



Meeting of the

TOWER HAMLETS COUNCIL

Wednesday, 13th July 2011 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, 13TH JULY 2011**

Kevan Collins
Chief Executive

LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

COUNCIL

WEDNESDAY, 13TH JULY 2011

7.30 p.m.

	PAGE NUMBER
1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE	
To receive any apologies for absence.	
2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST	1 - 2
To note any declarations of interest made by Members, including those restricting Members from voting on the questions detailed in Section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act, 1992. See attached note from the Chief Executive.	
3. MINUTES	3 - 32
To confirm as a correct record of the proceedings the unrestricted minutes of the Annual Council Meeting held on 18 th May 2011.	
4. TO RECEIVE ANNOUNCEMENTS (IF ANY) FROM THE CHAIR OF COUNCIL OR THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE	
5. TO RECEIVE PETITIONS	33 - 34
The deadline for receipt of petitions to be presented to this meeting is noon on Thursday 7 th July 2011.	
However, at the time of agenda despatch the maximum number of three petitions had already been received and details of these are set out in the attached report.	
6. TO RECEIVE WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC	35 - 36
The questions which have been received from members of the public to be put at this meeting are set out in the attached report.	
A maximum period of 20 minutes is allocated to this agenda item.	

7. MAYOR'S REPORT

In accordance with the Council's Constitution as amended, provision is made at each ordinary Council meeting for the Elected Mayor to give a report.

A maximum of five minutes is allowed for the Elected Mayor's report, following which the Chair of Council will give the respective political group leaders an opportunity to respond for up to one minute each if they wish.

8. TO RECEIVE WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL 37 - 42

The questions which have been received from Councillors to be put at this meeting are set out in the attached report.

A maximum period of 30 minutes is allocated to this agenda item.

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

9 .1 Tower Hamlets Community Plan Refresh 2011 43 - 104

To approve the Tower Hamlets Community Plan 2011. The draft plan and the recommendations of the Cabinet Meeting on 8th June 2011 are attached.

9 .2 Responsible Drinking Borough 105 - 156

To consider designating the Borough of Tower Hamlets as a Responsible Drinking Borough. The report of the Corporate Director, Communities, Localities and Culture is attached and the recommendations of the Cabinet on this matter will be circulated after the Cabinet Meeting on 6th July 2011.

9 .3 Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 157 - 178

To receive the Annual Report of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for 2010/11. The Annual Report is attached.

10. TO RECEIVE REPORTS AND QUESTIONS ON JOINT ARRANGEMENTS AND EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS (IF ANY)

There is no business to conduct under this agenda item.

11. OTHER BUSINESS

11.1 Treasury Management Outturn Report 2010-11, Update to 31 May 2011 **179 - 196**

The outturn report reviewing treasury management activity for the financial year 2010/11 is presented for the Council's information as recommended by the CIPFA Treasury Management Code of Practice. The report of the Corporate Director, Resources is attached.

12. TO CONSIDER MOTIONS SUBMITTED BY MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL **197 - 224**

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

NOTE: DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Members are reminded that as notified in the Chief Executive's message of 5th July, the next ordinary Council Meeting will take place on **Wednesday 21st September 2011** at 7.30 p.m., and not on 14th September as originally scheduled.

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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.

Agenda Item 3

LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING

HELD AT 7.30 P.M. ON WEDNESDAY, 18 MAY 2011

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

Members Present:

Mayor Lutfur Rahman	Councillor Ann Jackson
Councillor Helal Abbas	Councillor Denise Jones
Councillor Khaled Uddin Ahmed	Councillor Dr. Emma Jones
Councillor Kabir Ahmed	Councillor Aminur Khan
Councillor Ohid Ahmed	Councillor Rabina Khan
Councillor Rajib Ahmed	Councillor Rania Khan
Councillor Rofique U Ahmed	Councillor Shiria Khatun
Councillor Shelina Aktar	Councillor Anna Lynch
Councillor Shahed Ali	Councillor Md. Maium Miah
Councillor Tim Archer	Councillor Harun Miah
Councillor Abdul Asad	Councillor Fozol Miah
Councillor Craig Aston	Councillor Mohammed Abdul Mukit MBE
Councillor Lutfu Begum	Councillor Lesley Pavitt
Councillor Mizan Chaudhury	Councillor Joshua Peck
Councillor Alibor Choudhury	Councillor Zenith Rahman
Councillor Zara Davis	Councillor Oliur Rahman
Councillor Stephanie Eaton	Councillor Rachael Saunders
Councillor David Edgar	Councillor David Snowdon
Councillor Marc Francis	Councillor Gloria Thienel
Councillor Judith Gardiner	Councillor Bill Turner
Councillor Carlo Gibbs	Councillor Kosru Uddin
Councillor Peter Golds	Councillor Helal Uddin
Councillor Shafiqul Haque	Councillor Abdal Ullah
Councillor Carli Harper-Penman	Councillor Motin Uz-Zaman
Councillor Sirajul Islam	Councillor Amy Whitelock

1. ELECTION OF CHAIR OF COUNCIL

The Chair of Council, Councillor Motin Uz-Zaman, in the Chair

CHAIR'S OPENING ADDRESS

The Chair of Council, Councillor Motin Uz-Zaman, welcomed all present to the Annual Meeting of the Council.

Councillor Uz-Zaman addressed the meeting about his year in office. He said that it had been a privilege to serve first as Mayor and then as Chair of Tower Hamlets Council. There had been many highlights during his term of office and his charity account had raised approximately £43,000 for the two

nominated charities, the Helicopter Emergency Medical Services (HEMS) and the Thesis Trust.

Councillor Uz-Zaman thanked his wife and family for their support during his term of office and also thanked the officers including the Members Services and Facilities Teams and in particular Mrs Attawia, the Chair's Office Manager and Mr Wasilka, his Chauffeur and Attendant, for their excellent assistance at all times during the year.

Councillor Joshua Peck paid tribute to Councillor Uz-Zaman on behalf of the Council and thanked him for the excellent manner in which he had discharged his duties. Councillor Peter Golds and Councillor Fozol Miah also addressed the meeting and echoed Councillor Peck's comments.

The Chair then called for nominations to serve as Chair of Tower Hamlets Council for the coming year.

It was **MOVED** by Councillor Joshua Peck, **SECONDED** by Councillor Anna Lynch and

RESOLVED

That Councillor Mizanur Chaudhury be elected to hold office as Chair of Council until the Annual Meeting of the Council in May 2012.

Councillor Joshua Peck and Councillor Anna Lynch then came forward to witness the Chair of Council signing the statutory declaration of acceptance of office.

The Chair of Council, Councillor Mizanur Chaudhury, in the Chair

The incoming Chair of Council then addressed the meeting. He paid tribute to Councillor Uz-Zaman and thanked Members of the Council for electing him as Chair, a role that he was honoured to accept and which he would endeavour to carry out to the best of his ability. As a relatively new councillor and one of the youngest to hold this position in Tower Hamlets, Councillor Chaudhury hoped that his election would act as a catalyst for the younger generation in the borough to come forward and play an active role in politics.

Councillor Chaudhury stated that the effects of the recession were being felt by all in the borough and it was more important than ever to work together to create opportunities in education, employment and housing for every member of the community and to foster an inclusive society where discrimination had no place.

The Chair felt that Tower Hamlets was an amazing borough which made history culturally and politically and where generations of people from across the world had chosen to start new lives. During his year of office he intended to encourage community engagement and work to build respect and harmony across age and cultural divides.

Councillor Chaudhury informed the Council that he had chosen two charities to support during his term. These were Futureversity, a dynamic, youth-led organisation which offered inspiring courses to 11-25 years to develop their skills and self-belief and had gained recognition locally and nationally as a model of good practice in the field of study support; and City Gateway, an organisation providing training and events for young people and women in Tower Hamlets aimed at overcoming barriers to employment and promoting community activity. The Chair sought the support of the Council and stated that by helping the nominated charities they would be helping the residents of the borough. He looked forward to working with all councillors to achieve the vision of a prosperous and united community.

2. ELECTION OF DEPUTY CHAIR OF COUNCIL

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

It was **MOVED** by Councillor Joshua Peck, **SECONDED** by Councillor Motin Uz-Zaman and

RESOLVED

That Councillor Rajib Ahmed be elected to hold office as Deputy Chair of Council until the Annual Meeting of the Council in May 2012.

3. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillor Anwar Khan and Councillor Ahmed Omer.

RESOLVED

That the apologies be noted.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

5. MINUTES

Councillor Rachael Saunders referred to the declarations of interest made by a number of Members at the meeting on 13th April 2011, arising from their membership of the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS). In the draft minutes these wrongly referred to the 'LGA Pension Scheme' and this should be amended to read 'LGPS'.

RESOLVED

That subject to the above amendment, the minutes of the ordinary meeting of the Council held on 13th April 2011 be confirmed as a correct record of the proceedings and the Chair of Council be authorised to sign them accordingly.

6. TO RECEIVE ANNOUNCEMENTS (IF ANY) FROM THE CHAIR OR THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

No announcements were made.

7. MAYOR'S REPORT: EXECUTIVE DELEGATIONS

The Mayor addressed the Council meeting. He thanked the outgoing Chair, welcomed the new Chair of Council and looked forward to working together to achieve the very best for Tower Hamlets.

The Mayor stated that the aim underpinning his Mayoralty was 'One Tower Hamlets' which was about reducing inequality, fostering community cohesion and building community leadership. In this regard he referred to the recent successful Baishakhi Mela, the Royal Wedding celebrations and the bid for Tower Hamlets to be awarded city status.

The Mayor reflected on a number of his administration's highlights of the municipal year just ending including a progressive budget with some of the lowest redundancies in London, the delivery of 737 new affordable homes and securing of £94.5 million decent homes funding; the successful Working Neighbourhoods Fund programme to tackle unemployment and a significant reduction in violent crime. The Mayor looked forward to working with people from across the political spectrum for the betterment of the borough over the coming year.

The Mayor's written report, setting out the Executive Scheme of Delegation as required by the Constitution and the arrangements for decision making by the Mayor, was tabled as attached at Appendix A to these minutes.

Councillor Joshua Peck, Leader of the Majority Group, and Councillor Peter Golds, Leader of the largest Minority Group, each briefly addressed the meeting in response to the Mayor's contribution. In relation to the arrangements for Mayoral Executive Decision making, Councillor Peck and Councillor Golds each stressed the need for transparency and asked that any decisions made via this procedure be published without delay on the Council's website and drawn to the attention of all Councillors by e-mail.

RESOLVED

That the Mayor's report be noted.

8. REVIEW OF PROPORTIONALITY AND ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMITTEES AND PANELS

Councillor Joshua Peck **MOVED**, and Councillor Motin Uz-Zaman **SECONDED**, a tabled amendment as follows:-

‘Add new recommendation

“2.4 That the six Scrutiny Lead positions on the Overview and Scrutiny Committee be renamed as follows, subject to agreement at the first Overview and Scrutiny Committee of the Municipal Year 2011/12:

Communities, Localities and Culture
 Children’s Services
 Resources
 Development and Renewal
 Chief Executives
 Adults, Health and Wellbeing”.’

The amendment was put to the vote and was **agreed**. The recommendations in the report, amended as above, were then put to the vote and were **agreed**. Accordingly it was:-

RESOLVED

1. That the review of proportionality as set out in the report of the Service Head, Democratic Services, be noted.
2. That committees and panels be established for the Municipal Year 2011/12, and places be allocated on those committees and panels, as set out in the table below:-

(a) Committees/panels covered by the requirement for proportionality

Committee	Total	Labour	Conser- vative	Respect	Un- grouped
Overview & Scrutiny Committee (plus 6 co-optees)	9	6	1	1	1
Health Scrutiny Panel	7	5	1		1
Appeals Committee	7	4	1	1	1
Audit Committee	7	4	1		2
Development Committee	7	5	1		1
Strategic Development Committee	7	5	1		1

General Purposes Committee	7	4	1		2
Human Resources Committee	7	4	1		2
Licensing Committee	15	10	3	1	1
Pensions Committee	7	4	1		2

(b) Committee not covered by the requirement for proportionality

Committee	Total	Labour	Conser-vative	Respect	Un-grouped
Standards Committee (plus 9 Independent (non-Councillor) Members)	6	3	2	1	-

3. That the membership of the Standards Committee at Article 9 of the Council's Constitution be amended to include 'Members (who may not include the Mayor or more than one other Cabinet Member), numbering three from the majority group on the Council, two from the largest minority group and one from another minority group; and nine Independent (i.e. non-Councillor) members.'
4. That the six Scrutiny Lead positions on the Overview and Scrutiny Committee be renamed as follows, subject to agreement at the first Overview and Scrutiny Committee of the Municipal Year 2011/12:

Communities, Localities and Culture
Children's Services
Resources
Development and Renewal
Chief Executives
Adults, Health and Wellbeing.

9. APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES AND PANELS OF THE COUNCIL

A schedule was tabled setting out the nominations received from the political groups of Councillors to serve as (a) chairs and (b) members of the committees and panels established by the Council.

The recommendations set out in the tabled report were put to the vote and were **agreed**. Accordingly it was:-

RESOLVED

1. That Councillors be appointed to the positions of special responsibility as listed below, to serve for the remainder of the Municipal Year 2011/12 or until the Councillor resigns the position, is no longer a

member of the Council or of the committee shown or until a successor is appointed, whichever is the sooner:-

Chair of Appeals Committee	Councillor Bill Turner
Chair of Audit Committee	Councillor Carlo Gibbs
Chair of Development Committee and Strategic Development Committee	Councillor Helal Abbas
Chair of General Purposes Committee	Councillor Shiria Khatun
Chair of Human Resources Committee	Councillor Mohammed Abdul Mukit, MBE
Chair of Licensing Committee	Councillor Carli Harper-Penman
Chair of Overview & Scrutiny Committee	Councillor Ann Jackson
Chair of Pensions Committee	Councillor Anwar Khan
Olympics Ambassador	Councillor Anna Lynch

2. That members and deputy members be appointed to the committees and panels of the Council and other bodies for the Municipal Year 2011/12 as set out in the schedule attached at Appendix B to these minutes.
3. That in relation to any unfilled places within the seats allocated to a particular political group, the Council note that the Assistant Chief Executive (Legal Services) has delegated authority subsequently to agree the appointments to those places in accordance with nominations from the relevant political group.
4. That in relation to any 'ungrouped' positions remaining unfilled, the Assistant Chief Executive (Legal Services) be authorised to invite expressions of interest from the ungrouped Councillors and to make appointments to those positions following consultation with the Members concerned and the Chair of Council.
5. That in relation to the vacant 'Independent' (i.e. non-Councillor) positions on the Standards Committee, the Assistant Chief Executive (Legal Services) be authorised to agree the appointments on completion of the recruitment process and following consultation with the Chair of the Standards Committee.

10. APPOINTMENTS TO LONDON COUNCILS COMMITTEES AND FORUMS

A report was tabled setting out the appointments that had been made by the Mayor to a number of London Councils member bodies.

Councillor Joshua Peck **MOVED**, and Councillor Motion Uz-Zaman **SECONDED**, an amendment as follows:-

'Add new recommendation

“That appointments to external bodies shall be a Council and not an Executive Function, with the exception of those appointments that, by law or at the request of the body and with the agreement of Council, are for executive members, which shall be appointed by the Mayor”.’

Following debate, the amendment was put to the vote and was **agreed**.

The recommendations in the tabled report, amended as above, were then put to the vote and were **agreed**. Accordingly it was:-

RESOLVED

1. That the Council note the appointments to London Councils committees and forums as listed in the schedule at Appendix C to these minutes.
2. That appointments to external bodies shall be a Council and not an Executive Function, with the exception of those appointments that, by law or at the request of the body and with the agreement of Council, are for executive members, which shall be appointed by the Mayor.

The meeting ended at 8.20 p.m.

Chair,
Council

LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS
ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING - WEDNESDAY 18th MAY 2011
TABLED PAPER – AGENDA ITEM 7
REPORT OF THE MAYOR: EXECUTIVE DELEGATIONS

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Executive Procedure Rules at Part 4.4 of the Council's Constitution provide for the Mayor to delegate specific executive functions to:-
- the Executive as a whole (the Cabinet);
 - a committee of the Executive or an individual member of the Executive;
 - an officer;
 - an area committee;
 - a ward councillor in accordance with s.236 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007;
 - joint arrangements; or
 - another local authority.
- 1.2 The Mayor may amend or revoke any delegation of an executive function at any time.
- 1.3 The Mayor is required to present to the Annual Council Meeting, and if delegations are made or varied between Annual Meetings to present to the Monitoring Officer, a written record of delegations made by him ('the Executive Scheme of Delegation'). This document must contain the following information in so far as it relates to executive functions:
- (a) The extent of any authority delegated to any individual Executive Member or ward councillor including details of the limitation on their authority;
 - (b) The terms of reference and constitution of such Executive Committees as the Mayor appoints and the names of Executive Members appointed to them;
 - (c) The nature and extent of any delegation of executive functions to area Committees, any other authority or any joint arrangements and the names of those Executive Members appointed to any joint Committee for the coming year; and

- (d) The nature and extent of any delegation of executive functions to officers not already specified in Part 3 of the Constitution, with details of any limitation on that delegation and the title of the officer to whom the delegation is made.

1.4 In accordance with the above requirements the Executive Scheme of Delegation agreed by the Mayor to apply with effect from 18th May 2011 is set out below.

PART A - EXECUTIVE SCHEME OF DELEGATION

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this Executive Scheme of Delegation is to:-
- be clear about who can make which executive decisions including Key Decisions;
 - facilitate the smooth running of Council business;
 - ensure that the Mayor is able to provide effective strategic leadership for the overall policy direction of the Council and to promote partnership working with other agencies; and that officers take responsibility for operational matters and policy implementation

2. THE CONSTITUTION

- 2.1 Once presented by the Mayor to the Annual Council Meeting or to the Monitoring Officer, this Executive Scheme of Delegation will form part of the Council's Constitution and will be appended to it. Its provisions apply alongside the Rules of Procedure and Access to Information provisions included in the Constitution.

3. AMENDMENTS TO THE EXECUTIVE SCHEME OF DELEGATION

- 3.1 This Scheme of Delegation remains in force for the term of office of the Mayor unless and until it is amended or revoked by the Mayor in accordance with Part 4.4 of the Constitution.

4. NON-EXECUTIVE DECISIONS

- 4.1 No delegated power in this Executive Scheme of Delegation applies to any decision that relates to a matter that is not an Executive function either by law or by the allocation of local choice functions under the Council's Constitution.

5. THE COMPOSITION OF THE EXECUTIVE

- 5.1 The Executive shall consist of six people, namely the Mayor and five Councillors as set out below:-

Name	Ward	Portfolio
Mayor Lutfur Rahman	N/A	Mayor
Councillor Ohid Ahmed	East India & Lansbury	Deputy Mayor
Councillor Alibor Choudhury	Shadwell	Cabinet Member for Resources
Councillor Rabina Khan	Shadwell	Cabinet Member for Housing
Councillor Rania Khan	Bromley-by-Bow	Cabinet Member for Regeneration
Councillor Oliur Rahman	St Dunstan's & Stepney Green	Cabinet Member for Children's Services

6. DELEGATIONS TO THE EXECUTIVE

- 6.1 The Mayor has not delegated any decision-making powers to the Executive acting collectively.
- 6.2 The Mayor has not delegated any decision-making powers to any of the Councillors appointed by the Mayor to the Executive acting individually.
- 6.3 The Mayor may, in accordance with Part 4.4 of the Council's Constitution, appoint such committees of the Executive as he considers appropriate from time to time, but he does not appoint any such committees at this time.

7. DELEGATIONS TO OFFICERS

- 7.1 The Mayor has delegated to officers decision making powers in relation to Executive functions as set out at Parts 3 and 8 of the Council's Constitution.

8. OTHER DELEGATIONS

- 8.1 The Mayor has not delegated any powers to any area committee, or to any ward Councillor in accordance with s.236 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007.
- 8.2 The Mayor has delegated powers to joint arrangements with other local authorities as set out in Article 11 of the Council's Constitution
- 8.3 Subject to 8.2 above, the Mayor has not delegated any powers to any other local authority.

PART B - DECISION MAKING BY THE MAYOR

1. Where an Executive decision, including a Key Decision, falls to be made and either:-
 - (i) authority to make that decision has not been delegated by the Mayor under this Executive Scheme of Delegation; or
 - (ii) authority has been delegated but the person or body with delegated powers declines to exercise those powers; or
 - (iii) authority has been delegated but the Mayor nevertheless decides to take the decision himself,

the decision shall be made by the Mayor individually, after consultation with the Chief Executive, the Monitoring Officer, the Corporate Director, Resources and such other Corporate Director(s) or Cabinet Member(s) the Mayor may determine.
2. Executive decisions (including Key Decisions) to be taken by the Mayor in accordance with paragraph 1 above shall either be taken:-
 - (a) at a formal meeting of the Executive, notice of which has been given in accordance with Part 4.4 of the Constitution and to which the Access to Information Rules at Part 4.2 of the Constitution shall apply; or
 - (b) in accordance with the procedure at 5 below.
3. In the case of a decision taken at a formal meeting of the Executive, the Mayor will take the decision having received written and oral advice from appropriate officers and consulted those members of the Executive present. In the event that a meeting of the Executive is not quorate, the Mayor may still take any necessary decisions having consulted any Executive members present. All Mayoral decisions taken at a formal meeting of the Executive shall be recorded in the minutes of the meeting.
4. The Cabinet Meeting is not authorised to exercise the Mayor's powers in the absence of the Mayor. If the Mayor is unable to act for any reason, and only in those circumstances, the Deputy Mayor is authorised to exercise the Mayor's powers.
5. The Mayor may at his discretion make a decision in relation to an Executive function, including a Key Decision, alone and outside the context of a meeting of the Executive. In relation to any decision made by the Mayor under this provision:-
 - (i) The decision may only be made following consideration by the Mayor of a full report by the relevant officer(s) containing all relevant information, options and recommendations in the same format as would be required if the decision were to be taken at a meeting of the Executive;

- (ii) In the case of a Key Decision as defined in Article 13 of the Constitution, the provisions of the Access to Information Procedure Rules in relation to prior publication on the Forward Plan, and the provisions of the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules in relation to call-in, including the rules regarding urgent decisions, shall apply; and
 - (iii) The decision shall not be made until the Mayor has confirmed his agreement by signing a Mayoral Decision Form which has first been completed with all relevant information and signed by the relevant Chief Officers.
6. All Mayoral decisions taken in accordance with paragraph 5 above shall be:-
- (i) Recorded in a log held by the Service Head, Democratic Services and available for public inspection; and
 - (ii) Published on the Council's website;

save that no information that in the opinion of the Assistant Chief Executive (Legal Services) is 'exempt' or 'confidential' as defined in the Council's Access to Information Procedure Rules shall be published, included in the decision notice or available for public inspection.

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

Brief description of background papers:

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

- None

LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS
COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP NOMINATIONS 2011-2012
ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING – 18th MAY 2011

APPEALS COMMITTEE (Seven members of the Council)			
<i>Labour Group (4)</i>	<i>Conservative Group (1)</i>	<i>Respect Group (1)</i>	<i>Others (1)</i>
<p>Cllr Bill Turner (Chair) Cllr Anna Lynch Cllr Khales Uddin Ahmed Cllr Anwar Khan</p> <p>(Deputies:- TBC</p>	<p>Cllr Gloria Thienel</p> <p>Deputies:- Cllr Peter Golds Cllr Dr Emma Jones</p>	<p>Cllr Harun Miah</p> <p>Deputy:- Cllr Fozol Miah</p>	

AUDIT COMMITTEE			
(Seven members of the Council)			
<i>Labour Group (4)</i>	<i>Conservative Group (1)</i>	<i>Respect Group (0)</i>	<i>Others (2)</i>
Cllr Carlo Gibbs (Chair) Cllr Khaled Uddin Ahmed Cllr David Edgar Cllr Denise Jones Deputies:- TBC	Cllr Craig Aston Deputies:- Cllr David Snowdon	n/a	Cllr Stephanie Eaton (LD)

DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
 (Seven members of the Council)

<i>Labour Group (5)</i>	<i>Conservative Group (1)</i>	<i>Respect Group (0)</i>	<i>Others (1)</i>
Cllr Helal Abbas (Chair) Cllr Helal Uddin Cllr Kosru Uddin Cllr Shiria Khatun Cllr Marc Francis Deputies:- TBC	Cllr Gloria Thienel Deputies:- Cllr Dr Emma Jones Cllr Tim Archer Cllr Peter Golds	n/a	

STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

(Seven members of the Council)

<i>Labour Group (5)</i>	<i>Conservative Group (1)</i>	<i>Respect Group (0)</i>	<i>Others (1)</i>
<p>Cllr Helal Abbas (Chair) Cllr Bill Turner Cllr Shahed Ali Cllr Carlo Gibbs Cllr Judith Gardiner</p> <p>Deputies:- TBC</p>	<p>Cllr Dr Emma Jones</p> <p>Deputies:- Cllr Tim Archer Cllr Gloria Thienel Cllr Peter Golds</p>	<p>n/a</p>	

GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE
(Seven members of the Council)

<i>Labour Group (4)</i>	<i>Conservative Group (1)</i>	<i>Respect Group (0)</i>	<i>Others (2)</i>
<p>Cllr Shiria Khatun (Chair) Cllr Mizan Chaudhury Cllr Shafiqul Haque Cllr Rofique Uddin Ahmed</p> <p>Deputies:- TBC</p>	<p>Cllr Maium Miah</p> <p>Deputies:- Cllr Peter Golds Cllr Craig Aston</p>	<p>n/a</p>	

HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE
 (Seven members of the Council)

<i>Labour Group (4)</i>	<i>Conservative Group (1)</i>	<i>Respect Group (0)</i>	<i>Others (2)</i>
Cllr Mohammed Abdul Mukit, MBE (Chair) Cllr Ann Jackson Cllr Ahmed Omer Cllr Anna Lynch Deputies:- TBC	Cllr Gloria Thienel Deputies:- Cllr Craig Aston Cllr Peter Golds	n/a	

LICENSING COMMITTEE
(Fifteen Members of the Council) (No Deputies permitted)
(* denotes Sub-Committee Chair nomination)

<i>Labour Group (10)</i>	<i>Conservative Group (3)</i>	<i>Respect Group (1)</i>	<i>Others (1)</i>
Cllr Carli Harper-Penman (Chair) Cllr Kabir Ahmed Cllr Abdal Ullah Cllr Khales Uddin Ahmed Cllr Rofique Uddin Ahmed Cllr Rajib Ahmed Cllr Marc Francis Cllr Shafiqul Haque Cllr Sirajul Islam Cllr Amy Whitelock	Cllr Peter Golds * Cllr David Snowdon * Cllr Zara Davis	-	

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
(Nine members of the Council plus six co-opted members)

Labour Group (6)	Conservative Group (1)	Respect Group (1)	Others (1)	Co-opted Members (for information – to be appointed by Overview & Scrutiny Committee)
<p>Cllr Ann Jackson (Chair) Cllr Sirajul Islam Cllr Amy Whitelock Cllr Rachael Saunders Cllr Zenith Rahman Cllr Helal Uddin</p> <p>Deputies:- TBC</p>	<p>Cllr Tim Archer</p> <p>Deputies:- Cllr Peter Golds Cllr David Snowdon</p>	<p>Cllr Fozol Miah</p> <p>Deputy:- Cllr Harun Miah</p>	<p>Cllr Stephanie Eaton (LD)</p>	<p>Mr Mushfique Uddin – Muslim Community representative</p> <p>Vacancy – Roman Catholic Diocese of Westminster representative</p> <p>Canon Michael Ainsworth - Church of England Diocese representative</p> <p>Parent Governor representatives:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr Jake Kemp • Revd James Olanipekun • 1 vacancy

HEALTH SCRUTINY PANEL
(Nominations for information - Panel to be appointed by Overview & Scrutiny Committee)
(Seven members of the Council)

<i>Labour Group (5)</i>	<i>Conservative Group (1)</i>	<i>Respect Group (0)</i>	<i>Others (1)</i>
<p>Cllr Rachael Saunders Cllr Abdul Asad Cllr Lesley Pavitt Cllr Denise Jones Cllr David Edgar</p> <p>Deputies:- TBC</p>	<p>Cllr Dr Emma Jones</p> <p>Deputies:- Cllr Tim Archer</p>	<p>n/a</p>	<p>Co-opted Members:- To be appointed by the Overview & Scrutiny Committee</p>

PENSIONS COMMITTEE (Seven Members of the Council)			
<i>Labour Group (4)</i>	<i>Conservative Group (1)</i>	<i>Respect Group (0)</i>	<i>Others (2)</i>
Cllr Anwar Khan (Chair) Cllr Abdal Ullah Cllr Zenith Rahman Cllr Ahmed Omer Deputies:- TBC	Cllr Craig Aston Deputies:- Cllr Tim Archer Cllr David Snowdon	n/a	Co-opted Members:- 1 x non-voting trade union representative 1 x non-voting admitted bodies representative.

STANDARDS COMMITTEE				
(Not subject to proportionality rules. Six Members of the Council (who may not include the Mayor or more than one other Cabinet Member) - three from the majority group, two from the largest minority group and one from another minority group, plus nine Independent Members)				
<i>Labour Group (3)</i>	<i>Conservative Group (2)</i>	<i>Respect Group (1)</i>	<i>Others (0)</i>	<i>Independent Members</i>
<p>Cllr Carli Harper-Penman Cllr Zenith Rahman Cllr Rachael Saunders</p> <p>Deputies:- TBC</p>	<p>Cllr Zara Davis Cllr Maium Miah</p> <p>Deputies:- Cllr Gloria Thienel</p>	<p>Cllr Fozol Miah</p> <p>Deputy:- Cllr Harun Miah</p>	n/a	<p>Continuing Members:</p> <p>Mr. B. Lowe (until May 2012) Mr. M. Rowe (until May 2012) Ms. S. Bagum (until May 2012) Mr. B. O'Connor (until May 2013) Ms. S. Rossiter (until May 2013)</p> <p>Four vacancies – recruitment process underway.</p>

ADOPTION PANEL

(To comprise two Social Workers, one elected Member, three Independent Persons and to include one man and one woman, up to a maximum of ten persons)

<i>Labour Group</i>	<i>Conservative Group</i>	<i>Respect Group</i>	<i>Others</i>
Cllr Bill Turner	-	-	-

FOSTERING PANEL

(To comprise two Social Workers, one elected Member and four Independent Persons, up to a maximum of ten persons)

<i>Labour Group</i>	<i>Conservative Group</i>	<i>Respect Group</i>	<i>Others</i>
Cllr Lesley Pavitt	-	-	-

CORPORATE PARENTING STEERING GROUP

(Cabinet Member for Children's Services, two other Councillors, a Corporate Director and two Young People's Representatives)

<i>Labour Group</i>	<i>Conservative Group</i>	<i>Respect Group</i>	<i>Others</i>
Cllr Bill Turner	-	-	Cllr Oliur Rahman Cllr Alibor Choudhury

STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE)

(To comprise members appointed by the LEA)

<i>Labour Group</i>	<i>Conservative Group</i>	<i>Respect Group</i>	<i>Others</i>
Cllr Shiria Khatun	Cllr Peter Golds Deputy:- Cllr Tim Archer	-	-

TO NOTE POLITICAL GROUP APPOINTMENTS

- | | | | | |
|--------------------|---|---|---|---------------------------|
| Labour Group | - | Leader of the Labour Group | - | Councillor Joshua Peck |
| | | Deputy Leader of the Labour Group | - | Councillor Motin Uz-Zaman |
| Conservative Group | - | Leader of the Conservative Group | - | Councillor Peter Golds |
| | | Deputy Leader of the Conservative Group | - | Councillor Timothy Archer |
| Respect Group | - | Leader of the Respect Group | - | Councillor Fozol Miah |
| | | Deputy Leader of the Respect Group | - | Councillor Harun Miah |

APPENDIX C

LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

APPOINTMENTS TO LONDON COUNCILS COMMITTEES/FORUMS
2011/12

Committees	Nominations sought and any guidance provided by London Councils	Tower Hamlets Nominee
Leaders' and Mayors' Committee (s101 Joint Committee) & London Councils Limited.	One voting member (usually the Mayor) plus up to two named deputies.	Mayor Lutfur Rahman
Transport and Environment Committee (Associated Joint Committee)	One voting member (usually the lead member for transport or environment) plus up to four named deputies.	Cllr Ohid Ahmed
Grants Committee (Associated Joint Committee)	One voting member (preferably the lead member for partnerships and/or the voluntary sector) plus up to four named deputies. NB: Both the voting member and all of the deputies must be members of the Council's Cabinet.	Cllr Ohid Ahmed
Greater London Provincial Council	No direct nominations - GLPC Employers' Side comprises 15 members nominated from the combined membership of the Leaders' and Mayors' Committee and the Greater London Employment Forum)	n/a

Forums	(Nominees will usually be the lead member in the relevant area. Appointment of officer positions are made by the Leaders' and Mayors' Committee)	
Health and Adult Services Forum	One member (normally the lead member for health/social services) plus one named deputy.	Cllr Ohid Ahmed
Housing Forum	One member (normally the lead member for housing) plus one named deputy.	Cllr Rabina Khan
Culture, Tourism and 2012 Forum	One member (normally the lead member for culture, sport or 2012) plus one named deputy.	Cllr Aminur Khan
Crime and Public Protection Forum	One member (normally the lead member for community safety) plus one named deputy.	Cllr Ohid Ahmed
Economic Development Forum	One member (normally the lead member for regeneration/economic development) plus one named deputy.	Cllr Alibor Choudhury
Children and Young People Forum	One member (normally the lead member for children's services) plus one named deputy.	Cllr Oliur Rahman
Greater London Employment Forum	One member (normally the member responsible for human resources issues) plus one named deputy.	Cllr Rania Khan
Lead Members	Lead Members for Equalities, Improvement and Sustainability are appointed by the Leaders' and Mayors' Committee. These are not nominated directly by boroughs but appointed from candidates put forward by the party groups at London Councils.	

LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

COUNCIL MEETING

WEDNESDAY 13th JULY 2011

PETITIONS

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

SUMMARY

1. The Council's constitution as amended provides that a maximum of three petitions are received at any meeting. These are taken in order of receipt. This report sets out the valid petitions submitted for presentation at the Council meeting on Wednesday 13th July 2011.
2. The deadline for receipt of petitions for this meeting is noon on Thursday 7th July. However, at the time of agenda despatch the maximum number of three petitions had already been received as set out overleaf.
3. In each case the petitioners may address the meeting for no more than three minutes. Members may then question the petitioners for a further four minutes. Finally, the relevant Cabinet Member or Chair of Committee may respond to the 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 Petition from A. Bentham, T. McGrenera and others regarding budget savings:

“We, who have signed this petition, are requesting the Council rescind its decision to cut £56 million from the budget this year (and in doing so remove the cuts from our midst as East End Life did in its headlines from the front page in the week following the decision).”

5.2 Petition from A. Kenny and East London Teachers Association/National Union of Teachers regarding academy status:

“Please say NO to academy status.

We, the undersigned, understand the pressures on schools to convert to academy status, but in these difficult times we believe our schools are stronger together than apart and that academy schools are not appropriate for Tower Hamlets.

We believe that the success of education in Tower Hamlets has been brought about by schools, staff and the Local Authority working together in the best interests of all children. We are concerned that schools going it alone as academies will disrupt the hard work of all of us in providing the best possible education for all our children.

We petition the Council to urge all school governors and headteachers to reject academy status and stay within the Local Authority family of schools.”

5.3 Petition from E. Dawe and others regarding Council properties in Bruce Road, E3:

“We the undersigned strongly object to the sale and privatisation of any of the ‘short life’ Council properties in Bruce Road, E3.”

LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

COUNCIL MEETING

WEDNESDAY 13th JULY 2011

**QUESTIONS SUBMITTED BY
MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

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

SUMMARY

1. Set out overleaf are the questions submitted by members of the public, for response by the appropriate Cabinet Member or committee chair at the Council Meeting on 13th July 2011.
2. The Council's Constitution sets a maximum time limit of twenty minutes for this item.
3. A questioner who has put a question in person may also put one brief supplementary question without notice to the Member who has replied to his or her original question. A supplementary question must arise directly out of the original question or the reply. Supplementary questions and Members' responses to written and supplementary questions are each limited to two minutes.
4. Any question which cannot be dealt with during the twenty minutes allocated for public questions, either because of lack of time or because of non-attendance of the questioner or the Member to whom it was put, will be dealt with by way of a written answer.
5. Unless the Chair of Council decides otherwise, no discussion will take place on any question, but any Member of the Council may move, without discussion, that the matter raised by a question be referred for consideration by the Cabinet or the appropriate Committee or Sub-Committee.

QUESTIONS

Five questions have been submitted as set out below:-

6.1 Question from Mr Sheikh Raquib to Mayor Lutfur Rahman:

“Is the Mayor aware that housing associations in the borough are undertaking major works and charging disproportionately and unfairly to leaseholders who are suffering, without consideration of the current cut backs and recession. Will the Mayor use his influence to promote more transparency for the leaseholder residents of Tower Hamlets regarding the payment plan being applied flexibly and fairly to all and with caps on some housing associations where necessary?”

6.2 Question from Ms Myra Garrett to Mayor Lutfur Rahman:

“Is it true that the Council paid £70,000 in housing benefit to one family alone?”

6.3 Question from Mr Saif Uddin to Mayor Lutfur Rahman:

“Is it true that the Council paid £70,000 in housing benefit to one family alone? If so how does the Council justify itself?”

6.4 Question from Ms Sultana Ali to Mayor Lutfur Rahman:

“Can the Mayor update us on what he has done to date to save King Edward Memorial Park from Thames Water’s super sewer?”

6.5 Question from Ms Kerstyn Comley of The Wapping and Shadwell Secondary Education Trust to Mayor Lutfur Rahman:

“The borough projects an increasing shortfall of secondary school places from 2013 onwards. There already exists a recognised lack of provision of co-educational secondary schools for families in Wapping and Shadwell. The Wapping and Shadwell Secondary Education Trust have submitted an application for a comprehensive, inclusive free school to the Department for Education. The application is supported by nearly 500 families and has cross party support both at a local and national level.

Will the Mayor direct the council and its officers to work with the Trust to take advantage of this opportunity for the benefit of the whole borough and to ensure that the council retains a stake in this venture?”

LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

COUNCIL MEETING

WEDNESDAY 13th JULY 2011

**QUESTIONS SUBMITTED BY
MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL**

**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 13th July 2011.
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 one minute. Supplementary questions and responses are also time limited to one minute 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 answered within this time will be dealt with by way of a written response. The Chair 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.

MEMBERS' QUESTIONS

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

8.1 Question from Councillor Judith Gardiner to Mayor Lutfur Rahman:

“Can the Mayor tell me why the Council is selling large, family sized homes at auction to the highest bidder when there is a desperate shortage of this type of social housing across the Borough?”

8.2 Question from Councillor David Snowdon to Mayor Lutfur Rahman:

“In the course of his duties on behalf of Tower Hamlets Council has the Mayor ever consulted the Islamic Forum for Europe on Council policy? Does he believe they are an appropriate organisation to consult on Council matters?”

8.3 Question from Councillor Kosru Uddin to Mayor Lutfur Rahman:

“Does the Mayor share my concerns over potential police counter closures and changes to Safer Neighbourhood Teams in Tower Hamlets?”

8.4 Question from Councillor Harun Miah to the Cabinet Member for Children’s Services, Councillor Oliur Rahman:

“Whilst acknowledging that it is ignorance rather than knowledge which leads young people into unfortunate, inappropriate and abusive sexual relationships, is the Cabinet Member for Education aware of the widespread concern amongst many parents about the current practices in teaching Sex and Relationship Education (SRE) in the borough, particularly in relation to some aspects of SRE being taught to those under the age of 11 and being taught with a particular DVD which has provoked concern, and could he outline what measures the Council is taking to reassure parents that Sex and Relationship Education in this borough is taught appropriately, using the appropriate materials and at the appropriate ages?”

8.5 Question from Councillor David Edgar to Mayor Lutfur Rahman:

“Can the Mayor tell me how many jobs so far have been taken up by Tower Hamlets residents as a result of the deal made between him and LOCOG?”

8.6 Question from Councillor Zara Davis to Mayor Lutfur Rahman:

“In 2010 how many GCSE students in LBTH schools achieved 5 A* grades including English and Maths, and how many A2 students at LBTH colleges and sixth forms achieved at least 1 A* and 2 A grades? What is being done to ensure that the brightest students in our borough are being stretched?”

8.7 Question from Councillor Denise Jones to Mayor Lutfur Rahman:

“Can the Mayor tell me what negotiations the Council has had with LOCOG over the Olympic Route Network?”

8.8 Question from Councillor Fozol Miah to the Cabinet Member for Housing, Councillor Rabina Khan:

“Is the Cabinet Member for Housing aware that many homes, including large family homes, built in recent years have been built in “car free zones”, that large and poorer families in particular need large family cars for cheap and secure transport and to transport foodstuffs in bulk and that “car free” homes therefore discriminate against larger and poorer families and will she therefore agree to lobby central government to repeal legislation and to seek changes to strategic planning which has imposed these “car free” homes on Tower Hamlets residents, to seek any loopholes that may exist to reduce the number of “car free” homes that currently exist or will be built in the future and to seek to enable residents in “car free” homes access to at least one resident’s parking permit if needed?”

8.9 Question from Councillor Rachael Saunders to Mayor Lutfur Rahman:

“Can the Mayor tell me what the composition of the new Health and Wellbeing board will be?”

8.10 Question from Councillor Craig Aston to Mayor Lutfur Rahman:

“What progress has been made in implementing the Motion in the names of Councillors Snowdon and Davis agreed at the Full Council meeting on October 27th which called for the full details of all premises, regulated entertainment and late night refreshment licenses to be published on the Tower Hamlets Website?”

8.11 Question from Councillor Shiria Khatun to Mayor Lutfur Rahman:

“Can the Mayor update me on the Council’s bid for city status and tell me what Council resources are being used to support the bid?”

8.12 Question from Councillor Stephanie Eaton to the Cabinet Member for Housing, Councillor Rabina Khan:

“Could I be advised how much the Borough pays to send waste to landfill, and how much of this cost could be saved by the use of the waste to energy facility proposed for Fish Island South? How can existing local residents and the residents of the forecast 2000 new homes at Fish Island be informed about the safety and environmental impact of the facility, especially in relation to emissions and the siting of such a plant in a flood risk area?”

8.13 Question from Councillor Mohammed Abdul Mukit to the Cabinet Member for Children’s Services, Councillor Oliur Rahman:

“Can the Lead Member tell me what discussions the Council has had with Bethnal Green Technology College about its bid for Academy Status?”

8.14 Question from Councillor Peter Golds to Mayor Lutfur Rahman:

“Having used £120,000 of public money on a new office suite, which will enable the Mayor to, according to East End Life, “host foreign dignitaries”;

sending council officers to purchase two iPhone 4 handsets at £600 each and;

leasing a silver Mercedes car from ING car leasing at £72 per day, plus chauffeur.

Will the Mayor inform the Council which are the next personal aspects of his office to be enhanced from public money and whether he will be visiting the Government Art Collection to secure suitably impressive art works for the Mayor of a London Borough to be made available when he is receiving “foreign dignitaries” in his one way mirrored office?”

8.15 Question from Councillor Joshua Peck to Mayor Lutfur Rahman:

“Will the Mayor commit to working with all political groups, the Police, Interfaith Forum and community organisations to respond to any planned action by the EDL this summer in Tower Hamlets and ensure the safety and security of residents?”

8.16 Question from Councillor Emma Jones to Mayor Lutfur Rahman:

“When will work commence to repair Wapping Wall, as agreed in this years' budget?”

8.17 Question from Councillor Anna Lynch to Mayor Lutfur Rahman:

“Can the Mayor confirm that residential care we may provide for our Learning Disabled residents has been recently inspected and that we have addressed any concerns; and whether the difficulties being experienced by provider Southern Cross will have an impact on any of our homes?”

8.18 Question from Councillor Tim Archer to Mayor Lutfur Rahman:

“Does the Mayor believe we are an energy efficient council?”

8.19 Question from Councillor Anwar Khan to Mayor Lutfur Rahman:

“Can the Mayor give me an update on the progress made by the Council to promote Fairtrade products amongst Council catering services, residents and community groups and on asking Council contractors to provide Fairtrade goods?”

8.20 Question from Councillor Maium Miah to Mayor Lutfur Rahman:

“Will the Mayor inform Members how he will be allocating the 1000 jobs that Lord Coe has provided to Tower Hamlets? What provision has he in place that these will be spread across the borough and will include Millwall and the Isle of Dogs.?”

8.21 Question from Councillor Gloria Thienel to Mayor Lutfur Rahman:

“What steps has the Mayor taken to make sure we receive good value for money from our role in hosting a large section of the London Marathon?”

8.22 Question from Councillor Shafiqul Haque to Mayor Lutfur Rahman:

‘I hope the Mayor is aware that Wapping would be more disadvantaged than anywhere in London due to Olympic Traffic Plan, could he please confirm that he would support and work with us while we would be making formal objection?’

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REPORT OF THE CABINET

08 JUNE 2011

To receive the report of the Cabinet at its meeting held on Wednesday **08 June 2011**.

Mayor and Councillors in attendance at the meeting: -

Cabinet:

Mayor	Lutfur Rahman	(Mayor)
Councillor	Ohid Ahmed	(Deputy Mayor)
Councillor	Alibor Choudhury	(Cabinet Member for Resources)
Councillor	Rabina Khan	(Cabinet Member for Housing)
Councillor	Rania Khan	(Cabinet Member for Regeneration)
Councillor	Oliur Rahman	(Cabinet Member for Children's Services)

Other Councillors:

Councillor	Judith Gardiner	
Councillor	Carlo Gibbs	
Councillor	Peter Golds	(Leader of the Conservative Group)
Councillor	Ann Jackson	(Chair, Overview & Scrutiny Committee)
Councillor	Denise Jones	
Councillor	Motin Uz Zaman	(Deputy Leader of the Labour Group)
Councillor	Amy Whitelock	

1. Tower Hamlets Community Plan Refresh 2011 (CAB 005/112)

The report (attached as Appendix A to this council report) provided the Mayor and Cabinet with an overview of the refresh of the Borough's community strategy and the new proposed Tower Hamlets Community Plan. It informed them that: -

- The Community Plan is the Borough's sustainable community strategy and sets out the long-term vision and priorities for Tower Hamlets. It is a statutory document developed and owned by the Tower Hamlets Partnership, led by the Council.
- The refresh of the Plan had been informed by assessments of needs in the Borough and through consultation with local residents, organisations and partners.

The broad endorsement of the proposals contained in this policy framework report by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (OSC), at its meeting held on 7th June 2011, and specific comments/ advice arising from its deliberations, were reported by the Chair of the OSC earlier in the Cabinet proceedings and noted by the Mayor/ Cabinet.

The Mayor **agreed** the recommendations as set out in the report before the Cabinet for consideration.

Decision

That the process followed for refreshing the Community Plan be noted.

That the Tower Hamlets Community Plan 2011, attached at Appendix 1 to the report (CAB 005/112), be recommended to Full Council for approval.

That the Chief Executive, after consultation with the Mayor, be authorised to make appropriate amendments to the Tower Hamlets Community Plan, that are necessary to respond to any late consultation responses, before it is presented to Full Council.

Council is therefore recommended to: -

1. Approve the Tower Hamlets Community Plan 2011, attached at Appendix 1 to the report (CAB 005/112) **(Attached at Appendix A to this Council report)**.
2. Authorise the Chief Executive, after consultation with the Mayor, to make appropriate and necessary amendments to the Tower Hamlets Community Plan 2011 prior to publication.

**Lutfur Rahman
Mayor**

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
Draft Cabinet minutes 08/06/11		Angus Taylor 020 7364 4333

Committee/Meeting: Cabinet	Date: 8 th June 2011	Classification: Unrestricted	Report No: CAB 005/112
Report of: Isabella Freeman Assistant Chief Executive (Legal) Originating officer(s) Michael Keating Service Head One Tower Hamlets		Title: Tower Hamlets Community Plan Refresh 2011 Wards Affected: All	

Lead Member	Mayor Lutfur Rahman
Community Plan Theme	All
Strategic Priority	All

1. **SUMMARY**

- 1.1 This report provides Cabinet with an overview of the refresh of the borough's community strategy and the new proposed Tower Hamlets Community Plan (Appendix 1).
- 1.2 The Community Plan is the borough's sustainable community strategy and sets out the long-term vision and priorities for Tower Hamlets. It is a statutory document developed and owned by the Tower Hamlets Partnership, led by the Council.
- 1.3 The refresh of the Plan has been informed by assessments of needs in the borough and through consultation with local residents, organisations and partners.

2. **DECISIONS REQUIRED**

- 2.1 Cabinet is requested to:-

- § Note the process followed for refreshing the Community Plan;
- § Recommend the Tower Hamlets Community Plan 2011 to Full Council for approval (Appendix 1); and
- § Authorise the Chief Executive, after consultation with the Mayor, to make appropriate amendments to the Tower Hamlets Community Plan before it is presented to Full Council that are necessary to respond to any late consultation responses.

3. REASONS FOR THE DECISIONS

- 3.1 The Community Plan is the local term given to the borough's sustainable community strategy. It is a statutory document and an integral part of the Council's Budget and Policy Framework. In accordance with the Council's Constitution, it must therefore be agreed by Full Council, following recommendation from Cabinet.
- 3.2 The Plan provides the long-term vision for the borough, articulating local aspirations, needs and priorities. As the high-level partnership strategy, it informs all other strategies and delivery plans of the Tower Hamlets Partnership, including the Council's Strategic Plan.
- 3.3 It outlines how the Partnership will work together to improve the lives of all those who live and work in the borough. It has a particular focus on tackling inequality, poverty and social exclusion as articulated through the One Tower Hamlets narrative.
- 3.4 The refreshed Community Plan is intended to provide a more robust and sustainable direction of travel for the Partnership, in light of future needs and emerging challenges and opportunities including the new Coalition Government's reform agenda. It is the product of wide ranging consultation with local people and partners to ensure that it reflects the issues that matter most to local people.

4. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 4.1 Cabinet may decide not to recommend the proposed Community Plan to Full Council. Should Cabinet decide to do so elements of the refresh process may need to be repeated. The Community Plan supports partnership working at a time of significant change. Other documents such as the Strategic Plan, which Cabinet approved in April 2011, based on the proposed Community Plan, may also need to be amended.
- 4.2 Cabinet may also decide to make any amendments to the Plan as it sees fit.

5. BACKGROUND

5.1 Through the existing Community Plan, the Tower Hamlets Partnership has made significant strides in improving the lives of local people. However since the borough's current Community Plan was published in 2008 there have been a number of national and local developments with considerable implications for Tower Hamlets. These include an economic downturn, a new national political landscape and significant spending reductions in the public and third sector over the next four years. In 2010, based on the challenges and opportunities facing the borough, the Tower Hamlets Partnership Executive agreed that this is an opportune time to review the Community Plan.

6. BODY OF THE REPORT

Community Plan Refresh Process

- 6.1 A comprehensive process has been followed to refresh the Community Plan. This included the development of an evidence base comprising of existing needs assessments (such as the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment and Local Economic Assessment); performance data; and an analysis of the Coalition Government's reform agenda and its possible implications for the borough.
- 6.2 Consultation with local people, communities and organisations has also been central to this evidence base. Several consultation activities have been held to capture the concerns and aspirations of local people and stakeholders to help inform the Plan. These include:
- § Discussions at the Partnership Board and LAP Steering Group conference;
 - § General open consultation events for residents held in each of the 4 paired LAPs;
 - § Street and market based consultation activities;
 - § Thematic workshops with key partners, drawn from each of the Community Plan Delivery Groups;
 - § Cross-cutting workshop with senior officers from the Partnership;
 - § Discussions at the Localisation Board, Partnership Executive Support Group and Community Plan Delivery Groups;
 - § Seminar open to all Council Members;
 - § Consultation with the third sector at TH3 Council of Voluntary Services launch event and a workshop with key third sector representatives;
 - § Discussions at Tower Hamlets Housing Forum; and
 - § Discussions with key Equalities forums such as the Tower Hamlets Interfaith Forum, Rainbow Hamlets and the Pan Disability Panel.
- 6.3 Outcomes from the borough's Budget Congresses, which discussed the Partnership's approach to the considerable financial challenges facing Tower Hamlets, have also fed into the development of the new proposed Community Plan.

- 6.4 An Equalities Impact Assessment of the proposed Community Plan framework has been conducted by partnership representatives, led by the Council’s Equalities and Scrutiny Service. The recommendations from the assessment have also helped develop the draft Plan.
- 6.5 In summary, the EqIA indicated that overall, the Community Plan will help address the needs of the borough’s diverse communities and contribute to equality of opportunity for all. A number of recommendations were made to ensure that the Plan fully addresses equalities needs in the borough. The Community Plan objectives and narrative were amended to provide a sharper focus on equalities and diversity. For example, the objective on hate crime has been amended to reflect all hate crime, a specific mental health priority has been included in the One Tower Hamlets Focus of the Healthy and Supportive Community theme; and the narrative on community cohesion extended, including promoting cohesion among young people. Based on the recommendations the Partnership will also give further consideration to reporting performance data by equalities strands.

Proposed Community Plan

- 6.6 The Partnership has produced a draft Community Plan using the evidence base outlined above. Whilst many of the high-level priorities and objectives remain the same, there are some important differences compared with the current Plan.
- 6.7 There is a stronger articulation of the ‘story of place’ – highlighting the borough’s unique and diverse history and its challenges and opportunities. There is also a better alignment of the Community Plan themes to reflect these challenges and opportunities.

The refreshed Community Plan themes are as follows:

- A Great Place to Live:* focusing on improving the liveability of the borough including housing, the public realm and local transport
- A Prosperous Community:* focusing on getting more people into work; supporting residents through welfare reform in the borough; raising educational attainment; and supporting enterprise, including the third sector
- A Safe and Cohesive Community:* focusing on tackling and preventing crime and anti-social behaviour as well as improving people’s sense of feeling safe, alongside improving community cohesion in the borough
- Healthy and Supportive Community:* focusing on improving the health and wellbeing of local people, supporting people to live

independently and protecting vulnerable children and adults

- 6.8 The approach of the Partnership in delivering these priorities has also changed. There is new emphasis on the Localisation agenda – integrating services at the local level so services are more responsive, efficient and engaged with local people; a more focused narrative on ‘One Tower Hamlets’ – a continuing commitment to tackling inequality and disadvantage; and the principles of efficient use of resources as integral to the delivery of the Plan.

Consultation on the Proposed Community Plan

- 6.9 Formal consultation on the draft Plan took place between April – May 2011. The consultation was open to all those who live, work, study or have an interest in the borough.
- 6.10 A number of methods were used to consult on the draft Plan, ensuring that it was accessible and inclusive. This ranged from publicising the consultation in the local media, including East End Life and Bengali newspapers; publicising the consultation on the Tower Hamlets Partnership website, Tower Hamlets Council for Voluntary Services website and Tower Hamlets Involvement Network websites; text messages to local people registered on the borough’s consultation portal and direct emails inviting people to take part in the consultation.
- 6.11 Feedback from the consultation shows that the draft Community Plan was well received. Local people and organisations agreed that the Plan reflects key local priorities. Respondents were pleased that despite the economic downturn, the Partnership has not dampened its vision. It still remains as determined to improve the lives of local people, particularly the most vulnerable and disadvantaged, whilst building resilient communities and embedding a culture of aspiration.
- 6.12 Local organisations also highlighted the need to ensure that community engagement is pivotal to the delivery of the Plan and that third sector organisations are seen as key partners to its delivery. A number of respondents also commented that the protection of open spaces and natural environment should not be overlooked. Feedback from the consultation has helped inform the final proposed Community Plan.

7. COMMENTS OF THE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

- 7.1 This report describes the proposed consultation draft Community Plan and the arrangements and timetable for refreshing the Plan.
- 7.2 The report in paragraph 5.1 acknowledges the changed financial environment the Council now faces in particular the fact that the Council will no longer receive the same levels of government funding from 2011-12 onwards and

therefore will not be able to continue or offer similar level of financial commitments it has had up until recently. A report on the Council's 2011-12 revenue budget and medium term financial plan 2011-14 was presented to Cabinet on 12 January 2011.

- 7.3 There are no other specific financial implications emanating from this report but in the event that the Council agrees further action in response to this report's recommendations then officers will be obliged to seek the appropriate financial approval before further financial commitments are made.

8 CONCURRENT REPORT OF THE ASSISTANT CHIEF EXECUTIVE (LEGAL SERVICES)

- 8.1 The Community Plan comprises the Council's sustainable community strategy within the meaning of section 4 of the Local Government Act 2000. The Council is required to have a sustainable community strategy and may modify it from time to time. In modifying the strategy, the Council must consult and seek the participation of each partner authority and such other persons as the Council considers appropriate. The Council must also have regard to statutory guidance issued by the Secretary of State in July 2008 in the document entitled *Creating Strong, Safe and Prosperous Communities*. The statutory guidance indicates that authorities need to consider how to consult with local people, local businesses and third sector organisations. According to the guidance, the strategy should contribute to the achievement of sustainable development in the United Kingdom.
- 8.2 The Community Plan under-pins the Council's well-being power in section 2 of the Local Government Act 2000, which is used to support a range of actions. The Council is empowered under section 2 of the Local Government Act 2000 to do anything which it considers likely to promote the social, economic or environmental well being of Tower Hamlets, provided the action is not otherwise prohibited by statute. This power includes the ability to incur expenditure or to give financial assistance to or enter into arrangements or agreements with any other person. The power may be exercised in relation to, or for the benefit of: (a) the whole or any part of Tower Hamlets; or (b) all or any persons resident in Tower Hamlets. In exercising the power, regard must be had to the Community Plan.
- 8.3 The Community Plan is critically important to the discharge of the whole range of the Council's statutory functions, providing over-arching objectives the Council is trying to achieve. It is impractical to refer to all the statutory functions to which the Community Plan will relate. However, the cross-cutting principles expressed in the Plan are particularly closely aligned with the following of the Council's duties –
- The Council is subject to the public sector equality duty under the Equality Act 2010 requires the Council to have due regard to the following matters in the exercise of its functions: (1) the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct prohibited under the Act; (2) the need to advance equality of

opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic (RPC) and those who don't; and (3) the need to foster good relations between persons who share an RPC and those who don't.

- The Council is required as a best value authority under section 3 of the Local Government Act 1999 to make arrangements to secure continuous improvement in the way in which its functions are exercised, having regard to a combination of economy, efficiency and effectiveness.
- The Council is required by section 3A of the Local Government Act 1999 to take steps to ensure that local representatives are involved in the exercise of Council functions if it considers it appropriate they should be so involved.

9. ONE TOWER HAMLETS CONSIDERATIONS

- 9.1 The Community Plan reflects the needs and aspirations of the borough's diverse communities. Ensuring that everyone has the opportunity to achieve their full potential, by tackling and mitigating poverty and promoting social inclusion, is central to the Community Plan. This is articulated through the Plan's One Tower Hamlets principle.
- 9.2 One Tower Hamlets is a cross-cutting principle that runs through the Community Plan. It is integral to the delivery of the inclusive vision of the Partnership to improve the lives of all those who live and work in the borough.

10. SUSTAINABLE ACTION FOR A GREENER ENVIRONMENT

- 10.1 The purpose of the Community Plan is to ensure that it contributes to supporting sustainable communities, including environmental sustainability. The Plan contains a number of objectives that will help achieve a sustainable environment: these include maximising energy efficiency and improving the public realm. As part of this, a number of strategies are identified to help reduce carbon emissions and fuel poverty, as well as protect the borough's physical and natural environment.

11. RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

- 11.1 The Community Plan provides the strategic direction for all Council strategies, service plans and resource allocations. Risks relating to the achievement of the objectives are therefore monitored through the Council's Corporate Risk Register and directorate risk registers.
- 11.2 Corporate risks are assessed for likelihood and impact, and have responsible owners and programmes of mitigating actions. The Corporate Risk Register is updated throughout the year and reported quarterly to the Corporate Management Team. Each directorate also maintains its own register of risks that feeds into the corporate monitoring and evaluation

process. In this way senior managers assess risks, develop mitigating actions, and monitor progress in a systematic manner.

- 11.3 The Council's performance against the Community Plan objectives, as the lead organisation in the Tower Hamlets Partnership, will determine how it is assessed by central government, external partners and the wider public.

12. CRIME AND DISORDER REDUCTION IMPLICATIONS

- 12.1 Reducing crime and disorder are a central focus of the Community Plan, articulated in the Safe and Cohesive Community theme. The Community Plan aspires to reduce the crime and anti-social behaviour rate in the borough through joint working between community safety partners.
- 12.2 The Plan also recognises that multiple disadvantage often puts many people at risk of engaging in criminal behaviour. It concentrates on an early intervention approach to prevent people, particularly young people, getting involved in criminal activity.
- 12.3 As well as reducing crime, the Community Plan also prioritises tackling the fear of crime to make people feel safer in their neighbourhoods.

13. EFFICIENCY STATEMENT

- 13.1 The Community Plan highlights the significant spending cuts to public organisations and the impact of this on service provision from both the public and third sectors. It outlines that in a much changed financial context, efficiency – providing value for money services – becomes more important than ever. This commitment is articulated through a cross-cutting principle on efficiency that informs delivery against all objectives in the Plan.

14. APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Tower Hamlets Community Plan 2011

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

Brief description of Background Papers:	Name and telephone number of holder and address where open to inspection:
Equality Impact Assessment Summary Evidence Base Consultation Findings Budget Congress Reports	Daisy Beserve, 020 7364 2260, 6 th Floor Mulberry Place, Clove Crescent, London, E14 2BG



TOWER HAMLETS COMMUNITY PLAN 2011





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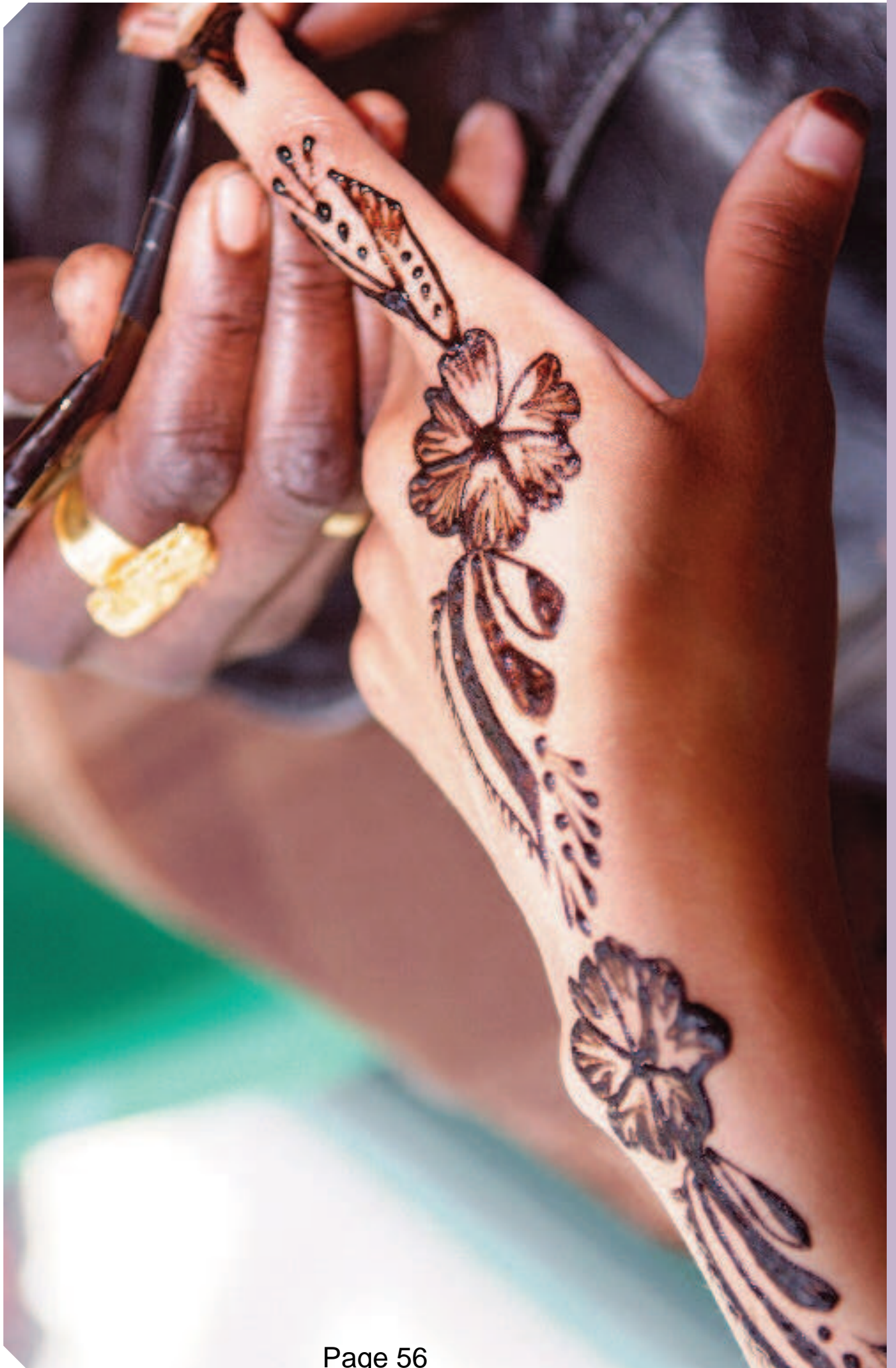
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Image courtesy of Levitt Bernstein

Artist depiction of the completed Ocean Estate Regeneration Project





Foreword



Tower Hamlets is a vibrant borough, at the heart of the regeneration of London's east end. What makes it special are its proud and diverse communities. The Tower Hamlets Partnership is committed to improving the lives of these communities – all those who live, work and invest in the borough.

The Partnership brings together people and organisations with a vital role in the borough: residents; public services; voluntary and community groups and local businesses. We have made good progress over the past few years in improving the quality of life in Tower Hamlets. There is more housing provision in the borough, in 2010 we delivered more affordable housing than any other borough in the country, our young people are performing better at school, people are healthier and the borough is safer.

The next few years will be challenging for Tower Hamlets. We are living through the most austere times – with public services having far less money to spend on services than before. Despite these difficult times the Partnership remains dedicated to making the borough a better place to live and work, particularly for the most vulnerable and disadvantaged members of our communities. We will continue to strive for the very best for our borough.

I am therefore pleased to present the new Tower Hamlets Community Plan on behalf of the Tower Hamlets Partnership. The Plan sets out our shared vision for improving the borough over the next three years. It is an ambitious Plan. It outlines how we will continue to reduce inequality and poverty in the

borough to ensure that everyone has the opportunity to achieve their full potential – articulated in our One Tower Hamlets aspiration.

The Plan has been informed by the views of local people. Through a number of consultation events, local people, organisations and businesses have told us what matters to them most.

The key priority areas of the Plan reflect what local people have been telling us. They include: providing more affordable housing – particularly family sized social rented housing, supporting local people into employment, improving the education of our young people as part of creating a culture of aspiration, and tackling crime and anti-social behaviour.

We all have a role to play in achieving the vision of the Community Plan. The current financial climate means we are going to have to work more efficiently together to be able to do so.

I believe that this Plan, including the key strategies listed to help deliver it, will enable us to make a lasting difference to local people and communities in Tower Hamlets. I look forward to working with you all to make it a reality for our borough.

Lutfur Rahman

*Mayor of Tower Hamlets and
Chair of the Tower Hamlets Partnership*



1 Tower Hamlets Story



Growth and diversity

- 1.1 Tower Hamlets is unique; unparalleled in its history of diversity and growth. Situated at the edge of the City and on the River Thames it has long been a centre of industry, migration and culture: from its internationally significant docks that brought maritime trade to London, to the clothing industry through the industrial ages, to a global financial power house today.
- 1.2 In recent times Tower Hamlets has experienced the largest growth in the country and has been the focal point of regeneration in London. Significant development activities include the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games, continued development within the Thames Gateway and the expansion of Canary Wharf. This presents immense opportunities for the borough.
- 1.3 The borough's Local Economic Assessment, an analysis of the local economy and future economic prospects, shows that the borough's economy has changed from a strong manufacturing base to an economy primarily of financial services. Other important industries include retail, wholesale, hotels and restaurants. The local economy has been affected by the downturn but is beginning to recover and further growth and employment opportunities are forecast, supported by the planned growth of Canary Wharf and the City Fringe.
- 1.4 Diversity has always been a key strength of the borough. Tower Hamlets has historically been home to a mix of communities. Waves of migration to the borough include the Flemings in the 14th century, French Huguenots in the 17th century, the Jewish community, Irish Catholics, Bangladeshis in the mid 20th century and more recently Somali, Chinese and Eastern European communities.

St Katharine's Docks

- 1.5 The borough's population peaked at the turn of the 19th and 20th century, dropping in the post-war period and increasing again in the 1960s. It now has the fastest growing population in London, estimated to be 242,000 and projected to increase to 316,300 by 2026. This growing population is ethnically diverse, with almost half of the borough's population comprising of Black and minority ethnic groups, with the largest of these (33%) being the Bangladeshi community.
- 1.6 Religion continues to play a prominent role in the lives of many of the borough's population, with 80% of residents claiming a religious belief and Tower Hamlets being home to the largest Muslim population in the country. The borough also has a relatively young population with 37% of people aged 20-34, compared to 20% across England. The borough's population is expected to grow across all age groups, but growth is strongest in the older age groups.
- 1.7 The richness of Tower Hamlets is also evident in its physical and cultural assets. The borough's diverse history is reflected in the collection of Hamlets that grew along and around the trade and movement routes between the City of London and the hinterlands of Essex. Tower Hamlets boasts extensive waterways, Victoria and Mile End Park, an assortment of museums and markets, and the Tower of London from which it derives its name. All of these contribute to the borough's unmatched sense of place and identity.

Challenges ahead

- 1.8 Tower Hamlets is improving. Residents are healthier, our children are performing at or above the national average in school and

there are fewer young people not in education, training or employment. Businesses continue to be attracted to its growth, location and connectivity and the borough's streets and public spaces are cleaner and safer. Its town centres and neighbourhoods are also being developed and regenerated.

- 1.9 Despite the improvement and regeneration, deprivation and poverty continue to be prominent features in the distinct story of Tower Hamlets. The borough's historic challenges – housing, employment, poverty, crime and health inequalities – continue to be key issues and major concerns for local people.
- 1.10 Tower Hamlets remains a place of contrast: immense wealth sitting alongside stark poverty. The average annual earnings of those working in the borough is £64,000, yet a third of residents live in poverty and the borough has the highest rate of child and pensioner poverty nationally. Health inequality remains a key characteristic of the borough, with the average life expectancy below the London average for both men and women. All of these issues converge to make Tower Hamlets one of the most deprived boroughs nationally.
- 1.11 The next few years will be challenging for Tower Hamlets. The improved outcomes for local people over the past decade have, in part, been as a result of the level of resources available to public services. We are now experiencing challenging financial times, with the public sector having far less money to spend on services than before. This is happening alongside growing demand on services including a rapidly growing and ageing population.
- 1.12 The new national policy context is important for Tower Hamlets. Policy developments including changes to social housing provision, the new Work Programme for those out of work, changes to education funding and reform of the health service, pose challenges and opportunities for the borough.

Despite the existing and emerging challenges facing the borough, the Tower Hamlets Partnership remains dedicated to making Tower Hamlets a better place to live and work, and has developed a new Community Plan to assist it in doing so.

- 1.13 The reform of the welfare system, including changes to benefits, tax credits and support for families, will also have a considerable impact on many residents in the borough. The combined effect for many residents will be a drop in household income both immediately and over time. Given the already high levels of poverty and deprivation in the borough, these changes will make it even harder for many households to get by; potentially affecting educational attainment, crime, health and wellbeing in the borough.

A New Community Plan

- 1.14 Despite the existing and emerging challenges facing the borough, the Tower Hamlets Partnership remains dedicated to making Tower Hamlets a better place to live and work, and has developed a new Community Plan to assist it in doing so. It is an ambitious strategy for an aspirational borough. It outlines how we will continue to reduce inequality and poverty, particularly among the most disadvantaged in our borough, to ensure that everyone has the opportunity to achieve their full potential. As a Partnership we are determined that the next chapter in the history of our borough is one of resilience and opportunities for all.



- 1.15 This new Community Plan reflects our understanding that we need to work differently: smarter and more innovatively as a partnership in the current challenging climate. There is a stronger emphasis on the cross-cutting principles that will underpin the Partnership's approach to achieving the Community Plan. These are One Tower Hamlets – including community engagement; efficiency; and localisation. One Tower Hamlets is central to achieving the Community Plan aspiration of tackling exclusion and inequality. As part of this, community engagement is our commitment to better support residents to engage in issues that matter most to them, recognising that we all have a collective and personal responsibility in achieving the Plan. Indeed the views of local people have helped to develop the Plan through a number of consultation events.
- 1.16 In this current financial context efficient use of resources becomes paramount. The new Community Plan places the need to provide value for money services at the forefront of all that we do. The final principle is our localisation approach – a drive to integrate and deliver services closer to local people and with residents, neighbourhood and community groups fully involved.
- 1.17 The Community Plan has been refined to ensure that the borough is best placed to address its key issues and maximise opportunities. It also captures the core objectives of the borough's new directly elected Mayor.
- 1.18 The Great Place to Live theme continues to be about the liveability of the borough: housing, transport, public realm, town centres and facilities. There is now also a greater focus on providing affordable social rented housing, particularly family-sized housing, and addressing energy efficiency and fuel poverty as part of providing decent quality housing.
- 1.19 The Prosperous Community theme remains centred on tackling worklessness, improving education and supporting enterprise.

There is a new emphasis on responding to the national welfare reform programme: making the most of its opportunities and reducing its negative impact on local people. Embedding a culture of aspiration among residents – especially our young people – is a key priority within this theme.

- 1.20 There is a new Safe and Cohesive Community theme, enabling a stronger concentration on crime, anti-social behaviour and people's perceptions of feeling safe in the borough.

Chrip Street Idea Store





Mela Festival down Brick Lane

Alongside this is a focus on community cohesion, supporting and celebrating the borough's diverse communities as well as protecting this from the threat of extremism.

- 1.21 The Healthy and Supportive Community theme is the new theme centred on supporting residents to live healthier, more independent lives and reduce the risk of harm and neglect to vulnerable children and adults. It also articulates the borough's initial response to the changing structures of health care.

The Tower Hamlets Partnership

- 1.22 The Tower Hamlets Partnership is responsible for delivering the Community Plan. It was established in 2001 and brings together residents, the Council, Police, the health service and other public services, voluntary and community groups, faith communities and businesses – with the aim of working together to improve the borough.

- 1.23 The Partnership consists of different structures with varying roles and responsibilities.

- **The Partnership Board** provides the overall strategic direction of the Community Plan. Its membership includes the Mayor and other local community leaders such as councillors and school governors, as well as representatives from public services and businesses. The Board meets three to four times a year.
- **The Partnership Executive** oversees the delivery of the Plan on behalf of the Partnership Board. This includes allocating resources as necessary to deliver outcomes and regularly monitoring progress against the objectives of the Community Plan. The Executive is chaired by the Mayor of Tower Hamlets and includes key public sector organisations along with representatives from regional and sub-regional groups.
- **Community Plan Delivery Groups** are responsible for the specific delivery of the thematic objectives. There is a delivery group for each Community Plan theme consisting of specialist representatives from partner organisations including third sector representation.
- **Issue-based groups** are important bodies in the Partnership that contribute to delivering the Community Plan by leading on specific issues such as the Tower Hamlets Housing Forum, Localisation Board, Diversity and Equality Network and Third Sector Advisory Board.
- **Localised governance structures** includes locality based community groups, led by ward councillors and local people, focusing on how the Community Plan is being delivered locally and providing the local governance frameworks to hold the Partnership to account.



2 Developing the Community Plan

- 2.1 The Plan reflects the needs and aspirations of the borough's diverse communities and has been informed by detailed analysis of current and future needs in the borough. The Partnership has brought together its resources and expertise on the borough to develop social, economic and environmental trends and projections to feed into the development of the Plan.
- 2.2 Local people and organisations have played an integral role in the development of the Plan through an informative

consultation process. This included community based events across the borough, market stall sessions at some of the borough's well known markets, a series of workshops and online surveys. Residents, community groups, local businesses, elected members, third sector organisations and public bodies all contributed to deciding the Tower Hamlets we all want to live, work and study in.

Consultation event with residents at Central Foundation School



What local people said



“It’s important to focus on things that make the East End – not just buildings” .

“Housing facilities are most important” .

“We are importing more than exporting. We should encourage people to set up their own businesses” .

“Fun things for families to do” .

“The actions taken to prevent crime need to be visible” .

“I think that we’ve done well so far, but there is room for improvement” .

“School education in the borough has improved, but jobs are not available for the local children” .

“Developments built on green spaces and lots of housing is set aside for buying/investment opportunities – not available to local people” .

“As communities, we don’t know enough about each other although we nod and say hello. There is respect, but need basis of trust” .





3 Vision and Priorities

The overall vision for the Community Plan remains to:

'Improve the lives of all those living and working in the borough'.

3.1 Turning this vision into reality is based on achieving four main priorities, articulated as the four themes of the Community Plan. These themes remain broadly similar with the previous Plan, as discussions with local people and partners revealed that these priorities are still as relevant now as they were in 2008. There have been some changes to the Community Plan themes to ensure they are better aligned. A Safe and Supportive Community is now a Safe and Cohesive Community to focus on crime and building a more cohesive and resilient community. A Healthy Community is now a Healthy and Supportive Community to better recognise the overlap between health and social care.

○ A Great Place to Live

Tower Hamlets will be a place where people live in quality affordable housing, located in clean and safe neighbourhoods served by well connected and easy to access services and community facilities.

○ A Prosperous Community

Tower Hamlets will be a place where everyone, regardless of their background and circumstances, has the aspiration and opportunity to achieve their full potential.



○ A Safe and Cohesive Community

Tower Hamlets will be a safer place where people feel safer, get on better together and difference is not seen as threat but a core strength of the borough.

○ A Healthy and Supportive Community

Tower Hamlets will be a place where people are supported to live healthier, more independent lives and the risk of harm and neglect to vulnerable children and adults is reduced.

3.2

Though presented as four distinct themes, these priorities are not mutually exclusive but interdependent. Collectively they will help support the cross-cutting social, economic and environmental change necessary to improve the lives of local people.





4 Achieving Our Vision – Cross-Cutting Principles

4.1 The Community Plan priorities are underpinned by four cross-cutting principles that will guide how we work together to achieve our shared vision. These principles apply to all the Community Plan themes and are integral to the delivery of the Plan.

One Tower Hamlets: tackling inequalities and promoting inclusion

4.2 One Tower Hamlets is our aspiration to reduce poverty and inequality, bring local communities closer together, and provide strong leadership by involving and empowering people and giving them the tools and support to improve their lives.

4.3 Tower Hamlets is a place of immense opportunity, but we know that poverty and inequality stop residents achieving their full potential. The borough is one of the most deprived nationally and the cuts in public funding have the potential to hit some of our poorest and most vulnerable communities harder. The Partnership also takes seriously its responsibilities under the new Equality Act 2010 to demonstrate that local priorities are underpinned by a robust analysis of inequality.

4.4 The Partnership has always been at the forefront of tackling inequality and promoting inclusion. The new Plan provides a more targeted approach to tackling inequality, with specific equality priorities for each theme. The Partnership will focus on the most significant inequality gaps that are at risk of further widening. The Tower Hamlets Diversity Network which brings together equality practitioners from across partner organisations will support the delivery of the One Tower Hamlets priorities. The Network will work with each of the Community Plan Delivery Groups to implement the priorities through the



Pupils from Arnheim Wharf Primary School

borough's strategies and equality schemes such as the Tower Hamlets NHS Single Equality Scheme and the Council's Single Equality Framework.

Community Engagement: supporting a powerful public

4.5 Involving local people is central to how we work as a Partnership. The vision of the Community Plan cannot be achieved without the active role of those who live and work in the borough. Local people have a good understanding of their communities and often know how to better tackle local issues. A lot of the challenges facing the borough require the active participation of local people. Action by public sector agencies alone will not reduce crime and anti-social behaviour, improve the cleanliness of the public realm, reduce smoking and substance misuse or tackle worklessness. These issues require personal responsibility and collective action.



4.6 We are developing our understanding of community engagement to better enable local people to decide the solutions to issues affecting them and their communities. Through the Tower Hamlets Citizen Engagement Strategy we are setting out our approach to better support a 'powerful public' – active and resilient local communities, empowered to hold public services to account.

4.7 The Partnership is starting from a strong base of community engagement. Tower Hamlets has one of the highest rates of volunteering and civic participation in the country, including our community champions (local volunteers) and community forums. The Partnership also has a strong history of using innovative methods to engage the borough's diverse communities to help improve services. This includes You Decide! our nationally recognised good practice model of participatory budgeting and citizen empowerment and our Young Mayor and Youth Parliament – which attracts enormous attention from young people. In 2010 over 50% voted for the Young Mayor – equating to 8,500 votes.

Efficiency: delivering value for money services

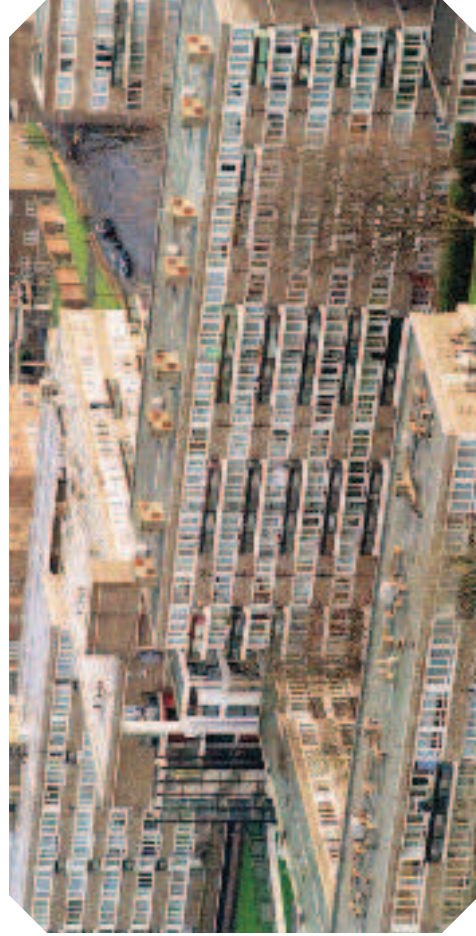
4.8 We are now living through the most financially challenging time for public services in many decades. The 2010 Spending Review signalled an over £80 billion reduction in public spending over the next four years, which will have a significant effect on all local services and radically transform the way services are delivered. The Partnership now has far less resources to achieve the vision of the Community Plan. The Council will see a reduction of £72 million in its budget for the next three years – £63 million of which will be in 2011/12 – 2012/13 and the police will also experience significant reductions to their budget. There will be a very small increase in health spending, despite a growing increase in healthcare needs, and potentially less

A significantly reduced budget means that we will have to do things differently, more efficiently – maximising resources to produce better outcomes – in order to continue providing vital services for local people and meet growing needs.

money for voluntary and community organisations who provide vital services in the borough.

4.9 At a time when we are experiencing significant reductions in public spending, the demand for services continues to increase. Our population is growing at one of the fastest rates, people are living longer and the difficult financial context makes some people more reliant on public services and the support they offer. A significantly reduced budget means that we will have to do things differently, more efficiently – maximising resources to produce better outcomes – in order to continue providing vital services for local people and meet growing needs.

4.10 We are already working more efficiently as a partnership. We have developed a public sector asset strategy to make better use of our assets and established joint commissioning arrangements to maximise benefits locally. We also launched a Total Place programme looking at how we can better use resources across the borough to achieve better outcomes for our residents more efficiently. We will be using a Partnership Budget Congress approach to develop this further and collectively respond to the challenging financial climate facing the borough.



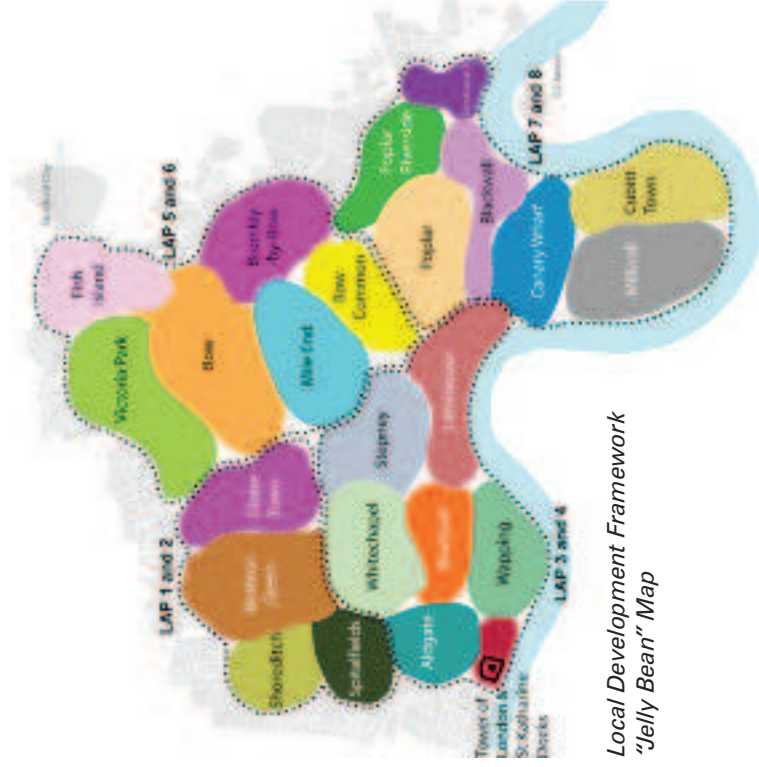
Housing blocks in Wapping

Localisation: delivering services closer to people

- 4.11 Our localisation agenda is part of our drive as a partnership to do things differently in order to continue improving the lives of local people. Whilst the issues and challenges facing the borough affect all areas of Tower Hamlets, our response to these must be tailored to reflect the differences between the borough’s localities. Our localisation programme aims to improve outcomes for local people by bringing services together locally and better involving local people in how services are run. This will lead to more efficient and effective outcomes by avoiding duplication and empowering people to take greater responsibility of their local services and facilities.
- 4.12 We are currently piloting this model of integrated service delivery in Local Area Partnerships (LAPs) 1 and 2, with a view to extend it to the whole of the borough. Integrated service teams are bringing together community safety, police, public realm and environmental control teams located in Toby Lane. Neighbourhood agreements and wider citizen engagement to improve services is also being piloted on the Boundary Estate. All

4.13

of this is being led and co-ordinated by the Localisation Board which brings together a number of partner organisations. Alongside the Community Plan, we will be developing Locality Plans outlining how the Community Plan vision will be translated in localities – focusing on the specific issues for each local area. These will provide a clear set of actions for each local area as part of achieving the Community Plan objectives and responding to local priorities. Locality Plans are being developed alongside emerging Local Development Framework (LDF) planning documents to ensure alignment with the concept of the 24 ‘Places’ of the borough.



*Local Development Framework
“Jelly Bean” Map*



A Great Place to Live...



5 Achieving Our Vision – A Great Place to Live

Vision

A Great Place to Live reflects our continuing ambition to make Tower Hamlets a place where people are proud to live, work and study. Our vision is to achieve a borough where people live in quality affordable housing, located in clean and safe neighbourhoods served by well connected and easy to access services and community facilities. Underpinning this aspiration is a focus on sustainability.

Key Achievements

- The 2009/10 Annual Residents Survey shows that 72% of residents agree that the Council is making the area a better place to live
- We delivered over 2,600 affordable homes in the borough between 2009 and 2011, this is the most achieved by any local authority in the country
- We successfully prevented 1,083 households becoming homeless in 2009/10
- Tower Hamlets Homes awarded 2 out of 3 stars by the government's independent housing inspectors
- We completed our Core Strategy – an ambitious spatial strategy to prepare the borough for ongoing and sustainable growth
- We have made good progress on the estate renewal projects for the Ocean Estate and Blackwall Reach
- Recycling is now up to 27.7% – compared to 19.3% in 2009

Challenges and Opportunities for Tower Hamlets

- 5.1 The Partnership has made good progress in making Tower Hamlets a more sustainable borough. There still remains a number of key challenges to making the borough a better place to live: large and growing demand for affordable housing, particularly social rented family housing; managing a housing stock that is predominantly flats and estates; lack of open space; transport and connectivity.
- 5.2 Despite record levels of housing provision, demand for housing in the borough continues to outweigh supply. Providing quality affordable housing is an integral part of making Tower Hamlets a great place to live. It remains one of the main concerns of residents, particularly the need for more socially rented family housing.
- 5.3 There are many people in the borough needing suitable accommodation. These range from single people needing one-bedroom properties to families requiring larger accommodation, to those needing specially modified properties to meet their changing needs. The significant increase in property prices make it difficult for many local people to purchase their own homes. As a result, many people remain reliant on social housing and overcrowding continues to be the most acute and persistent housing challenge in the borough, with over 8,500 people experiencing overcrowding.



5.4 Housing quality has an important effect on people's quality of life. Poor housing affects our health and wellbeing, family relationships and can have a detrimental impact on young people's educational attainment. Many social and private rented properties in the borough are inadequate and non-decent. This includes properties with low energy efficiency levels, which can lead to fuel poverty and affect the environment.

5.5 Local people have told us that the cleanliness and attractiveness of their neighbourhood affects their sense of satisfaction and pride in their area. The quality and accessibility of green open spaces and cleanliness of the urban environment are important parts of this. We are committed to achieving a cleaner and better maintained public realm. This includes: parks and open spaces, streets and roads, street furniture and lighting and communal areas outside housing estates. People dropping litter, fly-posting and graffiti in the borough makes maintaining the cleanliness of the public realm difficult.

5.6 Accessible and sustainable transport also plays a critical role in making the borough a great place to live. It influences where people choose to live, work and study. It is important that all local residents are able to move easily around the borough and access the services and facilities they need. The borough's proximity to central London means that it benefits from a number of transport networks; however there are some parts of the borough that are not as well served and connected. Residents have told us that some of the transport infrastructure in the borough can divide communities and hinder community cohesion. Another key transport issue is the growing level of congestion in the borough, making it more difficult to move around the borough.

Making Tower Hamlets A Great Place to Live

5.7 The Local Development Framework translates the Community

Plan aspirations into a physical reality and is the primary mechanism for delivering the priorities within this theme. The LDF will help to manage development, identify locations for services and provide detailed guidance for areas of significant change. Using the LDF new facilities and services are being planned to meet the borough's growing needs including more affordable housing, schools, health centres, transport links and parks.

5.8 Reductions in public spending will have an impact on affordable housing provision in the borough. The government's changes to social housing and Housing Benefit will also affect housing affordability in Tower Hamlets. Our approach to delivering affordable housing is therefore partly based on maximising the existing social housing stock of the Council and Registered Social Landlords. For example, the Council has brought back into use a number of empty properties and regained social housing that had been illegally sublet. It is also working to reduce the length of time properties are left empty between tenancies to provide a more efficient lettings service.

5.9 Despite the difficult climate for providing social housing, the Partnership is determined to make sure that new homes are provided to meet local needs. Land value in Tower Hamlets is one of our biggest assets. The level of regeneration taking place in the borough and our proximity to central London attracts developers to the borough. The Council will use its position to influence developers to provide a level of affordable housing in the borough. Where possible, the Council will aspire to 50% of new housing being affordable homes, with socially rented homes a priority.

5.10 Tower Hamlets Homes, the organisation managing Council housing in the borough, recently secured £94 million to deliver Decent Homes. Tower Hamlets Homes and the Council are working together to deliver Decent Homes investment work to

modernise Council housing and help reduce fuel poverty for residents. The Partnership is also developing a Fuel Poverty Strategy to provide vulnerable residents with the information, guidance and support they need to make their homes more energy efficient. This will align with the borough's Climate Change Strategy to help make all homes more energy efficient and ensure new homes meet the national target of zero carbon emissions by 2016.



Mile End Park cycle bridge to Meath Gardens

5.11 Our approach to improving the quality of the public realm will be taken forward through the Public Realm Management Plan and Neighbourhood Agreements with local people. This includes developing a common housing management standard and outlining the roles and responsibilities of service providers and residents in improving and maintaining the public realm. Community engagement is central to this approach – with community groups and community champions helping to achieve this. Local community and environmental groups will continue to play an important role working with public sector organisations to manage and take care of the borough's green open spaces and natural environment.

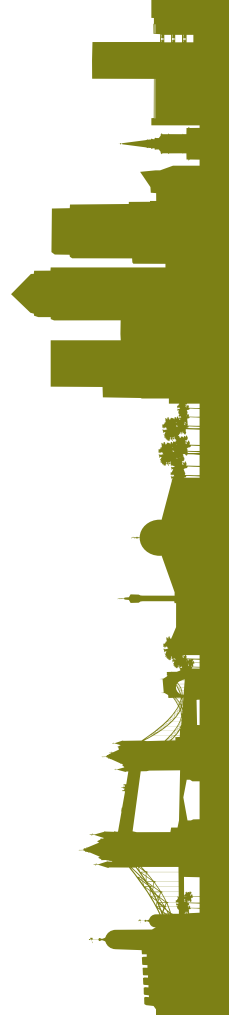
5.12 Through our Transport Strategy we will ensure that communities are well connected by good local transport provisions that enable everyone to move easily around the borough. An integral part of this will be to provide and encourage more sustainable modes of transport such as cycling and walking through the borough's Green Grid Strategy to connect and enhance new and existing green space. This will make it easier for people to

walk and cycle around the borough whilst also improving their health and wellbeing. It will also improve the environmental wellbeing and sustainability of the borough by reducing our carbon footprint.

The Objectives

To make Tower Hamlets a Great Place to Live the Partnership will focus on achieving the following objectives:

- Objective 1: Providing quality affordable housing**
- Objective 2: Improving and maintaining the quality of housing, including maximising energy efficiency**
- Objective 3: Improving the public realm**
- Objective 4: Improving transport links and connectivity**
- Objective 5: Providing effective local services and facilities**



Partnership strategies that will contribute to this theme:

The following strategies and plans will help provide a clear delivery framework to inform partnership working on this theme:

- ⊙ Local Development Framework
- ⊙ Housing Strategy
- ⊙ Homelessness Strategy
- ⊙ Climate Change Strategy
- ⊙ Fuel Poverty Strategy
- ⊙ Public Realm Management Strategy
- ⊙ Transport Strategy
- ⊙ Leisure Strategy
- ⊙ Heritage Strategy



One Tower Hamlets Focus: A Great Place to Live

Overcrowding and homelessness continue to be key housing challenges for the borough, particularly affecting our poorest families. Having somewhere safe and warm to sleep is fundamental to quality of life and wellbeing. It has a bearing on health, ability to gain and maintain employment, play an active role in community life and educational attainment. The reforms to Housing Benefit, as part of the wider welfare reform, mean that some households will face a drop in their income. This, coupled with the high cost of housing in the borough, puts many vulnerable households at risk of losing their homes or living in further overcrowding. This makes access to decent housing a key equalities priority for the borough.

The low levels of income in the borough means that some households are also at risk of fuel poverty – unable to afford to keep their homes warm at a reasonable cost and spending more than ten percent of their income to do so. Fuel poverty particularly affects vulnerable groups such as older people and families on low income. Improving the energy efficiency of homes in the borough, as part of the decent homes agenda, is crucial to tackling fuel poverty.

An accessible transport system is also a key equalities and social inclusion priority for this theme. Though Tower Hamlets is an inner city borough benefiting from good transport links with the rest of London, for many people, particularly older and disabled people, moving around the borough to access services and facilities can be difficult. In some areas of the borough this is made more difficult by the transport infrastructure which can sometimes be a barrier to moving across the borough and community cohesion.

In order to achieve our commitments to One Tower Hamlets we will:

- Focus on homelessness prevention and reducing and mitigating the effects of overcrowding
- Prevent and reduce fuel poverty for vulnerable groups
- Ensure that the local transport system makes the borough's town centres and neighbourhoods more accessible for all local people, particularly older and disabled people.

Case Study

A Great Place to Live: The Ocean Estate Regeneration Project

Background

The common image of the Ocean Estate, situated in Stepney, is one of missed opportunities and decline. The estate is amongst the most deprived in England, with the vast majority of rented homes falling below the national Decent Homes Standard. Although much has been done to improve the estate, the core challenge remains the physical renewal of the existing council homes and the provision of new homes to help meet need and achieve the aspirations of residents in the area.

In 2009 Tower Hamlets Council came together with East Thames Housing Group, in partnership with Bellway Homes, to deliver transformational change to the estate. The comprehensive regeneration scheme will develop 819 new homes over the next 3 years, of which 48 per cent will be affordable for rent and shared ownership. In addition, the project will deliver external refurbishment to 1,229 homes, including 448 leasehold properties, together with related environmental improvements. 781 social rented homes will have internal improvements to the Decent Homes Plus standard.

How it's benefiting the borough

At the heart of the Ocean Estate Regeneration Project is the desire to reduce the inequalities that exist in the borough and bring local communities closer together. The regeneration scheme will lead to an increase in affordable housing, as well as improved wellbeing for local residents through new community, health and retail facilities.

Consultation event for the Ocean Estate Regeneration Project



Image courtesy of Levitt Bernstein

Construction work will provide employment and training opportunities to local people, including apprenticeships.

Significant improvements in housing standards will be provided through a phased programme of redevelopment and refurbishment. The scheme has been designed to

reduce overcrowding, reduce crime, improve the environment and integrate these developments into the surrounding area.

As well as the integration of sustainable features, such as natural ventilation, cycle storage areas and recycling facilities to the estate, the regeneration project will also spend more than £10 million on high quality, well designed improvements to open and amenity spaces and play areas. The scheme will deliver a vibrant new neighbourhood centre on the estate, as well as a range of enhanced services for existing and new users, including a new GP surgery.

The Council has worked closely with community representatives to facilitate the regeneration project. The involvement of residents at every stage of development has brought communities together to be part of the transformation on the Ocean Estate.





*A Prosperous
Community...*

6 Achieving Our Vision – A Prosperous Community

Vision

We aim to create a Tower Hamlets in which everyone, regardless of their background and circumstances, has the aspiration and opportunity to achieve their full potential. At the heart of this theme is a focus on combating social exclusion, reducing poverty and improving the life chances of all of the borough's residents.

Key Achievements

- Over 1,800 people have found jobs through our Working Neighbourhoods Fund programme to tackle worklessness and build skills
- Tower Hamlets children achieved their best ever GCSE results in 2009, we are improving at twice the national average rate. Results at age 11 exceed the national average in both maths and science
- There is a continued reduction in young people Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) – down to 6%, a 40% decrease in two years
- We have developed and implemented a Third Sector strategy, with a new Council for Voluntary Services (CVS) now set up to provide sustainable support to the Tower Hamlets third sector

Challenges and Opportunities for Tower Hamlets

- 6.1 Tower Hamlets has a vibrant local economy and has experienced improvements in educational attainment and young people not in education, employment and training. There still remain substantial challenges to prosperity across the borough, made more difficult by the current economic situation. These include:
- One of the highest unemployment rates in London;
 - Low skills level among residents;
 - The highest child poverty rate nationally;
 - Low attainment levels at post 16; and
 - Significant levels of disability among residents that make accessing employment opportunities difficult.
- 6.2 Employment opportunities in Tower Hamlets are among the highest in London, with almost a third of all employment opportunities in East London located within the borough. Despite the levels of employment prospects, unemployment remains a key issue for many people, with Tower Hamlets having the second lowest employment rate in London. Economic inactivity, those not actively looking for work, particularly among women in the borough, is also among the highest in London. The challenge for the Partnership is to ensure that local people are able to share in the prosperity of the borough through accessing sustainable employment opportunities and business growth.



6.3 The government's policies on welfare reform will transform the benefit system for those receiving both in work and out-of-work benefits. This brings added challenges to the borough with implications for improving the prosperity of the borough. The combined impact of the reforms to the welfare system will result in a reduction in the household income of some of the borough's residents and many people could be further marginalised from the labour market.

6.4 Not being in work, particularly for long periods of time, has significant implications for residents, the most obvious of which is poverty, made difficult by the high cost of living in London. There are many children in low income families in the borough living in poverty – the highest proportion nationally. One-third of households in the borough live on less than £20,000 a year. This affects the opportunities of our young people to reach their full potential and research shows that workless people often suffer from ill-health and low self-esteem.

6.5 Worklessness is a complex issue and there are many barriers that make it hard for people to be able to get and keep a job. One of the main barriers is inadequate skills to access the types of employment opportunities in the borough. Many of our residents have little or no qualifications at all; others lack the specialist skills and experiences needed to gain employment in the borough's growing financial industries. This resultant skills gap and skills mismatch means that local people are unable to take advantage of the growing employment opportunities in the borough. Many residents often feel unable to access the jobs generated in Canary Wharf.

6.6 Health and disability are also barriers for some of our residents to accessing employment opportunities. Local people have also highlighted that the limited availability of part time work, the complexities of the benefit system, the inflexibility and cost of childcare, poor financial management skills and a lack of

supportive networks, all make it difficult to access and keep employment.

6.7 For our young people, educational attainment remains the best means of securing a good future and breaking the cycles of inter-generational worklessness. We believe that the high levels of deprivation in the borough should not limit the aspiration of our young people. Whilst school performance is improving, there are some children who are finding it hard to achieve, particularly Somali pupils and White working class boys.

Similarly, performance at GCSE level is improving well in the borough, but our young people are not doing as well in post-16 education and training: we have one of the highest rates of young people dropping out of university.

6.8 Tower Hamlets is an entrepreneurial borough. The number of new business developments continues to grow. A recent survey of local businesses shows that many want to remain in the borough. Businesses have been affected by the economic downturn, though the outlook is improving. It is important that local partners continue to support business development in the borough through support and advice. The borough has very high levels of economic activity, yet the number of local people who are self-employed is relatively low. We are committed to encouraging greater entrepreneurship among residents to improve employment and boost the local economy.

Making Tower Hamlets A Prosperous Community

6.9 We aim to tackle worklessness and poverty in the borough by focusing on narrowing the gap between the borough's employment rates compared to the rest of London and by creating a culture of aspiration among all local residents.

6.10 A key element of our approach is to ensure that the new national Work Programme is working locally and local people are

receiving the necessary support they need to access employment and maximise their income levels. We will also work together to ensure that the opportunities offered by the reforms result in the best possible outcome for Tower Hamlets. This includes working closely with the Department for Work and Pensions and its contractors in Tower Hamlets to facilitate the Work Programme to support local people into sustainable employment. This will be overseen by a new Employment Taskforce for the borough, chaired by the Mayor, to target resources on getting local people into employment.

6.11 We will continue to work with community and voluntary organisations to tackle the barriers to employment that local people experience and to engage those that are further away from the labour market who can be better engaged by community groups. We are investing in evidenced based projects, to be taken forward by the Employment Strategy, to better understand what works locally to support people into employment and prevent poverty, targeting particular groups including: women, people with disabilities and young people who find it harder to access jobs. We are also working closely with employers in the borough, including businesses in Canary Wharf, to help provide work training and experience for local people.

6.12 We will provide support for people in our communities who will be negatively impacted by the reforms to the welfare system. This includes developing effective information networks, providing early support and guidance to those who need it; helping people to claim all the benefits and tax credits they are entitled to in order to maximise their income; and providing advice and support to improve financial management and help tackle debt. The borough's Financial Inclusion Strategy and the Advice Commissioning Framework will provide the mechanism for developing this work further.

6.13 The borough's Enterprise strategy will help provide the conditions for an effective entrepreneurial environment – including maximising the opportunities for small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in the borough from the Olympics and Paralympic Games; sustaining and supporting established enterprises and championing Tower Hamlets as a leading economic centre on a regional, national and global scale.

6.14 The Tower Hamlets Children and Young People's Plan will form the basis of our approach to raising the aspiration and improving educational attainment of children and young people. This includes a focus on increased targeted provision from early years settings – including helping parents support the learning and development of their children. In addition there will be better support for the transition from education to employment and improved provision of post-16 learning. This includes provision of vocational apprenticeships and foundational opportunities for young people.

The Objectives

To make Tower Hamlets a Prosperous Community the Partnership will focus on achieving the following objectives:

Objective 1: Supporting more people into work and improving employment skills

Objective 2: Supporting residents through national welfare reform

Objective 3: Improving educational aspiration and attainment

Objective 4: Fostering enterprise and entrepreneurship





Pupils at Marian Richardson Primary School

Partnership strategies that will contribute to this theme:

The following strategies and plans will help provide a clear delivery framework to inform partnership working on this theme.

- ⊙ Employment Strategy
- ⊙ Enterprise Strategy
- ⊙ Financial Inclusion Strategy
- ⊙ Advice Commissioning Framework
- ⊙ Children and Young People’s Plan and 14-19 Plan
- ⊙ Child Poverty Strategy
- ⊙ Third Sector Strategy
- ⊙ Town Centre Spatial Strategy

One Tower Hamlets Focus: A Prosperous Community

A Prosperous Community is about all residents being able to achieve their full potential: to access and contribute to the prosperity of the borough, making social mobility obtainable for all. Education, employment and a thriving enterprise environment are essential to creating equality of opportunities. We know that for some groups in our community, tapping into these opportunities is difficult.

There are many residents whose circumstances put them at risk of under achievement and labour market exclusion. These circumstances often represent the root causes of poverty, multiple deprivation and disadvantage. Some of the borough’s residents are also at risk of social exclusion because they lack the basic adult literacy and English language skills to be able to participate in community life. The Partnership will continue to address the obstacles that hinder local people from achieving and perpetuate inequality.

In order to achieve our commitments to One Tower Hamlets we will:

- Focus on removing barriers to work for people that find it harder to access the labour market this includes women and people suffering from mental health issues.
- Improve the educational attainment for under achieving children and young people including Somali and White working class boys.
- Improve basic skills and qualifications for those particularly at risk of being excluded from engaging in community life.

Case Study

A Prosperous Community: Tackling and Preventing Child Poverty

Background

The average salary for those working in Tower Hamlets is around £58,000, yet 33% of families are living on less than £20,000 a year. According to some of the key poverty statistics 57% of children in the borough live in poverty, the highest nationally.

What we have done

We know that children who grow up in poverty are less likely to succeed at school, more likely to suffer from poor health, are more likely to offend and less likely to get a good job as adults. We have developed a good picture of the nature and causes of poverty in the borough and established a Child Poverty Strategy to address the high levels of child poverty. The strategy includes: supporting parents who are job-ready, or close to job readiness, to find work and providing high quality childcare options; focusing on education for young people and interventions to reduce youth offending. It also aims to provide cultural, sporting and leisure opportunities to those who would not normally access them.

More recently the Tower Hamlets Partnership has undertaken a detailed needs assessment, service mapping and consultation with families to help inform our approach to tackling poverty. This includes supporting families to maximise their income and building resilience and aspiration in families and communities.

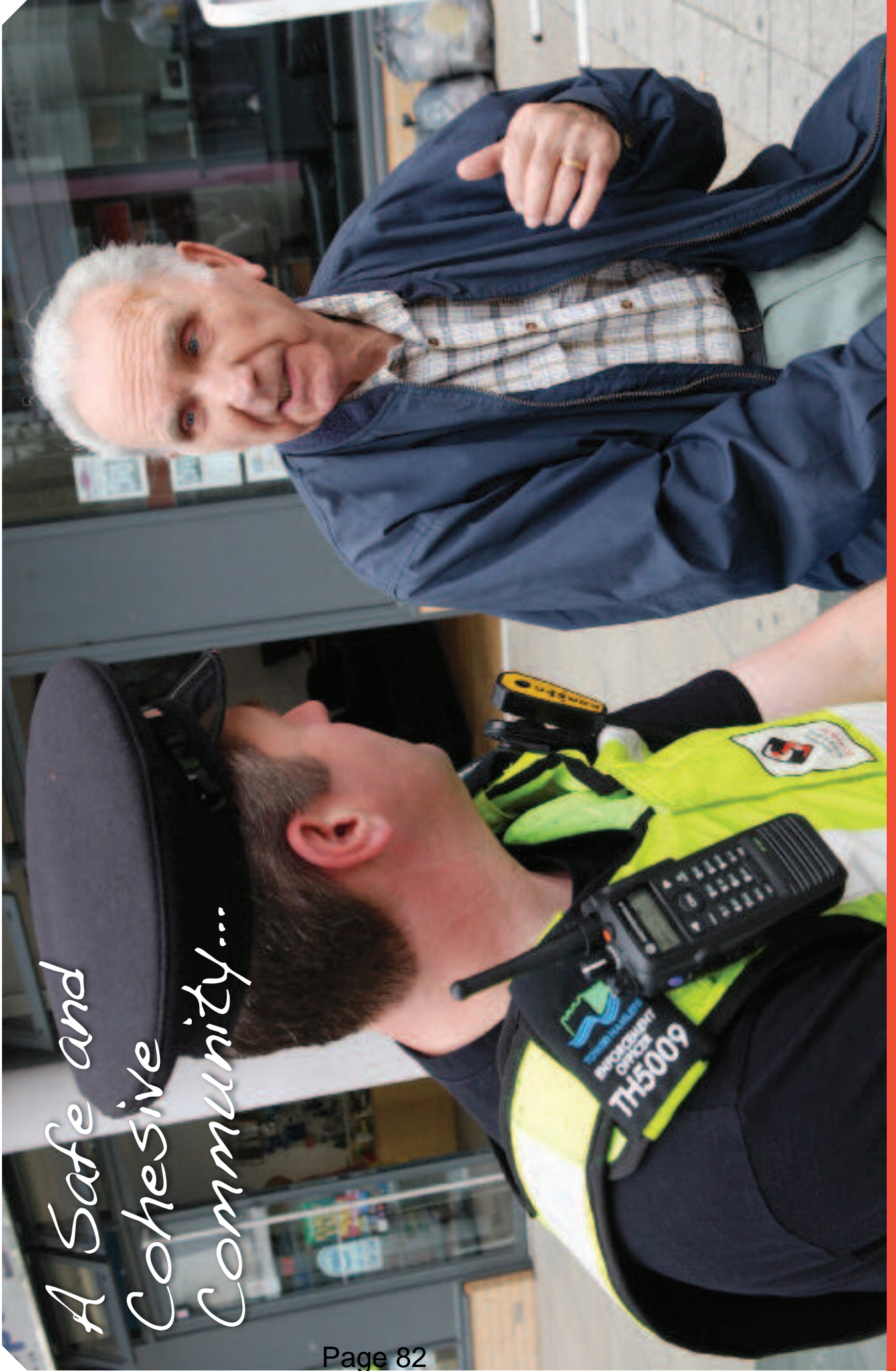
How it is benefiting the borough

Tackling and preventing child poverty in Tower Hamlets is everyone's business and we have made outstanding progress in addressing the root causes of poverty and breaking cycles of deprivation in the longer-term. This has resulted in a 6.6% reduction in child poverty levels in the borough, the largest reduction nationally. Our work in tackling and preventing child poverty was recognised with both Beacon and London Child Poverty Awards in 2009. Key successes include:

- ➔ Supporting over 1,800 local residents into working during 2009/10 through the borough's Working Neighbourhood Fund Programme.
- ➔ Significant achievements at primary school level, with 89% of pupils progressing by two levels in maths in 2009/10.
- ➔ Improvements at GCSE (based on provisional 2010 figures), with over half of all 16 year olds getting 5 or more A* to C grades including English and maths.
- ➔ An increase in participation in learning at age 16 and 17 and a reduction in the number of children leaving Year 11 who are not going on to education, employment or training.



A Safe and Cohesive Community...



7 Achieving Our Vision – A Safe and Cohesive Community

Vision

Our aim is to have a safer Tower Hamlets: a place where everyone feels safe, gets on better together and difference is not seen as threat but a core strength of the borough.

Key Achievements

- Overall crime has dropped by 5% which means 952 fewer crimes
- We have made 409 arrests under the 'Dealer a Day' initiative
- There has been a dramatic reduction in numbers of young people entering the criminal justice system – halved on this time last year
- In our Annual Residents Survey, residents confirmed that anti-social behaviour was reducing across a range of areas – particularly in relation to young people and litter
- 75% of residents in the Survey agreed that the borough is a place where people from different backgrounds get on well together
- 2 million people attended recent events in our parks and the Mela was the most successful ever

Challenges and Opportunities for Tower Hamlets

- 7.1 Tower Hamlets is becoming safer, with significant reductions in the levels of overall crime. Although crime is falling, overall crime levels continue to be one of the highest in London. Crime remains the biggest concern for local people, although concerns have fallen for a number of years.
- 7.2 We recognise that reducing crime alone is not enough; residents need to feel safer in their neighbourhood and when moving around the borough. Visible crime plays a strong role in people's sense of feeling safe; this includes drug use and drug dealing, which many people report to be a problem in their local area, particularly around Bethnal Green, Spitalfields and Banglatown.
- 7.3 Anti-social behaviour (ASB) is also a key driver to people feeling unsafe. ASB is a complex issue. What might be perceived as anti-social behaviour by one group could be seen by others as appropriate use of public space. What is clear is that ASB affects all members of our community. It can blight neighbourhoods and affect people's wellbeing.
- 7.4 The Tower Hamlets Partnership defines ASB as any aggressive, intimidating or destructive activity which damages or destroys another person's quality of life.



Better managing ASB, particularly low-level persistent ASB such as nuisance and intimidating behaviour, is crucial to improving people's sense of feeling safe. Residents have told us that the Tower Hamlets Enforcement Officers and Safer Neighbourhood Teams have improved the levels of visible enforcement and made them feel safer but believe that more needs to be done to tackle and prevent crime in the borough.

7.5 Tower Hamlets has long been a place where people from different backgrounds have lived together and there are now over 90 languages spoken in the borough. Part of the vibrancy and strength of the borough is its historic attraction of diverse people and communities. However, a fear of crime, a lack of understanding of difference between some communities, the growth of extremism and the historic social and economic challenges facing the borough, can threaten its cohesiveness. Strengthening community cohesion is important as it impacts upon the social fabric of the borough and the wellbeing of residents.

and establishments. Local partners will be bringing together their enforcement resources to ensure that effort is targeted where it is most needed in a co-ordinated way to achieve maximum impact. For example we are integrating local police and Council enforcement services in the Toby Club, to effectively deploy our resources in one of the highest crime areas in the borough.

7.8 This strong enforcement approach is coupled with interventionist support to address the multiple socio-economic causes of crime and anti-social behaviour. Multiple disadvantage, including poverty, deprivation, poor parenting and a lack of positive activities, can lead people, particularly young people, into anti-social behaviour and crime. Intervening early to provide support for those at risk of criminal activity and re-offending will help prevent crime and social exclusion. This includes effective treatment for problematic drug users and housing and employment support for ex-offenders.

Making Tower Hamlets A Safe and Cohesive Community

7.6 The Partnership's problem-solving approach to tackling crime focuses on the victim, offender and location of crime to better detect and prevent crime. We know that the majority of crimes are committed by a small group of people and are concentrated in particular areas across the borough. Shared crime data will be used to analyse crime trends and develop better initiatives to target crime hotspots.

7.7 This is underpinned by a stronger focus on enforcement. The Council and Police will use existing enforcement powers, particularly on licensing, to target anti-social behaviour around particular premises



Gavin Dooley

Tower Hamlets Enforcement Officers carrying out enforcement work in Watney Market



Respect Festival in Victoria Park

- 7.11 We will work with communities to help build stronger relationships between people. Promoting community cohesion amongst our young people is an important aspect of this. It will help support interaction, mutual understanding and respect between and within communities.
- 7.12 The work of the borough’s equalities groups, including the Inter Faith Forum and No Place for Hate Campaign, will be important to celebrating and strengthening community cohesion. Local community leaders also have an integral role to play in fostering community cohesion. Councillors, for example, have championed cohesion in the borough, spearheading innovative work to tackle cohesion issues.
- 7.13 Tackling violent extremism remains a key priority for the Partnership. We are currently evaluating what we have learnt over the last three years about the risk of violent extremism in Tower Hamlets and what works in reducing the vulnerability of individuals to extremism and improving community resilience. We are using this information to develop a more effective and flexible local response to preventing extremism, informed by national changes to the Prevent agenda and closer working with government departments.

- 7.9 Greater community involvement in community safety and in holding the police and community safety partnership to account is crucial to making Tower Hamlets a safer and more cohesive borough. We will make greater use of ward panels, neighbourhood watch groups, police volunteers, police cadets and the Police and Community Safety Board – a resident-led body informing policing priorities – to help improve local policing.
- 7.10 A fundamental aspect to cohesion is the perception of fairness. Tensions often arise between communities when one group feels that it is being treated less favourably compared to another. Our approach to fostering community cohesion is based on providing inclusive services and working closer with communities. The way we deliver services and take decisions has a significant impact on how people feel about their local area and perceptions of fairness.



The Objectives

To make Tower Hamlets a Safe and Cohesive Community the Partnership will focus on achieving the following objectives:

Objective 1: Focusing on crime and anti-social behaviour

Objective 2: Reducing re-offending

Objective 3: Reducing the fear of crime

Objective 4: Fostering greater community cohesion

Objective 5: Tackling violent extremism

Partnership strategies that will contribute to this theme:

The following strategies and plans will help provide a clear delivery framework to inform partnership working on this theme.

- ⊙ Crime Reduction Strategy and Plan
- ⊙ Drugs Harm Reduction Strategy
- ⊙ Alcohol Strategy
- ⊙ Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy
- ⊙ PREVENT Plan

One Tower Hamlets Focus: Safe and Cohesive Community

As part of making Tower Hamlets a safer borough the Partnership is committed to reducing crime and making people feel safer, including protecting and supporting victims of crime. The borough has experienced an increase in violence against women which remains largely hidden and victims often suffer in silence. Children who experience domestic violence are denied the safety and protection they need at home to achieve and become confident, healthy adults.

Hate crime also remains a challenge for the borough. Diversity is one of the borough's key strengths and the majority of people get on well together. However there can be levels of tension between groups. If these are left unchecked they can undermine cohesion in the borough and make people feel unsafe, denying them of the right to live, work and study in the borough safe from fear and intimidation.

The Partnership recognises the importance of cohesion to delivering One Tower Hamlets and the Community Plan priorities. It will work together to foster cohesion supported by a shared cohesion framework.

In order to achieve our commitments to One Tower Hamlets we will:

- Prevent and reduce violence against women and girls.
- Target all forms of hate crime and anti-social behaviour.
- Develop and deliver the Partnership's approach to community cohesion.

Case Study

A Safe and Cohesive Community: Tower Hamlets Enforcement Officers

Background

The fear of crime is by far the biggest concern for residents – with 46 per cent rating it as a concern. It is often low level crime that impacts residents the most and as a result this type of crime has the greatest impact on the quality of life for residents. That makes tackling not only crime but also the fear of crime a standout priority for the Tower Hamlets Partnership.

What we have done

In direct response to this concern, the Council has taken an innovative approach to improving the personal safety of residents and introduced Tower Hamlets Enforcement Officers (THEOs) in November 2009. Providing a uniformed, high visibility presence on the streets of Tower Hamlets they create a cleaner, safer environment. THEOs work alongside the Police Safer Neighbourhoods Teams (SNTs) to tackle low level crime, such as dog fouling, litter, fly tipping, graffiti, fly posting, nuisance, abandoned vehicles and illegal street trading.



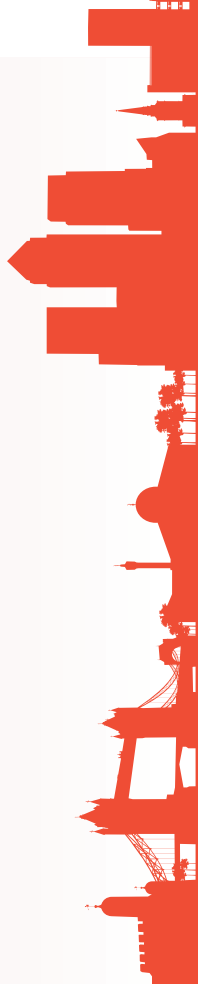
The team of 16 THEOs spends more than 1,500 hours per month patrolling the streets of Tower Hamlets. Armed with overt body CCTV cameras, their high-visibility presence helps to reassure residents and deter trouble-makers. THEOs have multi-disciplinary training and can respond to the variety of offences they encounter out in the borough.

How it is benefiting the borough

Tower Hamlets Enforcement Officers are part of the Partnership's wider approach to reducing crime. THEOs are trained and accredited to deal with a wide range of community safety and anti-social behaviour issues including consumption of alcohol in public places and highway control.

THEOs are deployed across the whole borough operating seven days a week. Their work is designed to specifically address the identified needs of the local wards and directly address local concerns. They are able to respond immediately to resident needs through communication with the CCTV Control Centre and the Customer Contact Centre.

Since their introduction, the Council's Annual Residents' Survey has shown that anti-social behaviour is decreasing including a decrease in rubbish and litter. THEOs have also helped residents to be more safety conscious.



*A Healthy
and Supportive
Community...*



8 Achieving Our Vision – A Healthy and Supportive Community

Vision

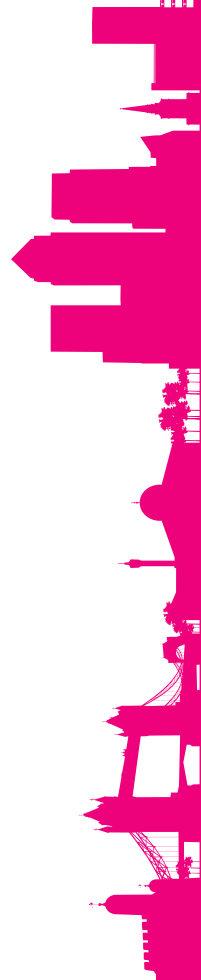
Our aim is to support residents to live healthier, more independent lives and reduce the risk of harm and neglect to vulnerable children and adults.

Key Achievements

- We have had the biggest reduction in teenage pregnancy in London and third biggest nationally
- We are exceeding our targets for people supported to stop smoking, with nearly 3,000 people quitting smoking
- We have made strong progress in integrating community health and social care
- Adult Services has been assessed as performing excellently and Children's Services as performing well and we won a Beacon Award for positive engagement with older people
- We have introduced free swimming for residents and people using leisure centres are more satisfied with them

Challenges and Opportunities for Tower Hamlets

- 8.1 Health outcomes are complex and are determined by a number of factors. We know that the high levels of deprivation in the borough contribute to health inequalities, as does personal behaviour and a lack of access to treatment and services. Housing, employment, diet, the physical environment and crime all contribute to our health and wellbeing.
- 8.2 Though people in Tower Hamlets are healthier and living longer, health inequalities remain a key issue. Health outcomes for local people still fall short of the London average. The Tower Hamlets Joint Strategic Needs Assessment – an analysis of health and social care needs in the borough – shows that despite improvements, the gap between all age mortality rates in the borough to that of London continues. The average life expectancy is 75.2 years for males and 80.2 for females, compared to an average of 77.4 years for males and 82.0 for females in London. There are also important differences in health inequalities within the borough: life expectancy is highest in Millwall ward and lowest in St Dunstan's and Stepney Green.
- 8.3 Behaviour related illnesses and diseases, such as respiratory, heart and liver diseases, are more prevalent in the borough than in other parts of London. This is due to some segments of the population having among the highest smoking and alcohol rates in London. Less than a quarter of residents in the borough eat 5 or more fruits and vegetables a day, which is among the lowest rate in London. The figure is also very low for children



and young people in the borough. National lifestyle data reveals that the level of physical activity in the borough among adults is below the average. This is also the case for children in the borough and childhood obesity continues to be a challenge. The prevalence of obesity in the borough is the fifth highest nationally for 4 year olds and the six highest for 10 year olds. Childhood obesity not only impacts the health of our young people but can also affect their health in later life.

8.4 There are a high number of people in the borough with long-term illnesses and disabilities. The number of people suffering from mental health problems, in particular, is one of the highest in London. Risk factors for older people developing dementia or mental health problems in Tower Hamlets (e.g. deprivation, chronic physical illness) are also significantly greater than the national average. The prevalence of learning disabilities in Tower Hamlets is predicted to increase substantially. Furthermore, as the life expectancy of people with learning disabilities increases this will also lead to an increase in the number of older adults with a learning disability.

8.5 There are many people in the borough providing unpaid care for relatives. People in Tower Hamlets provide more hours of unpaid care a week than the national average. The proportion of the population providing 50 hours or more of unpaid care a week is the highest in London. These carers need to be given support and advice to enable them to care for their loved ones as well as look after themselves.

8.6 The fundamental and rapid transformation of the health service planned by the government provides both challenges and opportunities for the borough. Healthcare commissioning will be transferred to GP consortia accountable to the new NHS Commissioning Board. Primary Care Trusts (PCTs) and Strategic Health Authorities (SHAs) will be abolished and local authorities will have an enhanced role over public health and healthcare

advocacy, as well as facilitating the new Health & Wellbeing Board. Local partners are working together to ensure that these changes lead to better health outcomes for the borough.



Accessibility Day in Mile End Park highlighting transport for disabled people in and around the Arts Pavilion

Making Tower Hamlets A Healthy and Supportive Community

- 8.7 Our approach to improving the health and wellbeing of local people is based on early intervention and prevention, supporting independent living and improving access to quality integrated health and social care. This is underpinned by evidence-based policy informed by the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment.
- 8.8 The Tower Hamlets Improving Health and Wellbeing Strategy is the overarching joint planning framework through which health inequalities in the borough will continue to be tackled. The delivery plan for the strategy focuses on, among other things, tackling tobacco use and obesity; promoting healthy lifestyles through the Time for Health campaign; utilising the Olympics and Paralympics to improve health and fitness and tackling worklessness.
- 8.9 The Partnership's ambitious Integrated Care Programme has been bringing together health and social care services together through locality networks. This, alongside the wider integration of early intervention, prevention, out of hospital care and intermediate care services will help ensure that all local people have access to locally-based services which help keep them living independently at home.
- 8.10 The Council-led Transforming Adult Social Care programme is the primary vehicle through which we are developing social care that is more efficient and personalised, empowering people as active citizens to self-direct their own support. This includes increasing our provision of information advice, and community-based preventative and wellbeing services, continuing the roll out of personal budgets for people with long-term support needs, and developing a broad and diverse market of care and support options across all sectors.

8.11

The Partnership has developed an innovative Family Wellbeing Model to provide greater support for children and families in the borough. The model articulates the integrated thresholds between different levels of need, to ensure that the most appropriate support is offered to each family. It will formalise our structure for consultation, co-ordination and co-operation between agencies to promote family wellbeing and make certain that the children and families of Tower Hamlets get a better experience and outcome from services.



The Objectives

To make Tower Hamlets a Healthy and Supportive Community the Partnership will focus on achieving the following objectives:

- Objective 1:** Preventing people from dying prematurely
- Objective 2:** Helping people to live healthier lives
- Objective 3:** Enabling people to live independently
- Objective 4:** Keeping vulnerable and high risk children, adults and families safer and minimising harm and neglect
- Objective 5:** Providing excellent primary and community care



Partnership strategies that will contribute to this theme:

The following strategies and plans will help provide a clear delivery framework to inform partnership working on this theme.

- ⊙ Improving Health and Wellbeing Strategy
- ⊙ Tower Hamlets Alcohol Strategy
- ⊙ Multi-agency Obesity Strategy
- ⊙ Multi-agency Carers Strategy
- ⊙ Family Wellbeing Model



Adidas Zone fitness equipment in Mile End Park

One Tower Hamlets Focus: Healthy and Supportive Community

Public health inequality is a major issue for the borough. Children in the borough are more likely to be obese and the prevalence of smoking and substance misuse is very high among some groups. Socio-economic inequalities are a big determinant of health inequality in Tower Hamlets and if left unchecked results in poor outcomes throughout life and generational deprivation. This makes addressing public health inequality fundamental to improving the opportunities of local people.

Carers in the borough are also at risk of experiencing unequal outcomes. We know that there are many people in the borough, many of whom are children, providing unpaid care for relatives and people in Tower Hamlets provide more hours of unpaid care than the national average. Carers need to be given support and advice to enable them to care effectively for their loved ones as well as look after themselves.

In order to achieve our commitments to One Tower Hamlets we will:

- Tackle public health inequalities including obesity, smoking, substance misuse and teenage pregnancy.
- Improve access to health and supportive services for all our communities.
- Support carers to care safely and improve their health and wellbeing.
- Support people with mental health problems to live independently.

Case Study

A Healthy and Supportive Community: Supporting people to stop smoking

Background

The use of tobacco products is a serious public health issue and there is a greater proportion of our local community using tobacco than in any other part of the country. There are an estimated 70,000 smokers in the borough meaning almost one in three of our population smoke compared with the England average of just over one in five. The borough also has a very high rate of people using oral tobacco and shisha. The Tower Hamlets Tobacco Control Alliance has been created to address this and is led by NHS Tower Hamlets and the Council and includes GPs, registered social landlords, business and the third sector.

What we have done

We have developed a Tobacco Control Strategy for the borough to support people to stop smoking, which includes:

- ➔ **Making it hard to start:** focusing on preventing young people from starting smoking through education and reducing the availability and appeal of tobacco
- ➔ **Making it easy to stop:** frontline health and social care staff supporting people to stop smoking and holding flexible and culturally sensitive cessation services in community settings and incentive schemes for high risk groups such as pregnant women

- ➔ **Smoke free environments:** actively promoting smoke free environments to reduce the affects of second hand smoke, including establishing the 'Smoke Free' business awards
- ➔ **Communications:** campaigns raising awareness of health issues associated with tobacco use through local media and promoting local free NHS services to help local people stop smoking, along with a 'health hotline' in multiple languages to promote cessation services

How it is benefiting the borough

In 2009/10 the Partnership supported more than 5600 smokers to stop smoking with nearly 3,000 being successful. Tower Hamlets helped more people to stop smoking than any other London borough.



The smoking cessation services are reaching the needs of the borough's diverse communities and helping some hard to reach groups to stop smoking. This is contributing to the health and wellbeing of the borough, helping to make residents in Tower Hamlets healthier.

Appendix 1: Community Plan Framework

The following grid provides a tabular summary of the Partnership’s approach to delivering the Community Plan vision. It highlights the objectives and related outcome measures for each of the Community Plan themes, along with the key delivery arrangements, strategies and

initiatives that will be used to achieve them. The grid also outlines the main partner organisations that will be responsible for delivering each of the objectives.

A Great Place to Live			
Proposed Objectives	Proposed Measures	Delivery Arrangements: Strategies, Plans and Key Initiatives	Delivery Partners
1 Providing quality affordable housing	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 The number of additional homes provided 2 The number of affordable homes provided 3 The number of socially-rented family sized homes delivered 4 The number of people prevented from being homeless 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LDF – Core Strategy, Sites and Placemaking DPD, Development Management DPD, Fish Island AAP, Planning Obligations SPD <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Masterplans – Delivery of Robin Hood Gardens – Blackwall Reach – S106 negotiations on private development sites • TH Housing Strategy 	Tower Hamlets Council, RSLs, Homes and Communities Agency, Private Developers
2 Improving and maintaining the quality of housing, including maximising energy efficiency	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5 The percentage of overall housing stock that is decent (Council, RSL) 6 The energy efficiency levels of homes of people receiving income based benefits 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • THH Service Improvement Plan • Decent Homes Programme • TH Housing Strategy • Climate Change Strategy/TH Carbon Management Plan • Fuel Poverty Strategy 	Council, THH, RSLs, Third Sector Organisations, Private Developers, Homes and Communities Agency

A Great Place to Live			
Proposed Objectives	Proposed Measures	Delivery Arrangements: Strategies, Plans and Key Initiatives	Delivery Partners
3 Improving the public realm	7 The levels of street and environmental cleanliness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> London Plan; Climate Change Action Plan LDF – Core Strategy, Sites and Placemaking DPD, Development Management DPD, Fish Island AAP, Planning Obligations SPD, Masterplans 	Council, RSLs, THH, Police Third Sector Organisations
	8 The Tower Hamlets common local housing management standard	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public Realm Management Strategy Public Realm Management Strategy Neighbourhood Agreements/ Service Integration work Partnership Localisation Development Programme Open Space Strategy Heritage Strategy LDF – Core Strategy, Sites and Placemaking DPD, Development Management DPD, Fish Island AAP, Planning Obligations SPD, Masterplans 	Council, RSLs, THH, Police Third Sector Organisations

A Great Place to Live				
Proposed Objectives	Proposed Measures	Delivery Arrangements: Strategies, Plans and Key Initiatives	Delivery Partners	
4 Improving local transport links and connectivity	9 Satisfaction with local transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local Implementation Plan Sustainable Transport Strategy – Making Connections LDF – Core Strategy, Sites and Placemaking DPD, Development Management DPD, Fish Island AAP, Planning Obligations SPD, Masterplans 	Council, TfL, RSLs Third Sector Organisations	
5 Providing effective local services and facilities	10 Overall/general satisfaction with local area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partnership Localisation Development Programme Infrastructure Delivery Plan Leisure Facilities Strategy LDF – Core Strategy, Sites and Placemaking DPD, Development Management DPD, Fish Island AAP, Planning Obligations SPD, Masterplans 	Council, NHS Tower Hamlets, Third Sector, TfL	

A Prosperous Community			
Proposed Objectives	Proposed Measures	Delivery Arrangements: Strategies, Plans and Key Initiatives	Delivery Partners
1 Supporting more people into work and improving employment skills	<p>11 Employment rate</p> <p>12 The number of young people not in education, employment or training</p> <p>13 The percentage of working age people on out of work benefits</p> <p>14 The proportion of population aged 19-64 for males and 19-59 for females qualified to at least Level 2 or higher</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employment Strategy • Child Poverty Strategy • Children and Young People Plan (CYPP) • 14-19 Plan • Idea Stores Strategy • Emerging Planning Obligations SPD 	Council, Businesses, Job Centre Plus, Third Sector, Tower Hamlets College, NHS Tower Hamlets
2 Supporting residents through national welfare reform	<p>15 The number of people off Incapacity Benefit/Employment Support Allowance and into work</p> <p>16 The proportion of children in the borough living in poverty</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employment Strategy • Financial Inclusion Strategy • Advice Commissioning Framework 	Council, Job Centre Plus, Businesses, Third Sector Organisations
3 Improving educational aspiration and attainment	<p>17 Early Years Foundation Stage</p> <p>18 The percentage of children who achieve level 4 in Maths and English at Key Stage 2 (Year 6)</p> <p>19 The percentage of young people who achieve 5 or more A*-C GCSEs including English and Maths (Key Stage 4)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CYPP • New Youth Volunteering Strategy • BSF Programme 	Council, Schools, Tower Hamlets College, Third Sector

A Prosperous Community			
Proposed Objectives	Proposed Measures	Delivery Arrangements: Strategies, Plans and Key Initiatives	Delivery Partners
	<p>20 The percentage of young people from under achieving groups (Somali pupils and White boys who achieve 5 or more A*-C GCSEs including English and Maths (Key Stage 4)</p> <p>21 The percentage of young people who achieve a level 2 qualification by age 19</p> <p>22 The percentage of young people who achieve a level 3 qualification by age 19</p> <p>23 The percentage of young people from low income backgrounds in the borough who progress to higher education</p>		
4 Fostering enterprise and entrepreneurship	<p>24 The number of new businesses set up, per 10,000 population (age 16 and above), in comparison with London as a whole.</p> <p>25 The number of registered businesses per 10,000 population (age 16 and above), in comparison with London as a whole</p> <p>26 Third Sector Measure</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employment Strategy • Enterprise Strategy • Third Sector Strategy • Street Markets Strategy • Town Centre Spatial Strategy • Core Strategy 	Council, Businesses, Third Sector Organisations

A Safe and Cohesive Community			
Proposed Objectives	Proposed Measures	Delivery Arrangements: Strategies, Plans and Key Initiatives	Delivery Partners
1 Focusing on crime and ASB	<p>27 Total Notifiable Offences</p> <p>28 Serious violent crime rate</p> <p>29 Serious acquisitive crime rate</p> <p>30 Perceptions of drug use or drug dealing as a problem</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CDRP/CSP Crime Reduction Strategy and Plan • Drugs Harm Reduction Strategy and Plans • Anti-defacement Strategy • Alcohol Strategy • Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy • CCTV Strategy 	Police, Council, Third Sector, NHS Tower Hamlets, RSLs, Probation
2 Reducing re-offending	<p>31 The rate of proven re-offending by adults under Probation supervision</p> <p>32 The rate of proven re-offending by young offenders aged 10 -17</p> <p>33 The number of Drug Intervention Programme referrals that re-offend</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CDRP Delivery Plan • Integrated Offender Management Board • Youth Crime Action Plan • Youth Justice Plan • Supporting People Strategy • YSIP/ YIP 	Police, Council, Probation, RSLs, Third Sector, Schools
3 Reducing fear of crime	34 Local concern about ASB and crime (Annual Resident Survey measure)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CDRP Delivery Plan • Drug Intervention Enforcement Strategy 	Police, Council, RSLs, Third Sector, Schools

A Safe and Cohesive Community			
Proposed Objectives	Proposed Measures	Delivery Arrangements: Strategies, Plans and Key Initiatives	Delivery Partners
	35 Satisfaction with the Police/Community Safety Partnership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy 	
4 Fostering greater community cohesion	36 The percentage of people who feel that people from different backgrounds get on well together (Annual Resident Survey measure)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The work of the Tower Hamlets No Place for Hate Forum Work of the borough's Equalities Forums Community Cohesion Contingency Planning Group Core Strategy 	Council, Police, Third Sector Organisations
5 Tackling violent extremism	37 Building resilience to violent extremism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PREVENT Work of the borough's Equalities Forums 	Council, Police, Third Sector Organisations

A Healthy and Supportive Community			
Proposed Objectives	Proposed Measures	Delivery Arrangements: Strategies, Plans and Key Initiatives	Delivery Partners
1 Helping people to live healthier lives	<p>38 The number of people that have stopped smoking</p> <p>39 Healthy weight of children at 4-5 years and 10-11 years</p> <p>40 Adults meeting national guidelines on physical activity</p> <p>41 Indicators from new Public Health outcome framework including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Under 18 conception rate • Breastfeeding at 6-8 weeks after birth • Hospital admissions for alcohol related harm • Number leaving drug treatment free of drug dependence • Self reported wellbeing • Hospital admissions for injuries to under 5 year olds 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improving Health and Wellbeing Strategy • Sport Strategy • Leisure Facilities Strategy • Healthy Weight, Healthy Lives in Tower Hamlets • Implementing Transforming Adult Social Care • TH Tobacco Control Alliance Action Plan • TH Alcohol Strategy • CYPP • LDF – Core Strategy, Sites and Placemaking DPD, Development Management DPD • Tower Hamlets Health Improvement Strategy for Maternity Services • Joint Strategic Needs Assessment based strategies • Primary Care Investment Programme and care packages on diabetes, health checks, older people and children 	NHS Tower Hamlets, Council, Third Sector, GPs, Local Health and Wellbeing Board

A Healthy and Supportive Community			
Proposed Objectives	Proposed Measures	Delivery Arrangements: Strategies, Plans and Key Initiatives	Delivery Partners
2 Preventing people from dying prematurely	<p>42 All-age all-cause mortality rates</p> <p>43 Indicators from new Public Health outcome framework including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Healthy life expectancy • Mortality rate from cardiovascular disease and cancer • TB treatment rates • Chlamydia diagnosis in young people • Late presentation of HIV 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improving Health and Wellbeing Strategy • Tower Hamlets Health Improvement Strategy for Maternity Services • TB Action Plan • Cancer in Tower Hamlets draft strategy • Joint Strategic Needs Assessment based strategies 	NHS Tower Hamlets, Council, GPs, Third Sector, Local Health and Wellbeing Board, Schools
3 Enabling people to live independently	<p>44 Social care clients receiving Self Directed Support per 100,000 population</p> <p>45 The percentage of eligible social care clients who have self directed support</p> <p>46 The percentage of people who 'agreed strongly' that their support is based on their needs and wishes enabling them to exercise choice and control over their daily life</p> <p>47 The ratio of people in receipt of community based services against those within residential and nursing services</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transforming Adult Social Care programme 	Council, NHS Tower Hamlets, Third Sector, GPs, Local Health and Wellbeing Board
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Young Carers Strategy • Multi-agency Carers Strategy 	Council, NHS Tower Hamlets, Third Sector, GPs, Local and Wellbeing Board

A Healthy and Supportive Community			
Proposed Objectives	Proposed Measures	Delivery Arrangements: Strategies, Plans and Key Initiatives	Delivery Partners
4 Keeping vulnerable children, adults and families safer, minimising harm and neglect	48 The percentage of children becoming the subject of a Child Protection Plan for a second or subsequent time	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Family Wellbeing Model Children Safeguarding Board Business Plan Adult Safeguarding Board Business Plan Multi-agency Carers Strategy 	Council, NHS Tower Hamlets, Schools, Police, Probation, Third Sector, GPs, Local Health and Wellbeing Board
5 Providing excellent primary and community care	49 Access to Primary Care 50 User satisfaction measures including patient experience of primary care, mental health and maternity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Integrated Health and Social Care Programme Care closer to home Primary Care Investment Programme and care packages on diabetes, health checks, older people and children Urgent Care Strategy Maternity Improvement Strategy * Improving quality and performance of primary care initiative JSNA-based Commissioning Strategies e.g. Dementia Whole systems review of mental health service 	Council, NHS Tower Hamlets, GPs, Local Health and Wellbeing Board, Barts and the London Hospital

LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

COUNCIL MEETING

WEDNESDAY 13th JULY 2011

RESPONSIBLE DRINKING BOROUGH

REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR, COMMUNITIES, LOCALITIES AND CULTURE

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Cabinet on 6th July 2011 will consider a report of the Corporate Director, Communities, Localities and Culture, outlining the case for designating the Borough of Tower Hamlets as a Responsible Drinking Borough (RDB), the control mechanisms for enforcing problem areas as they arise and the support for drinkers with dependency problems that forms part of the RDB proposal.
- 1.2 In accordance with the Local Authorities (Functions and Responsibilities) (England) Regulations 2000 as amended, the power to make an order identifying a place as a designated public place for the purposes of section 13 of the Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001 is a function of the full Council.
- 1.3 A copy of the report to be considered by the Cabinet on 6th July 2011 is attached. Following the Cabinet Meeting an addendum report will be circulated, setting out the decisions of the Cabinet including any recommended amendments to the attached report and the financial and legal implications of those amendments; and the findings of the Equality Impact Assessment in relation to the proposals and how these have been addressed in accordance with the public sector equality duty.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That the Council consider the attached report of the Corporate Director, Communities, Localities and Culture and the addendum report (to follow) setting out the recommendations of the Cabinet on this matter;
- 2.2 That the Council agree to designate the London Borough of Tower Hamlets by means of a Designated Public Place Order under Section 13 of the Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001, to be known as a Responsible Drinking Borough, as set out in the attached report.

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Committee/Meeting: Cabinet	Date: 6 th July 2011	Classification: Unrestricted	Report No: CAB 014/112
Report of: Corporate Director Stephen Halsey Originating officer(s) Emily Fieran-Reed		Title: Responsible Drinking Borough Wards Affected: Borough-wide	

Lead Member	Deputy Mayor
Community Plan Theme	A Safe and Cohesive Community, A Great Place to Live
Strategic Priority	Focusing on Crime & Anti-Social Behaviour, Reducing Fear of Crime

1. **SUMMARY**

- 1.1 This report outlines the case for designating the Borough of Tower Hamlets as a Responsible Drinking Borough (RDB) and the control mechanisms for enforcing problem areas as they arise.
- 1.2 It is important to note that a RDB is not a prohibition on drinking in public places. This will still be allowed. It is however the introduction of a response framework that will ensure that when areas become the subject of drink related anti-social behaviour (ASB) it can be quickly and effectively dealt with before it gets a hold.
- 1.3 At present, Tower Hamlets has three smaller areas where these powers are in force, known as Drinking Control Zones (DCZs). These are at Whitechapel, Bethnal Green and Shoreditch. All of our neighbouring Boroughs have some form of RDB. The City of London, Hackney and Newham already have borough-wide RDBs. This is beginning to displace increased levels of street drinking into Tower Hamlets. The effect of this on Tower Hamlets is made visually apparent in the map at Appendix 2. Many other Local Authorities throughout the UK have also implemented borough-wide RDBs.
- 1.4 This report also sets out how the support offered to drinkers with dependency problems forms part of the borough wide RDB proposal.
- 1.5 An extensive consultation process has been undertaken, which demonstrates clear support for a borough-wide RDB from residents and organisations in the Borough. There is also support from key agencies,

including the Police, THEOs and support services such as the Drug and Alcohol Outreach Team and Hostels.

- 1.6 The RDB would allow the Police and LBTH THEOs to respond more effectively to street drinkers and the night-time economy and will also help prepare for and manage the impact of the Olympics on street drinking. (This was a particular problem in the Vancouver Winter Olympics).

2. **DECISIONS REQUIRED**

Cabinet is recommended to:-

- 2.1 Agree that the proposed implementation of a Responsible Drinking Borough (RDB) may proceed.
- 2.2 Note that the proposed RDB model will provide access to advice and support for problem drinkers.

3. **REASONS FOR THE DECISIONS**

- 3.1 The reasons for implementing a borough-wide RDB are set out more fully in the report, but they include the displacement effect of the current DCZs and the available evidence of nuisance, annoyance or disorder from the consumption of alcohol in the borough.

4. **ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS**

- 4.1 The Council might choose not to expand the existing DCZs, or to create a larger DCZ than presently exists without extending to the whole borough. For the reasons given in paragraph 3.1 and set out more fully in the report, a borough-wide RDB is the recommended option.

5. **BACKGROUND**

- 5.1 Tower Hamlets is faced with difficult issues relating to alcohol and anti-social behaviour. The data at Appendix 4 shows that drink-related CAD calls (Computer Aided Dispatch, or 999 calls) are increasing across the Borough. At Appendix 8 it is apparent that alcohol related anti-social behaviour is also an increasing problem.
- 5.2 As can be seen from the map in Appendix 1, there are a large number of alcohol related disorder "hotspots" throughout the Borough. Several are based around Brick Lane and relate to the many bars and clubs in the area. However, there are many other hotspots, some of which are near hostels (see also Appendix 11) or off licences. Appendix 5 tells a similar story, using CAD data. This is one of the most reliable indicators since it relies on 999 calls

generated by the public. It is apparent from this data that there can be as many as 12 distinct hotspots (as denoted by the red areas) in the Borough at any one time. Not only are there numerous hot spots, their location can change over time as the profile of the local issues causing the problems can change rapidly. This is illustrated in Appendix 6, where there are 6 “red” locations denoting large increases in Inconsiderate Behaviour CAD calls (often associated with alcohol) within a 2 month period.

- 5.3 There is a wide range of evidence of problematic public drinking throughout the Borough, to a greater or lesser degree, at different times, in different places and involving different groups.
- 5.4 Rough sleepers, street drinkers and the night time economy present particular challenges for this Borough. There is also a specific issue about alcohol related ASB in parks and open spaces.
- 5.5 Section 13 of the Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001 ("The 2001 Act") enables a local authority to designate a public place by means of a Designated Public Place Order (DPPO) as an area where the police have discretionary powers to require a person not to consume intoxicating liquor and also to surrender any container containing such liquor. A public place thus designated by a DPPO can be known locally by a number of names including a Controlled Drinking Zone (CDZ), Drinking Control Zone (DCZ) or Responsible Drinking Borough (RDB). This power was introduced to help Police deal with the problems of alcohol-related anti-social behaviour. The power is also available to authorised officers in other agencies, under the Police Reform Act 2002. This would enable Council Officers such as the Tower Hamlets Enforcement Officers (THEOs) to utilise the power.
- 5.6 In order to introduce a DPPO, there must be evidence to support its introduction in the borough. Section 13(2) of the 2001 Act gives power to the Council to identify any public place in their area if they are satisfied that nuisance or annoyance to members of the public or a section of the public or disorder has been associated with the consumption of intoxicating liquor in that place.
- 5.7 Many London boroughs with alcohol related issues have designated their borough as a DPPO so that they can respond effectively to changing patterns and issues. See below (para. 5.14 onwards) for a selection of London Boroughs who have implemented borough wide DPPOs. It is important to note that in doing so, these Boroughs have not outlawed street drinking in their Borough. They have simply ensured that they have the powers to act anywhere in the Borough where anti-social behaviour related to street drinking begins to take a hold.
- 5.8 The powers of an RDB mean that if a person is drinking alcohol or about to drink alcohol in public, Police or authorised officers such as THEOs can ask that person to stop. If the person complies with this request, no further action is necessary. If the person fails to comply with the Officer's request the Officers can confiscate the alcohol. It would be an offence not to surrender

the alcohol when asked to do so by a Police Officer or THEO. The offender could therefore be issued with a Penalty Charge Notice for Disorder (PND) at £50, or be arrested and receive a larger fine in court (maximum £500). Ultimately, bail conditions could then potentially be used to stop the person from drinking in public.

5.9 ***The powers are discretionary and intended to target only those committing anti-social behaviour.***

5.10 LBTH currently has three DPPOs, known as Drinking Control Zones: in Whitechapel, Bethnal Green and Shoreditch. Whitechapel and Bethnal Green came into force in August 2006. Shoreditch came into force on 28 May 2010 and is a joint initiative with Hackney. Police and LBTH Community Safety data (see Appendix 1 below), shows that since the THEOs started in post, these DCZs are beginning to prove successful in limiting the amount of alcohol-related anti-social behaviour in these areas. However, the problem of anti-social behaviour associated with street drinking still remains in Tower Hamlets.

5.11 DPPOs remain in favour with the current government at this time.

Do DPPOs Work?

5.12 **Tower Hamlets' Experience**

Early implementation of the existing DCZs represented a learning phase and coincided with the development of the THEO concept and Joint Tasking. Before these two initiatives were implemented, the Police faced a challenge to enforce the zones fully given other priority pressures on resources. Now that the joint tasking initiative is operating and THEOs are operating on the streets, there are clear indications that the DCZs are being increasingly effective in managing alcohol related ASB.

5.13 One of the main problems hindering the ability of the Borough to properly capture the impact, is the fact that the limited nature of the current DCZs displaces the drink related ASB to parts of the Borough not covered by the zones. Consultation with the THEOs strongly indicates this, for example they identify one particular dispersal area around Sidney Square, where drinkers congregate because of the Whitechapel DCZ nearby. The map showing CAD (Computer Aided Dispatch, i.e. calls made to 999) calls in Appendix 3 supports this, showing an increased level of calls made in areas just around the DCZ at the same time as a decrease in calls in the Whitechapel DCZ itself, over the same period. The same pattern of increased calls near to, but outside of the Shoreditch and Bethnal Green DCZs can also be seen at Appendix 3. Appendix 1 also demonstrates emerging alcohol related ASB 'hotspots' are in areas just outside or even on the border of the existing DCZs. This would strongly support the argument that there is displacement from the DCZ areas into other nearby locations not covered by the existing zones.

Evidence from RDBs in Other Boroughs

5.14 Southwark

In Southwark, there was a **27% reduction in street drinking** as a result of their borough-wide DPPO. The following findings were also made in a report assessing Southwark's DPPO¹:

“Southwark's DPPO made a positive impact in terms of:

- Police and Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) are further empowered to prevent and address alcohol related ASB*
- Street drinking groups have become smaller*
- Street drinkers are less likely to behave anti-socially*
- There has been some recognition of improvements by residents and businesses*
- There is an increased strategic recognition of alcohol issues and effective street population partnership working groups*
- The appointment of an alcohol outreach worker*

5.15 Camden

Camden, one of the first London boroughs to implement a borough-wide strategy, outlined the following key successes. ^{□2}:

- Rough sleepers were tackled – with an outreach service linking into police and wardens referring into alcohol services, support and hostels*
- Leisure drinkers – if they are disorderly and have alcohol, this is something that can be dealt with*
- Night Time Economy – queues outside bars and clubs can be managed, especially (as a last resort) by utilising powers for drinking out of open containers*
- Protocol agreed with the Police about implementation, which has never needed to be reviewed*

5.16 Brent

Brent gave the following arguments in favour of their borough-wide DPPO ^{□3}:

- It gives clarity to the situation and there is no uncertainty about whether a particular street is in or outside of the zone.*
- It prevents issues arising from displacement which had previously been seen in relation to the Kilburn zone.*
- It allows the Police and Enforcement Officers to use the RDB powers as an enforcement tool, as and when required*
- It matches the decisions taken by other neighbouring boroughs to have borough wide DPPOs and prevents displacement to Brent from these areas.*
- Cost efficiency - The cost of designating several individual zones would have to be replicated for each one. The designation of the whole borough significantly reduces the legal and advertising costs.*

¹ Southwark's Designated Public Place Order: an evaluation of effectiveness and the implications for addressing problematic drinking in public places - Executive summary, James Morris, March 2008

² Report into Camden's CDZ, Camden Borough Council

^{□3} Proposal for a Borough Wide Controlled Drinking Zone - Report from the Director of Policy and Regeneration (2007), London Borough of Brent

5.17 **Hammersmith and Fulham**

Since the implementation of a borough wide DPPO, evaluation has shown that **street drinking reduced by 62%** from the previous year^{□4}. Complaints about street drinking have reduced dramatically. All teams rated the powers either as 'useful' or 'very useful' and they have also been used effectively for football and Night Time Economy-related disorder.

5.18 As can be seen from the evidence of the police and other local authorities, borough-wide DPPOs on other Boroughs have had clear impacts on street drinking populations.

6. **BODY OF REPORT**

6.1 It is proposed that the existing three DCZs be extended to cover the whole borough.

6.2 There will be robust governance systems in place to ensure that the powers are utilised only when necessary and are proportionate to the identified problems. Particular hotspots will be identified by the Police and LBTH Community Safety, and enforcement will only take place for limited periods of time, in very specific geographical locations. Each proposed location will be required to go through a rigorous challenge and decision making process and to be agreed at Borough Command Tasking Group (BCTG) meetings, where tasking takes place fortnightly. These meetings are Chaired by a Police Superintendent and attended by the Head of Safer Communities, Service Managers within Safer Communities, an LBTH analyst, Police Partnership Task Force Officers and representatives of the Police Safer Neighbourhood Teams.

6.3 This process enables a proactive and timely response to alcohol related problems wherever it is needed. It will ensure partners are able to tackle the displacement of alcohol related problems more effectively, as the issues develop and move. To ensure accountability, each deployment for enforcement of the RDB will be documented and signed off as agreed by the BCTG to ensure that the action is necessary, supported by data and restricted to an area proportionate to the problem identified.

6.4 A borough wide RDB in Tower Hamlets will be managed with discretion, in accordance with the Human Rights Act, and will target only those drinkers who are causing anti-social behaviour. The types of drink related behaviour that would be targeted are Intimidation, littering with bottles and cans and noisy or rowdy / abusive behaviour (particularly at night).

6.5 All enforcement teams will be provided with clear guidance to enable them to focus on anti-social behaviour, rather than drinkers who are not causing any problems. Management of alcohol related ASB would be the responsibility of

^{□4} Figures based on year on year street count.

the Police, PCSOs as part of their Safer Neighbourhood Teams and LBTH Tower Hamlets Enforcement Officers (THEOs). Enforcement would be a last resort.

- 6.6 The intention of the RDB is not merely to increase our ability to manage alcohol related anti-social behaviour, but also to be better able to ensure that vulnerable people are given the opportunity to access treatment and support for alcohol related problems and addiction. It is vital, therefore, that there is a multi-disciplinary approach to dealing with street-drinking populations and the borough wide RDB provides a sound framework for enhancing and rationalising current multi-agency working in this area.
- 6.7 By providing the framework for Enforcement Officers to regularly engage street drinkers across the Borough, it allows a wider engagement role to be developed, that links to referral and support agencies. This should lead to increased efficiencies over time across the partnership and with the Third Sector.
- 6.8 The needs of the individuals concerned will be very important to the process. Existing Multi-agency Care Planning Meetings and a casework-led approach will be utilised to enable a range of partners to input into the focusing of resources in managing a RDB and providing services for the individuals identified within it.
- 6.9 **Key Considerations**
The borough-wide RDB has a direct impact on the Community Plan themes: A Great Place to Live and a Safe and Cohesive Community. It is of particular relevance to the following Strategic Plan performance indicators: -

A Great Place to Live
Levels of street and environmental cleanliness
Overall/general satisfaction with parks and open spaces
Overall/general satisfaction with local area

A Safe & Cohesive Community
Perceptions of drug use or drug dealing as a problem
Local concern about ASB and crime (Annual Resident Survey measure)
Measure on ASB - satisfaction with the Police/Community Safety Partnership

- 6.9a **Managing escalation.** Whilst the Police already have powers to deal with alcohol related crime and disorder, most of these require a substantive offence to have taken place or drunkenness to be extreme before they can be used. The use of powers provided by a borough-wide RDB would mean that Police and THEOs can act and intervene to prevent issues reaching this stage.
- 6.9b **Preparing for the Olympics.** With the Olympics approaching, it is essential that measures are put in place to ensure that our streets are welcoming places

to visit. A borough wide RDB would allow enforcement officers to move drinkers to more suitable locations inside private property or outside the Borough altogether.

6.9c **Managing the night time economy.** A borough wide RDB will enable the Police and THEOs to deal with the night-time economy more effectively, for example, where anti-social behaviour is being caused by groups of drinkers on a night out, a borough wide RDB can cover multiple hotspots in key areas, such as around Brick Lane and Shoreditch.

6.9d **Avoiding the 'Island effect'.** Many London boroughs face similar issues to Tower Hamlets. As can be seen from the map in Appendix 2, all of the boroughs bordering Tower Hamlets already have borough wide DPPOs, including Newham, which has recently introduced one after undertaking consultation.

Other London boroughs with borough-wide DPPOs include:

- Barking and Dagenham
- Brent
- Camden
- Ealing
- Greenwich
- Hackney
- Hammersmith and Fulham
- Hillingdon
- Islington (on match days)
- Kensington and Chelsea
- Lambeth
- Lewisham (Cabinet agreed, consultation completed, currently being finalised before implementation)
- Southwark – (almost the whole borough)
- Westminster

6.9e There is currently a risk that Tower Hamlets becomes seen as the only place in the vicinity where heavy street drinking cannot be swiftly addressed and this could make Tower Hamlets a magnet for persistent street drinkers. If it were not to implement a borough-wide RDB, LBTH would therefore be in danger of becoming seen as an "island of tolerance" for a street drinking culture.

6.9f **Preventing displacement.** Currently, a lot of displacement is occurring from the existing DCZs in Tower Hamlets, to new locations, outside these areas, but still inside the Borough. A borough-wide RDB would ensure that there is no dispersal, as drinkers causing anti-social behaviour would not just have to step outside the smaller zones, but would have to leave the borough completely.

6.9g **Managing the Impact of Hostels:** There is sometimes perceived to be a link between alcohol-related ASB and hostels. The reality of this relationship can be seen from Appendix 11, or from comparing the map showing where hostels are located (Appendix 10) to the crime hotspots map (Appendix 1). While there

are other perceived 'magnets' for rough sleepers, such as the Health E1 Centre and the Dellow Day Centre, the hostels are often seen as the places where some street drinkers are housed.

6.9h Recent information on hostels, based on looking at a number of data sources, indicates that approximately 75% of the hostel population has support needs linked to alcohol and drug misuse, with around a third of these actively linked into Drug and Alcohol Action Team (DAAT) treatment services. Many of the remaining 25% will be receiving support and encouragement from hostel staff to attend advice and assessment sessions. Whilst many street drinkers are not accommodated in hostels and most hostel dwellers do not drink or cause ASB, the perceived link must be acknowledged.

6.10 Consultation

Previous Consultations

6.10a The last localised DPPO to be consulted on was the DCZ in Shoreditch in 2008, where there was overwhelming public support for the implementation of a Drinking Control Zone. Those in favour included a local hostel as they felt it would help them support vulnerable people and improve the public perception of their work.

Boroughwide Consultation with Partners

6.10b In 2010/11 the Safe & Supportive Community Plan Delivery Group/Community Safety Partnership agreed that a proposal for a Borough-wide Responsible Drinking Borough should be developed for consideration by Full Council.

6.10c Consultation has taken place with a variety of LBTH services and partner agencies.

6.10d The proposal has received support from all agencies consulted, including Tower Hamlets Police, hostels, and within LBTH the THEOs, Drug and Alcohol Outreach Team (DAOT), the Drug and Alcohol Action Team (DAAT), Supporting People teams and hostels teams.

6.10e The data on alcohol related ASB indicates some anti-social behaviour and crime hotspots in the vicinity of hostels for homeless people. Consultation has therefore taken place with hostels via presentation and discussion at the Tower Hamlets Hostels Forum, as well as a variety of wider consultation with agencies who work with the homeless and rough sleepers. There has been unanimous support for the implementation of a borough-wide RDB from these partners.

6.10f Consultation was also carried out with the LBTH Supporting People Team, Rough Sleepers Team and the Housing and Homelessness Advisory Service. There was support within these teams for a borough-wide RDB. The teams see the borough wide RDB as a framework upon which to further develop support

interventions. These teams also carried out consultation with many of the partner organisations they work with and the response was positive.

6.10g The LBTH Housing Options Service, Supporting People team and the Hostels and Single Homelessness Forum (HSHF) fully support a Responsible Drinking Borough (RDB) in Tower Hamlets. The issue was raised as an agenda item at the HSHF during the consultation period and the idea of a 'wet day centre' was raised. Although the 'wet day centre' had some support, there was no consensus of opinion and therefore could not be considered a formal view of the HSHF. Senior managers within the Housing Options Service and Supporting People Team do not support the introduction of a 'wet day centre' within the borough as a response to anti-social street drinking.

The Housing Options Service has responsibility for reducing and preventing rough sleeping and plays a key role in minimising street based anti-social behaviour. The Supporting People Team funds and monitors hostels, and the HSHF acts as a partnership group to feed in views and comments from stakeholders.

6.10h Consultation with the Drug and Alcohol Outreach Team (DAOT) indicates that they are broadly in favour of a borough-wide RDB, though they stress the importance of outreach in being part of the joined up approach to its introduction.

Boroughwide Consultation with Residents and the General Public

6.10i The Public Consultation took place between 28th February and 4th April. The level of consultation considerably surpassed that of the mandatory statutory requirements for obtaining a Designated Public Place Order. Members of the public were given the opportunity to comment on the proposal in writing, by phone, by email, on the dedicated webpage or in person at one of four information and consultation road-shows across the borough during this period. The results of the public consultation can be found in appendix 21.

6.10j The Community Safety Partnership Team oversaw the delivery of the consultation process, whilst Corporate Communications delivered some of the consultation activity itself. A Project Board met weekly with the Head of Community Safety signing off and briefing the Mayor and Deputy Mayor.

6.10k It was decided that the DPPO in Tower Hamlets would be known locally as a 'Responsible Drinking Borough' (RDB). Originally referred to as a 'Drinking Control Zone' it was thought that this would convey an arbitrary image of an order with many negative connotations attached. RDB connotes a much less intrusive order. One of the main aims of the consultation was to emphasise that this order would not serve as ban on drinking alcohol in public places but rather act as a measure of control. It was agreed that the use of the wording 'Responsible Drinking Borough' conveys this message much clearer than that of 'Drinking Control Zone'.

Consultation with local residents/businesses

6.10l As statutorily requisite, the Community Safety Partnership Team sent letters from the Head of the Community Safety to the Chief Police Officers and local authority Chief Executives of neighbouring boroughs. Within Tower Hamlets a letter was sent to all licensed premise holders, club premise certificate holders and other premise users in regards to any premises within the area; and owners or occupiers of any land. The letter informed them of the proposed powers constituted under DPPO legislation. This letter can be seen in Appendix 12.

Other organisations that were sent a letter include:

- All London Borough Chief Executives
- Criminal Justice Services
- Police Borough Commanders of Greenwich, Hackney, Lewisham, Newham, Southwark and Tower Hamlets
- Commissioner of Police for City of London
- British Transport Police
- NHS
- GP's
- London Fire Service
- Faith Organisations
- Community Groups
- Canary Wharf Group
- Tower Hamlets One Stop Shops
- Registered Social Landlords
- Tenants Resident Associations
- Substance Misuse Services
- Hostels
- Transport For London
- Network Rail
- Jobcentre Plus
- Veolia Environmental Services
- Tower Hamlets Neighbourhood Watch groups
- Residents – selected on the basis that they had previously signed a petition requesting powers be given to control anti-social behaviour.

6.10m Press releases, seen in Appendix 13, were sent out by the Communications Officer and coverage was achieved in various newspapers such as the East End Life, East London Advertiser and Bangla Mirror, all outlining the intended measures and offering the opportunity for readers comment. To view the press coverage of the press releases seen in Appendix 13, please see Appendix 14. All press coverage accurately portrayed the points of the press release.

6.10n Between 28th February 2011 and 14th March 2011 forty-eight six sheet posters were put up around the borough in order to promote the proposed RDB measures and explain how residents can respond to the consultation. Advertisements also appeared on the Brick Lane plasma screens for the duration of the consultation period. Copies of these posters can be seen in Appendix 15.

6.10o Road shows were held at Cubitt Town Library; the Richmix Cultural Foundation; and Idea stores in Bow and Whitechapel in order to engage with residents on the proposed powers of the RDB. These locations were specifically chosen as they encapsulated all of the LAPS in Tower Hamlets, namely there was one road show held in each paired LAP. Additionally one road show was held at the weekend and another in the evening in order to give residents the best possible opportunity to attend. The Road Shows were carried out by members of both the Community Safety Partnership Team and Communications Team with support from the Community Safety Translation Officers.

6.10p Further engagement with residents was undertaken by Police Safer Neighbourhoods Teams (SNT), Tower Hamlets Enforcement Officers (THEOs) and the Drug & Alcohol Outreach Team (DAOT). Officers were briefed on the RDB, engaged with residents on the issue and disseminated information cards with a brief explanation on what it was and details of the website where further information was available (see 9.17). Extra supplies of the cards were also printed, in order that they could be used after the consultation, to help remind people of the RDB powers if it came into force. The information card can be found in Appendix 16.

6.10q A large web banner appeared on the home page of the council's website for two weeks during the consultation, taking people directly to a specially designed consultation page. Included on the website were definitions of the intended measures of the RDB, a FAQ section helping to explain these measures and details of how to respond to the consultation in regards to both emails and road show information. The website can be seen in Appendix 17.

6.11 Signage

If Full Council decides to proceed with the RDB, signs will be displayed at key locations throughout the borough to remind people of the restrictions that apply on public drinking by virtue of the RDB. The design of the sign, which can be seen in Appendix 18, has been agreed in order to meet the necessary legal requirements.

6.11a Signs will be located in a number of areas throughout the borough. In particular, signs will be placed at: -

- Main entrances and exits of the borough
- Major transport hubs
- Entrances of major parks and open spaces
- Main shopping areas.

6.11b The remaining signs will be used in hotspots where the data shows a history of anti-social behaviour problems associated with alcohol. A variety of reporting and incident related data will be used to identify these locations, including data on drink related Computer Aided Dispatch Calls (CAD), the number of alcohol related arrests and the Tower Hamlets Anti-Social Behaviour Database.

6.11c There will also be provision to erect signs in locations that are not fixed and permanent. This will be dictated by emerging patterns of alcohol related anti-social behaviour and allow us to respond to changing patterns in the nature and location of the problem.

6.11d There are a number of options for displaying signage. Primarily traditional means of signage will be used. This means a 300mm x 600 mm sign made of composite material will be attached to various pieces of street furniture. Where possible, we will also take advantage of existing locations such as park notice boards, licensed premises, hostels, plasma screens in Brick Lane and London underground stations to display signage.

6.12 **Statutory Notice**

6.12a A legal notice will need to be published in the local media, identifying the areas designated as a proposed RDB (in this case, the whole Borough) and detailing any impact it may have on relevant premises. The RDB cannot come into effect until at least 28 days after this press notice has been published. This notice was published on Monday 9th May and if the Designation of Tower Hamlets as a Responsible Drinking Borough is approved then a further public notice will need to be given informing of its approval and impending implementation. The 9th May notice can be seen in Appendix 19.

6.13 **Notification to the Secretary of State**

6.13a A copy of the designation order will be sent to the Secretary of State as soon as reasonably practicable after the order has been made. This is necessary in order to fulfil legal requirements. Details of all DPPOs in the country are held by the Home Office and accessible to the public upon request.

7. **COMMENTS OF THE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER**

7.1 The report seeks agreement to the proposed implementation of a Responsible Drinking Borough (RDB). The costs associated with public consultation will be met from within existing Safer Communities Budget provision, as will be the cost of necessary signage, its installation and de-installation. The management and enforcement of the RDB would be met from within existing Police and Safer Communities (THEO) budgets.

8. **CONCURRENT REPORT OF THE ASSISTANT CHIEF EXECUTIVE (LEGAL SERVICES)**

8.1 The Council may by order identify any public place in Tower Hamlets as a designated public place for the purposes of Part 1 of the Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001, provided that it is satisfied that –

- (a) nuisance or annoyance to members of the public or a section of the public; or
- (b) disorder,

has been associated with the consumption of alcohol in that place.

- 8.2 The relevant statutory provisions and the consequences of such identification are set out in the report. The report correctly indicates that there should be evidence to support the Council's conclusions as to nuisance, annoyance or disorder.
- 8.3 If a borough wide zone is being considered, then there must be evidence of nuisance, annoyance or disorder across the borough. It is most unlikely that any identification of a place for the purposes of establishing a Responsible Drinking Borough will be supported by evidence at every location within that place. Some question of sufficiency must arise. The report presents the available evidence, including the evidence of displacement caused by existing Drinking Control Zones. The decision whether to make an order identifying the whole of the borough is for Full Council. Now the consultation exercise has been completed, Council will have to make a decision on the sufficiency of the evidence.
- 8.4 Before making an order under section 13 of the Criminal Justice and Police act 2001, the Council must carry out consultation in accordance with the requirements of the Local Authorities (Alcohol Consumption in Designated Public Places) Regulations 2007. The report indicates that the consultation proposals have been met and go beyond these requirements.
- 8.5 Before making the proposed order, the Council must have due regard to the need to eliminate unlawful conduct under the Equality Act 2010, the need to advance equality of opportunity and the need to foster good relations between persons who share a protected characteristic and those who don't. An equality impact assessment has been prepared and this may assist Full Council to meet its statutory equality duty.

9. ONE TOWER HAMLETS CONSIDERATIONS

- 9.1 An Equalities Impact Assessment has been carried out. The process is particularly relevant because of the vulnerable nature of many of the persistent drinkers. The findings of which have helped to shape this report. In addition, equalities considerations will be addressed at the tasking meeting (BCTG) as part of the decision making process for implementation of RDB powers in each area.

10. SUSTAINABLE ACTION FOR A GREENER ENVIRONMENT

- 10.1 Implementation of an RDB is expected to have a positive effect on the environment through minimising alcohol related urination and litter.

11. RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

- 11.2 The proposals provide significant mitigation of risks to the council by identifying vulnerable people at an earlier stage, enabling treatment and support to be provided before their actions and circumstances escalate. The proposals allow behaviour change to be brought about before it is too late to achieve successful diversion. This is particularly true of those who have multiple mental health and/or drug diagnoses, where this proposal provides an effective mechanism of identifying people in the street or park and diverting them into treatment.
- 11.3 The main risks of this proposal are to do with the application of the powers being applied legally and proportionally, and the potential for community tension arising from this. These risks will be mitigated by our existing performance management process, which includes a tasking meeting, chaired by a Police Superintendant and attended by the Head of Safer Communities; an LBTH Safer Communities Operations meeting, and external monitoring by the Metropolitan Police of the THEOs' use of powers as part of the Community Safety Accreditation Scheme (CSAS) process. The use of LBTH Scrutiny Committees is also an important accountability mechanism. This combination is successful at challenging and holding officers to account.
- 11.4 Careful consideration was given to communication for the consultation period and a communication plan was written (see Appendix 20). On analysis of the consultation findings there were some misconceptions/misunderstanding around the powers associated with an RDB and how they will be used. Further awareness raising activity to residents and effected groups will need to be carried out on implementation of the RDB. A supporting communication plan will be prepared for the implementation period by Corporate Communications.

12. CRIME AND DISORDER REDUCTION IMPLICATIONS

- 12.1 This proposal is designed to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour, particularly that directly or indirectly related to alcohol, including littering and urination, noise, nuisance and intimidation. There is a well established link between alcohol and violent crime and it is hoped that this proposal will have an impact on this type of crime in particular.

13. EFFICIENCY STATEMENT

- 13.1 There are potentially significant efficiency gains from implementing a coordinated and borough wide process for managing alcohol related problems in hotspots across the borough, rather than responding to each issue individually. The creation of individual DCZs in response to this dynamic problem would require lengthy lead in times, including significant resource implications for consultation and information distribution. A single process enables the individual response to be developed more quickly and easily and will facilitate more effective interventions for alcoholics with other support networks.

13.2 There are also further efficiencies from addressing problems before they escalate, requiring less resource than would be necessary in dealing with a more serious problem at a later stage. These efficiencies would be spread across the Council and key partner agencies.

14. APPENDICES

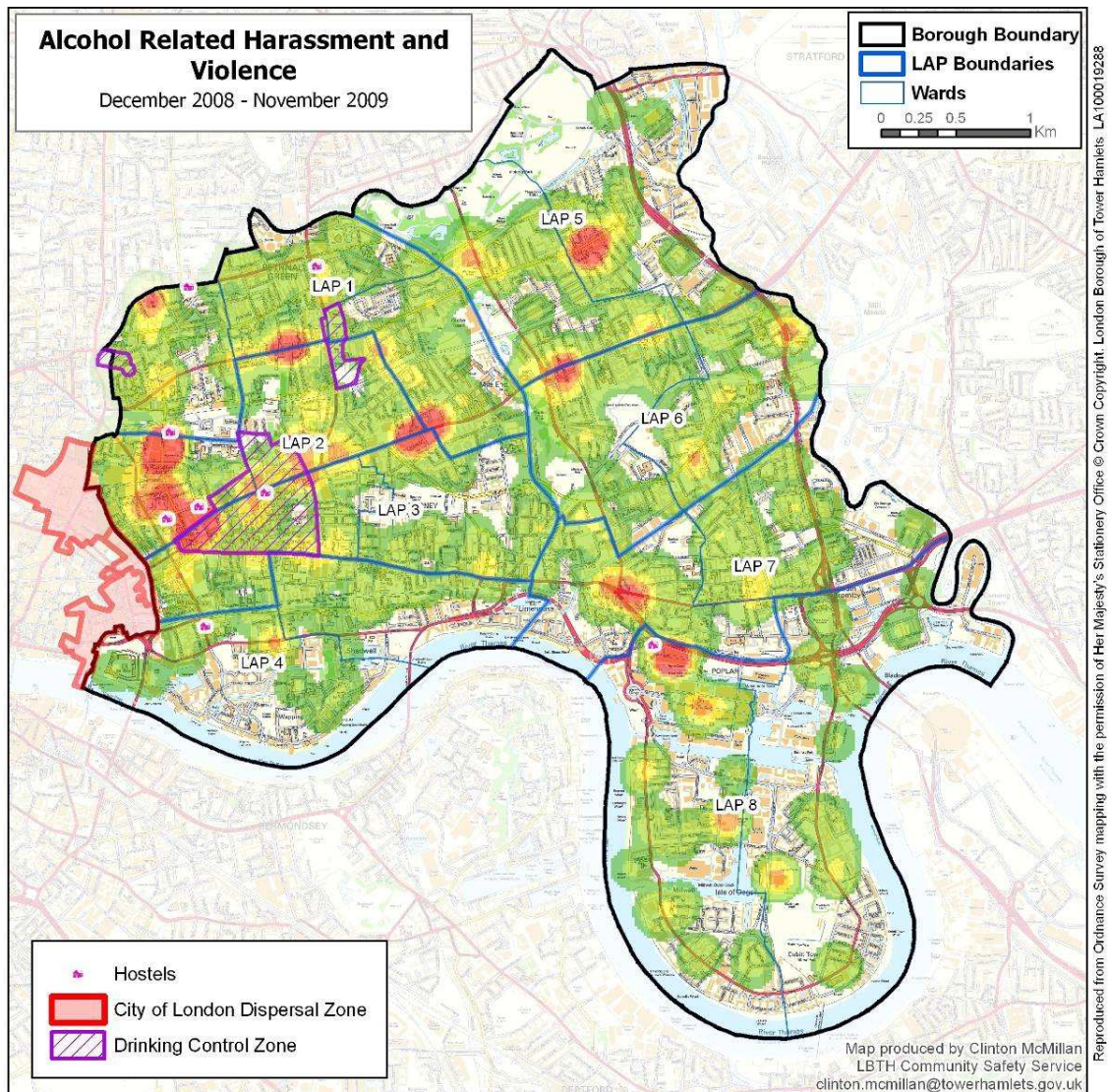
- Appendix 1 – Map of Alcohol related harassment and violence
- Appendix 2 – Map of current Designated Public Place Orders in East London
- Appendix 3 – Map of Computer Aided Despatch calls for Street Drinking just outside existing DPPO areas
- Appendix 4 – Map of Computer Aided Despatch calls for Street Dinking across the borough
- Appendix 5 – Map of Alcohol Related Computer Aided Despatch calls
- Appendix 6 – Map of Computer Aided Despatch calls for Inconsiderate Behaviour
- Appendix 7 – Graph showing levels of Begging and Alcohol related Anti-social Behaviour (ASB)
- Appendix 8 – Hostels and Alcohol Related ASB
- Appendix 9 – Treatment for Drinkers
- Appendix 10 – Map of Drug Outreach Work areas
- Appendix 11 – Map of Alcohol related Computer Aided Despatch calls and hostel locations
- Appendix 12 - Consultation letter on Responsible Drinking Borough
- Appendix 13 – Press Release on Responsible Drinking Borough Consultation
- Appendix 14 – Press Coverage of Responsible Drinking Borough Consultation
- Appendix 15 – Poster used for promotion of Responsible Drinking Borough Consultation
- Appendix 16 – Information Cards for Responsible Drinking Borough
- Appendix 17 – Website used for Responsible Drinking Borough Consultation
- Appendix 18 – Responsible Drinking Borough Signage Design
- Appendix 19 – Legal Notice for Designated Public Place Order 09.05.11
- Appendix 20 – Public Consultation Communications Plan
- Appendix 21 – Public Consultation Results – Statistical Analysis

APPENDICES

Appendix 1

Map Indicating a wide spread of problem locations for alcohol related harassment and violence across the Borough.

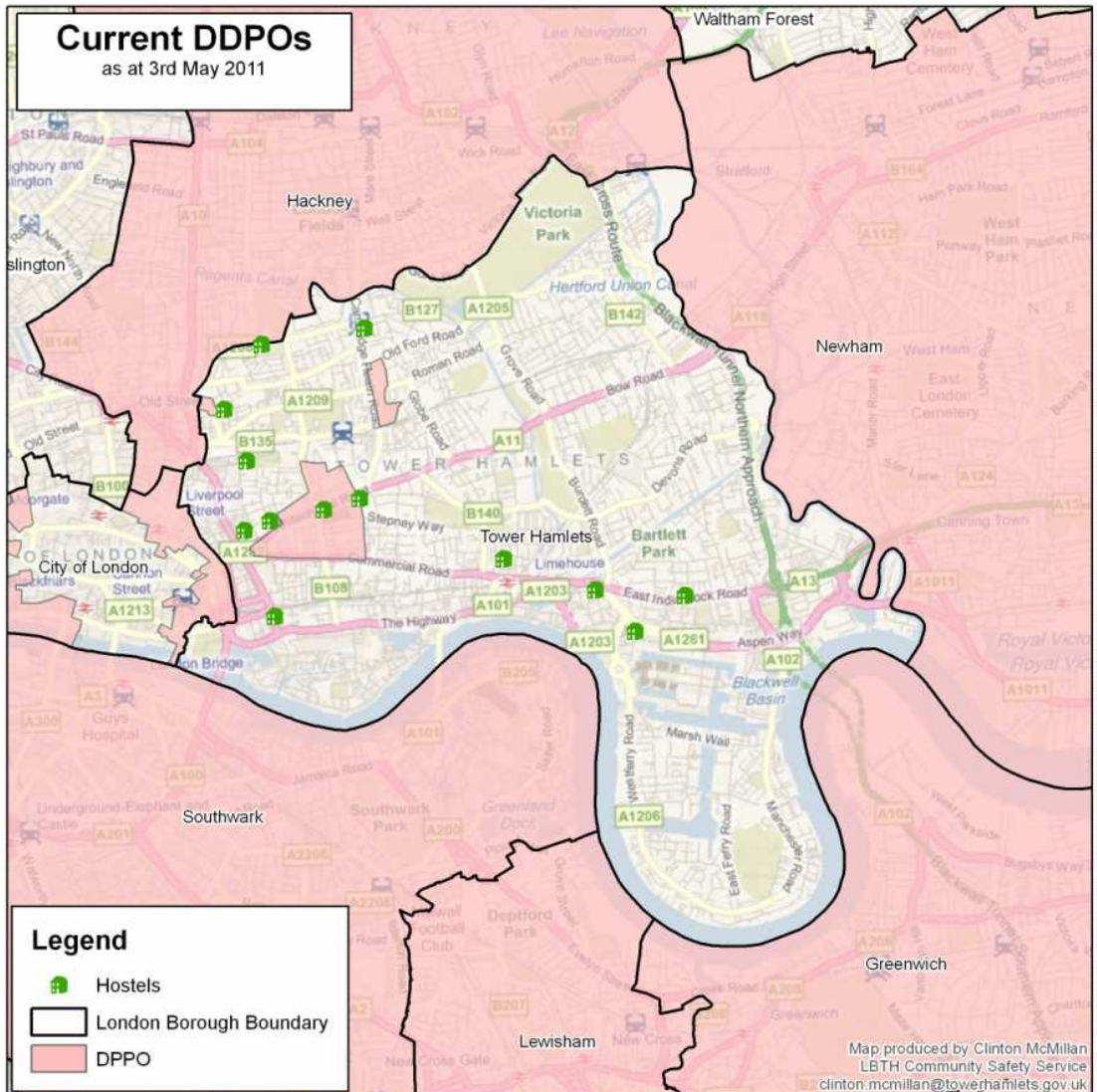
Particular hotspots can be noted near to existing City of London and local existing DCZs, suggesting that there is some dispersal of alcohol related problems



Appendix 2

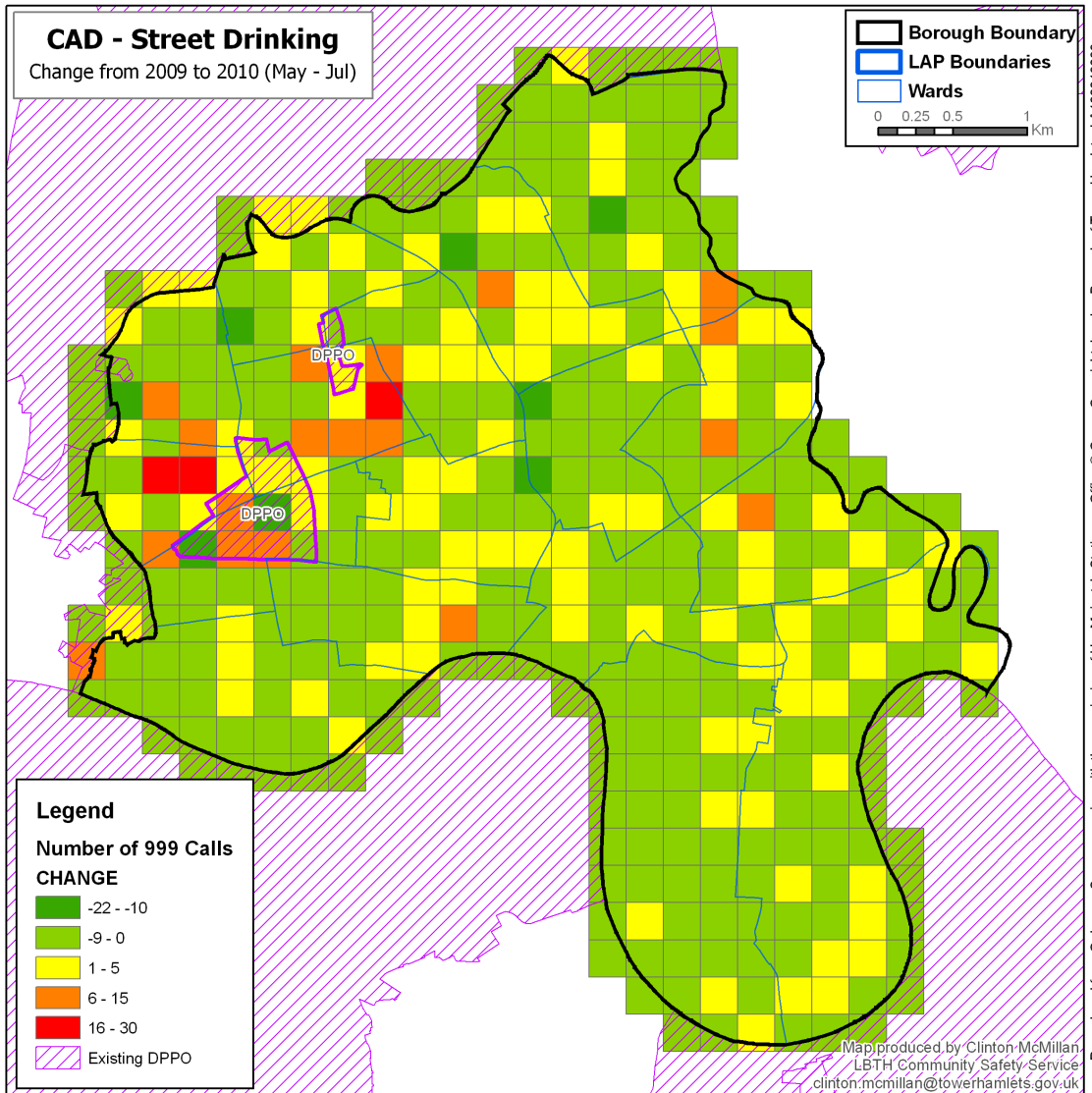
Map indicating the presence of DPPOs in all of Tower Hamlets' surrounding boroughs.

NB: Subsequent to the proposal to consult on a RDB was agreed at Tower Hamlets Cabinet, Newham has now implemented a borough wide DPPO, after completing its consultation process.



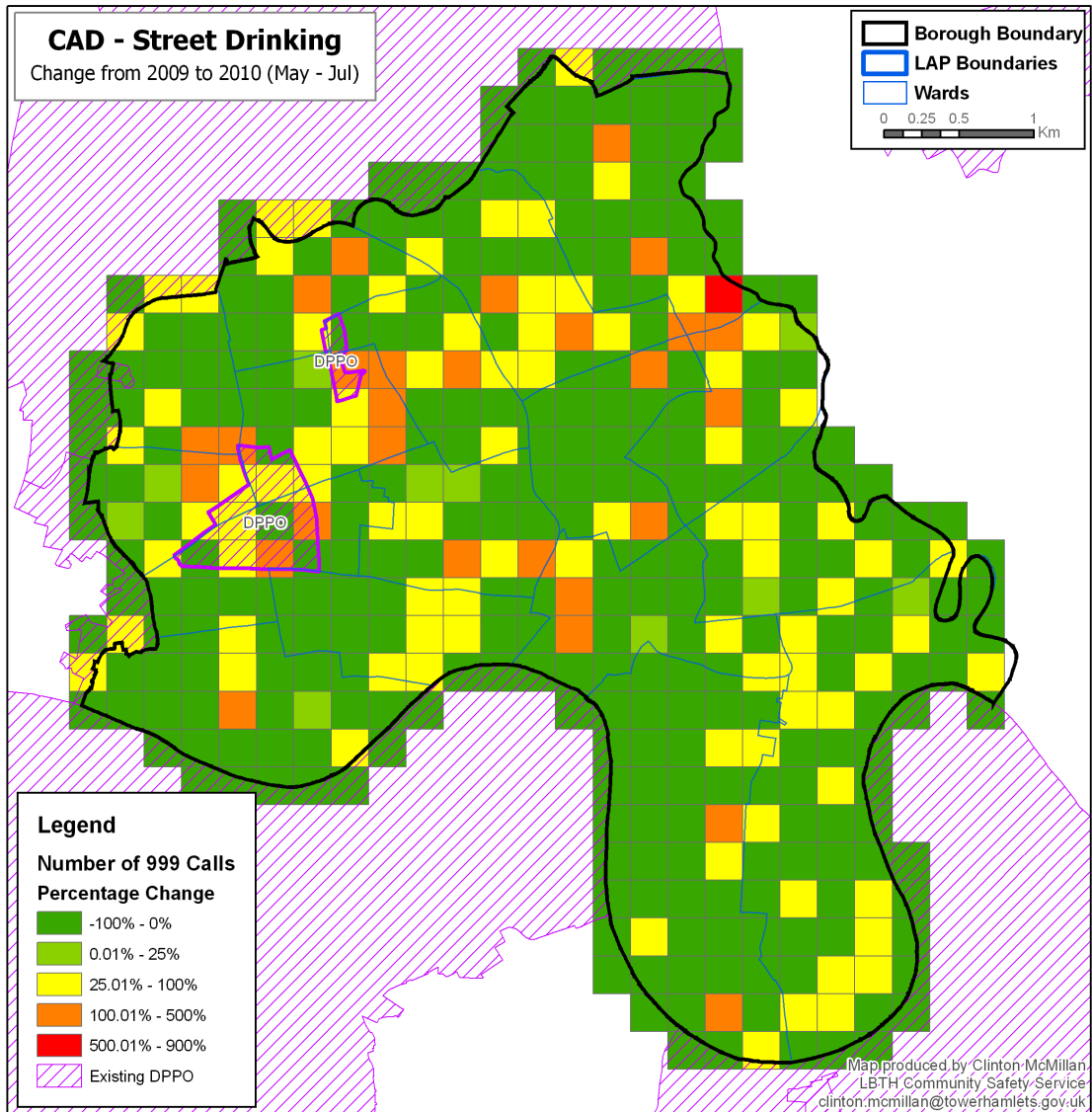
Appendix 3

Map showing increased levels of CAD (Computer Aided Dispatch i.e. 999) calls in areas just outside the existing DCZ areas, appearing to indicate dispersal of the problem from those areas.



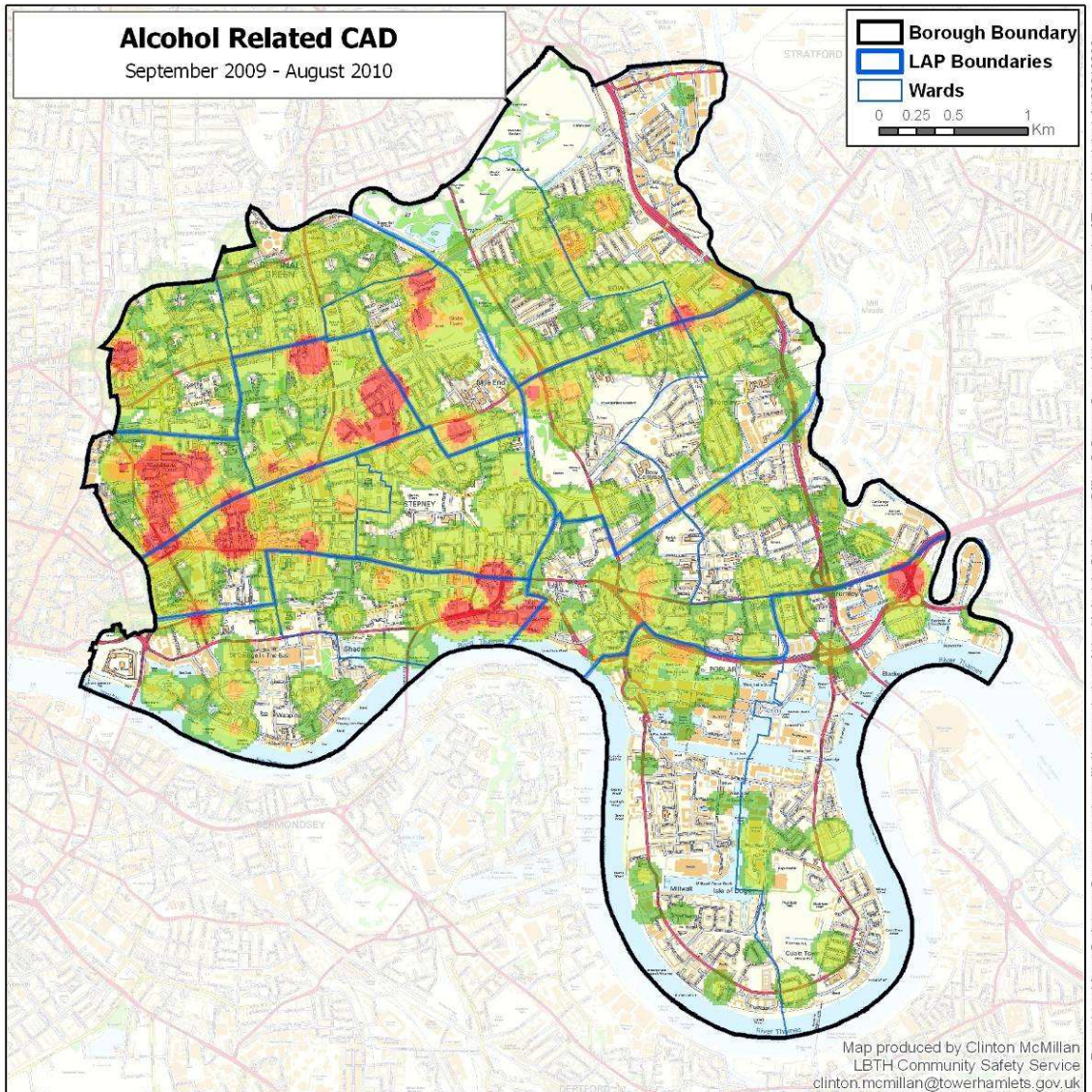
Appendix 4

Map showing increases in drink related CAD (Computer Aided Dispatch i.e. 999) calls across the borough.



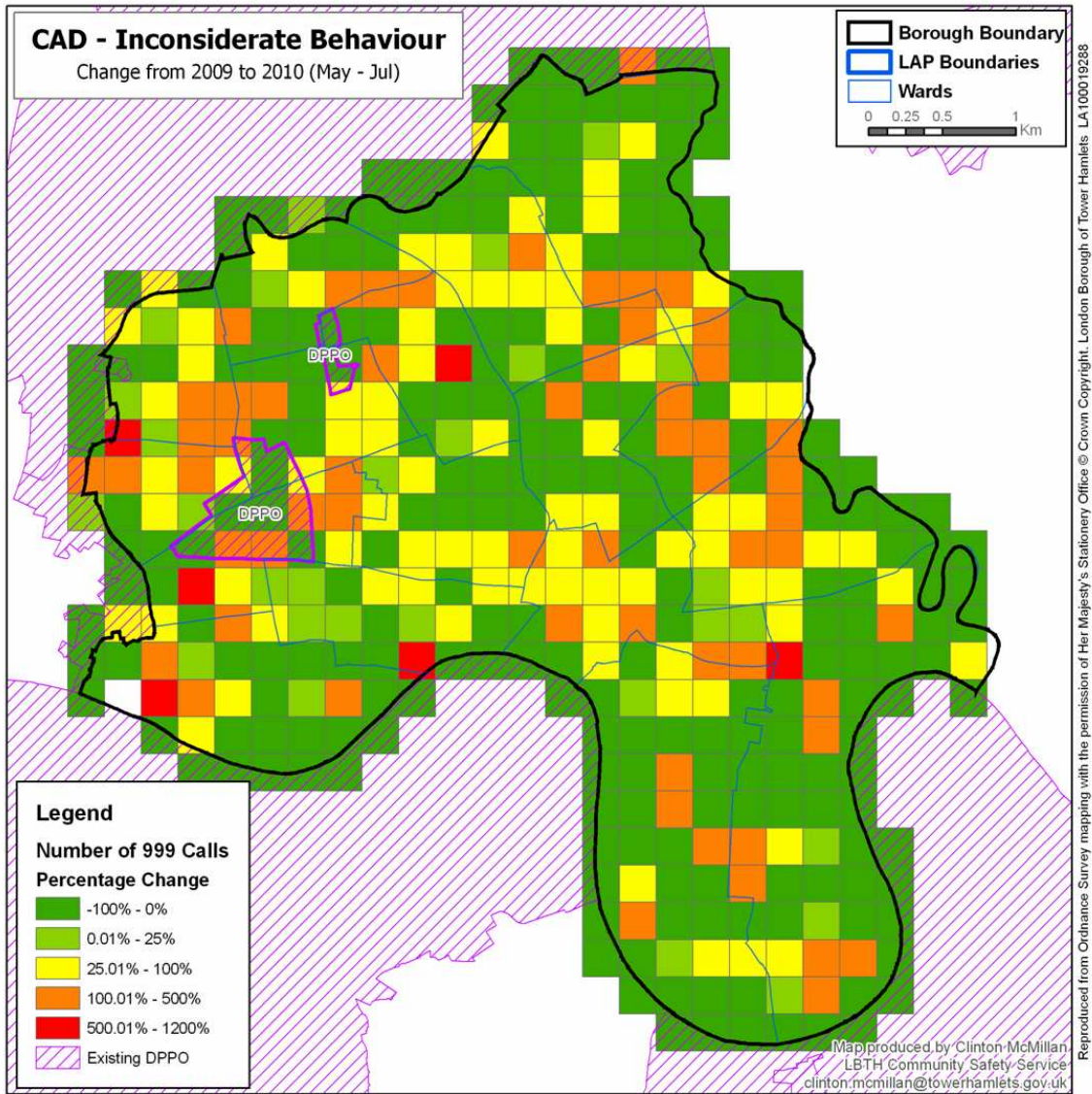
Appendix 5

Map showing wide geographical spread of alcohol related CAD (999) calls across the borough



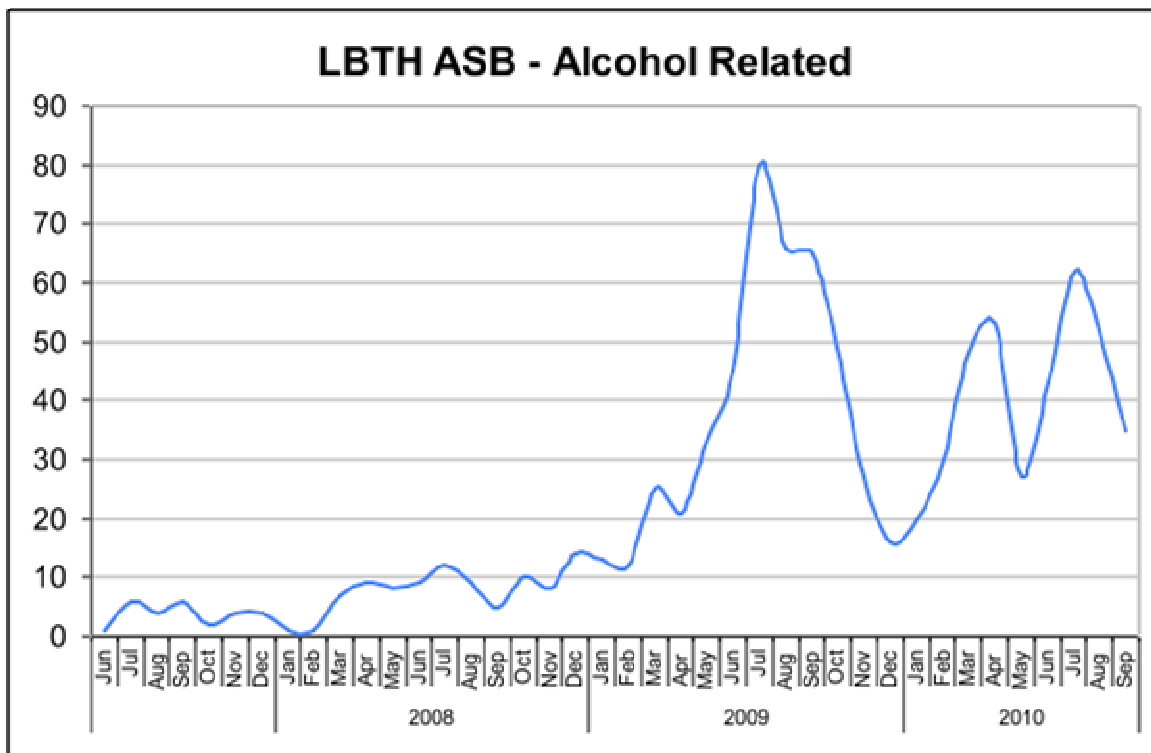
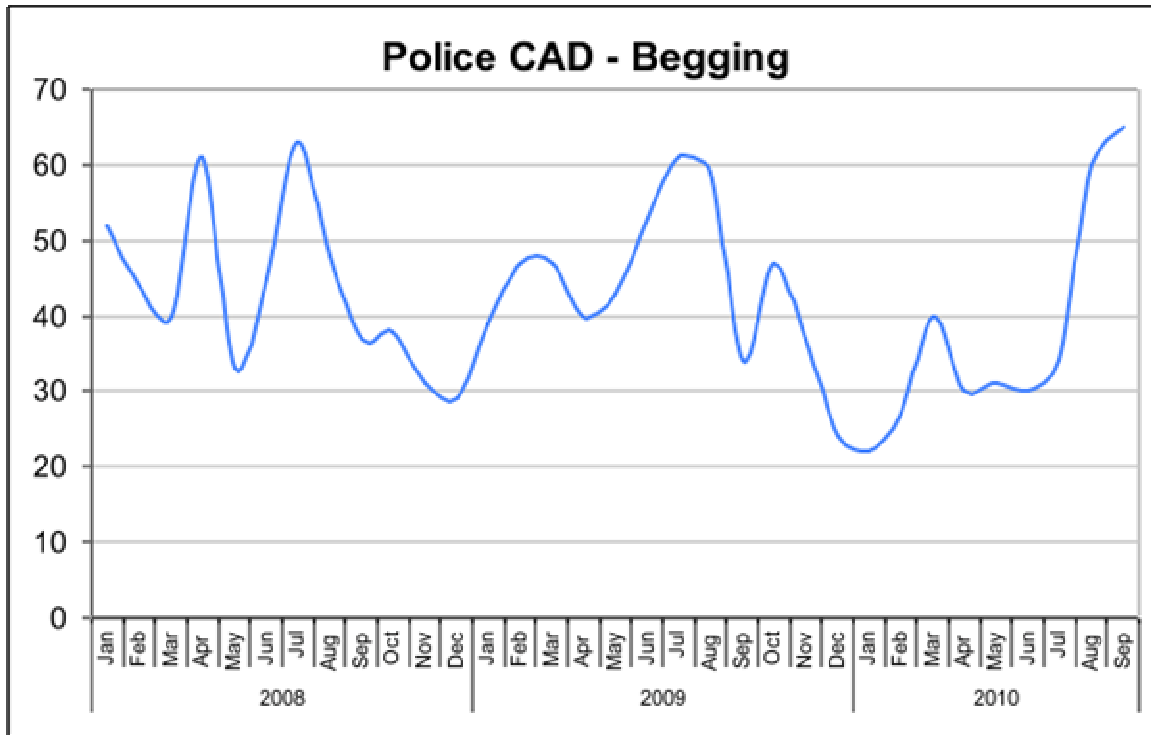
Appendix 6

Map showing increases in CAD (999) calls for inconsiderate behaviour in particular areas in a 2 month period.



Appendix 7

Tables showing trend towards increased begging and alcohol related ASB in Tower Hamlets



Appendix 8

HOSTELS AND ALCOHOL RELATED ASB

It is estimated that there are well over 1000 homeless or formerly homeless people receiving housing and support services in Tower Hamlets (there is not a precise definition of a hostel, hence the estimated figure).

The majority of Tower Hamlets' hostel accommodation is in the West of the borough, either in or close to the Whitechapel area.

Most hostels take ASB within their premises or in the surrounding area very seriously, taking prompt action to apply sanctions to residents and link with enforcement agencies where necessary.

Hostel dwellers are sometimes perceived to be perpetrators of ASB, and hostels may be misconstrued as attracting people from outside of the borough. There are, however, a number of hostel locations in the Borough and in most cases there is no link to alcohol related crime and ASB. Hostel locations and problem alcohol locations are mapped together at Appendix 11. It should be noted that where alcohol related crime and ASB is occurring in the vicinity of hostels, it is not necessarily connected to the hostels themselves but may be due to other factors attracting people to the area. The reality is that LBTH hostels now only house people who are:

Nominated by the Housing Options and Supporting people Team (HOST) and who have lived within the borough for 6 months or more.

Referred from other boroughs, but only where Tower Hamlets have a reciprocal arrangement to place people in hostels in the referring borough.

Nominated by the City (who take full responsibility for the permanent housing needs and move on), and who have contributed large amounts of capital money for hostel provision in Tower Hamlets.

Hostels are funded to work proactively with people and are monitored to ensure they carry out this function. Currently, across the key hostels in and around the Whitechapel area (Booth House, Hoptown and Aldgate), the rate of planned move on as a proportion of the total group of people moving on², is currently 75% which benchmarks very favourably against hostels in other areas.

² This indicator is used as a key indicator of how effective hostel services are and is a key part of National Indicator NI 141 (Number of vulnerable people achieving independent living).

Appendix 9

TREATMENT FOR DRINKERS

Commissioned through "You Decide" Participatory Budgeting, the Drug and Alcohol Outreach Team (DAOT) initially received funding for six outreach workers for 09/10 and 10/11. This funding ran out at the end of March 2011, and they are now funded by the Drug Intervention Programme (DIP) ring-fenced grant. The team engage with drinkers and drug users at street level. The dependency of their clients on drink and drugs often leads to low-level ASB.

The DAOT is often able to change people's lifestyles before enforcement becomes necessary. Without this service, there would be a danger that drinkers would 'go underground' to drink, making them harder to monitor or manage and rendering it almost impossible to encourage them into services.

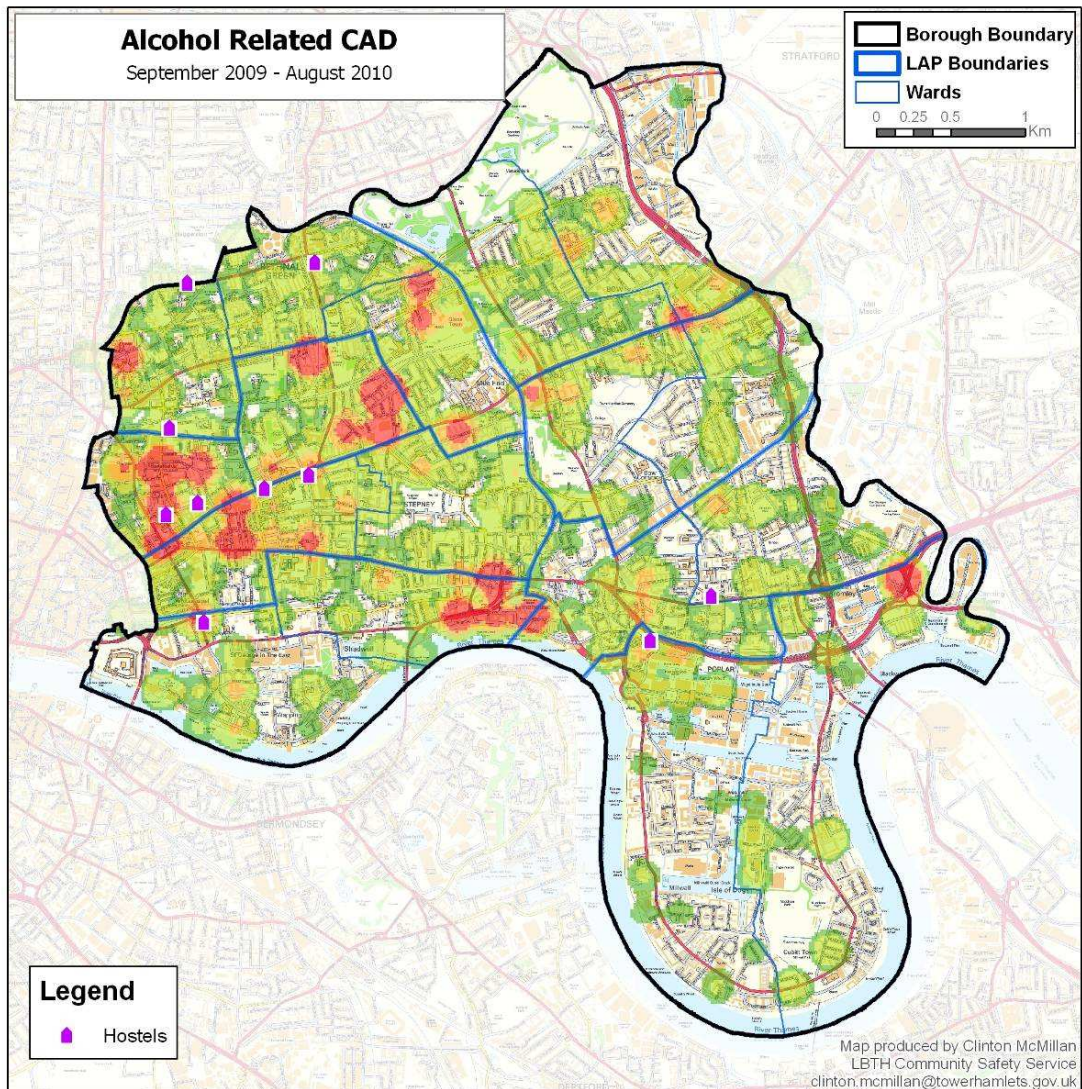
Of every 100 people engaged with by the DAOT, 15-20 people are suitable for and agree to being referred into services (rehabilitation etc). The DAOT builds motivation and lays the foundation for changes in lifestyle and behaviour. The process is not immediate. Often it is the 6th or 7th visit to rehabilitation that persuades a client to give up drugs or drink.

The DAOT work alongside THEOs, with whom they undertake joint operations. Under the 'Safe and Supportive' banner, the THEOs are the 'Safe' to the DAOT's 'Supportive'. They were particularly involved in the work in Altab Ali Park (part of the Whitechapel DCZ) (see 5.13 above), a hotspot for street drinking and associated anti-social behaviour. The DAOT are keen to use the RDB to support further joint work with THEOs and the Police. It will enable them to discuss persistent offenders and regularly review the approach taken to individuals of concern.

Appendix 10



Appendix 11



Appendix 12

Consultation Letter

Consultation on Proposal to Implement a Borough-Wide Designated Public Places Order (DPPO)

We are currently seeking views on the proposed implementation of powers to tackle alcohol related anti-social behaviour. Under the Police and Criminal Justice Act 2001, Councils can implement a Designated Public Places Order (DPPO), known in Tower Hamlets as a Responsible Drinking Borough. This power would not ban people from drinking in public, but would provide the THEOs and Police with the power to react quickly and effectively to drink related nuisance, when and where it happens within the boundaries of Tower Hamlets.

A Responsible Drinking Borough would provide the Council's Tower Hamlets Enforcement Officers (THEOs) and the Police with powers, in public, to confiscate, demand and dispose of any alcohol. Failure to comply with a request from A THEO or Police Officer to hand over alcohol could result in arrest and/or a fine of up to £500.

The Borough Wide DPPO would not apply to premises and their curtilage in respect of which a premises license or club premises certificate is in effect and which authorises the supply/sale of alcohol, or premises that authorise the supply of alcohol by virtue of a temporary event notice and for 30 minutes after the expiry of the temporary event notice, or any place where facilities or activities relating to the sale or consumption of alcohol are for the time being permitted by virtue of a permission granted under section 115E of the Highways Act 1980. Further, it will not apply to any premises in respect of which a Premises Licence exists that authorises the supply/sale of alcohol where the Premises Licence is held by the London Borough of Tower Hamlets or the Premises Licence is held by another but occupied by the London Borough of Tower Hamlets or managed by the London Borough of Tower Hamlets. The only premise to which this applies is the Brady Centre, 192-196 Hanbury Street, London E1 5HU.

Tower Hamlets currently has three smaller DPPOs in Whitechapel, Bethnal Green and Shoreditch. These have proven successful, but are limited by the inability to use the power as soon as the offender moves outside the designated area. A number of neighbouring boroughs have already introduced Borough-Wide DPPOs which have proven successful. It is hoped that implementation of a Responsible Drinking Borough in Tower Hamlets would have benefits including: -

- Sending a message that anti-social drinking is not acceptable and will not be tolerated in our public places
- Reducing alcohol related disturbances
- Enabling services to react more quickly to changes in alcohol related anti-social behaviour
- Improving safety for residents and others in the borough
- Improving quality of life and feeling safe for residents and others in the borough

Representations are invited as to whether the Council should make a Borough wide DPPO. There are many ways you can make representations or tell us your views and comments. Please see the reverse side of this letter for details.

Yours sincerely



Andy Bamber, Head of Community Safety

Find out more and have your say on a Responsible Drinking Borough for Tower Hamlets in any of these ways: -

- On the Internet Visit www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/responsibledrinking
- By E-mail Send to consultation@towerhamlets.gov.uk
- On Twitter Tweet us @towerhamletsnow
- By Post RRYE-RZAB-KBSX, Consultation, Mulberry Place, 5 Clove Crescent, London
E14 2BG
- Over the Phone Call 020 7364 4389
- In Person Talk to a Council Officer at one of the following road shows: -
- | | | |
|--------------------------|------------|-----------------------------|
| Sunday 27th March 2011 | 11am - 2pm | Richmix Cultural Foundation |
| Monday 28th March 2011 | 11am - 2pm | Idea Store, Bow |
| Tuesday 29th March 2011 | 11am - 2pm | Cubitt Town Library |
| Thursday 31st March 2011 | 3pm - 6pm | Idea Store, Whitechapel |

Please note that all consultation ends on Monday 4 April at 9am. If you wish to comment, please ensure your views are received before this date.

If you would like this information in a different language or format please get in touch with us using the information on the back of this letter.

Press Release

Tower Hamlets residents can have their say on new powers to tackle alcohol related antisocial behaviour.

A consultation into the Responsible Drinking Borough (RDB), which does not ban people from drinking in public, but provides the council and Police with the power to react quickly and effectively to drunken troublemakers, starts this week.

Residents and businesses will have the opportunity to express their views on the RDB during a six week consultation period.

Letters will be sent to the borough's licensees to make them aware of the new powers, while a road show will tour the borough to help residents understand more about the proposals.

Road show dates include:

- Sunday 27th March 2011 (11am - 2pm)
Richmix Cultural Foundation
- Monday 28th March 2011 (11am - 2pm)
Idea Store Bow
- Tuesday 29th March 2011 (11am - 2pm)
Cubitt Town Library
- Thursday 31st March 2011 (3pm - 6pm)
Idea Store Whitechapel

Mayor of Tower Hamlets, Lutfur Rahman, said: "We want our residents to feel safe in their community and that mean tackling anti social behaviour head on. Alcohol often leads people to act out and become a nuisance and these new powers mean that the council can work with the Police to put a stop to it when and where it happens.

"We think that the Responsible Drinking Borough is a good idea, and we want to find out what you think."

Mark Wolski, Superintendent Partnership from Tower Hamlets Police, said, "Alcohol related violence is a challenge to our community. The Anti-social behaviour associated with misuse of alcohol is a widely held by our local wards as a priority for action.

"The imposition of Controlled Drinking Zones will be one more tool by which we can police the streets more effectively in accordance with local needs."

The RDA will provide the Tower Hamlets Enforcement Officers (THEOs) and the Police with the powers to stop people and confiscate, demand and dispose of any alcohol within the boundaries of Tower Hamlets.

The borough has three controlled drinking zones, Whitechapel, Bethnal Green and Shoreditch, while a number of neighbouring boroughs have already introduced borough-wide controlled drinking zones.

These controlled drinking zones have proved to be very successful, giving both the council and Police a good understanding of how they can operate and improve the

quality of life for local residents. However, their success means that street drinkers move to other areas of the borough and the benefit of the RDB means that the council can react to these changes immediately.

Failure to comply with a request from the police to hand over alcohol can result in arrest and/or a fine of up to £500.

The consultation ends on XXX. To find out more visit www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/responsible_drinking or call

-ENDS-

Appendix 14

Press Coverage

Booze curb

THE POLICE will be given the power to stop, search and confiscate alcohol across the East End, and refusal to comply could result in arrest or a fine of up to £500.

Mayor of Tower Hamlets Lutfur Rahman has given his seal of approval to the borough-wide designated public order to help police and Tower Hamlets enforcement officers to tackle alcohol-related antisocial behaviour “when and where it happens”.

A public consultation will be held before drinking control zones are established in Whitechapel, Bethnal Green and Shoreditch.

Tower Hamlets moves towards a drinking control zone

Plans to introduce a borough-wide Designated Public Order (or Drinking Control Zone) to curb alcohol related antisocial behaviour in Tower Hamlets have been given the go-ahead by the Mayor Lutfur Rahman.

The drinking control zone does not ban people from drinking in public, but provides the council and Police with the power to react quickly and effectively to issues surround alcohol related anti social behaviour. It will provide the Tower Hamlets Enforcement Officers (THEOs) and the Police with the powers to stop people and confiscate, demand and dispose of any alcohol within the boundaries of Tower Hamlets.

A public consultation will take place to give residents and businesses and opportunity to express their views before the scheme is introduced. The borough has three drinking control zones, Whitechapel, Bethnal Green and Shoreditch, while a number of neighbouring boroughs have already introduced borough-wide drinking control zones.

Mayor of Tower Hamlets, Lutfur Rahman, said: "We want our residents to feel safe in their community and that mean tackling anti social behaviour head on. Alcohol often leads people to act out and become a nuisance and these new powers mean that the council can work with the Police to put a stop to it when and where it happens."

Mark Wolski, Superintendent Partnership from Tower Hamlets Police, said, "Alcohol related violence is a challenge to our community. The Anti-social behaviour associated with misuse of alcohol is a widely held by our local wards as a priority for action.

Chapter 3 Tower Hamlets moves towards a drinking control zone

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The drinking control zone does not ban people from drinking in public, but provides the council and Police with the power to react quickly and effectively to issues surround alcohol related anti social behaviour. It will provide the Tower Hamlets Enforcement Officers (THEOs) and the Police with the powers to stop people and confiscate, demand and dispose of any alcohol within the boundaries of Tower Hamlets.

A public consultation will take place to give residents and businesses and opportunity to express their views before the scheme is introduced. The borough has three drinking control zones, Whitechapel, Bethnal Green and Shoreditch, while a number of neighbouring boroughs have already introduced borough-wide drinking control zones.

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Mark Wolski, Superintendent Partnership from Tower Hamlets Police, said, "Alcohol related violence is a challenge to our community. The Anti-social behaviour associated with misuse of alcohol is a widely held by our local wards as a priority for action.

"The imposition of Controlled Drinking Zones will be one more tool by which we can police the streets more effectively in accordance with local needs."

These drinking control zones have proved to be very successful, giving both the council and Police a good understanding of how they can operate and improve the quality of life for local residents. However, their success means that street drinker move to other areas of the borough and the benefit of the borough-wide control zones means that the council can react to these changes immediately.

Failure to comply with a request from the police to hand over alcohol can result in arrest and/or a fine of up to £500.

East End Life
21 February 2011

Your views on alcohol ASB

Residents are to be asked what they think about new powers to tackle alcohol-related anti-social behaviour (ASB).

The council is proposing to make Tower Hamlets a Responsible Drinking Borough (RDB) and consultation starts this week.

The proposals do not ban people from drinking in public, but provide the council and police with the power to react quickly and effectively to tackle drunken troublemakers.

Residents and businesses will have the opportunity to express their views during a six-week consultation period.

Letters will be sent to licensees to make them aware of the new powers, while a road show will tour the borough to help residents understand more about the proposals.

Mayor Lutfur Rahman said: "We want our residents to feel safe in their community and that means tackling anti-social behaviour head on. Alcohol often leads people to become a nuisance. These new powers mean that the council can work with the police to put a stop to it when and where it happens."

Police Superintendent Mark Wolski said: "Alcohol-related violence is a challenge to our community. The anti-social behaviour associated with misuse of alcohol is also widely chosen by our local ward panels as a priority for action.

"The implementation of a Responsible Drinking Borough will be one more tool by which we can police the streets more effectively in accordance with local needs."

The RDB will provide Tower Hamlets enforcement officers (THEOs) and the police with the powers to stop people and to confiscate, demand and dispose of any alcohol within the borough boundaries.

Tower Hamlets already has three controlled drinking zones – Whitechapel, Bethnal Green and Shoreditch – and a number of neighbouring boroughs have already introduced borough-wide controlled drinking zones.

Road show dates include:

- Sun, Mar 27, 11am-2pm at Rich Mix, 35-47 Bethnal Green Road, E1.
- Mon, Mar 28, 11am-2pm at Idea Store Bow, Gladstone Place, E3.
- Tues, Mar 29, 11am-2pm at Cubitt Town Library, Strattondale Street, E14.
- Thurs, Mar 31, 3-6pm at Idea Store Whitechapel, 321 Whitechapel Road, E1.

The consultation ends on April 4.

East London Advertiser
24 February 2011

ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

EAST Enders are being asked their views on how alcohol-related antisocial behaviour should be tackled.

Council and police officers will soon have the power to stop drunken troublemakers and confiscate their booze anywhere the East End.

Consultation for the scheme, called the Responsible Drinking Borough, will happen over the next six weeks.

Tower Hamlets already has three controlled drinking zones – Whitechapel, Bethnal Green and Shoreditch.

But street drinkers are moving to other areas to escape action.

Supt Mark Wolski from Tower Hamlets police said bad behaviour relating to drinking is often described as one of the main problems facing residents in community ward panels.

Those who fail to hand over alcohol when asked can be arrested and fined up to £500.

The consultation ends on Monday April 4 and to find out where your nearest roadshow is go to www.tower-hamlets.gov.uk/responsibledrinking.

NEW POWERS TO TACKLE DRUNKEN BEHAVIOUR
HAVE YOUR SAY

Tackle drunken behaviour **WHEN** and **WHERE** it happens.

It will **HELP** make Tower Hamlets a safer place.

RESPONSIBLE DRINKING BOROUGH

Tower Hamlets residents can have their say on new powers to tackle alcohol related antisocial behaviour.

The Responsible Drinking Borough (RDB), does not ban people from drinking in public, but provides the council and Police with the power to react quickly and effectively to drunken troublemakers.

The RDB will provide the Tower Hamlets Enforcement Officers (THEOs) and the Police with the powers to stop people from drinking alcohol and confiscate any alcohol within the boundaries of Tower Hamlets if they are causing trouble.

If they fail to stop drinking or hand over alcohol when asked to do so by a THEO or Police Officer they can be arrested and fined up to £500.

Please tell us your thoughts on the proposed Responsible Drinking Borough.

Send your thoughts freepost to RRYE-RZAB-KBSX, Consultation, Mulberry Place, 5 Clove Crescent, London E14 2BG, e-mail consultation@towerhamlets.gov.uk or tweet us @towerhamletsnow

020 7364 4389
www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/responsibledrinking

TOWER HAMLETS

Appendix 15

Consultation Poster

NEW POWERS TO TACKLE DRUNKEN BEHAVIOUR

HAVE YOUR SAY

Tackle
drunken
behaviour
WHEN
and **WHERE**
it happens.

It will **HELP**
make Tower
Hamlets a
safer place.

020 7364 4389

www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/responsibleddrinking

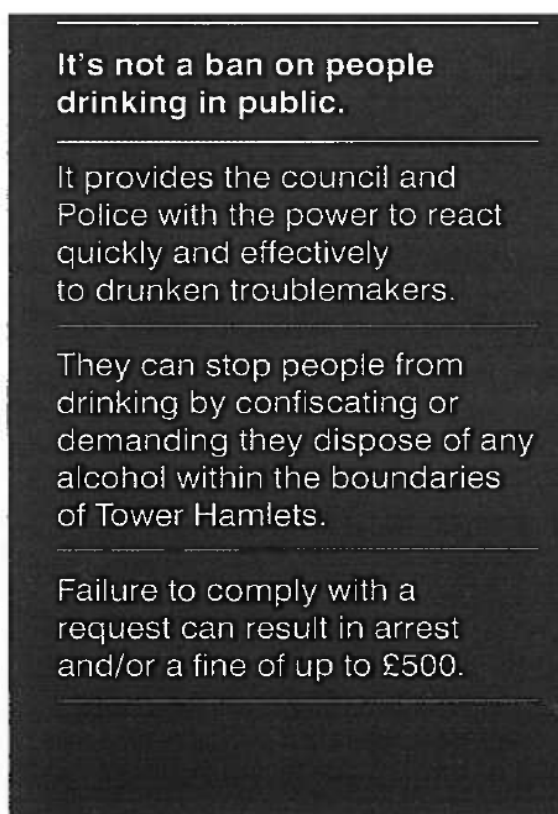


Appendix 16

Information Cards used by THEOs and Police Safer Neighbourhoods Teams



Front



Back

Appendix 17


Consultation Webpage on LBTH Internet Site

Responsible drinking - Microsoft Internet Explorer provided by Tower Hamlets

File Edit View Favorites Tools Help

Back Forward Stop Home Search Favorites

Address http://www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/gsl/851-900/867_consultation/responsible_drinking.aspx Go Links



A to Z | Online Services | Contact us | News & events | Olympics | Text Size: A A A | Browse Aloud | GO

Home

^ Council & democracy

^ Consultation

Responsible drinking

Take part in our website survey

Tower Hamlets Council > Council & democracy > Consultation > Responsible drinking

Responsible Drinking Borough

Tower Hamlets residents can have their say on new powers to tackle alcohol related anti-social behaviour. The consultation into the Responsible Drinking Borough (RDB) will last until Monday, April 4.

Please note that this consultation is now closed.

The RDB does not ban people from drinking in public, but provides the council and Police with the power to react quickly and effectively to drunken troublemakers.

Residents and businesses will have the opportunity to express their views on the RDB during the six week consultation period. You can email us your thoughts at consultation@towerhamlets.gov.uk.

Letters will be sent to the borough's licensees to make them aware of the new powers, while a roadshow will tour the borough to help residents understand more about the proposals.

The RDB will provide the Tower Hamlets Enforcement Officers (THEOs) and the Police with the powers to stop people and to confiscate, demand and dispose of any alcohol within the boundaries of Tower Hamlets.

The borough already has three controlled drinking zones, Whitechapel, Bethnal Green and Shoreditch, whilst a number of neighbouring boroughs have already introduced borough-wide controlled drinking zones.

These controlled drinking zones have proved to be very successful, giving both the council and Police a good understanding of how the zones can operate to improve the quality of life for local residents. However, their success means that street drinkers move to other areas of the borough. One benefit of the RDB is that the council can react to these changes immediately.

Failure to comply with a request from the THEOs or Police to hand over alcohol can result in arrest and/or a fine of up to £500.

Roadshow dates:

- Sunday 27 March 2011 (11am - 2pm), Richmix Cultural Foundation
- Monday 28 March 2011 (11am - 2pm), Idea Store Bow
- Tuesday 29 March 2011 (11am - 2pm), Cubitt Town Library
- Thursday 31 March 2011 (3pm - 6pm), Idea Store Whitechapel

Questions and answers

What is a Responsible Drinking Borough?

It simply means that the Police and the council's enforcement officers have powers to stop people drinking and to seize alcohol from people causing anti-social behaviour.

Appendix 18

Responsible Drinking Borough Sign

RESPONSIBLE DRINKING BOROUGH

THIS IS A DESIGNATED
PUBLIC PLACE



The penalty for continuing to drink alcohol in
this area when asked not to do so by an
authorised officer is a maximum **£500** fine

You may be arrested if you fail to surrender
any alcohol

This Designated Public Place Order (DPPO) covers all public places except any pubs, restaurants, places covered by local authority licenses or Temporary Event Notices for alcohol sales during and 30 minutes after license expiry times. After this time the DPPO powers also cover these areas.



Appendix 19

Legal Notice in East End Life 9th May 2011

**LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS
CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND POLICE ACT 2001,
SECTION 13**

**THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES (ALCOHOL
CONSUMPTION IN DESIGNATED PUBLIC
PLACES) REGULATIONS 2007**

**NOTICE OF A PROPOSAL TO MAKE A
DESIGNATION ORDER**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the Council of London Borough of Tower Hamlets intends to make a Designated Public Place Order ("DPPO") under the above Act.

The Designation Order will mean that if a constable or an accredited officer under the Police Reform Act 2002 reasonably believes that a person is, or has been consuming intoxicating liquor within the designated public place or intends to consume intoxicating liquor in such place then the constable or accredited officer may require the person concerned-

a) not to consume in the place anything which is, or which the constable or accredited officer reasonably believes to be, intoxicating liquor;

b) to surrender anything in that person's possession which is, or which the constable or accredited officer reasonably believes to be, intoxicating liquor or a container for such liquor (other than a sealed container) and the constable or accredited officer may dispose of anything surrendered in such manner as the constable or accredited officer considers appropriate.

A person who fails without reasonable excuse to comply with a requirement imposed on that person commits an offence. The maximum penalty on conviction will be a fine not exceeding level 2 on the standard scale (£500 as at 9 May 2011).

The DPPO covers the whole of the area of the London Borough of Tower Hamlets.

The DPPO would not apply to premises and their curtilage in respect of which a premises licence or club premises certificate is in effect and which authorises the supply / sale of alcohol, or premises that authorise the supply of alcohol by virtue of a temporary event notice and for 30 minutes after the expiry of the temporary event notice, or any place where facilities or activities relating to the sale or consumption of alcohol are for the time being permitted by virtue of a permission granted under section 115E of the Highways Act 1980.

Where the London Borough of Tower Hamlets holds a premises licence or occupies or has managed for it a premises that is subject to a premises licence authorising the sale or supply of alcohol, that premises will only be excluded from the DPPO in which it is situated at times when alcohol is actually being sold or supplied and for 30 minutes thereafter. The only premises to which this applies is: the Brady Centre, 192-196 Hanbury Street, London E1 5HU.

Representations can be made in writing to the Consultation and Engagement Advisor at consultation@towerhamlets.gov.uk or RRYE-RZAB-KBSX, Consultation, Mulberry Place, 5 Clove Crescent, London, E14 2BG. The closing date for receipt of representations is 7 June 2011. A copy of the plan showing the extent of the land to be designated can also be viewed at the Community Safety Service, 4th Floor, Anchorage House, 2 Clove Crescent, London E14 2BE.

**ANDY BAMBER
HEAD OF SAFER COMMUNITIES
LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS**

Dated : 9 May 2011

858/0008

Appendix 20

Consultation Communications Plan

Objective

While the council strongly supports the DCZ, it wants to ensure that residents are behind it and understand that it is a measure to crackdown on alcohol-related ASB and not a ban on drinking in public.

- 150 responses to the DCZ consultation
- Deliver four consultation Road Shows in each of the paired LAPS
- Raise awareness and understanding of the benefits of DCZ

Key Messages

- Community safety is one of the Mayor's five priorities
- Drinking Control Zones give the council and Police the power to tackle alcohol related antisocial behaviour when and where it happens
- This is not a ban on drinking in public, it's to curb drunken troublemakers
- We already have three successful drinking control zones, Whitechapel, Bethnal Green and Shoreditch, while a number of neighbouring boroughs have introduced borough-wide drinking control zones.
- Take part in the consultation to help make Tower Hamlets a safer place

Target Audiences

- Residents
- Members
- Licensees (Pubs/Clubs/Bars/Off-Licenses/Supermarkets)
- Other businesses
- Partners (Police/NHS/THH/Third Sector)
- Young people
- Brick Lane visitors
- Support/Advice agencies
- Hostels
- Street drinkers
- Media

Action Plan

Four Road Shows will take place across the borough, to include Idea Store Whitechapel, Idea Store Bow, Rich Mix and Cubitt Town Library – dates TBC

Week	Action	Cost
-------------	---------------	-------------

		approx
Week 1 07.02.11	Media Release: Announcing consultation details	
	Artwork design and sign off	£500
Week 2 14.02.11	Printing	
Week 3 21.02.11	Media Release: Consultation started	
	One page advert EEL	£1,300
	Brick Lane plasma screens	£50
	Idea Store plasma screens	£50
	THEO information cards	£700
	Citizen Engagement Portal/Social Media	
	Members Bulletin	
	Letters to license holders	
Website		
Week 4 28.02.11	50 six sheets	£600
Week 5 07.03.11	50 six sheets	
	Media Release/Photo Opp at road show	
	A1 Foam Board poster for road show	£100
Week 6 14.03.11		
Week 7 21.03.11	Media Release: Last chance to have your say	
Week 8 28.03.11		
Week 9 04.04.11	Media Release: Consultation ended next steps	

The delivery on the above plan costs approximately £3,300, and does not include the production of the information signs that will have to be produced if the DCZ is implemented.

Evaluation

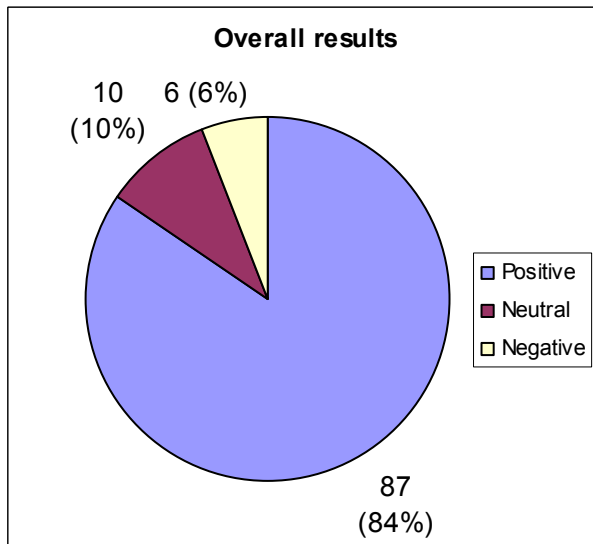
Measure the number of people who respond to the consultation
Delivery of four road shows.

Appendix 21

Consultation Results – Statistical Analysis

In total 103 responses were received and Corporate Communications Team were responsible for collating these replies.

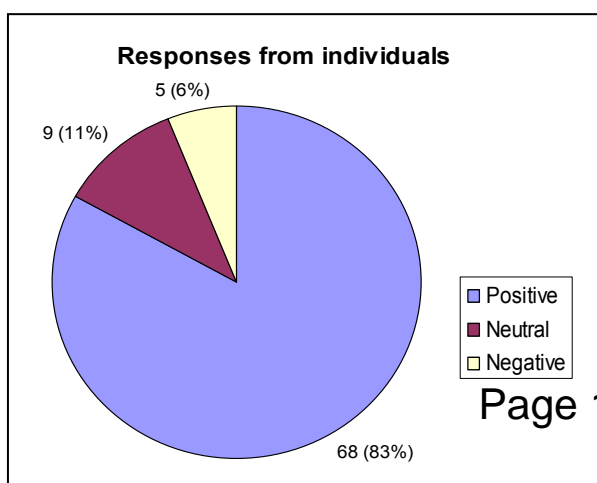
Every response received has been analysed and coded to determine whether it expresses opinions which support the introduction of the Responsible Drinking Borough, whether it opposes such an introduction or whether it expresses no clear support or opposition.



The responses received have been overwhelmingly supportive of introducing a RDB, with 84% of comments received being supportive.

Comments have been received from three groups of respondents: Individuals, Organisations and Businesses. Individuals are considered to be residents speaking on their own behalf; Businesses are those who identify themselves as running or speaking on behalf of a private sector company or group, whilst Organisations are comments received from respondents on behalf of either public or third sector bodies.

Individuals made up the majority of the responses received; 82 in total were received from this group. Of these responses, 83% (68) were in favour of the RDB, with 6% (5) being against it. Several street drinkers also responded at the road shows giving positive feedback that they were in support of the measures to tackle anti-social behaviour as long as it did not facilitate an outright ban on public drinking.



Of the 13 responses received from organisations, only one provided a negative response with the remainder offering a positive response.

Similarly, the eight responses received from businesses were very positive, with seven being in favour of introducing a RDB and one offering a neutral response.

A small number of physical areas were mentioned a great deal of times by respondents, many of whom lived there. The most mentioned areas were Spitalfields and Brick Lane, both of which were brought up repeatedly as places which would benefit from the RDB.

Specific issues

Whilst some responses simply stated support or otherwise for the proposals, many provided more detailed examples of issues they saw with the current situation in the borough, including specific incidences personally witnessed. A number of themes arose through these responses.

A significant proportion of responses cited public urination, defecation or vomiting as an issue which concerned them (33, 12, and 13 responses respectively). Many of these comments also mentioned the area around Brick Lane and Spitalfields, suggesting this is a hot spot for these types of problems. A small number of respondents pointed out that there are currently no public facilities available to drinkers outside of licensed premises to divert people from such undesirable behaviour in public.

“...we are affected by these people using our door way as public toilets, urinating, defecating, and vomiting in our entrance.”

“We are sure we are not alone in having to suffer the frequent consequences of semi or fully-inebriated people - during the evenings and often into the early hours of the morning - shouting, screeching, fighting, abusing, urinating, vomiting, defecating and causing damage to domestic and commercial property.”

Aggressive behaviour, ranging from shouting and noise through to intimidation and violence, was specified by 69 respondents, which equates to 67% of all responses and 81% of responses which provided further comments. Again, Brick Lane and Spitalfields were mentioned in particular, although many comments did not do so.

“Most nights I get woken by shouting and screaming as drunks stagger up my street in the small hours either to or from Brick Lane.”

“In Spitalfields we are effected by anti social behaviour due to alcohol on an almost daily basis and every weekend.”

There were 23 responses (22%) in reference to the number of licensees in the borough, with many also making reference to the close proximity of such licensees to each other. There was an acceptance that this created a night time economy, but concern that this negatively impacted on the lives of local residents. It was suggested that to combat alcohol related ASB, the Council should limit the number of new licenses granted and take account of the existing saturation in certain areas.

“Residents do not want or need a 'night time economy' and we feel that the council should live up to its obligation to the people who pay the council tax. Planning and licensing also have failed in Spitalfields with unregulated off licenses and bars opening frequently especially on Brick lane again causing misery for many residents.”

“Maybe you need to think about before these premises get licensed and who ever is issuing them needs to think about the public and residents of the borough because where I am situated, there are too many shops selling alcohol and too many shops within each others distance selling alcohol”

Litter was another issue regularly mentioned, having been done so by 19 respondents. The vast majority of this litter was from alcohol cans and bottles, which are left on doorsteps and windowsills to be removed and disposed of by local residents. The glass bottles and glasses left were also regularly smashed, causing both dangerous litter and unwelcome noise, especially late at night.

“Every morning when I go to work and also at the weekends, the street is littered with vodka bottles and chicken take-away boxes.”

“...one can hear bottles and cans being kicked around the streets in the early hours. Empty bottles, glasses and cans are left on our windowsills. Heaven knows if they are filled with lager or urine”

Nine respondents were concerned at the easy availability of cheap alcohol, both for street drinkers and those drinking outside bars and clubs. It was reported that drinkers were using alcohol bought from local shops before visiting bars, whilst standing outside in good weather and then afterwards whilst walking through the streets.

“In my opinion and experience the patrons for OTB buy alcohol from the local off licences, either before they go into OTB or after it closes and use our street (due to its proximity and lack of street lighting) as a gathering point to consume vast amounts of cheap alcohol.”

“...over the past 5 years or so the lives of the residents of this area have become more and more intolerable because of the saturation of the area with bars, off-licences, other shops selling cheap alcohol and the intensification of the market area of the Truman Brewery...”

The sale of alcohol to underage individuals, and the actions of these individuals was shared as a cause for concern by nine respondents, who saw this as an area which needs addressing as a matter of priority.

“It seems to be a lot of youths, who have no regard for others, loitering in residential blocks and causing a nuisance to neighbours and their parent's who may turn a blind eye!”

“Close down premises that persistently sell Alcohol to under-age.”

A small number of respondents (3) were concerned with the potential for these powers to be over-used by police and the Council, and felt that they should not be implemented.

“I think it can too easily be used to enforce one person's ideas on another. I rarely drink alcohol, but totally support other adults to make up their own minds whether or not they drink, when they drink and how much they drink.”

“I consider the powers that the designation would vest in individual enforcement and police officers to be analogous to using a sledgehammer to crack a walnut.”

A number of issues were highlighted for further consideration. It was mentioned in one response that the RDB powers involved giving officers the ability to issue fixed penalty notices to individuals. There was concern that many of the recipients of such penalty notices would be those least likely to be able to pay, such as street drinkers or those on low incomes.

There were also a number of misconceptions of the extent of the powers delegated to officers. Some respondents believed that the RDB would be a total ban on drinking in public, with some supporting and some opposing this solution. It is therefore important that should the proposals be implemented, that an effective communications campaign is conducted to clarify these powers.

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

Chapter 5 Brief description of
“background papers”

- Police CAD data –monthly excel sheet
- Police recorded crime, monthly excel spreadsheet
- London Ambulance Service, alcohol callouts, monthly spreadsheet
- Drink Driving Arrests, excel spreadsheet
- App Flare Database extract for this report
- Southwark’s Designated Public Place Order: an evaluation of effectiveness and the implications for addressing problematic drinking in public places - Executive summary, James Morris, March 2008
- Report into Camden’s CDZ, Camden Borough Council
- Proposal for a Borough Wide Controlled Drinking Zone - Report from the Director of Policy and Regeneration (2007), London Borough of Brent
- Hammersmith and Fulham Year on year street count data
- Equality Impact Assessment

Chapter 4

Chapter 6 Name and telephone number of holder

Chapter 7 and address where open to inspection.

Clinton McMillan

020 7364 6979

Anchorage House,
2 Clove Crescent,
London
E14 2BE

Emily Fieran-Reed

020 7364 0248

Anchorage House
2 Clove Crescent,
London
E14 2BE

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LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

COUNCIL MEETING

WEDNESDAY 13th JULY 2011

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

REPORT OF THE ASSISTANT CHIEF EXECUTIVE (LEGAL SERVICES)

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Under the Council's Constitution, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee must report annually to the Council documenting the Committee's activities during the past year.
- 1.2 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered and approved its annual report for the year 2010-11 at the meeting of the Committee held on 10th May 2011. The annual report is attached for Members' information.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That the Council note the annual report of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for 2010-11 as attached.

3. THE ANNUAL REPORT OF OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY

- 3.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee co-ordinates all of the scrutiny activity within the Council. Alongside the Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Committee, there are six Scrutiny Lead Members. Under the Council's Constitution, Overview and Scrutiny must submit an annual report of its work to Council. This is attached.
- 3.2 The Annual Report outlines the work of both the Committee and the Scrutiny Leads and their working groups during the municipal year 2010-11. It highlights the range of scrutiny activity undertaken including performance monitoring, policy development, scrutiny of the budget, pre-decision scrutiny and call-in of Cabinet decisions. The Chair of Overview and Scrutiny has also led a scrutiny review on the role of scrutiny itself under an Executive Mayor.

3.3 Following presentation to the Council, the annual report will be publicised and circulated widely within the Council and to its partners.

4. CONCURRENT REPORT OF THE ASSISTANT CHIEF EXECUTIVE (LEGAL SERVICES)

4.1 By virtue of Section 21 Local Government Act 2000 the Council has a duty to deliver effective and robust overview and scrutiny of the discharge of executive functions through the medium of one or more Overview and Scrutiny Committees.

4.2 Article 6.03 (d) of the Constitution provides that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee must report annually to the Council on its work. This report fulfils that obligation.

5. COMMENTS OF THE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

5.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from the recommendations in this report.

5.2 The report details a summary by Scrutiny Lead Members of their overview and scrutiny work during the civic year 2010/11. The reviews include scrutiny of the budget process and value for money issues that allow monitoring of the use of resources by the Council and as evidence to the Audit Commission's assessment of how well it is managing and using its resources to deliver value for money and better and sustainable outcomes for local people.

5.3 Any financial implications arising from specific Overview and Scrutiny reviews and recommendations as set out in the annual report will be reported to the appropriate executive decision-making body when those recommendations are considered.

6. ONE TOWER HAMLETS CONSIDERATIONS

6.1 Equal opportunities are central to the work of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. A number of reports and reviews as set out in the Annual Report have specific equalities or anti-poverty themes and make proposals that seek to reduce inequalities and improve outcomes for our local residents.

7. SUSTAINABLE ACTION FOR A GREENER ENVIRONMENT

7.1 There are no direct implications.

8. RISK MANAGEMENT

8.1 There are no direct risk management implications arising from this report.

**Overview and Scrutiny
Annual Report**

**Tower Hamlets Council
May 2011**

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Overview and Scrutiny in Tower Hamlets

Overview and Scrutiny looks at how the Council and its partners deliver services so that they meet local needs and contribute to the overall vision in the borough's Community Plan. It also monitors and evaluates the decisions made by the Mayor and his Cabinet to make sure that they are robust and provide good value for money.

Overview and Scrutiny has statutory powers to review and scrutinise local health services and make recommendations to NHS bodies. It also considers other issues of concern to local people, including services provided by other organisations, and advises the Mayor and Cabinet, Council and other partners, on how those policies and services can be improved.

What does Overview and Scrutiny do?

The Committee:

- Looks at how the Council is performing by monitoring key strategies and plans
- Looks at the Council's budget and how it uses its resources
- Sets up time-limited working groups to look at issues in depth and make proposals for change. Suggestions for topics may come from elected Members, full Council, the Cabinet or from local organisations and residents
- Considers decisions made by the Cabinet that are 'called in' because of concerns about the decision or what information was considered
- Reviews briefly the reports that are going to Cabinet for decision and raises any concerns.

As the Committee has such a broad responsibility, it focuses on a number of key priorities each year. These make up an annual work programme for each Scrutiny Lead and usually include one in-depth review, as well as other shorter pieces of work.

The Overview and Scrutiny arrangements in Tower Hamlets include:

- A single co-ordinating Overview and Scrutiny Committee
- Five Scrutiny Leads scrutinising the Community Plan themes and one for Excellent Public Services
- Pre-decision scrutiny of Cabinet reports
- Performance monitoring by considering the Quarterly Strategic Plan & Budget Monitoring report, the Diversity and Equality Action Plan, Corporate Complaints and Members' Enquiries
- A robust call-in procedure
- Holding the Executive to account through Scrutiny Spotlight sessions with the Mayor and Cabinet Members
- A Health Scrutiny Panel to respond to consultation from NHS Trusts

Membership

Reflecting the overall political balance of the Council during 2010/11 the Committee's membership comprised six Labour councillors and one councillor from the Conservative, Respect and Liberal Democrat Parties respectively.

As well as the councillors, there are six co-opted positions on the Committee, including three positions for parent governors. The other representatives are from the Church of England Diocese, the Roman Catholic Diocese and the Muslim Community. In 2010/11, all positions, except a representative from Roman Catholic Diocese, were filled. Each of these representatives could contribute to any matters discussed by the Committee, but they could

only vote on education issues. The representative of the Muslim community was made available locally, in recognition of the large Muslim community in the borough and therefore has no voting rights.

Scrutiny Chair and Leads

In 2010/11, the Chair of the Committee was Councillor Ann Jackson. The Chair oversaw the work programme of the committee as well as taking lead on monitoring the Council's budget.

Apart from Excellent Public Services, the other five areas of responsibility reflect the borough's Community Plan. The Scrutiny Leads were:

- Cllr Rajib Ahmed (Labour) for "Excellent Public Services" focusing on improving public services to make sure they represent good value for money and meet local needs.
- Cllr Rachael Saunders (Labour)¹ for "Prosperous Community" focusing on raising educational aspirations, expectations and achievement, and bringing investment into the borough and ensuring residents and businesses benefit from growing economic prosperity.
- Cllr Zenith Rahman (Labour) for "Great Place to Live" focusing on improving housing and the environment and providing a wide range of arts and leisure services.
- Cllr Lesley Pavitt (Labour) for "Safe and Supportive" focusing on reducing crime, making people feel safer and providing excellent services to the borough's most vulnerable communities.
- Cllr Ahmed Omer (Labour) for "One Tower Hamlets" focusing on reducing inequalities and improving community cohesion through community leadership. He was also the vice chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
- Cllr Tim Archer (Conservative) for "Healthy Community" through the Health Scrutiny Panel, focusing on improving local health services and the co-ordination of different health service providers within the borough.

Each Lead actively promotes the work of Overview and Scrutiny with residents, partners and other stakeholders by conducting in-depth 'Scrutiny Reviews', which usually involve several meetings and visits to gather evidence on particular services or issues. 'Scrutiny Challenge Sessions' which are one-off meetings looking at a specific area of concern within the community and designed to consider within a shorter period of time key policy issues and to make recommendations for further development of the policy.

In 2010/11, there were two other non-executive Members who served on the Committee:

Cllr Stephanie Eaton – Liberal Democrats

Cllr Harun Miah - May 2010 – October 2010 – Respect

Cllr Fozol Miah – March 2011 – May 2011 – Respect

Their contribution to budget scrutiny, call-ins, scrutiny spotlights and performance monitoring has been very useful in holding the Executive to account and ensuring that our services meet our residents' needs.

Health Scrutiny

The Health Scrutiny Panel undertakes the Council's functions under the Health and Social Care Act, 2001. This gives local councils the power to scrutinise health services, including the provision of hospital and GP services and health promotion and prevention work. It can

¹ Cllr Saunders succeeded Cllr Rabina Khan as the Scrutiny Lead in November 2010.
Overview and Scrutiny – Annual Report
May 2011

scrutinise how services are planned and provided and how the views of local people are built into the provision.

The National Health Service is currently going through a rapid pace of change. Not only has the health budget been subject to financial tightening, there are proposals in place for radical change which places local control at the heart of the new approach. This means Health Scrutiny will continue to have a key role in holding decision makers to account and ensuring the needs and views of local people are considered.

Annual Report

This report provides a brief summary of the work of Overview and Scrutiny in 2010/11. Below, each member of the Committee outlines the work that they have led.

To develop a comprehensive work programme for the year we held an Away Day in June 2010 which enabled us to prioritise our work for the year. We agreed a challenging and extensive work programme in July 2010 and I believe we have delivered on the majority of it. Over the year, we regularly monitored our progress to make sure we remained on track to complete our work.

This year, we have witnessed strong engagement with Lead Members at Committee. They have presented the majority of reports within their portfolio that the Committee considered, as well as responding to call-ins. This is really important in making sure we hold the Executive directly to account and encouraging more discussion and debate amongst councillors.

There has also been a good level of engagement with the public. Firstly, the majority of our reviews sought the views and experiences of local people through visits and focus groups. Secondly, a number of deputations were made by members of the public at Committee, usually related to the call-ins.

Performance Monitoring

We monitor the Strategic Plan and Corporate Revenue Monitoring report every quarter and twice a year the Single Equality Framework. We are the only formal councillor forum that does this and it's important in making sure that our services are performing well. I believe this worked effectively and helped Overview and Scrutiny understand and comment on the wider performance of services - a key part of improving the quality of life of local people.

We also had monthly Scrutiny Spotlights at our Committee meetings for the Cabinet Members including the Mayor and Deputy Mayor. At all the sessions Cabinet Members discussed the performance and challenges facing services in their area of responsibility. This was particularly useful for us to discuss issues of concern and suggest ways performance could be improved. It also helped involve Cabinet Members more in the scrutiny process and several of them commented how useful they found the opportunity to discuss policy and performance issues with non-executive councillors at Committee. We also held our first Scrutiny Spotlight with the Chief Executive and this was a great opportunity to raise a number of issues with him. At our final meeting we also held a Scrutiny Spotlight on the Borough Commander and we highlighted a number of issues to him including the need to involve residents on review of access to police services and Safer Neighbourhood Team and the importance of continuous engagement to drive down crime in the borough. I think that OSC needs to build on this and further develop the accountability of partners.

The Committee consistently challenged Cabinet Members on areas of underperformance, including anti-social behaviour, provisions for young people and perhaps most importantly on employment. This last area has been subject to a number of full-scale scrutiny reviews in the past few years as well as consideration at an early stage of the Draft Employment Strategy where the Committee made a number of recommendations for improvements. The committee was determined that the Council continues to explore opportunities to support our residents into employment in the current economic climate.

We also considered the Council's annual Corporate and Social Care Complaints report. All councillors were pleased to see the improved performance in responding to complaints. Councillors take up many complaints each year, and getting a quick and full response is an

essential part of that work. We welcomed the on-going work the Council was doing with local Registered Social Landlords and other partners to improve their performance and quality of response.

Policy Framework

Within the Council's Budget and Policy Framework there are a number of key policy documents that set out how the Council will act. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee consider these before Council agrees them and this year we discussed the following:

- **Local Development Framework (LDF) Core Strategy**

We welcomed the strategy and raised a number of issues for Cabinet to consider including the development of the borough fringe areas, particularly the Bethnal Green/Hackney border where more attention was needed to improve quality of the environment and also encourage businesses to this area. There was a need to identify a waste site for the borough and further develop policies around reducing fast food outlets particularly near schools and consideration of our recommendations from last year's review on childhood obesity. Finally, the Committee recommended that the Cabinet consider how the subsequent development plan arising from the Core Strategy should engage local residents at a level they can easily understand.

- **Local Implementation Plan 2**

We recommended that the Cabinet lobby Transport for London and the Mayor of London to bring forward the upgrade of Whitechapel Underground Station to coincide with the opening of the new Royal London Hospital and against proposals to reduce the operating hours of the Thames Clipper to 8pm daily. The Committee also suggested measures that could be taken to improve the reliability of bus services and the promotion of pedestrian walkway routes through the borough. We also expressed concerns about the proposed reductions in grants and budgets and the possible impact on St Paul's Way Transformation Scheme and Shoreditch Station works at Braithwaite Street.

Other Policy Work

The Committee considered the following other policy areas and comments and recommendations to Cabinet for their consideration.

- **Car Free Development**

The Committee followed up work undertaken in 2009/10 around local concerns about car free development and the availability of street parking permits. We noted the detailed work on the creation of an improved and more robust administration system for car free homes through the planning application determination process. A Car Free Review Group has also been established to resolve the issues identified. In addition, work was underway with car club providers and the Tower Hamlets cycle scheme to develop other options. However, the Committee raised a number of questions on related issues including:

- Identifying the definitive number of instances of errors where residents in a car free development have been issued street parking permits
- The consistency of approach to resolving such errors
- Clarification of the term "car free" development
- Notification to prospective tenants/buyers of any restrictions on parking permits.

The Committee agreed that this may be an issue for future scrutiny review if the problem persists.

- **Draft Employment Strategy**

The Committee welcomed the opportunity to comment on the draft Employment Strategy during the consultation period. We noted its sophisticated analysis of unemployment in the borough and the impact on our diverse communities. The Committee raised a number of points about shaping the future job market, the importance of raising aspirations and linking up with local schools, colleges and universities, continuing to develop our understanding of the barriers to employment for hard to reach communities and different equalities group and how geographical boundaries can be broken down to support residents access jobs across London. We hope that our comments and recommendations are incorporated by the Mayor in the final Strategy.

- **Strategic Plan – Year 1 Action Plan 2011/12**

The Committee considered the Outline Plan and Action Plan of next year's Strategic Plan which outlined the key activities and milestones that had been created in line with the Mayor's priorities and following consultation with residents, third sector organisations and partner agencies. We highlighted the importance of building higher aspirations and excellence into our education targets and encouraging entrepreneurship and apprenticeships. We also recommended that engagement with residents is crucial in delivering our transformation programme and should take an approach that is easily understood by local residents.

- **Childhood Obesity Scrutiny Review**

The Action Plan arising from last year's Scrutiny Review on Reducing Childhood Obesity included two recommendations to report on the evaluation of the Healthy Borough Programme and how the Building Schools for the Future (BSF) Programme creates more sports spaces and better dining facilities. The Committee noted that the proposals in the Public Health White Paper provide an opportunity to continue some of the Healthy Borough Programme. Once all the evaluation work has been completed a report pulling together all the highlights and evidence of learning with a set of recommendations could influence future strategic direction. As the BSF Programme was in its infancy it was too early to realise the full benefits as many projects had only recently been completed but the aspirations set in the design and delivery will certainly help encourage a healthier lifestyle within the school environment.

Scrutiny of the Budget

The scrutiny of the budget proposals this year became crucial as the public sector faced the most severe reductions in public spending for many decades. We considered the budget at three of our meetings and also held a specific budget scrutiny session with the Cabinet Member for Resources, the Corporate Director for Resources and a number of other Corporate Directors.

Following our discussions we made a number of recommendations and highlighted the importance of informing and engaging residents about the budget proposals to ensure they better understood our decisions and have an opportunity to contribute to them. We also suggested that the Mayor review the Council's accommodation strategy to achieve value for money from our existing facilities and develop a strategy which reflects the current and future challenges facing the Council. We held a detailed discussion about the impact on local residents of the budget reductions and have recommended that the Mayor work with the Committee next year to start developing a more sophisticated understanding of this. We were particularly concerned about the impact of stopping some services such as Housing Link and the transfer of other services to third sector or private providers. The Committee welcomed the work undertaken by the Mayor and the Cabinet Member for Resources to find transition support for these services catering for our most vulnerable residents. Finally, the Committee

agreed that a Budget Scrutiny Working Group be set up next year which looks at the impact of the budget and future budget proposals.

The Committee's work on the budget this year has had a significant impact on the final budget agreed by Full Council. This has been based on a constructive working relationship with the Cabinet and Officers. This relationship and work will need to continue next year to ensure the budget is put through a robust scrutiny process before the Cabinet consider their final budget.

Pre-decision scrutiny

The Committee can submit questions about Cabinet reports before a decision is taken. I feel we have strengthened this over the year by commenting on 37 Cabinet reports (compared to 23 last year). Among these were:

- The Lettings Policy and Plan
- Council Housing Finance Reforms
- The Housing Strategy
- Poplar Bath Procurement Route
- The Conservation Strategy
- Neighbourhood Shops Policy
- Determination of School Admission Arrangements
- Local Development Framework
- Local Implementation Plan 2
- Borough Wide Drinking Control Zones
- The Supporting People Strategy

Our questions and concerns provided further information at Cabinet and clarified some uncertainties thus improving the decision-making process. The responses also inform councillors' decisions about whether to call-in reports or not.

Call-ins

The Committee has considered six call-ins this year, in line with the last two years and a significant decrease from previous years.

Report Called-in	O&S Decision
Idea Store Strategy Action Plan Update - Idea Store Watney Market and One Stop Shop	Referred back to Cabinet
Enforcement Policy and Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act (RIPA)	Confirmed
Children, Schools and Families - Contract Awards	Confirmed
Leasehold Policy Review	Referred back to Cabinet
Commercial Activities in Victoria Park	Referred back to Cabinet
Disposal of 63a Sewardstone Road (The Stables)	Referred back to Cabinet

Call-in debates are always robust and rigorous and during a number of these the Lead Members gave assurances that they would take some of the concerns raised on board. For example, on the Commercial Activities in Victoria Park, Cabinet agreed to change their original decision including looking to limit the number of commercial and non-commercial event days in Victoria Park, closing time reduced further, replace a dance event with a more family orientated event and that officers continue to monitor levels of disturbance to local residents.

This will significantly reduce any adverse impact on local residents and by addressing some of their concerns.

It is also worth highlighting that during call-in debates attendance by local people and other councillors increased substantially. This helps increase the profile of scrutiny by highlighting its important role within the borough.

Co-opted and Appointed Representatives

For the first time nearly all the statutory co-opted members have been appointed to the Committee and we have supported them throughout the year to develop their role and help them be more effective. They received an Induction Session which also included presentation from our Children, Schools and Families Directorate. The Parent Governors also have a slot at the quarterly briefing provided by the Director of Children, Schools & Families to all school governors. The aim of this is to build a relationship between the Committee and the wider schools community. We also welcomed a number of local residents (Local Area Partnership Steering Group Members) onto many of the Scrutiny Working Groups. This has been particularly useful in bringing local residents views into our scrutiny reviews and also the development of a number of recommendations of the Working Groups.

We would like to continue to build on this next year, strengthening the role of co-opted Members to help us further engage more local residents and ensure that more of their concerns come to the Committee's attention.

Checking our own progress

Twice a year we monitor the recommendations we have made, not just those at Committee but also those from our reviews and other investigations. Services are asked to provide an update so we can see whether progress is being made. The latest monitoring indicates that nearly all of our recommendations since July 2007 are being acted on or achieved.

In developing the first monitoring report each Scrutiny Lead Member revisited a review from his/her portfolio area. This was undertaken through 1-2-1 meetings with Lead Officers from the service area of the review. This provided Members a useful way of monitoring the implementation of recommendations, identify key outcomes as a result of the review and also consider any difficulties around implementing the recommendations. The reviews re-visited were:

- Interpreting and Translation Services – Cllr Ahmed Omer
- Tackling Anti-Social Behaviour – Cllr Lesley Pavitt
- Choice Based Lettings Scheme - Cllr Zenith Rahman
- Young Peoples Participation in Olympics leading up to Olympics – Cllr Tim Archer
- Evaluation of Neighbourhood Renewal Fund – Cllr Rabina Khan
- Use of Consultants – Cllr Rajib Ahmed

Raising the Profile

We continue to improve how and when we communicate with Members, Officers and the public. We used the weekly Members' Bulletin regularly. The Manager's Briefing and the staff newsletter, Tower Hamlets Now, were also used to promote scrutiny work, so that council officers are well informed about the scrutiny work programme, upcoming reviews, review findings, and how they can be involved.

East End Life and our Scrutiny web pages are also vehicles to keep residents informed about the work scrutiny was undertaking. A number of the reviews attracted significant interest from

local people particularly the Public Perception of Parking and Supporting New Communities. More detail about these are included in the reports by the Scrutiny Leads.

The Role of Scrutiny under an Executive Mayor – Scrutiny Review

In addition to the scrutiny reviews undertaken by the Scrutiny Leads this year, I also led one on the role of scrutiny under an Executive Mayor. The election of the borough's first directly elected Mayor provided an opportune time to consider the role of scrutiny in strengthening accountability and the community leadership role of non-executive councillors. The Working Group held sessions with local residents, former councillors (both of whom had Chaired Overview and Scrutiny Committee) from Newham and Lewisham, officers from Hackney and the Greater London Assembly. We also considered evidence from other Mayoral authorities across the country.

The over-arching message focused on 'developing a borough with a strong culture of accountability'. This is particularly important given the change in decision making along with a number of national policy change including the performance management framework and the demise of Comprehensive Area Assessment. Developing the accountability culture is about more than systems, structures and legislation, rather focused around the culture of accountability that exists within public sector organisations. We have identified three key themes that influence this culture of accountability. Firstly in regards to Members we have made recommendations around developing Members as champions for challenging the Mayor, developing their community leadership and increasing their participation in the scrutiny process. In regards to public sector organisations we have focused on developing the role of scrutiny in the borough, ensuring there is a greater balance between reviews and challenging key decisions by bringing an alternative course of action and increasing the profile of scrutiny. Finally, we proposed a number of recommendations on enabling local residents to hold the Mayor to account and influence key decisions and policies.

I see this review as the beginning of our work on local governance and strengthening scrutiny in an era of significant national policy change and reduction in resources. I have held discussion with the Mayor about the draft recommendations and the scrutiny team have also been exploring these issues with a variety of officers across the Council. A number of 1-2-1 interviews have been held with Members from the different parties and all of this information will be used to supplement the report. We are also in discussion with the Centre for Public Scrutiny about becoming a pilot for their 'Accountability Works for You' Model. The final report along with these pieces of work will be reported to the new Committee in the municipal year.

Conclusion

Overall, I believe the Overview & Scrutiny Committee has made considerable progress this year. In particular, having Lead Members attend the Committee to present reports and outline the reasons for decisions has significantly enhanced the role and value of scrutiny. We are holding the Executive to account - particularly around performance monitoring and through considering call-ins – and influencing Cabinet decisions. The reviews have also made an important contribution to addressing local people's concerns – for example, around safeguarding adults at risks, parking, housing repairs and health issues. This is an exciting time to be part of scrutiny with the emphasis the government has placed on strengthening local community leadership, increasing the involvement of local residents in the decision making process and the whole transparency agenda. I believe our work this year has equipped us to strengthen the impact of the committee in the future.

My work programme this year focused on how the Council communicates, engages and provides services to our residents. Residents responded well to the opportunities to share their views alongside the Councillors, and actively participated in discussions at meetings

Citizen Engagement Strategy

This review examined the development of the Citizen Engagement Strategy to ensure we develop a robust tool for engaging local residents in our partnership work. The aim of the strategy is to create a more 'powerful public' and outline how citizens can participate and engage with the decision-making process that impact on their lives and local communities and take greater control over those issues. Citizen engagement in this strategy means not only the sharing of power, information and mutual respect between the government and residents, but also letting residents take the initiative in public service delivery by redistributing power to them.

Participants in the review agreed with the value and importance of citizen engagement. They highlighted the importance of ensuring all sections of the communities were represented and heard. The role of local councillors in bringing together different stakeholders to find solutions to local issues was crucial in engaging a diverse group of residents.

The working group made seven recommendations, including clearly outlining the purpose, vision of a powerful public, scope, pathways to the goal of the strategy, involving all residents including communities of interest and 'hard to reach' communities in the strategy, identifying key stakeholders and their roles in the strategy, and clearly outlining the role of elected members as local community leaders.

Developing efficient customer services

I chaired a challenge session to consider how we can provide efficient and effective access to customer services for all our residents. Keeping customer access channels including telephone, online and in person available and easy to access is important for customer satisfaction with Council services. The challenge we face is to continue delivering effective customer services in light of the need to make significant efficiency savings. The session explored ways to reduce the cost of access and yet maintain customer satisfaction.

The session noted the importance of internet based services to reduce cost and maintain quality service. However, approximately a third of our residents do not have internet access and many do not have the necessary IT skills to access such services. It was therefore important to develop internet based services with support available for residents to access those services. Working in partnership with third sector organisations and registered social landlords is also important to improve access to services.

Conclusion

The recommendations from the review and challenge session will improve dialogue between the Council (and partners) and residents/customers, which I believe will enhance our understanding of their needs and help develop more responsive services.

I was appointed to the position of the Scrutiny Lead for Prosperous Community in November 2010 and I led a scrutiny review on how the Council can better support small and medium size businesses. With the reduction in public spending and its impact on loss of jobs, it is more important than ever to do all we can to support businesses to grow, for the sake of jobs and to build a mixed economy that a strong community needs to be built on. My predecessor, Cllr Rabina Khan, conducted a scrutiny challenge session on raising participation in post 16 learning in Tower Hamlets.

Empowering Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs)

Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) contribute to the vibrant economy of the borough through employment and economic growth. This scrutiny review considered the issue of empowering SMEs in the context of the Council's Enterprise Strategy, identify what support local SMEs receive and make recommendations to help them flourish further in the borough.

The working group discussed the needs and barriers to SMEs flourishing and how the borough can better support the sector. The public meeting highlighted that there was a general feeling that the Council and the partners did not understand the needs and diversity of businesses. The role of large enterprises and how they relate to SMEs to benefit both was also discussed.

We have made 12 recommendations with a focus around strengthening the link between large enterprises and SMEs in the areas of supply chain, professional advice and lending and engaging the business community further in policy or service change.

Raising participation in post 16 learning in Tower Hamlets

This challenge session examined issues around educational participation of 16-18 year olds in Tower Hamlets and the effectiveness of local strategies to raise post 16 participation. About 30 stakeholders attended, including residents, representatives from schools, Tower Hamlets College and Third Sector organisations that work with young people.

Tower Hamlets has a strong record of educational improvement. However, youth unemployment continues to be amongst the highest in London and this educational success is not matched by success in the labour market. Ensuring all young people stay in education and training after the age of 16 is crucial to their development and employability in the future, which could help break the cycle of poverty and mitigate poverty.

As a result of the discussion, six recommendations were made. They included further parental engagement in post 16 education, delivering a range of Level 3 apprenticeships and targeting resources to the most vulnerable learners.

Conclusion

My review and the challenge session have received significant contribution from local residents. I hope our recommendations support the development of the Enterprise Strategy and also help raise educational achievements post 16.

My portfolio covers housing, environment, arts and leisure and this year I decided to focus on parking and customer care of housing repairs. Parking has been a major issue for residents for some time, with the issue being constantly raised with councillors, and I was keen to explore ways of improving public perceptions on this matter. I was also keen to undertake a scrutiny challenge session on Housing Repairs Service provided by Tower Hamlets Homes because of the significant number of complaints and Members Enquires we receive on this topic.

Customer Care – Tower Hamlets Homes housing repairs service

Disrepair has detrimental impact on the quality of life for residents and as community leaders we need to ensure that it doesn't continue to be the case. A new contractor had been procured and important to ensure the new contractor addressed the old problems and check whether residents were satisfied that they were involved in the procurement of the contract and the delivery of the service.

What emerged is a need to work more closely with Members and residents on customer satisfaction and complaints monitoring to improve transparency and to give them confidence in challenging the data. The negative attitude of operatives who undertake repairs has been an underlying concern for residents and continues to be because they have transferred over to be employed under the new contract. Performance measures, IT improvements and structural changes have been put in place to address this. There is a recognition that the new contract needs time to embed and a recommendation has been put forward to report on complaints and customer satisfaction to the Scrutiny Lead. Many issues were highlighted through the session but were not fully explored due to time constraints and we have recommended that these continue to be explored with local residents.

The Public Perceptions of Parking

The main aim of the review was to develop a more sophisticated understanding of residents concerns about parking issues, and use this as a foundation to improve the public perceptions of parking. The Working Group heard evidence from a range of regional and national organisations including the Parking and Traffic Appeals Service, the British Parking Association, Transport for London, London Councils, Westminster Council and Islington Council. In addition, a number of Council services presented evidence on aspects of parking and sustainable forms of transport. To complement this evidence, the Working Group also heard from residents through a focus group and through post and email. The Working Group feels that through incorporating a diverse range of partners in the review process, the recommendations offer solutions to the complex challenges posed by public perceptions of parking.

The Review made a number of recommendations around the issue of communication which ranges from signage on the streets, the Council's website or the interaction of our Civil Enforcement Officers with the public. It was acknowledged that we need to undertake more work with local residents to change 'car culture' that exists in the borough and promote more sustainable modes of transport.

Conclusion

I believe that both pieces of work will make a positive impact on the service delivery to our residents and hope the Mayor and his Cabinet fully consider the issues highlighted by our reports.

I have used my work programme to focus on ways the Council and its partners can safeguard adults at risk of abuse. I also undertook a challenge session on how we can strengthen the role of the Tower Hamlets Enforcement Officers (THEOs) in tackling low level crime which can be a nuisance to the lives of our residents.

Scrutiny Review: Safeguarding Adults at Risk

Our Adults Health & Well Being Services has been rated as ‘excellent’ for the past six consecutive years. However, the Care Quality Commission (CQC) inspection in November 2009 highlighted safeguarding adults as an area of concern. I was keen to review this to see how we could improve this especially in a period of reduced resources for the public sector.

The Working Group visited a local day centre and also spoke to representatives from MIND and the Disability Coalition. We heard concerns around difficulty in speaking out about abuse as there was no independent point of contact. Clarity around what constituted abuse was difficult to understand for vulnerable residents. It was also noted that users were not involved in this important area and there needs to be greater engagement in service planning.

Our recommendations centre on the importance of advocacy working and raising awareness. With self referrals being very low in the borough we also recommended the need to set up a free phone number as an independent point of contact. The Working Group felt that service users should be represented, along with third sector organisations, on the Safeguarding Adults Board. Finally we noted that not all sections of the community ‘at risk’ may be engaged and therefore a gap analysis should be undertaken to see what hard to reach communities are not being engaged and devising methods of how we can engage with them.

Challenge Session: Tower Hamlets Enforcement Officers (THEOs)

The THEOs were set up to tackle low level anti-social behaviour which blights our community and I spent a morning on the streets with them to experience first hand how they work. The Challenge Session then gave us an opportunity to explore this further and identify areas for improvement.

We identified the need for the THEOs to raise their profile and visibility through the publications in local media of the work that they have carried out with a statistical breakdown of their achievements as well as publishing how they differentiate from other local enforcement agencies. We also highlighted the importance of strengthening their community engagement strategy, particularly with Schools and Youth/Community Centres in order to deliver joined up working to resolve local issues. Finally, we have recommended the THEOs to work closely with existing local forums and in particular sharing joint intelligence reports in order to tackle local issues.

Conclusion

I have thoroughly enjoyed being the Scrutiny Lead for Safe and Supportive communities as it has allowed me to explore two key areas which are important for our communities. I believe improving on the already good work that we have delivered in these areas can support us in developing a safe and supportive community.

My portfolio focuses on ensuring Tower Hamlets is a place people feel a part of and are able to freely live in. Our borough is one of the most diverse in the country and historically has been a settling ground for new migrants. I therefore focused my review looking at how the Council and Partners can support new communities.

Scrutiny Review: Supporting New Communities, Case Study of the Somali Community

I used the Somali Community as a case study to see how we can continue to support new and small communities considering a period of reduction in resources to the public sector. The key aims of the review included increasing access to services for new communities, increasing voice and representation and also how we can identify the needs of these communities.

I was keen to get residents involved as much as possible in the review and undertook focus groups with older people at luncheon clubs, women at a local community centre, young people from across the borough at the Town Hall and also third sector organisations. We also held meetings with representatives from the Department for Communities and Local Government, the Greater London Authority, Praxis and the Migrants Rights Network to see what was happening elsewhere in London and the UK.

The views and concerns of residents have been fundamental in shaping our findings and recommendations. We noted the need to strengthen our understanding of new and small communities and have therefore suggested that we develop sophisticated data gathering techniques on the demographics of our communities and use this when we plan services for residents. In terms of access to services and in a period where the public sector finance has been reduced, we need to make sure that our mainstream services are inclusive as much as possible and meet the needs of all communities but we also acknowledge that some services still need to cater for specific communities. The Partnership also needs to refresh how we communicate with new communities, particularly those who are hardest to reach. Our upcoming Citizen Engagement Strategy should clearly outline how we will do this.

Community cohesion is an area that many of our residents had concerns about. We need to encourage different communities to engage and work with each other rather than in parallel and isolation to one another. The Working Group has recommended that we promote consortiums of third sector organisations to bid together for funding with the focus on strengthening relationship between our diverse communities.

Conclusion

This is an area which I feel very passionate about and it was great to have an opportunity to undertake this review which I feel is very important considering the diversity of the borough. I hope this piece of work helps create the momentum for the Partnership to really focus on the needs and aspirations of new and minority communities.

The Health Scrutiny Panel undertakes the Council's functions under the Health and Social Care Act, 2001. The Panel includes members who are co-opted from the Tower Hamlets Involvement Network (THINK) to represent patient views and works in partnership with NHS Tower Hamlets, East London NHS Foundation Trust and Barts and the London NHS Trust (BLT).

This year the Panel looked at maternity services at Barts and the London Trust, complaints, access to GP services, transformation of adult social care and the personalisation agenda, commissioning strategy plan, dementia and the BLT excellence in quality strategy report, all of which are ways of addressing access and improvements in health. Another issue which has been brought to the fore is the health needs of new residents and refugees and we discussed how we can find solutions for improving legitimate access rights for new communities.

Tower Hamlets Involvement Network

We have developed a strong working relationship with THINK and the Co-opted Members serving on the Panel continue to be involved and make valuable contribution to our work. We have considered each other's work programmes to avoid duplication and explore areas for joint work. We have also considered their report from 2010 highlighting comments and recommendations from service users and also the response to these from health service providers. This has been extremely useful for us as it has brought peoples real experience to the forefront of our agenda. We are extremely grateful to THINK for bringing a number of other local health issues to us particularly around difficulties in accessing local health services. We hope this partnership work continues as we transfer to the establishment of Health Watch.

Independent Health Scrutiny Evaluation

Health Scrutiny undertook an independent evaluation in January and February 2010. This evaluation recognised the Health Scrutiny Panel as having a powerful role to play for health issues in Tower Hamlets. Whilst recognising the effective work of the Panel, the evaluation put forward a number of suggestions for improving what we do already and these have been considered in the development of this year's work programme.

Scrutiny challenge session: Cancer- development of early diagnosis and preventative services

In addition to the devastating human impact, cancer also has a significant financial impact on the NHS and the wider economy. Despite the medical advances, health inequalities continue to persist in Tower Hamlets, it has one of the lowest cancer survival rates in the country. Someone living in Tower Hamlets is twice as likely to die prematurely from cancer as someone living in Kensington and Chelsea. The Health Scrutiny Panel felt it was vital to address prevention and diagnosis because of this pressing health inequality.

We brought together health colleagues, cancer patients and their carers to explore what can be done to improve survival rates through improving prevention and early diagnosis.

In the challenge session we considered prevalence of cancer in Tower Hamlets, survival rates and public awareness of cancer in the context of current initiatives to address local issues. Recommendations were framed to improve early diagnosis and intervention, appointments booking system, GP-patient relationship, raising awareness and information and support for patients and their families.

Scrutiny challenge session: Polysystems

In the context of The North East London Case for Change document, (published March 2009) NHS Tower Hamlets set about working with local stakeholders to change the way in which healthcare is provided. The idea behind the concept of polysystems or consortia, is a group of general practices working together to better meet local needs. Clinical networks (polysystems) include all the people and organisations that can support a patient in the community at every stage of their health journey. Tower Hamlets is a step ahead of other London boroughs, in that its GP practices are already arranged into eight networks.

The Panel considered the development of primary care in Tower Hamlets and the future role of clinical networks and integrated care. Information was presented on the vision for the future, key areas of success already established, clinical networks and care packages, the future role of networks and what would be happening in the year ahead.

The key areas for improvement which were identified included the need for clear and consistent engagement with residents and patients from the Council and the NHS, with Councillors and 3rd Sector Organisations helping to steer understanding and raise the concerns of residents with the correct bodies.

Healthy Lives Healthy People and the NHS White paper – our responses

In our responses to the Government's White papers we have supported the move to increase the potential power local people can have over their health service. We highlighted the importance of the role of scrutiny through local elected members and the importance of identifying local needs and finding local solutions. Whilst we will respond positively, at the same time we think that people need to have confidence in commissioning and the decisions that are made about Tower Hamlets. This can only happen if local people hold decision makers to account through locally elected members. We think that the role of health scrutiny should be further strengthened and look forward to further work on driving improvements in health.

Conclusion

It has been another active year for Health Scrutiny Panel. We have considered a number of key reports through the formal Panel meetings and will continue to develop the Work Programme.

Scrutiny and Equalities in Tower Hamlets

If you want to find out more about Overview and Scrutiny in Tower Hamlets, please contact the Scrutiny Policy Team:

Please contact:

Scrutiny Policy Team
Tower Hamlets Council
6th Floor, Mulberry Place
5 Clove Crescent
London
E14 2BG

Tel: 0207 364 4636
Email: scrutiny@towerhamlets.gov.uk
Web: towerhamlets.gov.uk/scrutiny

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Agenda Item 11.1

COMMITTEE: Audit Committee Council	DATE: 28 June 2011 13 July 2011	CLASSIFICATION: Unrestricted	REPORT NO.	AGENDA NO.
REPORT OF: Corporate Director of Resources ORIGINATING OFFICER(S): Oladapo Shonola, Chief Financial Strategy Officer		TITLE: 2010-11 Treasury Management Outturn Report, Update to 31 May 2011 Ward(s) affected: N/A		

Lead Member	Cllr Alibor Choudhury – Resources
Community Plan Theme	All
Strategic Priority	One Tower Hamlets

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report advises the Audit Committee and Council of treasury management activity for the financial year ended 31 March 2011 as required by the Local Government Act 2003.
- 1.2 The report details the treasury management outturn position based on the credit criteria adopted by the Corporate Director of Resources, the investment strategy for the financial year as approved by Council and the investment returns.
- 1.3 The Council complied with its legislative and regulatory requirements. The key actual prudential and treasury management indicators detailing the impact of capital expenditure activities during the year, with comparators are also addressed in this report.
- 1.4 The Corporate Director, Resources confirms that borrowing was only undertaken for a capital purpose and the statutory borrowing limit (the authorised limit) was not breached.
- 1.5 The Local Government Act 2003 also requires that a sub committee prior scrutiny of the investment strategy, mid year and outturn treasury management reports before they are reported to the full Council. As well as the above reports being reported to either Cabinet or the Audit Committee, updates on treasury management activities were also reported to the Audit Committee or 5 separate occasions.

2. DECISIONS REQUIRED

- 2.1 The Council is recommended to note the contents of this report.

3 REASONS FOR DECISIONS

- 3.1 This Council is required through regulations issued under the Local Government Act 2003 to produce an annual treasury report reviewing treasury management activities and the actual prudential and treasury indicators for 2010/11. This report meets the requirements of both the CIPFA Code of Practice on Treasury Management (the Code) and the CIPFA Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities (the Prudential Code).
- 3.2 During 2010/11 the minimum reporting requirements were that the full Council should receive the following reports:
- an annual treasury strategy in advance of the year (10 February 2010)
 - a mid year (minimum) treasury update report (Council 8 December 2010)
 - an annual report following the year describing the activity compared to the strategy (this report)
 - in addition, the Audit Committee has received regulatory treasury management update reports on 29 June 2010, 13 July 2010, 21 September 2010, 14 December 2010 and 22 March 2011.
- 3.3 Recent changes in the regulatory environment place a much greater onus on Members for the review and scrutiny of treasury management policy and activities. This report is important in that respect, as it provides details of the outturn position for treasury activities and highlights compliance with the Council's policies previously approved by members.
- 3.4 The annual report of treasury management should assist in ensuring that Members are able to scrutinise officer decisions and check that investment strategy was implemented as approved by Full Council.

4 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 4.1 The Council is bound by legislation to have regard to the Treasury Management (TM) Code. The Code requires that the Council should receive an annual report on treasury management activities.
- 4.2 If the Council were to deviate from those requirements, there would need to be some good reason for doing so. It is not considered that there is any such reason, having regard to the need to ensure that Members are kept informed about treasury management activities and to ensure that these activities are in line with the investment strategy approved by the Council

5 **BACKGROUND**

5.1 The Local Authorities (Capital Finance and Accounting) (England) Regulations 2003 require local authorities to have regard to the Treasury Management Code. The Treasury Management code requires that the Council or a sub-committee of the Council should receive an annual report on treasury management activities.

5.2 This report summarises:

- Capital activity during the year;
- Impact of this activity on the Council's underlying indebtedness (the Capital Financing Requirement);
- Reporting of the required prudential and treasury indicators;
- Overall treasury position identifying how the Council has borrowed in relation to this indebtedness, and the impact on investment balances;
- Summary of interest rate movements in the year;
- Debt activity;
- Investment activity; and
- Update on investment activity up to 31 May 2011.

6. **CAPITAL EXPENDITURE AND FINANCING 2010-11**

6.1 The Council undertakes capital expenditure on long-term assets. These activities may either be:

- Financed immediately through the application of capital or revenue resources (capital receipts, capital grants, revenue contributions etc.), which has no resultant impact on the Council's borrowing need; or
- If insufficient financing is available, or a decision is taken not to apply resources, the capital expenditure will give rise to a borrowing need.

6.2 The actual capital expenditure forms one of the required prudential indicators. The table below shows the actual capital expenditure and how this was financed

£'000	2009/10 Actual	2010/11 Estimate	2010/11 Actual
Non-HRA capital expenditure	78,546	137,222	111,348
HRA capital expenditure	60,830	56,943	37,227
Total Capital Expenditure	139,376	194,165	148,575
Resources			
Capital Grants	67,769	127,404	97,437
Direct Revenue Financing	14,437	0	7,002
Major Repairs Allowance	13,836	15,500	7,641
Developers Contributions	9,013	890	5,011
Capital Receipts	11,387	29,550	5,792
Capital Expenditure (Financed from borrowing)	(22,934)	(20,821)	(25,692)

6.3 The difference between estimated capital expenditure to be funded from borrowing and the outturn is due to approved prior year brought forward projects to be funded from borrowing that were added to the programme in-year via officer delegated powers/Cabinet approval.

7 OVERALL BORROWING NEED

- 7.1 The Council's underlying need to borrow for capital expenditure is termed the Capital Financing Requirement (CFR). This figure is a gauge of the Council's debt position. The CFR results from the capital activity of the Council and what resources have been used to pay for the capital spend. It represents the 2010/11 unfinanced capital expenditure as set out in the above table, and prior years' net or unfinanced capital expenditure which has not yet been paid for by revenue or other resources.
- 7.2 Part of the Council's treasury activities is to address the funding requirements for this borrowing need. Depending on the capital expenditure programme, the treasury service organises the Council's cash position to ensure sufficient cash is available to meet the capital plans and cash flow requirements. This may be sourced through borrowing from external bodies such as the Public Works Loan Board (PWLB) or the money markets, or utilising temporary cash resources within the Council.
- 7.3 The Council's non-Housing Revenue Accounts (HRA) underlying borrowing need is not allowed to rise indefinitely. Statutory controls are in place to ensure that capital assets are broadly charged to revenue over the life of the asset. The Council is required to make an annual revenue charge, called the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP), to reduce the CFR. This is effectively a repayment of the non-HRA borrowing need (there is no statutory requirement to reduce the HRA CFR).
- 7.4 The Council's 2010/11 MRP Policy (as required by CLG Guidance) was approved as part of the Treasury Management Strategy Report for 2010/11 on 10 February 2010.
- 7.5 The Council's CFR for the year is shown below, and represents a key prudential indicator. This includes PFI and leasing schemes on the balance sheet, which increase the Council's borrowing need. No borrowing is actually required against these schemes as a borrowing facility is included in the contract.

CFR (£m)	31-Mar-10 Actual	31-Mar-11 Original Indicator	31-Mar-11 Actual
Opening balance	421,698	437,730	437,730
Add unfinanced capital expenditure	22,934	20,678	25,692
Add PFI adjustment	38,978	41,205	41,205
Less MRP/	(6,902)	(7,201)	(7,003)
Less PFI Adjustment	(38,978)	(41,205)	(41,205)
Closing balance	437,730	451,207	456,419

- 7.6 **Net borrowing and the CFR** - in order to ensure that borrowing levels are prudent over the medium term the Council's external borrowing, net of investments, must only be for a capital purpose. This essentially means that the Council is not borrowing to support revenue expenditure. Net borrowing should not therefore, except in the short term, have exceeded the CFR for 2010/11 plus the expected changes to the CFR over 2011/12 and 2012/13. This indicator allows the Council some flexibility to borrow in advance of its immediate capital needs in 2010/11. The table below highlights the Council's net borrowing position against the CFR. The Council has complied with this prudential indicator.

£'000	31-Mar-10 Actual	31-Mar-11 Original Indicator	31-Mar-11 Actual
Net borrowing position	226,175	176,107	155,471
CFR	437,730	451,207	456,419

- 7.7 **The authorised limit** - the authorised limit is the “affordable borrowing limit” required by s3 of the Local Government Act 2003. The Council does not have the power to borrow above this level. The table below demonstrates that during 2010/11 the Council has maintained gross borrowing within its authorised limit.
- 7.8 **The operational boundary** – the operational boundary is the expected borrowing position of the Council during the year. Periods where the actual position is either below or over the boundary is acceptable subject to the authorised limit not being breached.
- 7.9 **Actual financing costs as a proportion of net revenue stream** - this indicator identifies the trend in the cost of capital (borrowing and other long term obligation costs net of investment income) against the net revenue stream.

£'000	2010/11
Authorised limit	465,000
Maximum gross borrowing position	356,607
Operational boundary	445,000
Average gross borrowing position	333,969
Financing costs as a proportion of net revenue stream	2.41%

8 TREASURY POSITION as at 31 March 2011

- 8.1 The Council's debt and investment position is organised by the treasury management service in order to ensure adequate liquidity for revenue and capital activities, security for investments and to manage risks within all treasury management activities. Procedures and controls to achieve these objectives are well established both through Member reporting detailed in the summary, and through officer activity detailed in the Council's Treasury Management Practices. At the beginning and the end of 2010/11 the Council's treasury position was as follows:

	31 March 2010 Principal	Rate/ Return	31 March 2011 Principal	Rate/ Return
Fixed Rate Funding:				
-PWLB	231,574	9.11%	275,974	7.71%
-Market	13,000	4.37%	13,000	4.37%
Total Fixed Rate Funding	244,574	8.86%	288,974	7.56%
Variable Rate Funding:				
-PWLB	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
-Market	64,500	0.89%	64,500	1.23%
Total Variable Rate Funding	64,500	0.89%	64,500	1.23%
Total debt	309,074	7.20%	353,474	6.40%
CFR	437,730		456,419	
Over/ (under) borrowing	(128,656)		(102,945)	
Investments:				
In house	83,100	1.23%	201,136	1.20%
External managers	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
Total investments	83,100	1.23%	201,136	1.20%

8.2 The maturity structure of the debt portfolio was as follows:

£'000	31 March 2010 Actual	2010/11 Original Limits	31 March 2011 Actual	31 March 2011 Actual in %
Under 12 months	6,179	10%	25,740	7.3%
12 months and within 24 months	25,983	25%	16,688	4.7%
24 months and within 5 years	44,589	25%	47,102	13.3%
5 years and within 10 years	119,355	90%	113,610	32.1%
10 years and above	112,968	100%	150,336	42.5%

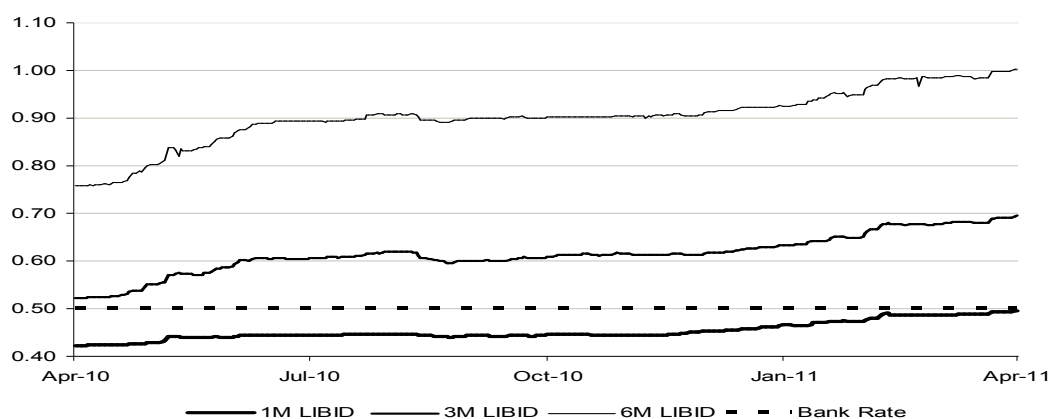
8.3 The maturity structure for the investment portfolio was as follows:

£'000	31 March 2010 Actual	2010/11 Original Limits	31 March 2011 Actual
Under 1 year	83,100	100%	201,136
More than 1 year	-	0%	-
Total	83,100	100%	201,136

9 THE INVESTMENT STRATEGY

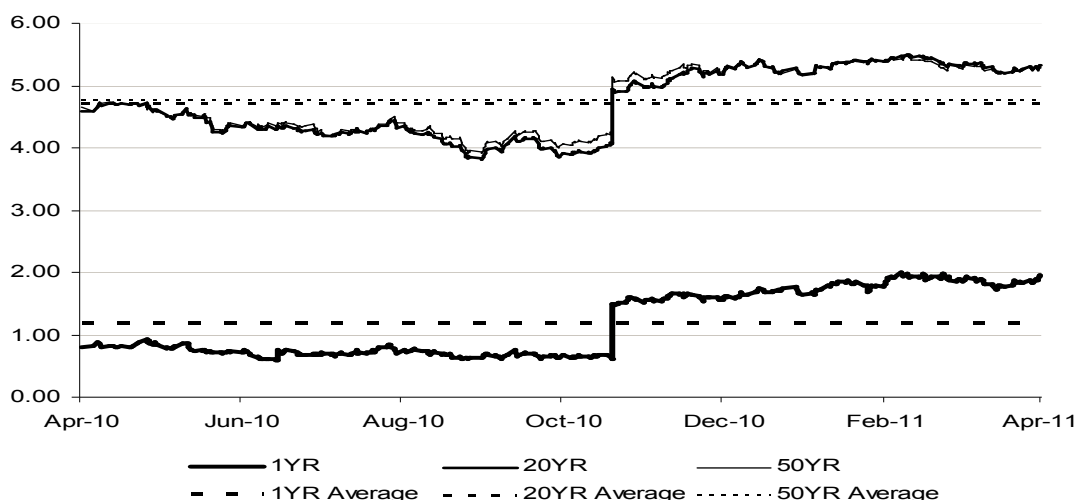
- 9.1 The expectation for interest rates within the strategy for 2010/11 anticipated low but rising Bank Rate, starting in quarter 1 of 2010, with similar gradual rises in medium and longer term fixed interest rates over 2010/11. Variable or short-term rates were expected to be the cheaper form of borrowing over the period. Continued uncertainty in the aftermath of the 2008 financial crisis promoted a cautious approach, whereby investments would continue to be dominated by low counterparty risk considerations, resulting in relatively low returns compared to borrowing rates.
- 9.2 The Bank Rate actually remained unchanged throughout 2010-11 with the result that associated interest rates were lower than had been anticipated. The actual movement in rates is shown in the below chart.

Bank Rate v LIBID Investment Rate



9.3 2010/11 proved to be another watershed year for financial markets. Rather than a focus on individual institutions, market fears moved to sovereign debt issues, particularly in the peripheral Euro zone countries. Local authorities were also presented with changed circumstances following the unexpected change of policy on Public Works Loan Board (PWLB) lending arrangements in October 2010. This resulted in an increase in new borrowing rates of 0.75% – 0.85%, without an associated increase in early redemption rates. This made new borrowing more expensive and repayment relatively less attractive.

Average v New Borrowing Rates



9.4 Gilt yields fell for much of the first half of the year as financial markets drew considerable reassurance from the Government's debt reduction plans, especially in the light of Euro zone sovereign debt concerns. Expectations of further quantitative easing also helped to push yields to historic lows. However, this positive performance was mostly reversed in the closing months of 2010 as sentiment changed due to sharply rising inflation pressures. These were also expected to cause the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) to start raising Bank Rate earlier than previously expected.

9.5 Deposit rates picked up modestly in the second half of the year as rising inflationary concerns, and strong first half growth, fed through to prospects of an earlier start to increases in Bank Rate. However, in March 2011, slowing actual growth, together with weak growth prospects, saw consensus expectations of the first UK rate rise move back from May to August 2011 despite high inflation. However, the disparity of expectations on domestic economic growth and inflation encouraged a wide range of views on the timing of the start of increases in Bank Rate in a band from May 2011 through to early 2013. This sharp disparity was also seen in MPC voting which, by year-end, had three members voting for a rise while others preferred to continue maintaining rates at very low levels.

10 BORROWING OUTTURN

10.1 The Council borrowed £51m (£30m and £21m) from the PWLB on the 10th May 2010. This was done mainly to ensure benefits accruing from reform of housing finance can be maximised. The Council will also benefit from the decision to access funding in May 2010, which resulted in funding being secured at approximately 1% less than would have been the case had officers procrastinated.

10.2 Loans were drawn to fund the net unfinanced capital expenditure, naturally maturing debt and the effect of the housing finance reform proposals. The loans drawn were

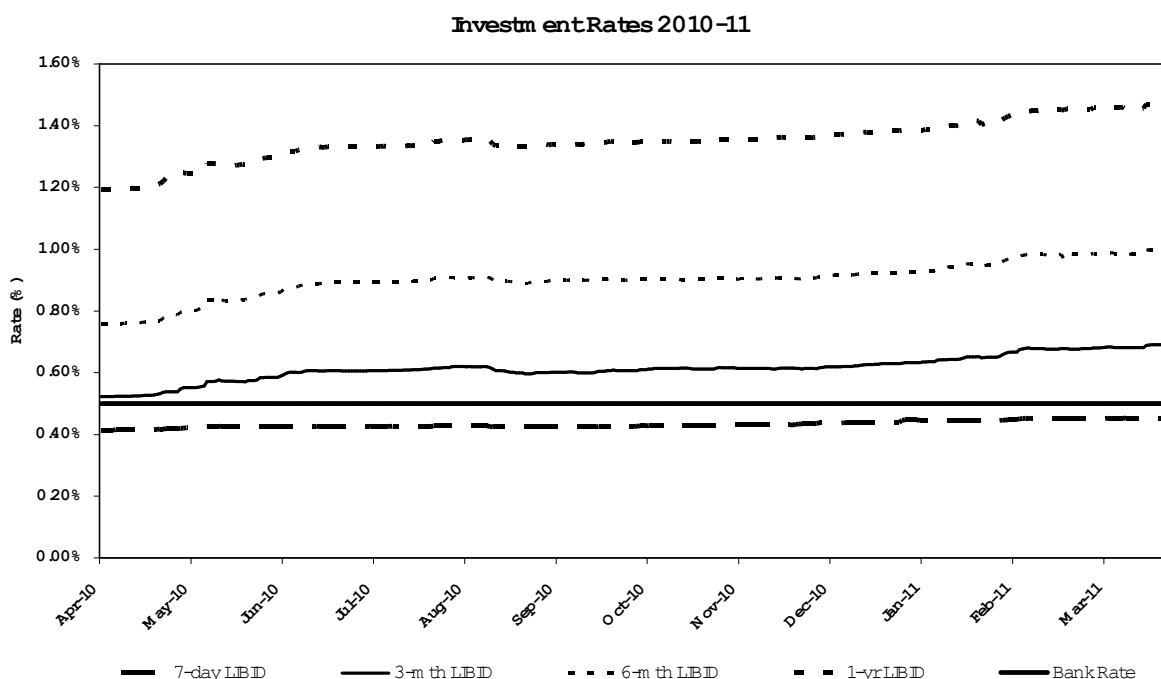
Lender	Principal	Type	Interest Rate	2010/11 Average
PWLB	£30m	Fixed Rate	4.24%	4.70%
PWLB	£21m	Fixed Rate	4.20%	4.70%

11 INVESTMENT RATES

11.1 The tight monetary conditions following the 2008 financial crisis continued through 2010/11 with little material movement in the shorter term deposit rates. Bank Rate remained at its historical low of 0.5% throughout the year, although growing market expectations of the imminence of the start of monetary tightening saw 6 month and 12 month rates picking up.

11.2 Overlaying the relatively poor investment returns was the continued counterparty concerns, most evident in the Euro zone sovereign debt crisis which resulted in rescue packages for Greece, Ireland and Portugal. Concerns extended to the European banking industry with an initial stress testing of banks failing to calm counterparty fears, resulting in a second round of testing currently in train. This highlighted the ongoing need for caution in treasury investment activity. In line with the principles outlined in the Investment Strategy of 'security' first, the Council did not and does not have funds invested in any of the countries listed above.

11.3 The investment rates in 2010/11 are as detailed in the below chart.



12 INVESTMENT OUTTURN

- 12.1 The Council's investment policy is governed by CLG guidance, which was being implemented in line with the annual investment strategy approved by the Council on 10 Feb 2010. This policy sets out the approach for choosing investment counterparties, and is based on credit ratings provided by the three main credit rating agencies.
- 12.2 The investment activity during the year conformed to the approved strategy, and the Council had no liquidity difficulties.
- 12.3 The Council maintained an average balance of £155.181m of internally managed funds. The internally managed funds earned an average rate of return of 1.22%. The comparable performance indicator is the average 7-day LIBID rate, which was 0.45%.

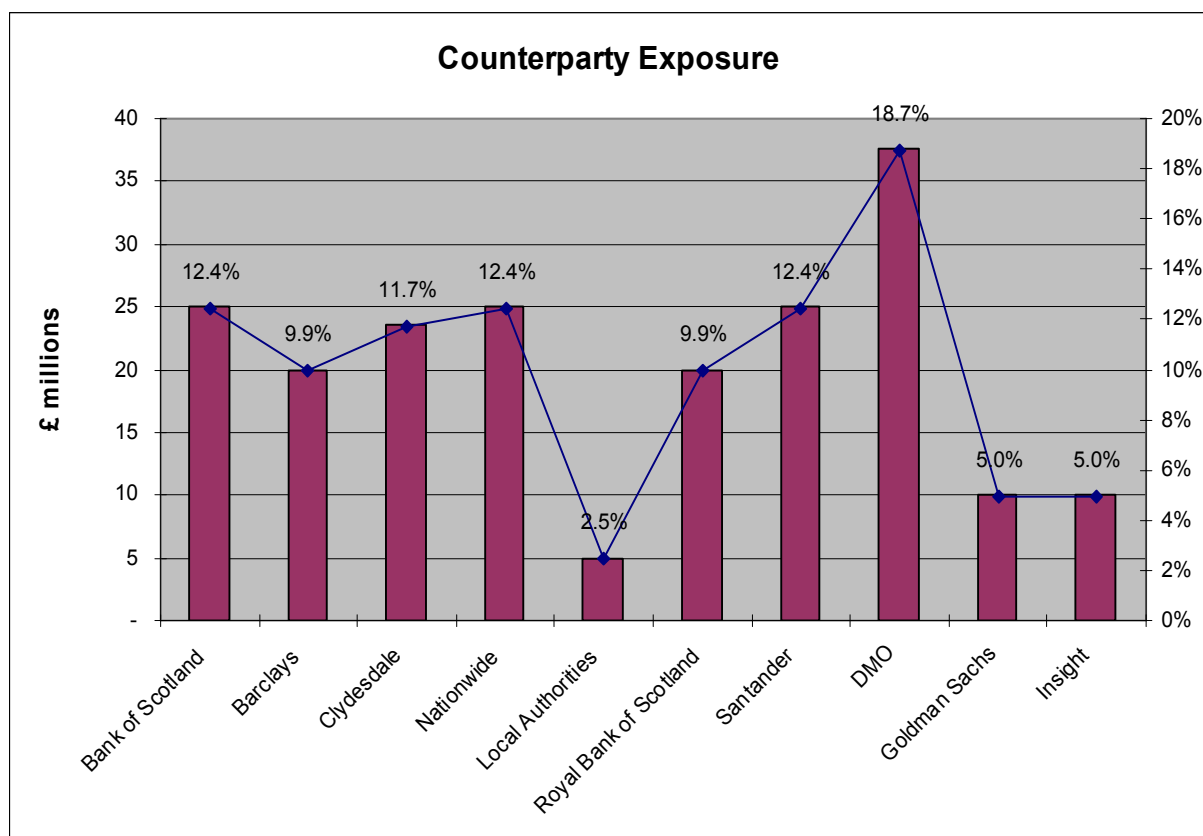
13 UPDATE ON INVESTMENT ACTIVITY UP TO 31 MAY 2011

- 13.1 Sector provides cash management services to the Council, but the Council retains control of the credit criteria and the investments, so that Sector's role is purely advisory.
- 13.2 In addition to providing cash management services, Sector also provides treasury consultancy/advisory service to the Council.
- 13.3 Sector's interest rate projections are that base rate will remain static at 0.5% until June 2011 after which there will be a steady rise up to 3.25% by December 2013. Against this perspective Sector has developed a strategy which delivers enhanced performance through maximising the investment term of the portfolio. This will enable the portfolio to obtain exposure to the higher rates associated with investment in the longer term.
- 13.4 Council cash balances are projected to average £140m in 2011-12, but daily balances will vary throughout the year.
- 13.5 The current balance of £201.136 million is higher than anticipated due to increased liquidity, additional funding that has been accessed by the Council to ensure it can take full advantage of the impact of housing finance reform and funds that are as yet unspent but have been earmarked to fund the capital programme. It is envisaged that the cash balance will reduce in the medium term.
- 13.6 The Council's bankers, the Co-operative Bank plc, are used as depositors of last resort for investment of additional funds received after the treasury transactions have been completed and the money markets have closed.
- 13.7 The current investment strategy within the constraints of the Councils credit criteria and liquidity requirement is as set out below.

Investment Strategy

Projection			Actual Deal			
Term	Amount £M	Rate %	Counterparty	Maturity/Type	Amount £M	Rate
Overnight	30.000	0.80%	Santander UK	Call	5.000	0.80%
Overnight		0.75%	Clydesdale Bank	Call	23.536	0.75%
Overnight		0.75%	Bank of Scotland	Call	15.000	0.75%
Overnight		0.50%	Goldman Sachs	MMF	10.000	0.54%
Overnight		0.50%	Insight	MMF	10.000	0.64%
			SUB TOTAL		63.536	
1 Month	25.000	0.45%	Debt Management Office	01-Apr-11	37.600	0.25%
			Cater Allen (Santander)	11-Apr-11	5.000	2.20%
			Bank of Scotland	26-Apr-11	5.000	1.17%
3 Months	25.000	0.75%	Cater Allen (Santander)	13-May-11	3.000	1.50%
			Cater Allen (Santander)	13-May-11	2.000	2.10%
			Nationwide	03-Jun-11	5.000	1.35%
			Barclays	03-Jun-11	10.000	1.40%
			Royal Bank of Scotland	10-Jun-11	10.000	0.70%
6 Months	20.000	0.99%	Royal Bank of Scotland	11-Jul-11	10.000	0.81%
			Cater Allen (Santander)	18-Jul-11	5.000	2.50%
			Bank of Scotland	25-Jul-11	5.000	1.30%
			Barclays	10-Aug-11	5.000	1.05%
			Nationwide	10-Aug-11	10.000	0.95%
9 Months	20.000	1.30%	Nationwide	14-Oct-11	5.000	1.37%
			Barclays	10-Nov-11	5.000	1.30%
			Nationwide	17-Jan-12	5.000	1.43%
			Cater Allen (Santander)	17-Jan-12	5.000	2.50%
			North Tyneside Council	20-Jan-12	5.000	1.20%
12 Months	20.000	2.00%				
			SUB TOTAL		137.600	
	140.000		TOTAL		201.136	

13.8 The Council's exposure to any one counterparty/Group is represented by the below chart including exposure as a percentage of total assets invested as at 31 May 2011.



14.8 Investment returns since inception of the new arrangement with Sector has been consistently above the portfolio benchmark and the London Interbank Bid Rate (LIBID). Performance has dipped slightly from the last reporting date (22 March 2011) from 1.22% average return to 1.18%.

14.9 The portfolio is slightly underperforming benchmark set at 1.25%. Although, it is above the 7 Day LIBID rate of 0.46% and represents good performance given the issues around elevated cash balances arising from slippage on capital programme and other issues identified earlier in this report.

14.10 The 2011/12 investment strategy reviewed the credit criteria and investment threshold and Members approved a more flexible investment strategy in February 2011. This has made it possible to use alternative short term investment facilities other than the Government's Debt Management Office (DMO) and it is anticipated that this will positively impact on performance going forward.

15. COMMENTS OF THE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

15.1. The comments of the Corporate Director Resources have been incorporated into the report.

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

- 16.1. Treasury management activities cover the management of the Council's investments and cash flows, its banking, money market and capital market transactions, the effective control of risks associated with those activities and the pursuit of optimum performance consistent with those risks. The Local Government Act 2003 provides a framework for the capital finance of local authorities. It provides a power to borrow and imposes a duty on local authorities to determine an affordable borrowing limit. It provides a power to invest. Fundamental to the operation of the scheme is an understanding that authorities will have regard to proper accounting practices recommended by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) in carrying out capital finance functions.
- 16.2. The Local Authorities (Capital Finance and Accounting) (England) Regulations 2003 require the Council to have regard to the CIPFA publication "Treasury Management in the Public Services: Code of Practice and Cross-Sectoral Guidance Notes" ("the Treasury Management Code") in carrying out capital finance functions under the Local Government Act 2003. If after having regard to the Treasury Management Code the Council wished not to follow it, there would need to be some good reason for such deviation.
- 16.3. The Treasury Management Code requires as a minimum that there be a practice of regular reporting on treasury management activities and risks to the responsible committee and that these should be scrutinised by that committee. Under the Council's Constitution, the audit committee has the functions of monitoring the Council's risk management arrangements and making arrangements for the proper administration of the Council's affairs.

17. ONE TOWER HAMLETS CONSIDERATIONS

- 17.1 Interest on the Council's cash flow has historically contributed significantly towards the budget. This Council's ability to deliver its various functions, to meet its Community Plan targets and to do so in accordance with its obligations under the Equality Act 2010 may thus be enhanced by sound treasury management.

18. SUSTAINABLE ACTION FOR A GREENER ENVIRONMENT

- 18.1 There are no Sustainable Actions for A Greener Environment implications.

19. RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

- 19.1 Any form of investment inevitably involves a degree of risk. To minimise risk the investment strategy has restricted exposure of council cash balances to UK backed banks or institutions with the highest short term rating or strong long term rating.

20 CRIME AND DISORDER REDUCTION IMPLICATIONS

- 20.1 There are no crime and disorder reduction implications arising from this report.

21 EFFICIENCY STATEMENT

- 21.1 Monitoring and reporting of treasury management activities ensures the Council optimises the use of its monetary resources within the constraints placed on the Council by statute, appropriate management of risk and operational requirements.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 (AS AMENDED) SECTION 100D

LIST OF "BACKGROUND PAPERS" USED IN THE PREPARATION OF THIS REPORT

Brief description of "background papers"

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

Appendix 1: Prudential and treasury indicators

Prudential indicators	2009/10	2010/11	2010/11
	Actual	Original	Actual
	£'000	£'000	£'000
Capital Expenditure			
Non – HRA	88,878	68,140	111,348
HRA	50,497	36,598	37,227
TOTAL	139,375	104,738	148,575
Ratio of financing costs to net revenue stream			
Non – HRA	2.98%	2.96%	2.62%
HRA	16.91%	18.82%	18.75%
Net borrowing requirement			
brought forward 1 April	322,198	354,250	354,250
carried forward 31 March	354,250	303,764	252,128
in year borrowing requirement	32,052	- 50,486	- 102,122
In year Capital Financing Requirement			
Non - HRA	1,352	5,821	9,298
HRA	15,500	15,000	16,588
TOTAL	16,852	20,821	25,886
Capital Financing Requirement as at 31 March			
Non - HRA	160,751	160,784	162,827
HRA	276,979	301,075	293,568
TOTAL	437,730	461,859	456,395
Incremental impact of capital investment decisions	£ p	£ p	£ p
Increase in Council Tax (band D) per annum	8.46	4.27	4.27
Increase in average housing rent per week	0	0	0

Treasury management indicators	2009/10	2010/11	2010/11
	Actual	Original	Actual
	£'000	£'000	£'000
Authorised Limit for external debt -			
borrowing	483,050	565,000	565,000
other long term liabilities	-	-	-
TOTAL	483,050	565,000	565,000
Operational Boundary for external debt -			
borrowing	463,050	545,000	545,000
Other long term liabilities	-	-	-
TOTAL	463,050	545,000	545,000
Actual external debt			
Upper limit for fixed interest rate exposure			
expressed as either:-			
Net principal re fixed rate borrowing / investments	100%	100%	100%
Upper limit for variable rate exposure			
expressed as either:-			
Net principal re variable rate borrowing / investments	20%	20%	20%
Upper limit for total principal sums invested for over 364 days	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
(per maturity date)			

TABLE 5: Maturity structure of borrowing during 2010/11	Upper Limit	Lower Limit
under 12 months	7%	0%
12 months and within 24 months*	5%	0%
24 months and within 5 years*	13%	0%
5 years and within 10 years	32%	0%
10 years and above	43%	0%

Appendix 2: Definition of Credit Ratings

Support Ratings

Rating	
1	A bank for which there is an extremely high probability of external support. The potential provider of support is very highly rated in its own right and has a very high propensity to support the bank in question. This probability of support indicates a minimum Long-term rating floor of 'A-'.
2	A bank for which there is a high probability of external support. The potential provider of support is highly rated in its own right and has a high propensity to provide support to the bank in question. This probability of support indicates a minimum Long-term rating floor of 'BBB-'.
3	A bank for which there is a moderate probability of support because of uncertainties about the ability or propensity of the potential provider of support to do so. This probability of support indicates a minimum Long-term rating floor of 'BB-'.
4	A bank for which there is a limited probability of support because of significant uncertainties about the ability or propensity of any possible provider of support to do so. This probability of support indicates a minimum Long-term rating floor of 'B'.
5	A bank for which external support, although possible, cannot be relied upon. This may be due to a lack of propensity to provide support or to very weak financial ability to do so. This probability of support indicates a Long-term rating floor no higher than 'B-' and in many cases no floor at all.

Short-term Ratings

Rating	
F1	Highest credit quality. Indicates the strongest capacity for timely payment of financial commitments; may have an added "+" to denote any exceptionally strong credit feature.
F2	Good credit quality. A satisfactory capacity for timely payment of financial commitments, but the margin of safety is not as great as in the case of the higher ratings.
F3	Fair credit quality. The capacity for timely payment of financial commitments is adequate; however, near-term adverse changes could result in a reduction to non-investment grade.

Long-term Ratings

Rating	Current Definition (August 2003)
AAA	Highest credit quality. 'AAA' ratings denote the lowest expectation of credit risk. They are assigned only in case of exceptionally strong capacity for timely payment of financial commitments. This capacity is highly unlikely to be adversely affected by foreseeable events.
AA	Very high credit quality. 'AA' ratings denote a very low expectation of credit risk. They indicate very strong capacity for timely payment of financial commitments. This capacity is not significantly vulnerable to foreseeable events.
A	High credit quality. 'A' ratings denote a low expectation of credit risk. The capacity for timely payment of financial commitments is considered strong. This capacity may, nevertheless, be more vulnerable to changes in circumstances or in economic conditions than is the case for higher ratings.
BBB	Good credit quality. 'BBB' ratings indicate that there is currently a low expectation of credit risk. The capacity for timely payment of financial commitments is considered adequate, but adverse changes in circumstances and in economic conditions are more likely to impair this capacity. This is the lowest investment-grade category

Individual Ratings

Rating	
A	A very strong bank. Characteristics may include outstanding profitability and balance sheet integrity, franchise, management, operating environment or prospects.
B	A strong bank. There are no major concerns regarding the bank. Characteristics may include strong profitability and balance sheet integrity, franchise, management, operating environment or prospects
C	An adequate bank, which, however, possesses one or more troublesome aspects. There may be some concerns regarding its profitability and balance sheet integrity, franchise, management, operating environment or prospects.
D	A bank, which has weaknesses of internal and/or external origin. There are concerns regarding its profitability, substance and resilience, balance sheet integrity, franchise, management, operating environment or prospects. Banks in emerging markets are necessarily faced with a greater number of potential deficiencies of external origin.
E	A bank with very serious problems, which either requires or is likely to require external support.

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LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

COUNCIL MEETING

WEDNESDAY 13th JULY 2011

**MOTIONS SUBMITTED BY
MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL**

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

SUMMARY

1. Fourteen motions have been submitted by Members of the Council under Council Procedure Rule 13 for debate at the Council meeting on Wednesday 13th July 2011.
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; or which proposes that a decision of the Council taken in the previous six months be rescinded; unless notice of the motion is given signed by at least twenty Members.
4. There is no specific duration set for this agenda item and consideration of the attached motions may continue until the time limit for the meeting is reached. The guillotine procedure at Council Procedure Rule 9.2 does not apply to motions on notice and any of the attached motions which have not been put to the vote when the time limit for the meeting is reached will be deemed to have fallen. A motion which is not put to the vote at the current meeting may be resubmitted for the next meeting but is not automatically carried forward.

MOTIONS

Set out overleaf are the motions that have been submitted.

12.1 Academy Schools – Bethnal Green Technology College

Proposer: Councillor Bill Turner

Seconder: Councillor Amy Whitelock

This Council notes:

1. That education results in Tower Hamlets have improved at a faster rate than in any other area of the country over the last 10 years.
2. This significant improvement in attainment has been achieved through collective working between schools and the Local Authority, under previous Labour administrations.
3. That the previous Labour Government initiated the academy programme as a way of leveraging funding for improvements in failing schools.
4. That the Tory-led coalition Government's policy to allow outstanding schools to automatically become academies and others to apply for academy status is an extension of their policy of opt-outs in the 1990s and will allow thousands of privately owned and managed schools to operate, fully funded by the taxpayer.
5. That Tower Hamlets Council has consistently maintained its support for non-selective comprehensive education and has previously declined the prospect of an academy in the borough, believing our schools are stronger together than apart.

This Council further notes:

1. Bethnal Green Technology College (BGTC) proposes to become an academy with the intended conversion date of 1st January 2012.
2. BGTC has moved rapidly from special measures and made significant progress in the last three years with exam results rising from 27% 5+ A* to C including English and Maths in 2007 to 59% in 2010.
3. This improvement has been achieved with support from the Local Authority, including £17 million of funding from Building Schools for the Future (BSF).
4. Officers at Tower Hamlets Council are committed to working closely with the leadership and governors of BGTC to achieve the highest aspirations of the school, and the Lead Member for Children's Services has stated his own commitment in this regard.
5. That the leadership of the school however has identified a problem with high levels of midterm admissions, that they believe the Council has failed to resolve.
6. Sir William Burrough and Ian Mikardo schools have also registered interest in academy status.

7. Many local groups and individuals are opposed to BGTC's and other schools' applications for academy status, including the National Union of Teachers, East London Teachers' Association and local headteachers, several of whom have publicly made a convincing case for the damage academy status would do to the community of schools in our borough, with few tangible benefits for the schools in question.

This Council further notes:

1. That academies are removed from local accountability structures, meaning parents and pupils have no recourse to assistance from local authorities.
2. That academies are not subject to the admissions procedures of the local authority.
3. That there is no conclusive evidence that academy schools are more effective at raising educational standards than other types of maintained school.
4. That academies have a destabilising effect on the ability of neighbouring schools to achieve a balance of abilities amongst their pupil intakes.
5. That exclusions of pupils in academies have been significantly higher than the national average.
6. That parental representation on governing bodies is minimal.
7. That unlike maintained schools, academies are not required to automatically recognise trade unions and many choose not to and that academies are not required to adhere to the national terms of pay and conditions for teachers, meaning that many teachers are subject to inferior arrangements for pay, conditions of service or working time.

This Council believes:

1. That the long-standing principle of the non-selective comprehensive system must be defended, to ensure all our children in Tower Hamlets have free and equal access to a high quality education, regardless of background or income.
2. That the Tory-led Government's academy programme is intended to break up Local Authority involvement in education and extend privatisation in education, removing schools from local, democratic control.
3. That if one school converts to an academy, this will undermine the collective agreement to date between schools that remaining with the Local Authority is in the best interests of local children and there is too much to lose by opting out.
4. That this could lead to more schools becoming academies and result in a two-tier system of state education in Tower Hamlets, with the Local Authority powerless to drive up standards or ensure consistent admission standards or curriculums.

5. That BGTC has significantly benefitted from the strong collective approach to education in Tower Hamlets, not least agreement among local schools that BGTC should be prioritised for BSF funding.
6. That the principle aims of BGTC's academy bid – to become an outstanding school and to become popular and fully subscribed – can be achieved under the current system with support from the Local Authority, as with Stepney Green school before.

This Council resolves:

1. To oppose any future proposal to establish an academy school in Tower Hamlets.
2. To urge the Headteacher and Governors of Bethnal Green Technology College to reconsider their application for academy status and stay within the Local Authority family of schools.
3. To work with other schools to maintain support for the collective system of state education provision in Tower Hamlets.
4. To work with BGTC to effectively address its concerns with high levels of midterm admissions.
5. Where schools do convert to academies, to work with parents, teachers and the unions to encourage cooperation with the Local Authority and other schools, to ensure local children's access high quality education is not undermined.

12.2 Parks and Open Spaces

Proposer: Councillor David Snowdon

Seconder: Councillor Zara Davis

This Council notes:

- That there are plans to hire out Sir John McDougal Gardens, Millwall Park and Island Gardens for commercial and private events
- Local residents and users of these parks have gathered a petition to oppose the introduction of any commercial or private events in these parks
- Commercial events held in Victoria Park have caused a number of problems including excessive noise, high levels of traffic congestion and local residents being unable to use the park for peace and recreation

This Council believes:

- That our parks and open spaces are a vital resource for leisure, enjoyment and wellbeing, particularly in Tower Hamlets where so many residents live in flats

This Council resolves:

- That Sir John McDougal Gardens, Millwall Park and Island Gardens will remain solely for the use of residents and community groups for the purposes of recreation, leisure and sports.

12.3 No to Academy Conversion

Proposer: Councillor Fozol Miah

Seconded: Councillor Harun Miah

This Council notes that

- a) Bethnal Green Technology College has started the process of converting to an academy
- b) Bethnal Green Technology College has received almost £20 million of public money as part of the previous Labour government's excellent Building Schools for the Future programme
- c) Bethnal Green Technology College's results have been improving after a long, troubled period
- d) These improvements in buildings and standards have taken place in co-operation with Tower Hamlets Local Education Authority
- e) Bethnal Green Technology College has rolls that are still too small placing current staffing levels in jeopardy
- f) the Cabinet member for Education has pledged to do all he can to promote the standing of the school amongst parents
- g) conversion to an academy will place the school in the hands of a private limited company which could then be taken over by one of the new "edubusinesses"
- h) there is no evidence that academy status leads to an improvement in results and a number of academy conversions have gone on to fail
- i) academy conversion will lead to a loss of LEA support for the school which is vital for its future success
- j) academy conversion will lead to destructive competition between schools, undermine social inclusion and lead to selection by the back door
- k) academy conversion will lead to the undermining of teachers' national pay and conditions
- l) the consultation period for academy conversion was only three weeks long and very one-sided, with promoters of conversion able to use the school's facilities and authority to promote conversion whilst there was no statutory provision for parents to hear the many arguments against academy conversion.

This Council believes that

- a) the "consultation" process conducted by those seeking to convert Bethnal Green Technology College into an academy has been wholly inadequate

- b) the introduction of academies in Tower Hamlets will undermine the Tower Hamlets family of schools and the integrated comprehensive public education system on which our children depend for their success
- c) strong action needs to be taken to promote Bethnal Green Technology College and overcome the stigma attached to it and the Mayor should take all necessary action to achieve this
- d) academy conversion is not the means by which either BGTC or schoolchildren in general in the borough will see their education standards raised and the quality of education improved
- e) those promoting academy conversion at Bethnal Green Technology College should abandon this process forthwith and instead work with the council to ensure that the recent improvements and successes at Bethnal Green Technology College become sustainable for the long term.

12.4 Housing Benefit Leaks to the Press

Proposer: Councillor Rabina Khan

Seconder: Councillor Alibor Choudhury

This Council notes:

- The un-amended passing of the Housing Benefit Motion at the last Full Council Meeting which condemned the reduction in Housing Benefit brought about by the Coalition Government.
- We have a duty of care to all our residents and service users.
- The East London Advertiser article on April 21st which detailed the Council's spending on housing benefit and singled out payment to one family.

This Council believes that:

- Housing Benefit is a vital benefit for residents in this borough, ensuring that residents can stay in the borough, families can stay above the poverty line and helping to tackle overcrowding.
- The singling out the level of benefit received by a single family in the press is irresponsible journalism.
- The only way for this information to be out in the open would be through a Members Inquiry and/or the leaking of confidential information.

This Council resolves:

- To continue to help residents and those to whom we have a duty of care, to access all the benefits they are entitled to.
- To exhort Councillors and Officers to ensure that any confidential information they are privy to is not leaked to the press, where it can be used to persecute a single family and divide the community.

12.5 Housing Sales Phases 2 and 3

Proposer: Councillor Judith Gardiner

Seconder: Councillor Helal Uddin

This Council notes that:

1. Tower Hamlets has amongst the highest levels of housing need in London with the waiting list standing at about 23,000 households. Of these, over 1,677 households need a home with four bedrooms or more.
2. Despite this, in December 2010, the newly elected Mayor and his Cabinet agreed to dispose of 5 properties in Swaton Road and two other properties – 19 Parfett St (a 6 bed house) 102 Tredegar Road. In April 2011 the Cabinet also agreed to dispose of 63A Sewardstone Road - on the open market by auction.
3. A further 12 properties in Bruce Road, Old Ford Road and Mount Terrace have also been identified for sale.
4. The sales of Swaton Road properties have now taken place and have achieved some £1.6m, the sale of 19 Parfett St, 102 Tredegar Road and 63A Sewardstone Road have already been advertised.

This Council believes

1. That given the desperate need for family size and street level properties in this Borough, disposal of such properties should be halted.
2. That it was wrong for the Mayor to reverse the Labour cabinet's decision to seek to maintain family sized homes as social housing and instead sell them to the highest bidder.

This Council therefore calls upon the Mayor to ensure

1. That receipts from any such sales are ring-fenced for the provision of new family size homes, preferably in the areas where these homes are being lost, rather than for other housing purposes.

12.6 London Permit Scheme

Proposer: Councillor Zara Davis

Seconder: Councillor Gloria Thienel

This Council notes that:

- Boris Johnson introduced the London Permit Scheme for road works and street works in January 2010
- Fifteen boroughs, the City of London and TfL participated the scheme from the outset
- A further nine boroughs have since joined the London Permit Scheme and two more intend to join shortly
- The first year evaluation report on the permit scheme has shown that it is a success
- The total of number of works undertaken by utility companies has reduced by 17% in the permitting authorities, compared to only 7% in non-permitting authorities
- The number of collaborative work sites, where utility companies and the highway authority undertake works on the same road at the same time has increased by 130% in permitting authorities, thereby enormously reducing the number of times that the same stretch of road is dug up
- The number of days of disruption saved through joint working and collaboration increased from 726 days in 2009 to 1793 days in 2010, i.e. an increase of 147%.

The Council resolves to:

- Join the London Permit Scheme as soon as possible to ensure that residents in Tower Hamlets can benefit from a reduced number of road works and reduced disruption to their journeys

12.7 Public sector pensions and strike action

Proposer: Councillor Harun Miah

Seconder: Councillor Fozol Miah

This Council notes

- a) the draconian changes to public sector pension contributions and entitlement being proposed by the Con Dem government
- b) the misleading impression initially conveyed by this government that public sector pensions as currently constituted are “unaffordable”
- c) that in fact the cost of public sector pensions as a proportion of the total wealth and income of the economy is going to fall dramatically over the next few years under current provisions
- d) that the government has shifted its justification to claiming that public sector pensions are “untenable” but that nowhere in the Hutton report on public sector pensions does the word “untenable” appear
- e) that the attack on public sector pensions represents a dramatic attack on the standards of living of huge numbers of public servants, many of whom are low paid
- f) that 750,000 public sector unions representing civil servants and teachers at all levels of education went on strike on 30th June against this attacks on their pension rights
- g) that more public sector workers will almost certainly come out on strike in October in the biggest wave of strike action since the worst days of Margaret Thatcher if the government does not withdraw its proposals to attack public sector pension rights

This Council believes

- a) the attack on public sector pensions is grossly unfair
- b) that the media campaign of vilification against public servants and their trade unions encouraged by the government is a disgrace
- c) that public sector trade unions were entirely justified in their strike action on 30th June
- d) that public sector trade unions will be justified in taking strike action in October if the attack on public sector pension rights are not withdrawn
- e) that private sector pension provision which itself has been under attack over the last few years should be levelled up rather than public sector pensions levelled down to average private sector provision

- f) the government should withdraw its proposals to slash public sector pension rights immediately

This Council will support public sector trade unions taking legitimate strike action against the attack on public sector pension rights by this government of the rich for the rich and strike action against the unnecessary and counter-productive cuts that are adversely affecting the least well off and ordinary working families in our community

12.8 Proposed NHS Reforms

Proposer: Councillor Rania Khan

Seconder: Councillor Alibor Choudhury

This Council notes that:

- The Tory led government is pushing through the Health and Social Care Bill despite criticisms from all sides: patient groups, professional groups and health experts.
- The proposed reforms are too risky, too costly, a danger to the commissioning of key health services and a distraction from the need to find efficiencies.
- The Conservatives broke their promise not to conduct a top-down reorganisation of the NHS (“With the Conservatives there will be no more of the tiresome, meddlesome, top-down re-structures that have dominated the last decade of the NHS” – *David Cameron, speech at the Royal College of Pathologists, 2 November 2009*).
- The so called ‘listening exercise’ is a sham as the policy is carrying on as if nothing had happened.
- The proposed reforms will expose every part of the NHS to the private sector.

This Council believes that:

- The reforms will fragment the NHS, with free market principles destroying the delicate work that has been undertaken to promote integration of NHS services.
- “Any Willing Provider” allows for large national conglomerates to eclipse local medics and third-sector organisations in competition for service contracts.
- There is the potential for large, national, profit-making conglomerates to ‘cherry-pick’ low-risk, profitable services and leave local medics and the voluntary sector to pick up those services that are more difficult to manage. This will adversely impact on vulnerable patients.
- Imposing UK and EU Competition law on our health service will compromise patients’ welfare as decisions will be made by lawyers and judges rather than doctors and nurses.

This Council resolves:

- To lobby against the government’s reforms which will clearly put profits before public welfare.
- To campaign for the core value of the NHS to be unaffected: care provided on the basis of need, not of ability to pay, through one universal service.

- To ensure that the interests of the most vulnerable in the community are not sidelined in the commissioning process.
- To offer support and guidance to relevant stakeholders in adjusting to changes.

12.9 Neighbourhood Policing

Proposer: Councillor Kosru Uddin

Secunder: Councillor Joshua Peck

This Council notes:

- That Safer Neighbourhood Teams (SNTs) were a Labour innovation and that Tower Hamlets was one of the first areas in the country to have an SNT in every ward.
- That SNTs in liaison with local ward panels have helped to tackle local crime and safety issues such as anti-social behaviour and have improved residents' confidence in the police.
- That the principle that SNTs were dedicated to their ward and could only be moved off in a very limited number of events guaranteed each area a minimum level of policing
- That police station counters provide an important service to residents who want to report crime, or seek the advice of the police in their area.

This Council further notes:

- The Metropolitan Police's recent review of neighbourhood policing, which proposed retaining SNTs, aligned to political ward boundaries with the same number of PCs and PCSOs based in each ward.
- That the review also proposed keeping the SNTs under the control of the Borough Commander and retaining their focus on addressing local crime and safety concerns.
- That the review also examines the possibility of closing front counter services at Brick Lane, Bow Road, Poplar, Limehouse and Isle of Dogs at police stations in the Borough, leaving only Bethnal Green remaining.
- That this review is driven by the Conservative-led government's 20% cuts to policing budgets nationally and Conservative Mayor Boris Johnson failure to protect London from bearing the brunt of these cuts.

This Council believes

- That the decision to retain the SNTs is a welcome one which will have a positive effect on the safety of local residents in the Borough.
- That proposals in the review for temporary re-deployment of PCs and PCSOs to other wards at the discretion of the Borough Commander raise concerns about whether all wards will continue to receive the level of support from SNTs they currently do.

- That proposals in the review allowing Sergeants to be responsible for more than one SNT raise similar concerns.
- That proposals in the review to make crime and anti-social behaviour explicit objectives of the SNTs should not take precedence over the priorities of the community as represented by local ward panels.
- That the closure of counter services in the Borough combined with national police cuts and declining officer numbers across London will have a significant impact on tackling crime.

This Council Resolves:

- To ensure the Council responds to the Metropolitan Police's consultation raising these concerns and opposing police station counter closures.

12.10 Reduction in size of Council

Proposer: Councillor Peter Golds

Seconder: Councillor Craig Aston

This Council notes:

- That with the introduction of the Executive Mayor the role of councillors has changed.
- That as a result of operating under an Executive Mayor the Unitary Borough of Hartlepool will be reduced in size from 48 to 33 members from May 2012.
- The London Borough of Lewisham has a smaller number of councillors compared to London boroughs with a similar population due to the Mayoral system and that Hammersmith likewise has a reduced council membership, although not proceeding to function with an Executive Mayor.
- The London Boroughs of Bromley and Redbridge, although working under the Cabinet system are seeking to reduce council membership to streamline their operation and save money.

Therefore, this Council calls upon the Local Government Boundary Commission for England to review the membership of Tower Hamlets Council and reduce numbers from 51 to 34 councillors by designating the existing seventeen wards to return two as opposed to three members from the 2014 local elections.

12.11 Olympic Route Network

Proposer: Councillor Denise Jones

Seconded: Councillor Anna Lynch

This Council notes:

- The Olympic Games offer a huge opportunity for London and the whole country. There is a need to strike a balance between ensuring the Olympics is run smoothly whilst minimising adverse impact on residents and businesses in the city.
- That TFL is consulting on temporary road changes for the London 2012 Games. TFL have stated "When the London 2012 Games come to the Capital, the Olympic Route Network (ORN) and Paralympic Route Network (PRN) will allow 55,000 key participants - like athletes, officials and the media - to travel reliably to and from events, while keeping London moving.
- These routes - which will operate mainly between July and September 2012 - will be open to general traffic and kept clear of general obstructions such as road works.
- Temporary Games Lanes, only accessible to Games Family and on-call emergency vehicles, will be introduced on around half of the ORN/PRN where there is sufficient road space. These will operate on offside lanes, while nearside lanes and some bus lanes will be open for general traffic"
- That the chosen route for Olympic route Network from Tower Hill to Blackwall will have the effect of 'cutting off' Wapping and reconsideration should be given to the TFL suggested closures and changes on the route.

This Council is concerned

- § That the plans to permit only one right turn onto East Smithfield/The Highway at Vaughan Way from Wapping and the numerous road closures, banned right and left turns, rerouting of buses, suspension of pedestrian crossings over the Highway will have a major detrimental impact on local business and residents, particularly elderly, disabled and school children.
- § That residents using the buses for appointments at the London Hospital and attendance at schools will be delayed in traffic jams.
- § That traffic on the Highway is already gridlocked going west in the morning and east in the evening during rush hours and also when the Blackwall Tunnel is closed due to accidents.
- § That the suggestion for deliveries to businesses in Wapping during the night time hours is impractical for most establishments.
- § That the opening of Tower Bridge on occasions could cause a traffic gridlock around the Tower Hill area.

§ That the timing of the ORN from late June until mid September 2012 from 6am until midnight each day is extended too long either side of the dates of the Olympic Games and the Paralympic Games.

§ That using lanes in going both east and west on the Highway concentrates the disruption in one area and is unfair to the residents and businesses in that location.

This Council resolves

To call on TFL and LOCOG to:

§ Run the ORN going East along the Highway and to run the ORN going West along either Whitechapel Road or Commercial Road thereby lessening the disruption in the Wapping area.

To accept that if this is not possible to call on TFL and LOCOG to make the following changes to the current proposed route:

§ To open another right turn exit from Wapping – at the top of Wapping Lane, Garnet Street or Glamis Road.

§ To introduce a yellow box junction at the Vaughan Way/Dock Street/East Smithfield/The Highway junction

§ For 24/7 police control of that junction at least while the Olympic Lane is operating (6am-midnight)

§ To rephase the traffic lights to allow more vehicles to exit Vaughan Way and Dock Street

§ To suspend parking on the north east side of Vaughan Way near the junction

§ To remove the Barclays Cycle Hire Docking Station in Vaughan Way

§ To grant exemptions (if not already factored in) for emergency vehicles.

12.12 English Defence League

Proposer: Councillor Shiria Khatun

Seconder: Councillor Kosru Uddin

This Council notes:

- That the English Defence League (EDL) has signalled its intention to hold a march in Tower Hamlets this August.
- That the EDL had planned to march through Tower Hamlets in June 2010, but after discussion with the Council, local police and community Groups, their plans were cancelled.
- That previous EDL marches around the UK have been marred by violence, racism and tension within communities.

This Council believes

- That Tower Hamlets is a community which is at its best when it is united.
- That any group or organisation that encourages division and tension in our communities is not welcome in the Borough.

This Council Resolves:

- To call on the Home Secretary to ban the proposed EDL march in Tower Hamlets.
- To work with the Mayor, political groups, the Police, Interfaith Forum and community organisations to respond to any planned action by the EDL and ensure the safety and security of residents.

12.13 Fairtrade

Proposer: Councillor Carlo Gibbs

Seconder: Councillor Anwar Khan

This Council Notes:

- That other councils have procured the following fairly traded products:
 - a) School canteens – bananas, fruit juices, bulk sugar, cereal bars, yoghurt, oranges, grapes, kiwi fruits, herbs & spices, rice – as well as other products for special events.
 - b) Cotton staff clothing - generic polo-shirts and specialised work wear such as overalls.
 - c) Helping schools purchase Fairtrade cotton uniform items by providing information. For example, John Roan School in Greenwich took a policy decision to switch all of their uniform polo-shirts and sweat shirts to Fairtrade cotton/polyester. (Over 1,000 sales annually)
 - d) Fairly traded sport balls for leisure centres and schools.
- That 'fairly-traded' should be defined in accordance with the European Parliament's Resolution on Fair Trade and Development (A6-0207/2006).

This Council Further Notes:

- That budgets for food and drink products only make up a minority of contract caterers' overall costs compared to the costs of staff wages and distribution.
- That relevant fairly traded products can only make up a tiny proportion of the overall range of products supplied to schools and council canteens.
- That several fairly traded products, like some mentioned are available at little or no extra cost compared to equivalent products,
- That one Fairtrade council paid a small premium for fairly traded bananas for schools, until their contractor managed to obtain sufficient volumes to supply all schools, which then reduced prices. Other councils have been charged no extra cost.
- Approved Product Lists – when bidding for contracts contractors often quote prices for all products on a council's Approved Product List (APL), which are then binding after the contract is awarded. At this stage they are motivated to trim margins to remain competitive. After the contract is awarded catering managers who order products not included on the APL are sometimes charged prices well in excess of the market value, if contractors use 'unlisted' items to boost margins.

- That in Africa and India cotton producers face unfair mass ‘dumping’ of US and EU subsidised surpluses which severely depress world market prices, disastrously undermining the ability of producers to improve their living standards through fair trade.
- That in the Sialkot district of Pakistan where many sports balls are made children are often involved in the manufacturing process to such an extent that they are prevented from attending school, a practice not allowed in Fairtrade certified production.
- That the living standards of many fruit farmers has been drastically undermined by large multi-national corporations driving down prices in a ‘race to the bottom’ to minimise costs. As a result in south and Central America attempts to form unions have been ruthlessly suppressed by local vested interests. In Guatemala fifty union activists have been killed since 2007, including five union leaders representing workers on banana plantations.

This Council Believes:

- That the Council should support initiatives which improve producers’ living standards by such measures as:
 - a) Guaranteed minimum prices that always cover production costs; part payments in advance; prohibiting the use of child labour where this prevents children attending school; empowering producers through building long term relationships and contracts.
 - b) Enabling communities to invest in development schemes and sustainable production, with environmental safeguards. Products certified by the Fairtrade Foundation have robust standards for both, independently verified. Equivalent ‘ethically traded’ products should also be considered where it can be demonstrated that they meet these criteria. The Council particularly applauds fair trade companies such as Divine Chocolate and Cafe Direct where producers also share in profits and are involved in decision making.

This Council resolves:

- That all relevant fairly-traded products should be considered for all council facilities or services: schools and social services; sixth forms; offices; leisure centres; libraries; community centres, Adult Education centres; theatres, civic centres, etc - including vending machines.
- That a Councillor and officer should be given responsibility for developing Fairtrade policy in consultation with procurement officers and the Steering Group. Relevant officers should be made aware of revised policies and their roles. Legal advice, support and training should be given where necessary.
- That as limited price premiums for a small minority of products cause a negligible increase in contract caterers’ costs, it is reasonable for the council to expect contractors to supply them at no extra cost. Judgements on this issue should be

made in transparent, collaborative consultations. If contractors require information on potential suppliers or products officers can assist them, in consultation with the Steering Group if helpful.

- Advertisements / Pre Tender Questionnaires / Pre Qualification Questionnaires (PQQ's) - Although PQQ's are primarily concerned with contractors' ability to deliver services, future documents should make it clear that, as a Fairtrade council, Tower Hamlets would expect contractors to support its fair trade policy where possible.
- That Fair trade should be included in the title of relevant contracts to send a clear signal that the council would like to maximise the range of fairly traded products supplied. Example of a suitable title – 'Catering services including the provision of fairly traded products.'
- That as EU procurement law and Office of Government Commerce (OGC) Guidelines make clear, although the provision of fairly traded products cannot be a decisive factor in evaluating which company is awarded a contract, fair trade can form part of 'quality' criteria, either separately or as part of Sustainability goals. These can then be given a minority weighting in tender documents, suitably quantified, to make contractors aware that the council wishes them to make all reasonable efforts to supply as many relevant products as possible should they win the contract.
- That tender documents should also ask contractors to commit to attending periodic reviews of progress in supplying fairly trade products, where they can also consult council officers on future possibilities as markets and available products change.
- That variant bids can be asked for if officers consider they might be useful in increasing the use or range of Fairtrade products supplied.
- That approved Product Lists – should include all relevant fairly traded products to ensure that contractors cannot charge prohibitive prices after the contract is awarded simply because fairly traded products were not listed in the original APL. This would also help contractors establish competitive sources at an early stage.

This Council further resolves:

- After awarding the contract, as part of evaluating contract performance, contractors should be expected to supply the fairly traded products detailed in their tender bid, and to attend review meetings.
- That existing contractors should be approached to ask them to support the council's Fairtrade policy by supplying as many fairly traded products as possible. If Fairtrade considerations were not incorporated in the tender documents under which they were awarded a contract, officers should consult them sensitively to ensure that they are not unduly inconvenienced and that any requests are reasonable and take account of their legitimate concerns.

- That as OGC guidelines make clear, the best value for money does not always mean buying at the lowest possible price. The council's policy is to use fairly traded products where practical within existing budgets. However, officers should not be discouraged from investigating economically viable options which may involve some limited or temporary extra costs, as in circumstances such as those outlined below:
 - a) Products of superior quality. For example, some fairly traded products can cost less than items of equivalent quality with 'brand name' premiums. If other cheaper products are of lesser quality buying them may be a false economy.
 - b) If a price differential is minimal and/or volumes used are small, thereby causing a negligible increase in costs, which may be offset by savings elsewhere.
 - c) If a price differential is likely to be temporary while a contractor establishes a source for large enough volumes to reduce prices. Costs should be considered over the whole life of the contract, not solely on initial 'list prices,' which may be temporary or negotiable.
 - d) Where a more costly product is only an extra option offered in addition to existing cheaper and similar products, because in this case consumers are free to choose at the point of sale, for example, between two brands of fruit juice.
 - e) Where negligible increased costs are passed on to the end user, staff or the public. Where a fairly traded product is replacing another and the price premium is more significant users should be consulted.
 - f) Joint procurement may reduce unit costs to viable levels. Possible initiatives should be actively investigated by councillors and/or officers contacting other Fair-trade councils or networks to obtain up to date information on initiatives and conferences.
 - g) Where the council is working with partners, on their behalf, and all or most costs would be paid voluntarily by the partners.
- That public notices should be displayed in catering facilities detailing products used and council policy.
- That where practical staff should be consulted to assess the potential demand for buying fairly traded products centrally in relatively large volumes to provide them at reduced cost - something other councils have arranged in collaboration with contractors. Officers should be responsible for this to avoid burdening contractors. If such schemes prove viable a suitable range of products should be offered to give staff choice.
- That officers should review requirements and possibilities for fairly traded clothing provided to council staff. Note, Fairtrade certified cotton garments can include cotton/polyester mixes where the cotton content is 50% or more. The Steering Group could be consulted over relevant products.

- That existing contractors should be requested to use fairly-traded sports balls and include this in future tender documents.
- That embroidered polo shirts and sweat shirts, and printed T-shirts are typically available at price premiums of 10-20% for fairly traded versions, for low volume orders. Joint procurement could achieve significant savings. As many schools are unaware of these products the council should consider contacting head teachers, governors, and teachers to provide information and facilitate consultative meetings.
- That the same initiative could provide information on fairly traded sports balls, as well as products or suppliers suitable for school breakfast clubs or staff rooms. Officers should consult the Steering Group to ensure that all information is accurate and inclusive of all relevant suppliers.
- That machines dispensing chocolate should include some fairly traded chocolate. Machines dispensing hot drinks should provide fairly traded tea, coffee, sugar, and hot chocolate if used. If fruit juices or cola is used fairly traded options should be included.

12.14 Motion on Enterprise

Proposer: Councillor Rachael Saunders

Seconded: Councillor David Edgar

This Council notes:

1. That failure on growth means that this government borrowed more in the first two months of this financial year than they did in the first two months of the last financial year (ONS Stats, 21st June)
2. That the Tory led government plan has meant cuts to police, cuts to jobs, and cuts to funding for social housing.

This Council believes

1. That the Conservative led plan for cuts is hurting people in Tower Hamlets, and that it isn't working in reducing the deficit, because they have failed in promoting growth.

This Council further believes:

1. That Tower Hamlets Council has a role in supporting business, especially where business growth and innovation helps provide jobs for local people
2. That we sit in the middle of Canary Wharf and the City. It is right that we do all we can to train and encourage our young people to go for jobs in finance and professional services. It is also right that we recognise that many in Tower Hamlets have different ambitions.
3. That big businesses should give legal, financial or other professional services advice as a greater part of their corporate social responsibility contribution, to local third sector organisations and small businesses.
4. That small and medium size businesses are a vital part of our social fabric and an important partner in creating a safer, more prosperous Tower Hamlets.
5. That the local authority can do more to ensure we create the best possible environment for local economic growth.

This Council resolves

1. To campaign for big businesses based in and near Tower Hamlets to sign a pledge to undertake a minimum of 20% of their procurement from local businesses
2. To call on the Mayor to negotiate with Canary Wharf on areas including supply chain, professional advice, provision of business mentors and access to lending for local businesses. The banks, professional services firms and others based in east London will benefit themselves if they contribute further to the building of

strong local
communities.

3. To call on the Mayor to take the voices small and medium size businesses seriously, including setting up a forum to discuss issues such as business space, co-ordinating business support, feedback on planning and licensing, change of Council and partners' policies and programmes, such as planned road works and waste management, or regeneration proposals.

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