around major events or for safe disposal of glass bottles. We aim to be a visible force in the Borough, present at key events and sending out a clear message that violence will not be tolerated. When violence does occur, we will provide a robust response to perpetrators, particularly in the case of repeat offenders. Our resources are always targeted on the locations and offenders known to be associated with violence.

Sexual Violence

Our work on sexual violence focuses on encouraging victims to report rape and sexual offences to the police, and encouraging take up of specialist support available through the Haven Sexual Assault Referral Centre, in Whitechapel. Some services, such as counselling, can be made available anonymously. We will focus on providing training to key professionals such as health service providers to increase their understanding of the issues involved.

Domestic violence

30% of reported violent crime in Tower Hamlets is domestic violence. The police deal with 4,000 incidents a year. Both adults and children are affected, and domestic violence is a major cause of homelessness, as well as a factor in a high proportion of child protection cases. It is increasingly recognised that there is likely to be a significant hidden incidence of violence against elderly people and others who can be perceived as particularly vulnerable or dependent – for example, people with learning disabilities. Accordingly, adult and children's social services are key partners in this work.

We have adopted the government definition of domestic violence that acknowledges the range of abusive and controlling behaviours involved, and cultural aspects such as forced marriage.

We aim to prevent domestic violence and reduce the harm it causes by developing a co-ordinated community response that supports and protects victims, holds abusers to account and reduces social tolerance through awareness raising campaigns and community education activities.

We have developed a range of domestic violence services in the borough including advocacy for victims, provided by Tower Hamlets Victim Support Service; refuges; floating support; safety measures to enable them to remain in their homes if they choose to, and support for mothers and children to help them recover. Our services include specialist provision for Asian women and children. We are committed to continuously improve our response to victims' complex range of needs by investing in service reviews and evaluations. We will also explore the development of a Family Justice Centre to deliver a "one stop" service.

Domestic violence can involve very high levels of risk to both adults and children. Our Safety Planning Panel brings together key agencies to manage the risks. We have established a joint sub-group with the Local Safeguarding Children Board to focus on the specific needs of children and will be implementing new multi-agency procedures to ensure that a consistent approach is taken to assessing the risks they face and intervening to protect them when necessary.

The police will continue to take a robust approach to offenders by implementing a proactive arrest policy in domestic violence cases. We are committed to developing a community based provision to help perpetrators change their behaviour.

We aim to reduce tolerance of violence through our "Domestic Abuse. No Excuse." campaign and through outreach work at festivals and events, sending a clear message that violence will not be tolerated. We will continue to run our award winning "Warrior Women" holistic personal safety training course and are planning further development of the programme to get external accreditation.

Communications

We will effectively communicate our work on violence including:

- Campaigns focussed on key events and seasonal violence trends such as Valentine's Day (Domestic Violence) and Christmas (Alcohol Related Violence).
- Outreach activities at community festivals and events.
- Providing a range of accessible public information on services for victims of domestic violence and rape and sexual assault.
- Prevention and awareness publicity around rape and sexual offences
- Awareness raising/information exchange on alcohol related violence.
- Regular and consistent publicity of partnership work to tackle alcohol-related violence

- Communications campaign to reduce tolerance of domestic abuse, and to raise awareness of support services, rolled out in line with seasonal trends
- Video and communications campaign about knife crime, targeted at young people

One Tower Hamlets

We know that violence impacts differently on different groups, and target our responses accordingly. For example, men are more likely to be victims of violence on the streets, while women are more at risk in their homes. Domestic violence is in itself a manifestation of gender inequality, with women representing the majority of the most vulnerable victims. As a result, responding to the needs of women is our priority, though we ensure that services are also available to male victims and we provide services for same sex domestic violence victims. Domestic violence is seen across all communities, but the profile of the issues is different. We ensure that our work in this area is focussed on the needs of diverse communities through addressing specific issues of concern such as the needs of victims who are subject to immigration control and work to tackle forced marriage. We ensure that all our service delivery is accessible and appropriate by monitoring service take up, and we use Equalities Impact Assessments to review our performance.

Performance Information

Local Area Agreement Indicator

No.	Indicator	Baseline	Targets		
			08/09	09/10	10/11
NI15	Serious violent crime rate	Will be baselined on 08/09 data	None	TBC	TBC

Other Indicators

No.	Indicator	Baseline	Targets		
			08/09	09/10	10/11
NI.20	Assault with injury crime rate	To be baselined (New Indicator)	None	TBC	TBC
NI.26	Specialist support to victims of a serious sexual offence	Delayed 09/10	None	TBC	TBC
NI.28	Knife crime rate	2.16 per 1,000 of population	-6%	-2%	-1%
NI.29	Gun crime rate	81	-5%	-2%	-2%
NI.32	Repeat incidents of domestic violence	Delayed 09/08	None	TBC	TBC
NI.34	Domestic Violence – Murder	1	0	0	0
VC1	GBH Sanctioned Detections	To be baselined	None	TBC	TBC
VC2	Rape Sanctioned Detections	30.9%	35%	Not set	Not set
VC3	Domestic Sanctioned Detections	47.1%	47%	Not set	Not set
VC4	Average time taken before Domestic Violence is reported to a specialist service	3.85 years (07/08)	-9%	-11%	Not set

Key Documents

- [Violent Crime Programme Board Delivery Plan](#)
- [Domestic Violence Manual](#)
- [Alcohol Strategic Plan](#)
- [Adult Protection Manual and Procedures](#)

Resilience and Counter-Terrorism

This work is about recognising the threat to our communities of extremism in all its forms and specifically where it is linked to violence. We are committed to working with members of all of our communities to strengthen resilience to extremist messages and activities.

Work in this area will involve engaging with families and communities to: identify and address the causes of all forms of violent extremism and community tension; build up intelligence to stop violent extremist attacks and make effective plans in case of future incidents. We know that we cannot achieve these aims working in isolation and are committed to strengthening accountability and transparency. We will engage and debate with our communities on these issues, increasing our own understanding of the impact on residents of both extremism and our approach to tackling its links to violence. To make sure we are effective we will work closely with a variety of partners, including social landlords and PCT emergency planning professionals.

Communications

We will effectively communicate our work in this area including: -

- Dialogue with the community on key counter-terrorism issues
- Awareness raising
- Reassurance after incidents
- Consultation on Community Safety Zones
- Tailored local campaigns and contribution to central campaigns
- Presentations to businesses

One Tower Hamlets

We will ensure our work in this area is focussed on the needs of diverse communities. One example of this is our structured, managed and accountable approach to identifying those vulnerable to extremism. We use a variety of forums to engage with families and communities and ensure an ongoing dialogue about this work.

Performance Management

Local Area Agreement Indicator

No.	Indicator	Baseline	Targets		
			08/09	09/10	10/11
NI.35	Building Resilience to Violent Extremism	12/20 (07/08)	16	18	20

Other Key Indicators

No.	Indicator	Baseline	Targets		
			08/09	09/10	10/11
NI.36	Protection against terrorist acts	Will be baselined using 08/09 data	None	Not set	Not set
NI.37	Awareness of civil protection arrangements in the local area	Will be baselined using 08/09 data	None	Not set	Not set

Key Document

- [Resilience and Counter Terrorism Programme Board Delivery Plan](#)

Drug Use

An extensive and integrated range of drug rehabilitation services are provided in Tower Hamlets, including specialist services for particular users, for example Bangladeshi men, women and young people. The Harbour Recovery Centre, for example, is aimed at catching young non-injecting heroin users, predominantly from the Bangladeshi community, at an earlier stage in their drug-using careers. It is a residential detoxification and rehabilitation unit, which provides a specialist, culturally appropriate service. Our aim is to enable drug users to reintegrate in society. We also provide drug awareness advice and education, in some cases associated with existing events and projects.

Our alcohol work is pioneering, making strong links to health as well as to work around violence (see above). We recognise the link between drug and alcohol addiction and we know that alcohol misuse is a problem affecting a large number of people in the Borough. We have therefore significantly stepped up our approach to alcohol addiction, with a specialist partnership forum and detailed action plan around this work. Both the Drug and Alcohol work are predicated on strong links between the Drug and Alcohol Action Team (DAAT), Social Services and PCT. We are also further developing our links to mental health through the commissioning of a Dual Diagnosis service.

Our pro-active arrest policy on Class A drug supply has an impact on the demand for treatment. Significant numbers of drug using offenders are accessing our services. The Drug Intervention Programme is a key link for drug using offenders to access treatment, enabling the cause of their behaviour to be addressed. Events are also held to educate and raise awareness about addiction amongst professionals and the local community.

Communications

We will effectively communicate our work on drug treatment, including: -

- Drug education and awareness events and weeks
- Leaflets and publicity material
- Communities forum
- Service user and consultation groups e.g. the Young People's Advisory Group
- Representation on the Drug and Alcohol Action Team Board

One Tower Hamlets

We will ensure our work in this area is focussed on the needs of diverse communities. We know that the profile of drug users is different for different drugs and have therefore targeted interventions to meet the needs of different ethnicities and genders. One example of this is the specialist drug treatment service provision tailored for Muslim men.

Performance Management

Local Area Agreement Indicator

No.	Indicator	Baseline	Targets		
			08/09	09/10	10/11
NI.40	Drug users in effective treatment	1169	1263	1276	1289

Other Key Indicators

No.	Indicator	Baseline	Targets		
			08/09	09/10	10/11
NI 115	Substance misuse by young people	3% of young people frequently misusing substances	Not set	Not set	Not set
DAT 1	Reduced percentage of Drug Intervention Programme clients reoffending	13%	9%	Not set	Not set

Key Documents

- [Adult Drug Treatment Plan 08/09](#)
- [Young People's Substance Misuse Treatment Plan](#)
- [Dual Diagnosis Strategy](#)

Reducing Reoffending

Our vision is to ensure that every ex-offender, in or returning to the borough, has the right access to services. Delivering this involves taking a holistic approach, looking at families and relationships as well as health, substance misuse, education, skills, employment, accommodation, mental health, and financial matters. This requires work with between a wide array of partners, including the PCT, benefits agencies and housing agencies. This is not only about enabling access to these services but strengthening the services themselves. Our work is particularly targeted at offenders who are not currently provided for through statutory services – prisoners who are likely to return to Tower Hamlets in the near future. We also provide specialist services for particular types of offenders, such as sex workers and Priority Prolific Offenders.

Our innovative programme has been recognised as national best practice, and we are a Beacon Council for Reducing Reoffending in 2008/09.

Ex-offenders are at the core of this success, providing an empathetic response, through peer advisory and training programmes. We also recognise our role as an employer and encourage businesses and other partners to offer work experience and employment opportunities for ex-offenders. With the employment and training on offer, we hope to re-establish ex-offenders as productive citizens.

Communications

As part of our Beacon award we will effectively communicate our work on reducing reoffending regionally and nationally. We will also inform residents of this work and engage them in service development.

One Tower Hamlets

We have conducted an Equalities Impact Assessment of our Reducing Reoffending Strategy to ensure our work is focussed on the needs of diverse communities. Specific priorities include working with women female ex-offenders (through our worker dedicated to Holloway Prison and our Safe Exit scheme for women involved in prostitution) and Muslim ex-offenders (for who we have a dedicated caseworker, drugs treatment and Kormo Shaddin employment service).

We also recognise the links between vulnerability and offending and are working with partners to investigate these further and provide appropriate services.

Performance Management

Local Area Agreement Indicator

No.	Indicator	Baseline	Targets		
			08/09	09/10	10/11
NI18	Adult reoffending rates for those under probation supervision	Baseline expected Dec.08	None	TBC	TBC

Other Key Indicators

No.	Indicator	Baseline	Targets		
			08/09	09/10	10/11
NI30	Re-offending rate of prolific and priority offenders	31% (07/08 Outturn)	30%	30%	27%
NI14 3	Offenders under probation supervision living in settled and suitable accommodation at the end of their order or licence	73% (07/08 Outturn)	76%	79%	82%
NI14 4	Offenders under probation supervision in employment at the end of their order or licence	28% (07/08 Outturn)	31%	34%	37%

Key Documents

- [Reducing Reoffending Programme Board Delivery Plan](#)
- [Reducing Reoffending Strategy](#)
- [Reducing Reoffending Beacon Application](#)

Juvenile Crime

The earlier we can intervene in a young person's life, the more chance that we can prevent them from becoming involved in crime or anti-social behaviour. We also want to reduce the extent to which young people are victims of crime. Local and voluntary groups are in a prime position for identifying young people at risk and are proactive in referring young people to services that can help them. We work closely with schools and with services such as the Youth Intervention Programme (YIP) that work with young people who are having problems before they get into trouble, providing a range of interventions to address their needs and help them stay on the right track.

We know that some young people can be difficult to engage. That is why we go into the community with outreach services like the Rapid Response Team. They identify tensions arising on streets and mediate between groups to dispel them. The Youth Inclusion and Support Panel (YISP) offers a wide array of courses and opportunities, enabling us to provide positive direction to young people considered vulnerable to becoming offenders, in a way that is tailored to their needs.

Recognising the importance of families, we cross-refer from adult ex-offenders to their children and from young ex-offenders to their parents and siblings. We also take referrals from the Social Inclusion Panel. When we take action against a young person for crime or anti-social behaviour, we accompany this with work to prevent the problem reoccurring. Where appropriate, this will include remand fostering as an alternative to custody. We offer a support package to all young people who are given an ASBO, ABC or reprimand.

Communications

We will effectively communicate our work on juvenile crime including effectively promoting our successes

One Tower Hamlets

We will ensure our work in this area is focussed on the needs of diverse communities. One example is the race audit working group which seeks to tackle the disproportionate representation of the BME population in the Youth Justice System. Our restorative justice work helps to build cohesion between communities by helping perpetrators to understand the impact of their actions.

Performance Management

Local Area Agreement Indicator

No.	Indicator	Baseline	Targets		
			08/09	09/10	10/11
NI19	Rate of proven re-offending by young offenders	Target setting deferred	None	TBC	TBC

Other Key Indicators

No.	Indicator	Baseline	Targets		
			08/09	09/10	10/11
NI43	Young people within the Youth Justice System receiving a conviction in court who are sentenced to custody	8% (06/07 outturn)	5%	5%	5%
NI44	Ethnic composition of offenders on Youth Justice System disposals	Target setting deferred	TBC	TBC	TBC
NI45	Young offenders engagement in suitable education, employment or training	72.5% (06/07 outturn)	90%	90%	90%
NI46	Young offenders access to suitable accommodation	95.5% (06/07 Outturn)	95%	95%	95%
NI11 1	First time entrants to the Youth Justice System aged 10 – 17	336 (07/08 actuals for 3 quarters, aggregated to whole year)	-2%	-5%	Not set
YOT 1	Youth Violence	Baseline awaited.	-5.5%	-3%	-2%

Key Document

- [Youth Justice Plan 2008/09](#)
- [Children's Services Plans](#)

Criminal Justice

Currently chaired by the Police Borough Commander, the Borough Criminal Justice Group brings together those involved at different stages of the legal process. These partners work collectively to improve the number of offences brought to justice, providing speedier case closure, particularly where Priority Prolific Offenders are concerned. Protecting and assisting victims, particularly children and vulnerable victims, is key. Enabling victims and witnesses to have access to justice and improving the quality of their experience of the criminal justice system, is at the heart of this brief. We are addressing this by localising reporting sites, providing better information about prevention and how to report minor crimes, making the front counter service at police stations more accessible and ensuring excellent emergency response times.

Performance Management

This area of work is concerned with improving sanctioned detection rates for all crimes. It will therefore have a significant influence on targets such as acquisitive crime rate and serious violent crime rate. The work contributes to many of the targets outlined in preceding sections. Whilst this will be looked at in the relevant Programme Boards, issues relating to sanctioned detections specifically will be addressed through the Borough Criminal Justice Group.

Performance Management

No.	Indicator	Baseline	Target		
			08/09	09/10	10/11
AC1	Residential Burglary Sanctioned Detections	17.4%	16%	Not set	Not set
AC2	Robbery (Combined) Sanctioned Detections	14.3%	17%	Not set	Not set
AC3	Vehicle Crime Sanctioned Detections	7.6%	8%	Not set	Not set
AC4	Overall Tier 2 SD rate	9.80%	11.70 %	Not set	Not set
VC1	GBH Sanctioned Detections	To baseline on 08/09 data	Not set	Not set	Not set
VC2	Rape Sanctioned Detections	30.9%	35.00 %	Not set	Not set
VC3	Domestic Sanctioned Detections rate	47.1%	47.00 %	Not set	No set
VC4	Other Tier 1 Sanctioned Detections (other sexual offences)	No baseline as new indicator	32.00 %	Not set	Not set
VC5	Racial Sanctioned Detections	35%	38.00 %	Not set	Not set
VC6	Homophobic Sanctioned Detections	37.8%	44.00 %	Not set	Not set
VC7	Tier 3 Sanctioned Detections	No baseline as new indicator	29.00 %	Not set	Not set

Appendix 1: Partnership Delivery Structure

Overarching Framework

These are the key partnership structures that we work within: -

Partnership Board

This is a strategic group, responsible for giving overall direction. Its members include local Councillors and Chairs of each of the Delivery Groups, as well as major service providers in the Borough. It holds the Partnership to account and acts as the governing body of the partnership.

Local Area Partnerships (LAPs)

There are 8 Local Area Partnerships, driving local priorities and delivery. They provide a formal structure for resident involvement in local service provision.

Partnership Executive

Drives delivery of the Community Plan and Local Area Agreement (LAA)



Community Plan Delivery Groups

These deliver the Community Plan and LAA targets through cross partnership service improvements. There are 4 key themes in the community plan, each with their own delivery groups overseeing the achievement of priority outcomes: -

- A Great Place to Live
- Prosperous Communities
- Safe and Supportive Communities
- Healthy Communities

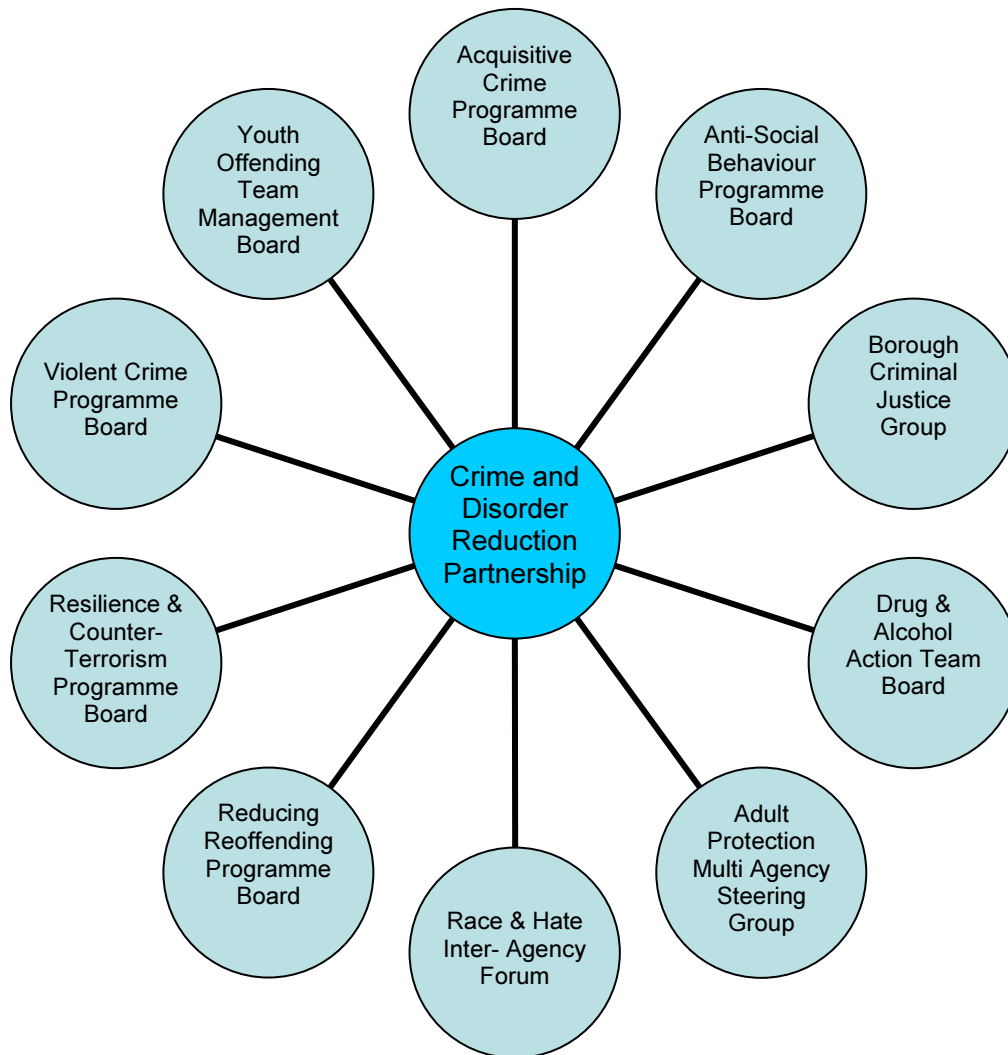
Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership

The Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) is a Community Plan Delivery Group sitting under the Safe and Supportive theme of the Community Plan. It is a statutory body, responsible for making funding decisions about the allocation of partnership grants and monitoring performance against targets.

The work of the CDRP is split into Programmes of work. Each Programme monitors a delivery plan, and holds multi-agency Board meetings on at least a quarterly basis. Boards are encouraged to engage with a wide variety of partners and membership is reviewed regularly.

Programme Structure

The following diagram depicts the key strategic partnership groups reporting to the CDRP. This structure is kept under review to ensure it is always meeting needs in the most efficient way.



Operational and Practitioner Groups

Many of our programmes of work have operational groups which task actions and make decisions about the day to day delivery of aspects of the work. The Cleaner, Safer Tasking Group is an overarching tasking group.

Consultation Groups

One of our key consultation groups is the Police and Community Safety Forum (PCSF). There are also consultation forums for specific issues or specific groups such as service user forums in our drugs work. In addition, we often set up focus groups to consult on emerging issues.

Further details of all three types of partnership groups can be found below.

Partnership Groups

Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP)		Strategic Groups		Operational & Practitioner Groups		Cleaner, Safer Tasking Group		Consultation Groups		Police and Community Safety Forum (PCSF)	
Acquisitive Crime	Acquisitive Crime Programme Board	Target Hardening Project Board						Serious Acquisitive Crime Sub-Group			
Anti-Social Behaviour	Anti-Social Behaviour Programme Board	Information Sharing Project Board (proposed)						Transport Project Board (proposed)			
Community Cohesion	Prevent, Resilience, Cohesion Programme Board	Social Landlords ASB Forum						Arson Project Board			
		Preventing Violent Extremism (PVE) Board						ASBO Certification Group			Counter-Terrorism East and West
Criminal Justice	Borough Criminal Justice Group							Community Cohesion Contingency Planning and Tension Monitoring Group			
Drugs & Alcohol	Drug and Alcohol Action Team (DAAT) Board	Drug Intervention Programme (DIP) Steering Group						Communities Forum			User & Carers Forums
		Joint Commissioning Group for Substance Misuse (JCG)						DIP Operations Group			Young People's Advisory Group
		Young People's Substance Misuse Joint Commissioning Group						Drug and Alcohol Network			
		Young People's Drug & Alcohol Education Forum						Drug Use and Supply Communications Forum			
		Young People's Substance Misuse Services Steering Group						Treatment Task Groups			
		Drug Use and Supply Programme Board									
		Alcohol Strategy Group									
Hate Crime	Race and Hate Inter-Agency Forum							Hate Crime Incidents Panel			
								Third Party Reporting Forum			
Reoffending Violence	Reducing Reoffending Programme Board	Violent Crime Programme Board						Safety Planning Panel			
		Alcohol Related Violence Forum									
		Rape and Sexual Offences Forum									
		Domestic Violence Forum									
Youth	Youth Offending Team (YOT) Management Board	Family Intervention & Support Programme (FISP)						Race Audit Working Group			
		Young Priority Prolific Offenders (YPPOs)						Youth Inclusion Programme (YIP)			
		Intensive Supervision & Surveillance Programme (ISSP)						Youth Inclusion & Support Panel (YISP)			
		Children and Young People's Strategy Group									

Appendix 2: Our Performance: 2005 - 2008

The tables below show our performance against the targets contained in our Crime and Drugs Reduction Strategy 2005 – 2008.

Key

✓	Action / target achieved or on schedule
✓?	Good progress towards action / target, but with some slippage or with further work to be done
✓x	Progress partially on schedule, but not all elements
x	Achievement of action / target not met
?	Unable to obtain data. In most instances these targets have been superseded.

Crimes against Property

2005-08 Target	Achieved?	Status
1. To reduce vehicle crime by 27.4%	No. However we did achieve a 24% reduction in this area. Vehicle crime remains key partnership priority area. We currently have a number initiatives in the borough designed to specifically reduce this crime type area. We are optimistic this will yield positive outcome during this financial year.	x
2. To sustain personal robbery levels at 6.5 per 1000 population	Yes, target achieved. We have reduced Personal robbery to 6 instances per 1000 population. This represents 7.7% reduction.	✓
3. Reduce commercial robbery by at least 9%	Yes, Commercial robbery has been reduced by 44%	✓
4. Reduce theft from person by 14.3%	Yes, we have achieved this.	✓
5. To sustain strong performance on burglary 18.5 per 1000 population.	Yes, the partnership has met and exceeded its Burglary target. We have achieved a 13.6% reduction. This equates to 15.98 per 1000 population.	✓

Violent crime

2005-08 Target	Achieved?	Status
6. Reduce GBH, ABH and Common Assault by 16.57% based on the 04/05 outturn.	No, however significant progress has been made over the three years. Based on 07/08 outturn there has been a 12.7% reduction on these indicators. The following actions have contributed to achieving this reduction. - Use of s30 Dispersal Orders - Roll out of Safer School Zones - Robust licensing enforcement - Enforcement of the Whitechapel Drinking Control Zone.	✓?
7. Reduce crimes involving firearms by at least 5%	Yes, gun enabled crime reduced by 32.2% in 07/08.	✓
8. Achieve a sanctioned detection rate of at least 25% for rape	Yes, rape sanctioned detection has increased to 30.9%.	✓
9. To undertake 100% of the 11 actions against domestic violence (BVI 225)	Yes, target has been achieved.	✓

Anti-Social Behaviour

2005-08 Target	Achieved?	Status
10. Reduce Criminal Damage by 18.8%	Yes, criminal damage has been reduced by 24.2%	✓
11. Reduce proportion of 999 calls the police that are related to disorder to 17%	Unable to obtain data.	?
12. Reduce the proportion of public land and assessed as having unacceptable levels of litter/vehicles 26%	Yes, this has been reduced to 23.2%	✓
13. Increase the proportion of abandoned vehicles removed within 24 hours to 90%	Yes, at present 99.12% of abandoned vehicles are being removed within 24 hrs.	✓
14. Reduce the number of non-accidental fires by at least 6%	Yes, target has been met within the first year of the strategy. Subsequent targets have since been put in place.	✓
15. To initiate 100% of investigations into cases of anti social behaviour within one working day for priority one cases and within two working days for priority two cases	No, 80% of reported ASB incidents have been investigated and initial contact made within the timescale specified.	✓?
16. To identify a perpetrator within 40% of priority one anti social behaviour cases	Unable to obtain data.	?

2005-08 Target	Achieved?	Status
17. To sign an increasing number of Acceptable Behaviour Contracts	Yes, 121 ABCs were issued against perpetrators of anti social behaviour in 2007/08	✓
18. To sign an increasing number of Anti-Social Behaviour Orders	No, our 2007/08 target has been missed by 2 ASBOs. However there were 98 live ASBOs at the end of the last financial year.	✓?
19. Close 30 drug addresses	Yes, the latest figure show that there was 38 drug address closures in 07/08...	✓
20. Issue 30 housing injunctions	No, however a total of 18 injunctions have issued during the last three years.	✓?
21. Enforce all cases where ABCs, ASBOs or injunctions are breached 100%.	Yes, all known breached have acted upon and appropriate action taken.	✓
22. Proportion of youths on an ABC or ASBO who access support services 75%	No, 53% of those on ABCs have been supported.	✓?
23. 100% procedures followed during ASB case investigation	No, 43% of cases audited followed procedures, though this process is under review. It is expected that the new ASB database system will greatly help to deliver the target.	x

Drug Misuse and Drug Related Crime

End of Strategy target	Achieved?	Status
26. Take action in 80% of cases within 28 days of receipt of intelligence about drug supply addresses	Unable to obtain data.	?
27. Refer 50 drug supply offences referred for financial investigation for assets recovery	Unable to obtain data.	?
24. Engage 75% of drug-using offenders in treatment through the Drugs Intervention Programme	Yes, target has been met and exceeded 80%	✓
25. Engage 83% of problematic drug users (PDUs) in treatment 83%	The estimate of PDUs in treatment for 07/08 is 42%. Numbers in treatment are increasing year on year and have increased by 12% in 07/08. However, there is still a large (estimated) population of PDUs not accessing treatment.	✓?
26. Retain 55% of drug users in treatment for 12 weeks or more	The March 2007 figure is 82% - a significant increase. However it should be noted that the method of calculation for this indicator has	✓

	changed since targets were initially set.	
27. Drug treatment completion rates for: i. Inpatient treatment 73% ii. Residential rehabilitation 65% iii. GP prescribing 50%	i. 47% ii. 71% iii. 26% Figures for inpatient treatment and residential rehabilitation programmes have significantly increased from 06/07 figures.	✓?
28. Maintain 100% compliance with NTA targets for waiting times for accessing treatment services	82%. The DAAT is exceeding NTA waiting times for treatment in all modalities except for in-patient drug treatment. There is insufficient capacity for acute cases across London.	✓?
29. Increase the number of young people under 18 accessing treatment and counselling services	Yes, target has been exceeded. The current number of under-18 accessing treatment is 1034.	✓

Hate Crime

End of Strategy target	Achieved?	Status
30. Initially increase, and then decrease, the number of hate crime incidents reported to the Council	Yes, as anticipated in the last strategy the number of hate crime incidents fell in 2007/2008.	✓
31. Investigate 100% hate crime incidents reported to the council	Yes, all hate crime incidents reported to the council have been investigated.	✓
32. Undertake an end-of-case client satisfaction check in 100% of cases and increase rates of satisfaction with service provided to 95%	No, these targets have been missed by small margin. The current satisfaction rate is 92%.	✓?
33. Achieve a 20% sanctioned detections rate for racial crime	Yes, the current racial sanctioned detection rate is 35%	✓
34. Achieve a 20% sanctioned detections rate for homophobic crimes	Yes, the target has been exceeded. The current detection rate is 37.8%	✓

Tackling Youth Crime and Disorder

End of Strategy target	Achieved?	Status
35. Reduce the number of first time youth entrants into the criminal justice system by 2% to 360	Yes, this been reduced by 6.7% to 336	✓
36. Reduce the rate of recidivism by YOT clients by 5%	This was not achieved. There was an increase of 2.5%	x
37. Reduce the proportion of remands that are custodial to 38% and the proportion of sentences that are custodial to 5%	This was not achieved. Data is only available to the end of 2006/07 but this shows that 41% of remands were custodial and 7.4% of sentences were custodial.	x

Concern about Crime

End of Strategy target	Achieved?	Status
38. To reduce the proportion of respondents who cite crime as an area of personal concerns to 35%	No, the target has been missed. 55% is the current level of concern. A number of initiatives have been undertaken to address concern about crime, including stepping up publicity campaign to inform residents what is being done in their area and in the borough to tackle crime and ASB.	x
39. To reduce the proportion of respondents who say they feel fairly or very unsafe in the area where they live at night to 25%	No, target has been missed 45.5% of respondents feel fairly or very unsafe at night. A number of environmental projects including improvements in street lighting have been undertaken. Furthermore, on going publicity campaigns have been undertaken, informing residents what is being done in their area.	x
40. To reduce the gap between men and women in proportion of respondents who feel fairly or very unsafe in the area they live at night to 7%	Yes, the gap between men and women has been reduced to 2%	✓

This page is intentionally left blank

LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

COUNCIL MEETING

WEDNESDAY 15th OCTOBER 2008

REVIEW OF PROPORTIONALITY AND APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES AND PANELS OF THE COUNCIL

AGENDA ITEM 10.1

REPORT OF THE SERVICE HEAD, DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 A change in the political composition of the Council occurred on 10 July 2008 when Councillors Shahed Ali, Lutfa Begum, Rania Khan and Oliur Rahman each gave notice that they wish to be treated as members of the Labour Group for the purposes of the Local Government & Housing Act 1989 ('the 1989 Act').
- 1.2 Consequent on this change the Council must review the allocation of places on Committees and other bodies covered by the proportionality requirements in the 1989 Act.
- 1.3 The Council is also invited to consider whether there is a need to review the provision of Political Advisor support resources in the light of recent changes to the political composition of the Authority.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That the review of proportionality at paragraph 3 overleaf be noted and the Council agree the allocation of seats on committees and panels established for the remainder of the Municipal Year 2008/09 as set out at paragraph 4.
- 2.2 That Members and deputies be appointed to serve on the committees and panels affected by this change in accordance with the nominations from the political groups as set out in the addendum report to be tabled at the meeting or subsequently notified to the Assistant Chief Executive.
- 2.3 That the Council consider the provision of Political Advisor resources to the respective political groups and direct as to any change to be made in this regard as set out at paragraph 10 overleaf.

3. REVIEW OF PROPORTIONALITY

3.1 Section 15(i) of the 1989 Act requires the Council as soon as practicable after a change in the political composition to carry out a review to determine the allocation to the political groups of seats on the committees/panels of the Council. The principles which must be adopted are:

- (i) that all seats are not allocated to the same political group;
- (ii) that the majority of seats go to the political group with the majority on the Council;
- (iii) that subject to (i) and (ii) the number of seats on the total of all the ordinary committees/panels of the authority allocated to each group bears the same proportion to the proportion on the full Council; and
- (iv) that subject to the above three principles, the number of seats on each ordinary committee/panel of the authority allocated to each political group bears the same proportion to the proportion on the full Council.

3.2 Neither the Cabinet and its executive sub-groups; nor the Standards Committee are covered by the requirement for proportionality.

3.3 Following the change described in Paragraph 1 to this report, the political composition of the Council is now as follows:

Group	seats	%
Labour	32	62.75
Conservative	8	15.69
Respect	6	11.76
Liberal Democrat	4	7.84
(vacancy)	1	1.96
Total	51	100.00

4. ALLOCATION OF PLACES ON COMMITTEES

4.1 The committees and panels established by the Council for the municipal year 2008/09 are listed in the table below. Applying the principles in the Act as closely as is reasonably practicable the proposed allocation of places on these committees and panels for the remainder of the municipal year is set out below.

Committee	Total	Labour	Conser- vative	Respect	Liberal Democrat
Development	9	6	1	1	1
Strategic Development	9	6	1	1	1
General Purposes	7	4	1	1	1
Human Resources	7	5	1	1	-
Appeals	9	6	1	1	1
Pensions Committee	7	5	1	1	-
Audit Committee	7	4	1	1	1
Overview & Scrutiny (plus 5 co-optees)	11	7	2	1	1
Health Scrutiny Panel	7	4	1	1	1
Licensing	15	9	3	2	1

- 4.2 Any nominations received from the political groups before the Council Meeting to appoint Members and/or deputies to the above committees/panels in accordance with the revised allocation of places will be tabled. The Constitution also now provides for the Assistant Chief Executive to agree appointments to committees/panels in accordance with the nomination of the political group to which a position has been allocated by the Council.

APPOINTMENT OF POLITICAL ADVISORS

5. The 1989 Act also governs the appointment of political assistants (known in Tower Hamlets as 'Political Advisors') to provide assistance to political groups on the authority. An authority may choose to establish such posts in accordance with the framework set out in the Act. This provides that, where the members of the authority are divided into different political groups, a political group shall qualify for a political assistant if:-
- (a) the membership of that group comprises at least one-tenth of the membership of the authority;
 - (b) the number of the other groups (if any) which are larger groups does not exceed two; and
 - (c) where the number of the other groups which are the same size or larger than that group exceeds two, the authority have determined that group should be a group to which a post is allocated.
6. Political assistants must be appointed on a fixed term contract, each group may only have one assistant and there must be no more than three such posts in total. Regulation 18 of the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990 (as amended) provide that 'where [an authority] ... makes an appointment to a post for the purposes of section 9 of the 1989 Act the authority shall from time to time review allocations made for the purposes of that section'.

THE CURRENT POSITION

7. Tower Hamlets Council has appointed Political Advisors in accordance with the 1989 Act during successive administrations. Posts are currently allocated to the Labour, Conservative and Respect Groups with the postholders on fixed term contracts which will terminate shortly after the 2010 Borough elections.
8. In 2006 the Council agreed that, having regard to the political balance on the Council at that time, a full-time post be allocated to the Labour Group and provision from existing resources be used to create 2 part-time posts of 24.5 and 17.5 hours per week for the Respect and Conservative Groups respectively. Subsequently the political composition of the Council changed such that the Respect and Conservative Groups had the same number of Members and on 25th November 2007 the Council agreed that in line with the principle of proportionality, the hours of the Respect and Conservative Party political advisors be each set at 17.5 hours per week.

ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

9. Since November 2007 the political composition of the Council has further changed. There is no legal requirement for the allocation of Political Advisor resources to mirror the proportionality of the groups but in view of previous decisions the Council may wish to consider whether a further change is required.
10. In particular, the Conservative Group has increased from 7 to 8 members since their post was established. A proportionate increase in the hours worked by that group's Political Adviser would be from 17.5 to 20.0 hours per week.
11. Any decision to amend the contractual hours worked by one or more officer(s) would be subject to a full consultation period in accordance with the Council's established Human Resources procedures.

CONCURRENT REPORT OF THE ASSISTANT CHIEF EXECUTIVE (LEGAL)

12. The legal position is set out in the main body of the report.

COMMENTS OF THE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

13. The budget for Democratic Services includes a sum of £83.5k for Political Advisor posts. This covers the costs of the current arrangements. Any increase in the costs of the Political Advisor posts will be met from within the overall Members' Support budget.

LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

COUNCIL MEETING

WEDNESDAY 15th OCTOBER 2008

**MOTIONS SUBMITTED BY
MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL**

AGENDA ITEM NO. 11

**REPORT OF THE SERVICE HEAD,
DEMOCRATIC SERVICES**

SUMMARY

1. Ten motions have been submitted by Members of the Council under Council Procedure Rule 13 for the Council meeting on Wednesday 15th October 2008.
2. In accordance with the protocol agreed by the Council on 21st May 2008, the order in which the motions are listed is by turns, one from each group, continuing in rotation until all motions submitted are included. The rotation starts with any group(s) not reached at the previous meeting.
3. Motions must be about matters for which the Council has a responsibility or which affect the Borough. A motion may not be moved which is substantially the same as a motion which has been put at a meeting of the Council in the previous six months unless notice of motion is given signed by at least twenty Members.
4. There is no specific duration set for this agenda item and consideration of the attached motions may continue until the time limit for the meeting is reached. The guillotine procedure at Council Procedure Rule 9.2 does not apply to motions on notice and any of the attached motions which have not been put to the vote when the time limit for the meeting is reached will be deemed to have fallen. A motion which is not put to the vote at the current meeting may be resubmitted for the next meeting but is not automatically carried forward.

MOTIONS

Set out overleaf are the motions which have been received.

11.1 Motion submitted by Councillor Abjol Miah regarding Utilities Charges

Proposed: Councillor Abjol Miah

Seconded: Councillor Dulal Uddin

1) This Council notes:

That utilities charges have risen far above the general rate of inflation in Tower Hamlets and elsewhere;

that these higher charges are impacting particularly adversely on those less well off in Tower Hamlets and elsewhere who spend a higher proportion of their incomes on heating, etc;

that many pensioners and others on low incomes in Tower Hamlets and elsewhere face the real possibility of being dangerously cold this winter and some may even die as a result of these higher charges and as they seek to economise on heating;

that this situation is made much worse where there has been no investment in heating insulation such as double glazing which would bring down heating costs and be a positive measure to help against global warming;

that too many Council properties have not yet had the necessary investment in double glazing and other heat insulation measures to economise on heating costs;

that expanded investment in double glazing and other refurbishing and heat insulation measures if brought forward would constitute counter-cyclical spending helping to mitigate the effects of the growing recession.

2) This Council believes:

That the Government should impose a windfall tax on the higher profits of the utilities companies;

that the Government should use the proceeds of this windfall tax to help those who have been plunged into fuel poverty;

that the Government should also make available to this council the funds necessary to bring forward and expand a crash programme of investment in double glazing and other heat insulation measures alongside other needed refurbishment of council and RSL property;

that it was a disastrous error for the Thatcher government to have privatised the utilities companies;

that the utilities companies should be returned to public ownership with proper accountability at the earliest opportunity.

3) This council resolves to draw up an urgent action plan to address the problem of fuel poverty in Tower Hamlets and the dangers it presents to the most vulnerable in our community.

4) This council would welcome a national campaign for a windfall tax and a cap on utilities charges and other urgent measures to address fuel poverty and obscene fuel price rises.

11.2 Motion submitted by Councillor Stephanie Eaton regarding Community Cohesion and ID Cards

Proposed: Councillor Stephanie Eaton

Seconded: Councillor Azizur Rahman Khan

This Council notes:

1. That Parliament has created identity card legislation.
2. This legislation will have an impact on all residents within Tower Hamlets.

This Council believes:

1. That the proposed scheme will impose substantial and disproportionate costs on the Council.
2. That the cost of ID cards would be better spent on employing crime prevention measures such as more police officers, and target hardening.
3. ID cards have the potential to have a negative impact on social cohesion and notes the concerns of the Metropolitan Police Service to that effect:

'The scheme could become compulsory prematurely for those disadvantaged members of society, because they would have to have an ID Card in order to access Social Security Benefits, etc. It should also be noted that many of the visible ethnic minorities are over-represented in this socio-economically deprived group. We have severe reservations that the scheme could add to tensions at a time when the police service is investing greatly in gaining confidence across all communities'.

This Council will:

1. Make it a policy of the Council to ensure that national identity cards would not be required to access council services or benefits unless specifically required to do so by Act of Parliament.
2. Take no part in any pilot scheme or feasibility work in relation to the introduction of the national identity cards.

3. Only co-operate with the national identity card scheme where to do otherwise would be unlawful.
4. Affiliate to the NO2ID campaign whose supporters already include MPs and Peers of all parties, Borough, County and District Councils, and unions (including UNISON, the largest union in the UK with 1.3 million members).

11.3 Motion submitted by Councillor Tim Archer regarding Leaseholder Services

Proposed: Councillor Tim Archer

Seconded: Councillor Peter Golds

Council notes the continuing dissatisfaction of leaseholders with the overall service they receive from Tower Hamlets Council, particularly in respect of:

- information and consultation on both major works and annual service charges
- the overall level of both major works and annual charges, particularly the administration and management element.
- the value for money that these charges represent and the quality of the services that leaseholders are asked to pay for

Furthermore this council notes the following recent developments:

- the £50 refund being made to leaseholders by this council in recognition of leaseholder grievances and excessive charges to date
- the recent Lister House Leasehold Valuation Tribunal case that the Council lost.

This council therefore resolves to call on the executive to:

- provide leaseholders with an appropriate level of reassurance on the process and resulting charges levied by the Council, by way of an independent audit of leaseholder services to establish that Leaseholder service charges are fair and appropriately calculated. This review should be carried out by an recognised independent firm of auditors.

11.4 Motion submitted by Councillor Alex Heslop regarding support for the Co-operative and Social Enterprise Sector

Proposed: Councillor Alex Heslop

Seconded: Councillor Denise Jones

This Council recognises that there is a diverse and healthy co-operative sector in Tower Hamlets with a combined turnover of approximately £50 million and also appreciates the important role that co-operatives and other social enterprises can play in community and economic regeneration initiatives. Although there are many successful co-operative enterprises operating in Tower Hamlets such as Tower Hamlets Community Credit Union, Tower Hamlets CDA and Greenwich Leisure (effectively a workers co-op), as well as several food co-ops and housing co-operatives, there is not a single council officer with a specific remit or indeed expertise for working with the co-operative & social enterprise sectors.

This Council resolves to do the following:

- Allocate responsibility for supporting the co-operative & social enterprise sectors to the Lead Member for Regeneration as well as a designated council officer who will promote and support new mutual models for the provision of community services, including housing, pre-school childcare, residential and home care, recycling and leisure. Made possible through service reviews, externalising, or re-contracting services and procurement procedures.
- Organise an annual event to celebrate International Co-operatives Day in partnership with the local Co-operative Movement; this could also involve the Tower Hamlets Partnership and its Creating and Sharing Prosperity Community Plan Action Group.
- Develop procurement strategies that make a direct link between the Community Plan and other strategic objectives and contract specifications ensuring that community benefits can be fully integrated into the procurement process.
- Work with the Co-operative Sector and London Development Agency to improve access to finance and support for socially and mutually owned businesses.
- Work with staff and unions on a partnership basis in the creation of new cooperative services

11.5 Motion submitted by Councillor Dulal Uddin regarding the Recession

Proposed: Councillor Dulal Uddin

Seconded: Councillor Abjol Miah

1) This Council notes:

That there has been a catastrophic slump in the housing market where new mortgage approvals by value are just 2% of the same point a year ago;

that manufacturing is shrinking at a faster rate than at any time over the last 17 years;

that house repossessions and unemployment are inexorably rising;

that we are facing the prospect of the worst recession since the 1930s, including the appalling loss of employment in the 1980s under Margaret Thatcher when more than four million people had no job.

2) This Council, in the context of the credit crunch and the growing recession, believes:

That the Council should not raise council taxes, especially as the Council Tax is such a regressive tax;

that the Council should not raise charges to leaseholders for services or council rents

that council services should not be cut and indeed council spending should increase to meet the increased demand and need for council services arising out of the effects of the recession;

that the wages of council workers must at least maintain pace with inflation if council workers are to be properly rewarded for the efforts they make to deliver first class services in Tower Hamlets.

3) This Council instructs the Cabinet to draw up an emergency action plan to anticipate increasing demand on services and to ensure the council does everything possible to counter-act the effects of recession.

4) This Council calls on the Government:

To provide the funds necessary to fill any gap between income and expenditure arising out of the policies agreed in point 2;

to allow councils to do what is necessary to begin offering mortgages again to try to stimulate the housing market;

to provide and enable the funds to allow this Council to invest in the construction of council housing which will meet our pressing needs in Tower Hamlets where more than 20,000 families languish on the waiting list and where more than 12,000 families

are overcrowded and which will also boost the construction industry which is now in severe downturn and through that boost the general economy;

to rapidly investigate and bring in a more equitable form of local taxation than the Council Tax;

to return the proceeds and determination of the business rate to local councils.

11.6 Motion submitted by Councillor Ahmed Hussain regarding Webcasting Council committee meetings

Proposed: Councillor Ahmed Hussain

Seconded: Councillor t.b.c.

This Council Believes:

It has a duty to involve all members of the public to access the various council committee meetings we hold in the Town Hall. However, due to the location of our Town Hall, it is extremely difficult for persons to make the strenuous journey to this remote location, particularly those with physical disabilities. Accommodation facilities are restricted to 30 persons in the public gallery although we have a growing population of approximately 200,000.

This Council further believes:

Every individual has the fundamental right to play an equal role in society, and this council must as a priority pro-actively address identified needs to ensure all persons have equal access to the work of the Council. The facility to enhance transparency through the simple cost effective process of 'web casting' meetings is achievable

This Council resolves to:

Agree to web cast Council committee meetings subject to a cost evaluation.

This Council instructs:

- (a) Officers to immediately proceed to investigate the mechanics of providing web casts of Council meetings;
- (b) Officers to provide a costing forecast for this provision to be completed before the Cabinet meeting prior to the next full Council meeting;
- (c) Democratic Services to identify these costs within their budget for the Municipal year 2009/10.

11.7 Motion submitted by Councillor Rania Khan regarding Gurkha Rights

Proposed: Councillor Rania Khan

Seconded: Councillor Bill Turner

This Council notes that members of the Gurkha Brigade (Gurkhas) have played an active front line part in the British Army's activities in times of war and peace for over 200 years. In this time approximately 300,000 Gurkhas have fought alongside UK troops and 45,000 have been killed or wounded in the service of the Crown.

This Council notes that prior to a High Court ruling on 30 September 2008, only those Gurkhas who had served for at least four years and been discharged after 1 July 1997 were eligible to settle in the United Kingdom.

This Council welcomes the High Court ruling of 30 September that extends the right to settle in the UK to Gurkhas who retired before 1 July 1997.

This Council believes that following this ruling and in view of the exceptional service that Gurkhas have given to the United Kingdom that citizenship and right to remain applications from Gurkhas and their families should be processed as fast as possible.

This Council also believes that pension arrangements for members of the Gurkha Brigade should be brought into line with those of other members of Her Majesty's armed forces.

This Council, which represents one of the most ethnically diverse boroughs in the country, believes it has a duty to ensure that members of the Gurkha Brigade should receive just and equitable treatment from Her Majesty's Government in the manner outlined above.

This Council:

- 1) Urges the MPs for Bethnal Green and Bow and Poplar and Canning Town to support Early Day Motions that seek to extend Gurkha rights;
- 2) Instructs the Chief Executive of Tower Hamlets Council to write to the Local Government Association asking them to lobby the Government on this matter.
- 3) Instructs the Chief Executive to write to all other London Councils asking them to support Gurkha rights;
- 4) Instructs the Chief Executive to write to the Prime Minister demanding that all retired members of the Gurkha Brigade have their applications for citizenship or right to remain processed on a fast-track basis and that they are given a fair deal on pension arrangements;
- 5) Instructs the Chief Executive to write to the Home Secretary demanding that all retired members of the Gurkha Brigade have their applications for citizenship or right to remain processed on a fast-track basis and that they are given a fair deal on pension arrangements.

11.8 Motion submitted by Councillor Harun Miah regarding Child Poverty

Proposed: Councillor Harun Miah

Seconded: Councillor Abjol Miah

1) This Council notes:

That End Child Poverty has carried out research which shows that there are more than 42,000 children living in child poverty in Tower Hamlets;

that child poverty doubled under the 18 years of Tory misrule from 1979 to 1997;

that this Government committed itself to halving child poverty by 2010;

that Government ministers have acknowledged that whatever progress there has been in reducing child poverty, child poverty has not declined significantly in the inner London areas including Tower Hamlets;

that child poverty has been closely correlated to children having parents who are unemployed and/or dependent on benefits;

that child poverty is likely to get worse in the face of the growing economic recession;

that despite this, and thanks to the efforts of pupils, parents, teachers, the Children Services department and additional investment, End Child Poverty has also praised Tower Hamlets achievements in education.

2) This Council believes:

That the levels of child poverty in Tower Hamlets are shocking and more akin to the Victorian era than the 21st century;

that overcoming child poverty should be an urgent priority for the Council and the Government;

that there has to be a complete review of Government and Council policy with regard to child poverty to identify why it is failing to lift more children out of poverty

3) This Council resolves to draw up an urgent and radical action plan with all other relevant agencies including relevant charities which fall under the umbrella of End Child Poverty to address this scandal at the heart of our society

11.9 Motion submitted by Councillor Mohammed Abdul Munim regarding Policing

Proposed: Councillor Mohammed Abdul Munim

Seconded: Councillor Abjol Miah

1) This Council notes:

That the Conservative Mayor of London has brought about the resignation of Sir Ian Blair, the Metropolitan Police Commissioner;

that if Sir Ian Blair was going to resign, he should have done so after the shooting of and subsequent disinformation and misinformation about the shooting of Jean Charles de Menezes;

that the Conservative Mayor demanded the resignation of Sir Ian Blair because the Mayor considered the Commissioner too liberal and not for any other reason;

that despite the problems that emerged in the leadership of Sir Ian Blair of the Metropolitan Police Service, this Council supports the general thrust of his initiatives in the areas of diversity and community policing;

that the problem with the diversity and community policing initiatives did not go far enough under Sir Ian Blair.

2) This Council deplores the way in which Sir Ian Blair has been forced to resign by the Mayor of London.

3) This Council fears that the resignation of Sir Ian Blair in these circumstances threatens to undermine the positive initiatives that were introduced by Sir Ian Blair.

4) This Council believes:

That investment in the Safer Neighbourhood Team system should be extended rather than reduced with more resources being put in to ensure that SNT members are available at the times that Tower Hamlets residents and others need them to deal with the crimes that can blight their lives;

that the Metropolitan Police remains unreflective of the communities which the police are supposed to serve, especially but not only at senior management level;

that much more needs to be done to overcome the unrepresentative nature of the police if confidence in the police is to be raised amongst significant sections of the community.

11.10 Motion submitted by Councillor Mamun Rashid regarding Tarling Estate

Proposed: Councillor Mamun Rashid

Seconded: Councillor Abjol Miah

1) This Council notes that the community and community representatives on Tarling Estate believe they need a community centre for which there is a funding gap of some £400,000.

2) This Council believes that council officers must do everything possible to help find the money to bridge this funding gap so the people on the Tarling Estate get the facilities they need and deserve.

This page is intentionally left blank