



Meeting of the

TOWER HAMLETS COUNCIL

Wednesday, 26th March 2014 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

Democratic Services Contact:

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**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, 26TH MARCH 2014**

Stephen Halsey
Head of Paid Service

Public Information

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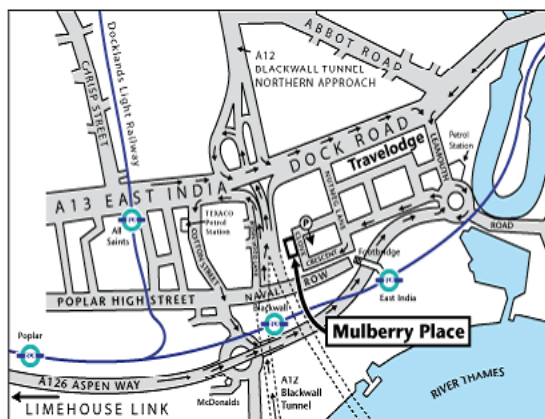
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LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

COUNCIL MEETING

WEDNESDAY, 26TH MARCH 2014

7.30 p.m.

**PAGE
NUMBER**

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

To receive any apologies for absence.

2. DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS

1 - 4

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 Monitoring Officer.

3. MINUTES

5 - 80

To confirm as a correct record of the proceedings the unrestricted minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 22nd January 2014 and of the Budget Council Meetings held on 26th February 2014 and 6th March 2014. The draft minutes are attached.

4. TO RECEIVE ANNOUNCEMENTS (IF ANY) FROM THE SPEAKER OF THE COUNCIL OR THE HEAD OF PAID SERVICE

5. TO RECEIVE PETITIONS

81 - 82

The Council Procedure Rules provide for a maximum of three petitions to be presented at an Ordinary Meeting of the Council.

The deadline for receipt of petitions for this Council meeting is noon on Thursday 20th March 2014. However at the time of agenda despatch, the maximum number of petitions has already been received as set out in the attached report.

- 6. TO RECEIVE WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC** **83 - 86**
- The questions which have been received from members of the public for this Council meeting are set out in the attached report. A maximum period of 20 minutes is allocated to this agenda item.
- 7. MAYOR'S REPORT**
- The Council's Constitution provides for the Elected Mayor to give a report at each Ordinary Council Meeting.
- A maximum of five minutes is allowed for the Elected Mayor's report, following which the Speaker of the Council will invite the respective political group leaders to respond for up to one minute each if they wish.
- 8. TO RECEIVE WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL** **87 - 92**
- The questions which have been received from Councillors to be put at this Council meeting are set out in the attached report. A maximum period of 30 minutes is allocated to this agenda item.
- 9. REPORTS FROM THE EXECUTIVE AND THE COUNCIL'S COMMITTEES**
- 9.1 Community Safety Partnership Plan 2013-16** **93 - 214**
- To adopt the Community Safety Partnership Plan (Crime and Disorder Reduction Strategy) in accordance with the Budget and Policy Framework Procedure Rules. The proposals of the Mayor and Executive for the Community Safety Partnership Plan 2013-16 are attached.
- In accordance with the Budget and Policy Framework Procedure Rules, if the Council wishes to amend the Community Safety Plan in accordance with the objections previously notified to the Mayor, a two-thirds majority of Members present and voting on the matter is required.
- 9.2 Sexual Entertainment Venues Licensing Regime, Policing and Crime Act 2009** **215 - 318**
- To consider the adoption of a legislative scheme for the control of lap dancing and striptease premises in Tower Hamlets, set out in Schedule 3 to the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982. The report of the Head of Consumer and Business Regulations is attached.

9 .3	Free School Meals for Primary Age Pupils - Virement Proposal	319 - 324
	The report of the Acting Corporate Director, Resources is attached.	
9 .4	Localism Act 2011 - Pay Policy Statement 2014-15	325 - 344
	To adopt the Council's Pay Policy Statement for 2014/15 as required by the Localism Act 2011. The reference from the Human Resources Committee including the draft Pay Policy Statement is attached.	
9 .5	Annual report of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee	345 - 364
	To receive the annual report of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for 2013/14. The annual report is attached.	
9 .6	Executive Mayor's Car	365 - 374
	To consider a reference from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee in relation to the Executive Mayor's car. The reference is attached.	
10.	TO RECEIVE REPORTS AND QUESTIONS ON JOINT ARRANGEMENTS/EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS (IF ANY)	
11.	OTHER BUSINESS	
11 .1	Review of proportionality and allocation of places on committees	375 - 378
	To undertake a review of proportionality and agree the allocation of places on committees and panels following a change in the political composition of the Council. The report of the Service Head, Democratic Services is attached.	
11 .2	Calendar of Meetings 2014/15	379 - 384
	To agree the calendar of Council, committee etc meetings for 2014/15. The report of the Service Head, Democratic Services is attached.	
11 .3	Scheme of Members' Allowances 2014/15	385 - 394
	To adopt the Members' Allowances Scheme for the forthcoming year as required by legislation. The report of the Service Head, Democratic Services is attached.	

11 .4 Investigation into Old Poplar Town Hall - update

To note progress on the investigation into Old Poplar Town Hall agreed at the Council meeting on 22nd January 2014 as follows:-

Pursuant to the Council's resolution, a report was submitted to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 4th March 2014. The Committee was informed that having been consulted on the matter, the District Auditor also wished to undertake its own investigation on this matter and the resulting enquiry was being pursued. The District Auditor's report was almost complete pending recovery of archive documents. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee members raised a number of further considerations to be addressed in the report and asked that the matter be brought back to the Committee at its meeting on 1st April 2014.

12. TO CONSIDER MOTIONS SUBMITTED BY MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

395 - 408

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

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Agenda Item 2

DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS - NOTE FROM THE MONITORING OFFICER

This note is for guidance only. For further details please consult the Members' Code of Conduct at Part 5.1 of the Council's Constitution.

Please note that the question of whether a Member has an interest in any matter, and whether or not that interest is a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest, is for that Member to decide. Advice is available from officers as listed below but they cannot make the decision for the Member. If in doubt as to the nature of an interest it is advisable to seek advice **prior** to attending a meeting.

Interests and Disclosable Pecuniary Interests (DPIs)

You have an interest in any business of the authority where that business relates to or is likely to affect any of the persons, bodies or matters listed in section 4.1 (a) of the Code of Conduct; and might reasonably be regarded as affecting the well-being or financial position of yourself, a member of your family or a person with whom you have a close association, to a greater extent than the majority of other council tax payers, ratepayers or inhabitants of the ward affected.

You must notify the Monitoring Officer in writing of any such interest, for inclusion in the Register of Members' Interests which is available for public inspection and on the Council's Website.

Once you have recorded an interest in the Register, you are not then required to declare that interest at each meeting where the business is discussed, unless the interest is a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest (DPI).

A DPI is defined in Regulations as a pecuniary interest of any of the descriptions listed at **Appendix A** overleaf. Please note that a Member's DPIs include his/her own relevant interests and also those of his/her spouse or civil partner; or a person with whom the Member is living as husband and wife; or a person with whom the Member is living as if they were civil partners; if the Member is aware that that other person has the interest.

Effect of a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest on participation at meetings

Where you have a DPI in any business of the Council you must, unless you have obtained a dispensation from the authority's Monitoring Officer following consideration by the Dispensations Sub-Committee of the Standards Advisory Committee:-

- not seek to improperly influence a decision about that business; and
- not exercise executive functions in relation to that business.

If you are present at a meeting where that business is discussed, you must:-

- Disclose to the meeting the existence and nature of the interest at the start of the meeting or when the interest becomes apparent, if later; and
- Leave the room (including any public viewing area) for the duration of consideration and decision on the item and not seek to influence the debate or decision

When declaring a DPI, Members should specify the nature of the interest and the agenda item to which the interest relates. This procedure is designed to assist the public's understanding of the meeting and to enable a full record to be made in the minutes of the meeting.

Where you have a DPI in any business of the authority which is not included in the Member's register of interests and you attend a meeting of the authority at which the business is considered, in addition to disclosing the interest to that meeting, you must also within 28 days notify the Monitoring Officer of the interest for inclusion in the Register.

Further advice

For further advice please contact:-

John Williams, Service Head, Democratic Services, 020 7364 4204

APPENDIX A: Definition of a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest

(Relevant Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012, Reg 2 and Schedule)

Subject	Prescribed description
Employment, office, trade, profession or vacation	Any employment, office, trade, profession or vocation carried on for profit or gain.
Sponsorship	<p>Any payment or provision of any other financial benefit (other than from the relevant authority) made or provided within the relevant period in respect of any expenses incurred by the Member in carrying out duties as a member, or towards the election expenses of the Member.</p> <p>This includes any payment or financial benefit from a trade union within the meaning of the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992.</p>
Contracts	<p>Any contract which is made between the relevant person (or a body in which the relevant person has a beneficial interest) and the relevant authority—</p> <p>(a) under which goods or services are to be provided or works are to be executed; and</p> <p>(b) which has not been fully discharged.</p>
Land	Any beneficial interest in land which is within the area of the relevant authority.
Licences	Any licence (alone or jointly with others) to occupy land in the area of the relevant authority for a month or longer.
Corporate tenancies	<p>Any tenancy where (to the Member's knowledge)—</p> <p>(a) the landlord is the relevant authority; and</p> <p>(b) the tenant is a body in which the relevant person has a beneficial interest.</p>
Securities	<p>Any beneficial interest in securities of a body where—</p> <p>(a) that body (to the Member's knowledge) has a place of business or land in the area of the relevant authority; and</p> <p>(b) either—</p> <p>(i) the total nominal value of the securities exceeds £25,000 or one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that body; or</p> <p>(ii) if the share capital of that body is of more than one class, the total nominal value of the shares of any one class in which the relevant person has a beneficial interest exceeds one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that class.</p>

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LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL

HELD AT 7.30 P.M. ON WEDNESDAY, 22ND JANUARY 2014

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

Members Present:

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

The meeting commenced at 7.32 p.m.

The Speaker of the Council, Councillor Lesley Pavitt, in the Chair.

NOTE - AGENDA ORDER

During the meeting the Council agreed to vary the order of business. To aid clarity, the Minutes are presented in the order that the items originally appeared on the agenda. Urgent motions, moved with the agreement of the Council without notice, are listed at item 13.

The order of business as taken at the meeting was as follows:

Items:

- 1 – Apologies for Absence
- 2 – Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests
- 3 – Minutes
- 4 – To receive announcements (if any) from the speaker of the Council or the Head of Paid Service
- 5 – Petitions (5.1 to 5.2)
- 12.8 – Motion on Leaseholder Charges
- 5 – Petitions (5.3)
- 6 – Public Questions (6.1 to 6.3)
- 12.11 – Motion regarding Nelson Mandela
- 6 – Public Questions (6.4 to 6.9)
- 7 – Mayor’s Report
- 13.1 – Urgent motion regarding Old Poplar Town Hall
- 8 – Members’ Questions (8.1 to 8.2)
- 12.1 – Motion regarding the “March against alcohol”
- 8 – Members’ Questions (8.3)
- 13.2 – Urgent motion regarding electoral integrity
- 8 – Members’ Questions (8.4 to 8.5)
- 9.1 – Watts Grove Depot report
- 11.1 – Health and Wellbeing Board report
- 12 – Motions (12.3, 12.6, 12.10 and 12.12)

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors Lutfu Begum, Ann Jackson, Anwar Khan and Fozol Miah. Apologies for lateness were received on behalf of Councillor Khales Uddin Ahmed.

2. DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS

No declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests were made.

Procedural Motions

At this point Councillor Carlo Gibbs **moved** and Councillor Bill Turner **seconded** a procedural motion “that under Procedure Rule 14.1.3 the order of business be varied such that when Item 12 (Motions) is reached the order of motions to be considered should be: 12.11, 12.3, 12.6, 12.8, 12.10, 12.12 and then all remaining motions in order”.

The procedural motion was put to the vote and was **agreed**.

Councillor Shahed Ali then **moved** and Councillor Rania Khan **seconded** a procedural motion “that under Procedure Rule 14.1.3 the order of business be

varied to debate Motion 12.9 (“Motion regarding Transport for London fare rises”) as the next item of business.

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

3. MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the unrestricted minutes of the Ordinary Council meeting held on 27 November 2013 be confirmed as a correct record and the Speaker be authorised to sign them accordingly.

4. TO RECEIVE ANNOUNCEMENTS (IF ANY) FROM THE SPEAKER OF THE COUNCIL OR THE HEAD OR PAID SERVICE

The Speaker of the Council made three announcements:

- Following the recent death of Nelson Mandela, to place on record the Council’s tribute to him and recognition of the many achievements of his life.
- That this year’s Poppy Appeal had raised £13,626.96 a sum that was over £2,000 more than last year and to thank Councillor Craig Aston for co-ordinating the appeal.
- Relating to conduct at Council meetings, the Speaker reminded all those present in the public gallery of their responsibility to behave appropriately and should any Member experience problems they were to alert the Speaker without delay.

5. TO RECEIVE PETITIONS

5.1 Petition regarding initiatives to create a sustainable environment

Mr Muhammad Haque addressed the meeting on behalf of the petitioners and responded to questions from Members. Councillor Shahed Ali, Cabinet Member for Environment, then responded to the matters raised in the petition. He welcomed the sentiment expressed in the petition and called on all groups to work together to achieve a unified Tower Hamlets.

RESOLVED

That the petition be referred to the Service Head, Corporate Strategy and Equalities for a written response on any outstanding matters within 28 days.

5.2 Petition regarding leaseholder charges and services delivered by Tower Hamlets Homes

Ms Allison Charles addressed the meeting on behalf of the petitioners and responded to questions from Members. Councillor Rabina Khan, Cabinet Member for Housing, then responded to the matters raised in the petition. She agreed with the need to improve the methodologies used by Tower Hamlets Homes and stated that the Council were undertaking an audit to look to do just that. She would work with Leaseholders to try and achieve a satisfactory outcome.

RESOLVED

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

Procedural Motions

At this point Councillor Carlo Gibbs **moved** and Councillor Bill Turner **seconded** a procedural motion "that under Procedure Rule 14.1.3 the order of business be varied to debate Motion 12.8 ("Leaseholder Service Charges") as the next item of business.

The procedural motion was put to the vote and was **agreed**. The Council therefore proceeded to debate Motion 12.8 (see minute 12 below).

5.3 Petition regarding Anti-Social Behaviour at Anson House

Residents of Anson House addressed the meeting on behalf of the petitioners and responded to questions from Members. Councillor Ohid Ahmed, Deputy Mayor, then responded to the matters raised in the petition. He stated that he was aware of the issue and he highlighted the actions the Council were already undertaking such as the installation of new doors and THEO patrols. He promised to work with residents and to monitor the situation until a solution was found.

RESOLVED

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

6. TO RECEIVE WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

The following questions and in each case (except where indicated) a supplementary question were put and were responded to by the relevant Executive Members.

6.1 Question from Ms Julia Dockerill

What progress has been made by the Mayor and his Executive with respect to the application made by the Turk's Head charity to have Wapping Green formally designated as a protected, official 'village green' under the Commons Act of 2006?

Response by Councillor Rania Khan, Cabinet Member for Culture

Thank you Ms. Dockerill for your question, we have received your application and this is being reviewed across several service areas.

Summary of Supplementary Question from Ms Dockerill

The application was made a year ago. Why has it taken so long?

Summary of Councillor Rania Khan's response to the Supplementary Question

The application is being reviewed.

6.2 Question from Mr Matthew Smith

Will the Mayor inform residents as to the progress of his proposals for the Community Infrastructure Levy?

Response by Councillor Rabina Khan, Cabinet Member for Housing

Thank you for your question Mr Smith. The Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) was introduced by the government in 2010. It allows councils to raise funds by levying charges on new developments. The Council is already collecting the Mayor of London's CIL for Crossrail.

The Revised Draft Charging Schedule was approved at Cabinet on 9 October 2013; our most recent consultation closed on 2 December and we anticipate full implementation in summer/autumn this year.

Summary of Supplementary Question from Mr Matthew Smith

The process has taken a long time. Are there any lessons to be learnt about working more co-operatively with the Mayor of London and the GLA to ensure the CIL gets implemented properly?

Summary of Councillor Rabina Khan's response to the Supplementary Question

Agreeing a CIL is a complicated process. The Mayor of London is making the process more difficult by trying to collect further contributions to support Crossrail which then reduces funding for the local area. If you are concerned about this I would ask you to speak to the Mayor of London.

6.3 Question from Mrs S Morrison

What is the Mayor doing to honour the legacy of Nelson Mandela?

Response by Councillor Ohid Ahmed, Deputy Mayor

Thank you for your question Mrs Morrison.

First of all, let me say that we are all deeply saddened by the death of this great man.

Nelson Mandela's life is important not just because he ended apartheid, but because he gave inspiration to millions fighting injustice, inequality and racism across the world.

And let's not pretend that the fight for racial equality is over. Even here in modern Britain, prejudice against Black and Minority Ethnic Communities remains.

There is a motion on tonight's agenda that lays out what we want to do, including naming a building in the new Blackwall Reach development after Mr Mandela.

Summary of Supplementary Question from Mrs S Morrison

Can you please ensure that his legacy is commemorated as part of Black History month?

Summary of Councillor Ohid Ahmed's response to the Supplementary Question

Yes, we will look to do that.

Procedural Motion

At this point Councillor Ohid Ahmed **moved** and Councillor Alibor Choudhury **seconded** a procedural motion "that under Procedure Rule 14.1.3 the order of business be varied to debate Motion 12.11 ("Motion on Nelson Mandela") as the next item of business.

The procedural motion was put to the vote and was **agreed**. The Council therefore proceeded to debate Motion 12.11 (see minute 12 below).

6.4 Question from Mr Shah Ahmed

What is the Mayor doing about behaviour in Full Council meetings?

Response by Councillor Ohid Ahmed, Deputy Mayor

Thank you for your question Mr Ahmed.

This meeting is run by the Chair who is a member of the majority Labour Group. It is their job to regulate councillors' behaviour.

Summary of Supplementary Question from Mr Shah Ahmed

What comment do you have on the appalling targeting of perfectly legitimate volunteers that I saw at the last Council meeting?

Summary of Councillor Ohid Ahmed's response to the Supplementary Question

I was shocked by the behaviour. On the one hand people are encouraged to get involved in local democracy but then this happens when they do.

6.5 Question from Ms Nasmin Sultana

Can The Mayor tell me why Poplar Business Park went to appeal and was granted planning consent and what losses the council incurred?

[Note: A similar question was also received from Mr Shahin Uddin. Ms Sultana's question is listed above as it was received first. Mr Uddin will receive a written response to his question after the meeting.]

Response by Councillor Rabina Khan, Cabinet Member for Housing

Thank you Ms. Sultana for your question. I'm afraid I will have to ask my colleagues on the other benches to explain why they felt they knew better than our experienced planning officers and why, despite knowing that in this national political climate the Government is consistently ruling in favour of developers, they chose to make this decision.

Development plans for Poplar Business Park were submitted to the Strategic Development Committee in March 2012 with officers recommending it be approved. The opposition refused, on the basis that the percentage of affordable housing was at 25% well below our policy levels.

At the April committee developers increased the level of affordable housing to 28%; however the Committee still refused permission. The developers decided to appeal the application by means of a Public Inquiry in July 2012.

The appeal was called in by the Secretary of State and in September 2013 he issued his decision to uphold the appeal. More importantly the Secretary of State gave planning permission, with only 20% affordable housing.

The irresponsibility of the planning committee led to a loss of 16 affordable rented units. Moreover the appeal cost us almost £100,000 to defend this decision.

I'm sure you will be glad to know that despite the, at best naive and irresponsible and at worst politically malevolent, behaviour – the Mayor is still on target to deliver 4,000 homes over his term.

Summary of Supplementary Question from Ms Nasmin Sultana

This has happened at the same time as we are being asked to make service cuts. Why are they doing this?

Summary of Councillor Rabina Khan's response to the Supplementary Question

I suggest you put that question to the GLA Member, he may be able to help.

6.8 Question from Kois Miah

Is the Lead Member aware of the campaign against the organisation "Student Rights" and will he join us in condemning their divisive rhetoric and tactics?

Response by Councillor Oliur Rahman, Cabinet Member for Children's Services

Thank you for your question Mr Miah. This organisation has been condemned by the National Union of Students, among others, for conducting anti-Muslim witch-hunts.

It is backed by some very unsavoury Neo-cons and seems hell-bent on attacking the freedom of Muslim students.

Summary of Supplementary Question by Kois Miah

The local MP Jim Fitzpatrick is on the board, do you call on him to resign?

Summary of Councillor Oliur Rahman's response to the Supplementary Question

I am not aware of who is on the board but if Mr Fitzpatrick is then I would call on him to consider his position.

6.9 Question from Mr Azmal Hussain

Restaurants in Brick Lane have been trading for the last 50 years, we run an honest and transparent business, Our customers are sensible and polite customers, they do not and have not in the past created any anti-social behaviour in the area. Recently the bars, clubs, pubs and off licenses have given rise to anti-social behaviour, street urination in the area. Then why have the restaurants been included in the Saturation policy, when we were not consulted fully in the saturation policy consultation, and feel again the Bangladeshi restaurants have been targeted?

Response by Councillor Ohid Ahmed, Deputy Mayor

Thank you Mr Hussain for your question. The objective of the cumulative impact policy is to manage anti-social behaviour in the area and to take this into account when issuing licences. This policy was formulated to reduce anti-social behaviour, not to target restaurants.

There was an extensive consultation for over 3 months from the 21st December 2012 to 22nd March 2013 on the saturation policy. A public meeting was also held in Toynbee Hall.

All Bangladeshi restaurants that hold a license were written to individually and informed about the consultation. Bangladeshi restaurant owners attended public meetings and did object to the policy. The local community other licence holders and residents forums also attended the consultation meetings.

The consultation resulted in 81.4% of responses in favour of the introduction of the cumulative impact policy and specifically 69.9% of responses considered that all on-licenced premises (restaurants etc.) should be included in the saturation policy.

Since implementation of the policy no one has lost their licence and there has not been any complaint about the policy. We invite and welcome any comments if anyone would like to raise any issues about the policy.

Summary of Supplementary Question from Mr Azmal Hussain

Can the saturation policy be suspended until we can have a consultation and the chance to apply for adequate planning permissions?

Summary of Councillor Ohid Ahmed's response to the Supplementary Question

I am happy to meet with you to discuss the issues you have raised.

Question 6.6 was not put at the meeting as the questioner was not present. The Service Head, Democratic Services indicated that a written response would be provided. [Note: the written response is included in Appendix A to these minutes.]

Question 6.7 was withdrawn.

7. MAYOR'S REPORT

The Mayor made his report to the Council meeting, extending a welcome to all present.

In particular the Mayor echoed the Speaker's tribute to Nelson Mandela and he also highlighted the significance of Holocaust Memorial Day to the East End of London.

The Leader of the Majority Group and the Leader of each Minority Group then responded briefly to the Mayor's report.

Procedural Motion

At this point Councillor Tim Archer **moved** and Councillor Peter Golds **seconded** a procedural motion "that under Procedure Rule 14.1.15, Rule 13.1 be suspended to enable an urgent motion calling for an investigation into Old Poplar Town Hall to be debated without notice as the next item of business." The text of the proposed urgent motion was circulated to the meeting.

The procedural motion was put to the vote and was **agreed**. The Council therefore proceeded to debate the urgent motion (see minute 13 below).

8. TO RECEIVE WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

The following questions and in each case (except where indicated) a supplementary question were put and were responded to by the relevant Executive Member.

8.1 Question from Councillor Denise Jones

Sadly for the second year running we are meeting after more stabbings in Wapping over the Christmas period. This year's incident came at an illegal rave which spiralled out of control. Will the Mayor tell us what steps he has taken since he came to power to crack down on this type of activity as well as to combat knife crime on our streets?

Response by Councillor Ohid Ahmed, Deputy Mayor

Thank you for your question Councillor Jones. Knife crime is a serious issue, not just in Tower Hamlets but across London. Boris Johnson's police cuts are making it harder to take on this issue.

As soon as I heard of it, I ordered the Head of Paid Service to work with the police and check the security of vacant properties in the borough and to improve intelligence to crack down on these sorts of gatherings.

However, we are working hard to do what we can with what we have. We've invested £2.2m in new THEOs and £2m in new police officers.

Summary of Supplementary Question from Councillor Denise Jones

How are you going to prevent future incidents like this from happening?

Summary of Councillor Ohid Ahmed's response to the Supplementary Question

We know the problems and are trying to solve them.

8.2 Question from Councillor Peter Golds

Will the Mayor explain the reasons for the conflicting statements issued by the council in his name regarding the march against the sale of alcohol organised by Anjem Choudhary in Brick Lane during December?

Response by Councillor Ohid Ahmed, Deputy Mayor

It is not true that conflicting statements were issued.

The initial response issued by our communications team was not cleared by the Mayor and should not have been sent out.

For the record the Mayor approved the following statement in the aftermath of the demonstration:-

"As part of our pledge to 'No Place for Hate', we oppose all groups that seek to impose their views on and bring division to our communities. Council staff worked with the police to ensure that the businesses, residents and visitors on Brick Lane were protected during the demonstration."

Summary of Supplementary Question from Councillor Peter Golds

Conflicting statements were issued. What happened between the two statements being issued? The public should know and the Mayor should tell us.

Summary of Councillor Ohid Ahmed's response to the Supplementary Question

You are not looking at the bigger picture. We want to make sure that everyone who lives and works in the borough feels safe.

Procedural Motions

At this point Councillor Peter Golds **moved** and Councillor Tim Archer **seconded** a procedural motion "that under Procedure Rule 14.1.3 the order of business be varied to debate Motion 12.1 ("Motion regarding the Mayor's statements on the "March against alcohol") as the next item of business.

The procedural motion was put to the vote and was **agreed**. The Council therefore proceeded to debate Motion 12.1 (see minute 12 below).

8.3 Question from Councillor Rachael Saunders

At the Council's last meeting the Mayor sat for over an hour whilst serious questions were asked about the integrity and legality of his re-election campaign. The Mayor has also refused to attend any of the ten Overview and Scrutiny meetings this municipal year. Does he not realise that he, like us, was elected by the people of Tower Hamlets and that he has a duty to justify his decisions both to residents and the councillors they have elected to hold him to account?

Response by Councillor Alibor Choudhury, Cabinet Member for Resources

All questions were answered by Cabinet members. This is called delegation. All of your absurd and unsupported allegations have been denied by the Mayor both in print and at the last Cabinet meeting.

Summary of Supplementary Question from Councillor Rachael Saunders

You have not denied this and I have not received any response written or verbally. Do you pay anyone to canvass for you, how do you pay for them, when will the Mayor submit a campaign costs declaration to the Electoral Commission and are there any links between the grants and his campaign funding?

Summary of Councillor Alibor Choudhury's response to the Supplementary Question

There is nothing improper going on but I do have information on a 'cash for nominations' scheme going on in the Labour group.

Procedural Motion

At this point Councillor Carlo Gibbs **moved** and Councillor Rachael Saunders **seconded** a procedural motion “that under Procedure Rule 14.1.15, Rule 13.1 be suspended to enable an urgent motion on the integrity of the upcoming elections to be debated without notice as the next item of business.” The text of the proposed urgent motion was circulated to the meeting.

The procedural motion was put to the vote and was **agreed**. The Council therefore proceeded to debate the urgent motion (see minute 13 below).

8.5 Question from Councillor Joshua Peck

Is the Deputy Mayor happy with the level of dog fouling and street cleanliness in his ward and in the borough as a whole?

Response by Councillor Ohid Ahmed, Deputy Mayor

Thank you for your question Councillor Joshua Peck. No amount of dog fouling is ever acceptable, and so as long as there is even one piece of dog fouling that goes unreported or is seen by a resident, I can never be ‘happy’ with the level of dog fouling in my ward, or in the borough.

This is why we are doing lots of good things and as a result the borough is the cleanest it has ever been.

Summary of Supplementary Question from Councillor Joshua Peck

I am not surprised that the Deputy Mayor says does not want to see any dog fouling on any street in the borough because when I asked if the Council’s dog foul cleaning machine could visit my ward I was told it was too busy elsewhere. And when I asked where it went I was given a list of eleven streets – the same eleven streets every day. And where are those eleven streets? In the Deputy Mayor’s ward. In fact it starts and ends on the same street, which is the street on which the Deputy Mayor lives. Isn’t there a stench that hangs over this administration – the stench of the abuse of power?

Summary of Councillor Ohid Ahmed’s response to the Supplementary Question

Our policy is to introduce initiatives to make our streets safe and clean. It is for officers to implement those initiatives, not for members to make specific instructions to carry out the work.

Procedural Motion

At this point Councillor Carlo Gibbs **moved** and Councillor Bill Turner **seconded** a procedural motion “that under Procedure Rule 14.1.9 the Council move on to the next business”.

The procedural motion was put to the vote and was **agreed**. The Council therefore proceeded to Agenda Item 9.

[Note: Question 8.4 was not put at the meeting as the questioner, Councillor Fozol Miah, was not in attendance. Questions 8.6 to 8.29 below were not put due to lack of time. The Service Head, Democratic Services indicated that written responses would be provided. [Note: The written responses are included in Appendix A to these minutes.]

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

9.1 Watts Grove Depot

The Council considered a reference from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on its review of the Watts Grove Depot Mayoral Decision and related issues. An addendum report, including minor amendments to the Committee’s findings as agreed at their meeting on 20th January, was tabled.

Councillor Motin Uz-Zaman **moved**, and Councillor Rachael Saunders **seconded**, the recommendations in the report as amended.

RESOLVED

1. That the Council notes the amendment agreed by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 20th January to the first bullet point of item 2.0 of the Committee’s report to read as follows:-
 - The decision to use the model selected for the Watts Grove Depot redevelopment was flawed, and vulnerable to potentially foreseeable changes. The consequence of these decisions has seen the council incur costs of approximately £308,000 (as of 5th November), and lose out on the opportunity to provide 149 affordable homes. A partnership with an RP, or another more economically viable alternative model, would have been a better option. However, to pursue this now would involve starting the full and costly process again from the beginning.
2. That subject to the above amendment, the Council endorse the findings of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee as set out in the report; and that the Mayor and Cabinet Members be requested to act accordingly.

Procedural Motion

Councillor Carlo Gibbs **moved** and Councillor Bill Turner **seconded** a procedural motion “That under Procedure Rule 15.11.7 the meeting be extended by up to 30 minutes to enable business up to and including motion 12.12 to be considered.” The procedural motion was put to the vote and was **agreed**.

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

There was no business under this heading.

11. OTHER BUSINESS**11.1 Appointment of Members to the Health and Wellbeing Board**

The Council considered the report of the Service Head, Democratic Services on appointments to the Tower Hamlets Health and Wellbeing Board.

During debate Councillor Denise Jones was nominated as the non-executive majority group councillor to serve on the Board.

RESOLVED

1. That the Council agree the appointment of co-opted members to the Tower Hamlets Wellbeing Board as set out at paragraph 1.3 of the circulated report.
2. That Councillor Denise Jones be appointed to serve as the non-executive majority group councillor on the Tower Hamlets Health and Wellbeing Board.
3. That the Council note the other appointments to the Board which take effect by operation of statute.
4. That the above appointments shall be for the remainder of the current municipal year.

12. TO CONSIDER MOTIONS SUBMITTED BY MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL**12.1 Motion regarding the Mayor’s statements on the “March against alcohol”**

Councillor Peter Golds **moved**, and Councillor Tim Archer **seconded** the motion as printed in the agenda.

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

RESOLVED

This Council notes:

- The possibility of an increase in community tensions arising from the well-publicised “March against alcohol” in Brick Lane on December 13th.
- That Brick Lane is known worldwide for its vibrant restaurant offer, and that the beginning of the Christmas period is a highpoint for the local economy.

This Council believes:

- This event would intimidate restaurants and their customers, and attract other extremist groups to the area
- Policing the event was a waste of valuable police resources, with a reduction in the availability of officers across the borough at a particularly busy time.

This Council also notes:

- That the initial statement issued in the name of the Mayor was “We strongly believe in the right to free speech and association, and I am pleased that, with the Police’s support, this group were able to exercise that right whilst upholding respect for our communities, which is the hallmark of our ‘No Place for Hate’ pledge.”

This Council also believes:

- That this was an extraordinary response in view of the threats to legitimate local businesses and their customers who were intent on enjoying a pre-Christmas lunch completely within the law.

This Council further notes:

- That following hostile publicity after the release of this statement an amended statement was published, stating “As part of our pledge to ‘No Place for Hate’, we oppose all groups that seek to impose their views on and bring division to our communities. Council staff worked with the Police to ensure that the businesses, residents and visitors on Brick Lane were protected during the demonstration.”

This Council further believes:

- That the confusion around the Mayor’s position on this important issue shames the Council, reflecting poorly on his office.

- That there are a number of unanswered questions as to how the original inappropriate statement came to be released, including:-
 1. Why, with a multi-million pound publicity budget he makes such different statements?
 2. Who authorised the initial statement in his name?
 3. What particular event or events the following week encouraged him to change the statement?

This Council resolves:

- To condemn the Mayor's original statement, and the confusion around its subsequent retraction.
- To instruct officers to present a report to the next Council meeting, outlining the procedural failures that led to this debacle; and the steps to be taken to prevent a repeat.

12.3 Motion regarding Cost of Living

Councillor Rachael Saunders **moved**, and Councillor Sirajul Islam **seconded** the motion as printed in the agenda.

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

RESOLVED

This Council believes:

- That families in Tower Hamlets are feeling the pinch, with prices rising faster than wages, and too many local people finding it difficult to access decent work.
- That the Conservative-led Government is complacent about the difficulties people are facing, as demonstrated by Ian Duncan Smith's refusal to even speak to representatives from the Trussell Trust who run many of the country's food banks.
- That it is shameful that people in the UK are dependent on food banks
- That Lutfur Rahman is weak and out of touch with the real needs of local people – whilst his administration has plenty of short term gimmicks, he has done little to tackle the real issues that local people face.

This Council notes:

- That despite much fanfare at launch, Tower Hamlets Power has so far only helped 237 residents with their electricity bills despite spending over £12,000 on publicity for the scheme and plans to spend a further £37,351 promoting it this month.
- That Lutfur Rahman's cuts to funding for already overstretched advice services have left many families with no access to support. Whilst other London boroughs such as Labour controlled Camden and Islington are increasing their funding for these kind of advice services in light of increasing demand.
- That CAB applied for funding from the events grants funds, but was refused yet the Mayor instead decided to fund events by commercial media organisations.
- That the weak, insular approach of the current administration means that opportunities to support local people in tough times are being missed.
- That most high streets in Tower Hamlets feature at least one pay day loan shop.
- That with a Mayor that refuses to answer questions in public, Tower Hamlets has little chance of being taken seriously by business or other local stakeholders.

This Council resolves:

- To support Ed Miliband's cost of living pledge, which sets out the real action a Labour government would take:
 1. Stop the Government's raid on pensioners and block its £40,000 tax cut to 14,000 millionaires
 2. End rail rip-offs by capping fares increases on every route
 3. Force the energy firms to cut gas and electricity bills for 4 million over-75s
 4. Stop excessive fees charged by banks and low cost airlines
 5. Defend working families from the raid on their tax credits by reversing the Government's pension tax break for those earning over £150,000
- To condemn Boris Johnson's rip off rises to fares on tubes and buses.

- To campaign for effective benefit take up advice for Tower Hamlets residents and to call upon the Council to use the communications tools at their disposal for the benefit of local people not the ludicrous self-promotion of the Mayor.
- To call on Lutfur Rahman to reconsider the grant funding that goes to his cronies, and to reinstate the previous levels of funding to our advice services.
- To call on the Council to provide logistical support to those organising food banks, including offering the use of Council buildings for collections.
- To condemn Lutfur Rahman for his failure to work with business to secure apprenticeships or work experience opportunities in the borough, or to secure Living Wage commitments for Tower Hamlets workers outside the Town Hall.

12.6 Motion regarding commercialisation of the Borough's public spaces

Councillor Joshua Peck **moved**, and Councillor Abdal Ullah **seconded**, the motion as printed on the agenda.

During debate, Councillor Peter Golds proposed a minor amendment to the motion, substituting 'Millwall Park' for 'Island Gardens' in the 3rd sub-point of bullet point 5 under 'This Council notes'. This was accepted by Councillors Joshua Peck and Abdal Ullah who altered their motion accordingly. Following further debate the substantive motion was put to the vote and was **agreed**.

RESOLVED

This Council notes:

- That Tower Hamlets is a densely populated borough where many people don't have their own gardens
- That an increasing number of Tower Hamlets residents live at or near the poverty line, with all of their disposable income going on housing, heating and food, leaving nothing left over for leisure or entertainment
- That many of our residents rely on free access to our parks, open spaces and community facilities for recreation, physical and mental health and community cohesion
- That parks and open spaces represent important public places for people of all communities to come together strengthening community cohesion and building One East End.

- That the current Mayor has been increasingly using the borough's parks, open spaces and community facilities to raise money, at the expense of their intended purpose as a community asset and public service, including:
 - Letting a four year contract to Lovebox for seven days of festivals each year in Victoria Park, despite significant complaints from residents about disturbance from events, huge damage to the Park and significant spikes in crime when Lovebox takes place each year;
 - allowing a cider company to run a pop-up bar in Victoria Park;
 - renting out Millwall Park for an Oktoberfest event;
 - changing the use of the Mile End Park Arts Pavilion from a community art gallery to a wedding and commercial events venue
 - and a proposal to allow parties on Trinity Square Gardens, adjacent to the war memorial, which attracted national condemnation.

- That whilst many residents accept the need for revenue-raising activities as council funding is severely cut by the Government, the nature and frequency of many of these commercial events is having a disproportionate effect on the ability of residents to use and enjoy them.

- That the proportion of funding raised from these facilities that is reinvested in them is dropping dramatically – for example, falling from 73% of funding raised by Victoria Park in 2010 being reinvested in the Park and free events in it to just 29% in 2012.

- That free events for residents put on by the Council – which also used to be paid for by these funds – is also reducing:
 - The popular Paradise Gardens was cancelled by the Mayor in 2012
 - The Victoria Park fireworks were cancelled by the Mayor in 2012, on the pretence that this was to allow three fireworks events to take place across the borough, but in 2013, only one event took place, and that the number of residents attending the fireworks has dropped from 80,000 in 2011 to just 16,000 in 2013

This Council believes:

- The primary and over-riding purpose of our public parks, open spaces and community facilities should be for the free and unfettered use of our residents

- Some commercial use of these facilities is acceptable as long as it is done in a way that does not unduly impact on users and local residents

This Council further notes:

- That on 16 May 2012 this Council resolved to amend the Open Spaces Strategy to put reasonable restrictions on the use of parks and open spaces for commercial events, in order to protect their primary purpose
- That as a result of the Council's process for resolution of disputes between the Council and the Executive, the Open Spaces Strategy was referred back to the Mayor for consideration and should have then been brought back to Council for a final decision, yet 19 months later, it still has not been considered by the Mayor and been brought back to Council.

This Council resolves:

- To restate its position that reasonable limits must be put on the use of open spaces and community facilities for commercial events
- To instruct the Head of Paid Service to report in writing to all Councillors as to why a revised Open Spaces Strategy, implementing the decision of Council on 16 May 2012 has not been put forward to the Mayor to consider and then brought to Council.

12.8 Motion regarding Leasehold Service Charges

Councillor Marc Francis **moved**, and Councillor Carlo Gibbs **seconded**, the motion as printed in the agenda, incorporating a number of tabled amendments.

Councillor Ohid Ahmed **moved**, and Councillor Kabir Ahmed **seconded**, an amendment to the motion as follows:-

“Under This Council Notes:

Under:

- In Spring 2013, the St Stephen's Estate Leaseholders Association published a damning scrutiny report, which exposed the failures to implement the recommendations in the original Beevers and Struthers Audit.

Insert:

- On the 16th October 2012, the Policy Steering Group requested a review of the Beevers and Struthers Report.

After this Council Notes:

Insert:

This Council further notes:

- The Mayor and Cabinet Member for Housing have raised concerns with Tower Hamlets Homes on service charges and are working with Tower Hamlets Homes and the Project Steering Group to reduce leaseholder service charges in the future.
- That Labour Councillors to date attended 3 out of 22 PSG meetings.

Also add after believes section:

This Council further believes:

- The Mayor and Cabinet Member should continue to work with Tower Hamlets Homes and the Project Steering Group to correct any past wrong or unreasonable leaseholder charges.
- The Mayor and Cabinet Member should continue to investigate whether Tower Hamlets Homes are charging in accordance of the Tenant and Landlord Act and the Commonhold and Leasehold Reform Act to secure reasonable leaseholder charges.
- Those Councillors who are nominated to attend the PSG meetings must do so.

Delete from This Council resolves to call on the Mayor to:

- Explain why a 17 per cent 'overhead' has been introduced across most Heads of Charge;

Replace with:

- Call on Tower Hamlets Homes to stop charging the 17 per cent 'Overhead' until a thorough investigation has been undertaken.

Add to resolves section:

This Council resolves to support the Mayor and Lead Member for Housing to:

- Secure corrections from Tower Hamlets Homes to leaseholders of service charges for 2011/12012 where actuals proved to be unreasonable or wrong.
- Investigate ways in which Tower Hamlets Homes can reduce leaseholder service charges in the future whilst not impacting on front line services."

Following debate the amendment moved by Councillor Rabina Khan was put to the vote and was **defeated**.

The substantive motion was then put to the vote and was **agreed**.

RESOLVED

This Council notes:

- In 2008, Full Council agreed a motion authorising the Lead Member for Housing to commission an independent audit of leasehold service charges following concerns about the two-thirds increase in the level of Management & Administration fees, numerous historic disputes over the costs recharged and a Scrutiny Review which called for much greater transparency and accountability in the calculation of service charges;
- In 2009, a Project Steering Group (PSG) involving councillors, Tower Hamlets Homes (THH), Tower Hamlets Leaseholders Association (THLA) and other leaseholders agreed detailed Terms of Reference for that audit, commissioned Beevers & Struthers Ltd to carry it out;
- In spring 2010, THH attempted unilaterally to introduce new methodology for the calculation of management fees and a new policy to charge to ground floor leaseholders for services they did not benefit from, which was blocked by the Lead Member;
- In summer 2010 a draft version was produced for the PSG, identifying a series of very challenging issues for THH around the management of leasehold services, value for money, caretaking, repairs and maintenance, management and administration fees, and several Service Levels Agreements with LBTH;
- However, publication of the final audit report was delayed by the Mayoral Election in October 2010 and not finally signed off by the PSG until May 2011, by which time LBTH/THH had already begun consultation on a "Leasehold Policy Review" which was claimed to have been based on its findings;
- The Mayor and Lead Member subsequently established a Leasehold Action Plan Working Group (LAPWG), including representatives of leaseholders to bring together the Beevers & Struthers' recommendations, those of the Audit Commission and THH's own Leaseholder Service Improvement Group, and a Statement of Intent was agreed by all those involved to implement the 54 recommendations or agree an alternative remedy;
- Over the next 18 months, just five of the 54 recommendations were implemented and in October 2012, THH sent leaseholders "actuals", which included significantly increased charges in most areas, particularly block/estate cleaning, a 17 per cent "Overhead" fee and new SLAs with LBTH. They were told these costs had been calculated on the B&S audit and had actually been "dampened" and so would increase further over the next two years;

- In spring 2013, THH leaseholders published a damning scrutiny report, which exposed the failure to implement the recommendations in the original Beevers & Struthers audit;
- In response, the current Lead Member for Housing & Development, is now proposing an “review” of the implementation of the recommendations of the original B&S audit and the Mayor is commissioning an audit of latest “actuals” at a cost of around a further £15,000.

This Council believes:

- The Mayor and THH have not implemented the recommendations contained in the independent audit in accordance with the agreed Statement of Intent and that the original aim of increasing transparency and accountability has been lost;
- Leaseholders should be fully recharged for the costs of the services they receive, but that the 2011/12 “actuals” are not based on the methodology set out in the recommendations in the B&S audit, but are instead opaque and represent very poor value for money;

This Council resolves to call on the Mayor to:

- Explain why only 5 out of 54 of the recommendations arising from the B&S audit have so far been implemented;
- Explain why an 17 per cent “Overhead” has been introduced across most Heads of Charge;
- Justify the Service Level Agreements between LBTH and THH and explain what action is being taken to ensure best value;
- Instruct THH to publish a report detailing how the actions it has taken since October 2010 to achieve “savings” have resulted in reduced costs to council leaseholders and tenants.

12.10 Motion regarding Local Authorities Mental Health Challenge

Councillor Amy Whitelock Gibbs **moved**, and Councillor Rachel Saunders **seconded**, the motion as printed on the agenda.

The motion was put to the vote and was **agreed**.

RESOLVED

This Council notes:

- 1 in 6 people will experience a mental health problem in any given year.
- The World Health Organisation predicts that depression will be the second most common health condition worldwide by 2020.
- Mental ill health costs some £105 billion each year in England alone.
- People with a severe mental illness die up to 20 years younger than their peers in the UK.
- There is often a circular relationship between mental health and issues such as housing, overcrowding, employment, family problems or debt.
- The local Mental Health Strategy notes that “Tower Hamlets has amongst the highest levels of mental health need in England.”
- The Overview and Scrutiny Committee has recently investigated the links between mental health and housing, such as how the lettings system does not always appropriately assess and respond to mental health problems as a priority need.

This Council further notes:

- Despite signing up to the Time to Change pledge to tackle mental health discrimination, Executive Members continue to use stigmatizing mental health language in public meetings and press releases, which undermines the aims of Time to Change and perpetuates negative attitudes to those with mental health problems.

This Council believes:

- As a local authority we have a crucial role to play in improving the mental health of everyone in our community and tackling some of the widest and most entrenched inequalities in health.
- Mental health should be a priority across all the local authority’s functions, from public health, adult social care and children’s services to housing, planning and public realm.
- All Councillors, whether members of the Executive or Scrutiny and in our community and casework roles, can play a positive role in championing mental health on an individual and strategic basis. This includes never using negative mental health language for political purposes, particularly directed as an insult.

This Council resolves:

To sign the Local Authorities' Mental Health Challenge run by Centre for Mental Health, Mental Health Foundation, Mind, Rethink Mental Illness, Royal College of Psychiatrists and YoungMinds.

We commit to:

1. Appoint an elected member as 'mental health champion' across the Council – this would be a Full Council appointee
2. Identify a 'lead officer' for mental health to link in with colleagues across the Council
3. Follow the implementation framework for the mental health strategy where it is relevant to the Council's work and local needs
4. Work to reduce inequalities in mental health in our community
5. Work with the NHS to integrate health and social care support
6. Promote wellbeing and initiate and support action on public mental health
7. Tackle discrimination on the grounds of mental health in our community
8. Encourage positive mental health in our schools, colleges and workplaces
9. Proactively engage and listen to people of all ages and backgrounds about what they need for better mental health
10. Restate the commitment to the Time to Change pledge and pledge to never use stigmatizing mental health language for political purposes
11. Introduce mental health awareness training for all elected members and promote the local authority challenge guide, to ensure we can support our constituents.
12. Introduce training for frontline staff, such as housing and lettings teams, so they can identify and support people with mental health needs appropriately.

12.11 Motion on Nelson Mandela

Councillor Rabina Khan **moved**, and Councillor Rania Khan **seconded**, the motion as printed in the agenda.

Councillor David Snowdon **moved**, and Councillor Peter Golds **seconded**, an amendment to the motion as follows:-

“To delete the first bullet point of ‘This Council believes’ and replace it with:

‘Nelson Mandela died perceived universally as a courageous and principled politician whose example in resisting oppression and inequality inspires all those struggling for racial equality and social justice’.”

Following debate the amendment moved by Councillor David Snowdon was put to the vote and was **defeated**.

Councillor Carlo Gibbs **moved**, and Councillor Sirajul Islam **seconded**, a further amendment to the motion as follows:-

“Under this Council resolves:

Delete the second point and replace with:

- To call on the Mayor to allocate a budget from the recently increased Community Events Fund to run an educational project for the borough's schools in Black History month later this year, focused on Nelson Mandela's legacy.
- To instruct officers to draw up options for a permanent tribute to Nelson Mandela in the borough and to present these to full Council in advance of Black History month.
- To call on the Mayor of London and LLDC to name a street in the new Olympic park after Nelson Mandela in recognition of sports power to unite communities.”

Following debate the amendment moved by Councillor Carlo Gibbs was put to the vote and was **agreed**.

The substantive motion as amended was then put to the vote and was **agreed**.

RESOLVED

The Council notes:

- On the 5th December 2013, South African anti-apartheid revolutionary Nelson Mandela passed away.

- Mandela served 27 years in prison after being convicted of attempting to overthrow the state while an international campaign lobbied for his release.
- After his release, Mandela joined negotiations with President FW de Klerk to abolish apartheid and establish multiracial elections, lead the ANC into victory where he became South Africa's first black president and won the Nobel Prize for Peace.

The Council believes:

- Despite Margaret Thatcher describing Nelson Mandela as a 'terrorist', and the refusal of the Tory government at the time to unite with the rest of Europe in imposing sanctions on South Africa, Nelson Mandela died perceived universally as a courage and principled politician whose example in resisting oppression and inequality inspires all those struggling for racial equality and social justice.
- In a borough where so many different races live side by side, Mandela's determination to create racial equality and unite the black and white people of South Africa holds a particular importance.

The Council resolves:

- To remember Nelson Mandela, in particular, to use every relevant occasion to remind the young of the borough of the importance of both fighting for their beliefs and reconciliation.
- To call on the Mayor to allocate a budget from the recently increased Community Events Fund to run an educational project for the borough's schools in Black History month later this year, focused on Nelson Mandela's legacy.
- To instruct officers to draw up options for a permanent tribute to Nelson Mandela in the borough and to present these to full Council in advance of Black History month.
- To call on the Mayor of London and LLDC to name a street in the new Olympic park after Nelson Mandela in recognition of sports power to unite communities.

12.12 Motion regarding Protecting Community Pubs

Councillor Denise Jones **moved**, and Councillor Amy Whitelock Gibbs **seconded**, the motion as printed on the agenda.

The motion was put to the vote and was **agreed**.

RESOLVED

This Council notes:

- That in addition to the provision of its own services the Council should support through its policies and the exercise of its powers a network of well-run community facilities, including shops, pubs, advice centres, places of worship and other local forums and services which are valued by residents. As an example of these, community pubs provide a valuable community service for those who choose to use them.
- Twenty-six pubs close every week across the country. In Tower Hamlets many pubs have already been converted to flats or stand empty.
- Recently local pubs such as The Sun in Bethnal Green and the Britannia pub in Mile End have closed down, to the disappointment of local residents.
- Pubs inject an average of £80,000 into their local economy each year and support almost one million UK jobs, 46% of whom are 16 – 24 year olds.
- That whilst some pubs can have anti-social behaviour problems which the Council should challenge, the majority offer a positive contribution to our borough and are part of a balanced and inclusive community offering that helps to define the local quality of life.

This Council further notes:

- The recently adopted Managing Development Document policy DM8 specifies that social and community facilities, such as public houses, will be protected where they meet an identified local need and the buildings are suitable for their use.
- That while conversion of pubs to residential use would be resisted as contrary to planning policy, this does not automatically mean such applications would be rejected.
- Residents often feel they have no opportunity to prevent their local pubs from being sold off or converted to flats.
- The demolition of pubs is classed as “permitted development” means planning permission is not required. Between 2003 and 2012, 414 former pubs were demolished in London alone.

This Council believes:

- Local pubs are a hugely important community hub, bringing local people together and providing social inclusion opportunities.
- While pubs that cause antisocial behaviour should be subject to enforcement action, well managed community pubs should be protected by the council.

This Council resolves:

- To work with residents to list local pubs as Assets of Community Value under the Localism Act, giving greater protection against pubs being sold off to developers
- To support the Sustainable Communities Act proposal: “That the Secretary of State help protect community pubs in England by ensuring that planning permission and community consultation are required before community pubs are allowed to be converted to betting shops, supermarkets and pay-day loan stores or other uses, or are allowed to be demolished.”
- To work together with Local Works and the Campaign for Real Ale to gain support for the proposal from other councils in the region and across the country.

Motions 12.2, 12.4, 12.5, 12.7, 12.9, 12.13 and 12.14 were not debated due to lack of time.

13. URGENT MOTIONS

The Council agreed to suspend Procedure Rule 13.1 to enable the following urgent motions to be debated without notice:

13.1 Urgent motion calling for an investigation into Old Poplar Town Hall

Councillor Peter Golds **moved**, and Councillor Tim Archer **seconded**, the motion as tabled.

Following debate the motion was put to the vote and was **agreed**.

RESOLVED

This Council notes:

- The former Poplar Town Hall on the corner of Poplar High Street and Woodstock Terrace, E14 is an iconic building dating back to the 19th Century. It was the administrative home of Poplar Borough Council 1900-1938, and as such is a listed building.

- That in 2008 the former Poplar Town Hall was put up for disposal and the Cabinet stipulated that “it should be advertised locally to allow local groups to make an offer”
- That subsequently on 12 January 2011 officers were given authority to dispose of the property in the open market.
- That according to answers provided by the council, the property was “openly and widely” marketed by external agents on 9 May 2011; and a wide range of bids was received on 8 July 2011.
- The property was, according to officers, sold to the highest bidder. The transaction was completed on 11 November 2011. The sum paid by the highest bidder was £876,000
- That this price was not much more than the price of a family home nearby, for example on 6 May 2011 a three bedroom semi-detached house close by in Woodstock Terrace was sold for £585,000
- That the former Poplar Town Hall contains offices, a full size council chamber, and even a self-contained flat, and is obviously substantially larger than a three bedroom semi-detached house.

This Council further notes:

- That the owners of the successful bidder and ultimate purchaser, Dreamstar, are well known to the Mayor and members of his administration.
- That planning permission and Listed Building Consent were granted on the 3rd July 2013 for a change of use from office (B1) to hotel (C1) under Officers’ delegated authority.
- That the change of use from office to hotel use will result in an increase in value of the building by several million pounds.

This Council believes:

- That it is entirely inappropriate to grant this change of use using delegated power, considering the public interest in the sale of the building and the effect such a change of use would have on local residents.
- That there remain unanswered questions as to the relationship between the current owner/occupier, and the administration.
- That no answer has been given as to whether in the initial marketing documents bidders were informed that the council would entertain a change of use of this type.

This Council resolves:

- To instruct the Head of Paid Service, Monitoring Officer and Section 151 Officer, in conjunction with the District Auditor, to undertake an immediate investigation into the marketing and sale of the former Poplar Town Hall
- That this investigation should include details of all meetings and correspondence between officers of the council, councillors, the Mayor,

bidders, and those responsible for publicising the sale; and that these details should be published.

- The investigation should pay particular attention to any potential conflicts of interest, etc not properly disclosed.
- That the investigation should appoint an independent property valuer to establish the 2011 valuation of the building with B1 office use and C1 Hotel use, and the 2014 valuation of the building with C1 Hotel use.
- That the investigation should, in view of the seriousness of this situation, produce a report to be considered by O&S on March 4th and the full Council at their meeting on March 26th.

13.2 Urgent motion on the integrity of upcoming elections

Councillor Rachael Saunders **moved**, and Councillor Helal Abbas **seconded**, the motion as tabled.

Following debate the motion was put to the vote and was **agreed**.

RESOLVED

This Council notes that:

- Following recent updates from the Head of Paid Service this motion seeks to amend the scope of the investigations launched at the last Council meeting.
- Two weeks ago the Electoral Commission identified Tower Hamlets as one of 16 boroughs at greater risk of electoral fraud in the 2014 local and mayoral elections.
- This week the Council will launch a new candidate protocol to help reassure voters that the upcoming elections will be free, fair and without fraud.
- At the Council's November meeting a motion was passed which raised serious questions about the conduct of the Mayor's re-election campaign.
- Thus far our understanding is that the ongoing Council investigation has no reason to doubt the account given on the LoveWapping Blog.
- A THH investigation launched following this incident, but prior to the Council motion, found no evidence to suggest that they actually were THH staff.
- The police are looking into the allegations and have yet to draw a final conclusion.
- It is possible to assume that these women were impersonating THH Officers in order to convince residents to divulge information they wouldn't have given to political campaigners.

We further note that:

- Despite their efforts Council officers have been unable to identify these canvassers.

- Subsequent to the canvassing Mr Baines received Members Enquiry acknowledgements and then responses from the Mayor.
- This means that the information from the canvassers was passed to the Mayor's office for processing, and that therefore a record will exist in the Mayor's office.
- This also means that the Mayor's office will have knowledge of how it received this information and will be able to help identify the canvassers or will know persons who can identify them.

This Council believes that:

- Ongoing attempts by the Council to prevent electoral fraud at the upcoming elections will be undermined by the perception that legitimate concerns have been raised and ignored by the current Mayor who has refused to answer the serious questions put to him.
- In the absence of any sign that the Mayor intends to come clean about the conduct of his re-election campaign, it is incumbent upon Council officers to continue to investigate all allegations raised and to take all steps possible to identify the three women who falsely claimed to be members of THH staff. This includes investigating the conduct of officers in the Mayor's office, and the use of resources in the Mayor's Office.

This Council further notes:

- During the debate at the last Council meeting the Mayor was directly asked a number of questions which he refused consistently to answer:
 - Does the Mayor's re-election campaign pay people who canvass for him? If so, How is this funded?
 - Is the Mayor aware of people going round with his leaflets pretending to be from Tower Hamlets Homes? Has he investigated? Does he believe this may be a case of fraud?
 - Clearly the Mayor's campaign has already cost thousands of pounds so why has the Mayor only ever made one donation declaration to the Electoral Commission? How does he fund his campaign?
 - Why did the Mayor and independent councillors ban acknowledgement letters to save money and then send 4,322 of them at tax payer expense? Will they pay the money back?
 - Is there any link between the Mayor's funding to many new organisations in the borough and the Mayor's campaign?
 - Why is the Mayor remaining silent and refusing to answer these serious allegations from residents?

This Council further believes:

- The integrity of the upcoming elections is at risk if the Mayor continues to refuse to answer these important questions.
- That the lack of declarations to the Electoral Commission is incredibly concerning given that the Mayor has hosted a number of high profile events including:
 - A dinner at Mulberry School for over 2,000 women at Mulberry School
 - An Iftar meal for well over 1,000 people at WaterLily in August
 - A fundraising dinner at Canary Wharf
 - Numerous glossy printed leaflets distributed across the borough

This Council resolves:

- To further instruct officers to continue their investigation, with an expanded mandate to include attempts to identify the people potentially of impersonating Council or THH staff and to take appropriate action including referral to the police on the basis of false representation.
- Call on the Mayor and any independent councillors with any information, to identify the three canvassers who are at the centre of these allegations.
- To suspend standing orders to allocate a five minute slot after this item for the Mayor, and no other member, to personally address the questions set out above in the further notes section, and following that the proposer of this motion should then have a two minute right of reply.

The meeting ended at 11.02 p.m.

Speaker of the Council

**APPENDIX A – WRITTEN ANSWERS TO PUBLIC AND MEMBERS’
QUESTIONS NOT PUT AT THE COUNCIL MEETING**

6.6 Question from Mr Steven Walker

Are tenants permitted to erect individual satellite dishes on the outside walls of council houses or flats?

Response by Councillor Rabina Khan, Cabinet Member for Housing

Thank you for your question Steve. The Council and Tower Hamlets Homes highlight their policy on this issue which can be found in the Tower Hamlets Homes Tenants Handbook.

To erect satellite dishes on their block, tenants and leaseholders of council houses or flats must obtain written consent from the landlord. In some instances planning permission may also be required.

8.4 Question from Councillor Fozol Miah

Is the lead member aware of the recent publicity about the levels of sugar content placed in many foods and drinks by the food industry unbeknownst to consumers contributing to life threatening obesity, cancer and other ill effects and could the lead member say what the council is doing to inform Tower Hamlets residents about the bad effects of high levels of sugar and about how they can realistically reduce sugar consumption?

Response by Councillor Abdul Asad, Cabinet Member for Health & Wellbeing

Thank you Councillor Fozol Miah for your question.

Healthy Eating, including reducing sugar consumption, is one of our public health priorities. That's why we commission a range of services and campaigns to ensure residents are fully informed.

A recent example is the Government's New Year Change4Life campaign launched in January 2014 and supported in Tower Hamlets with messages going into East End Life supported by community based promotional activities

Other examples include:

Cook4Life classes to support families in cooking healthier meals
Ensuring all school meals provided by the local authority meet nutritional guidelines

Oral Health promotion programmes, e.g. 'Healthy Smiles' emphasise the importance of cutting down on sugar and provide practical advice to children and families on how to do so. Child and adult weight management

programmes support people in improving their diets , including reducing sugar consumption, Health trainers, working across the Borough to support local people in living healthier lives, have been trained to promote healthy eating, including the effects of sugar on health and how to reduce sugar consumption.

I can reassure councillor Miah that I share his concern about the responsibility of the food industry in tackling the dangers of obesity.

8.6 Question from Councillor Gloria Thienel

Does the Mayor support my motion, which would see spitting and urinating in public places punishable by a fine, as is already the case in Waltham Forest?

Response by Councillor Ohid Ahmed, Deputy Mayor

Thank you Councillor Thienel for your question. Our enforcement officers are issuing Fixed Penalty Notices, which carry a fine of £60.

Tower Hamlets Enforcement Officers (THEO's) are already taking proactive enforcement action for urination and spitting in public. There is no national criminal offence for spitting and urinating, so this is not a matter the police can address.

Over the last 6 months THEO's have been specially targeting areas where the Council receive most complaints and have issued over 80 Fixed Penalty Notice for anti-social behaviour with over 40 fines for waste/litter with an additional 12 people being reported for summons. I hope the Councillor will join me in congratulating our THEOs for their work and agree that their presence on our streets makes Tower Hamlets a safer, cleaner borough.

8.7 Question from Councillor Helal Abbas

Could the Council have an explanation of exactly how the Mayor's incredibly expensive taxpayer funded press machine issued an incendiary statement in his name regarding the Anjem Choudhury march on Brick Lane?

Response by Councillor Ohid Ahmed, Deputy Mayor

Thank you Councillor Helal Abbas for your question. It is not true that conflicting statements were issued as neither welcomed the decision by a vocal minority to march down Brick Lane and hinder citizens from going about their business.

It is true that the initial response issued by our communications team was not cleared by the Mayor and should not have been sent out.

For the record the Mayor approved the following statement in the aftermath of the demonstration:-

“As part of our pledge to ‘No Place for Hate’, we oppose all groups that seek to impose their views on and bring division to our communities. Council staff worked with the police to ensure that the businesses, residents and visitors on Brick Lane were protected during the demonstration.”

8.8 Question from Councillor Harun Miah

Would the lead member join with me in welcoming Bangladesh hosting the T20 Cricket World Cup in a few weeks’ time with matches scheduled to take place in Sylhet, Chittagong and Dhaka and wishing the tournament every success despite the political turmoil which the Bangladesh government has plunged Bangladesh into and would the lead member say what the council will be doing to use the T20 World Cup to promote cricket amongst young people in Tower Hamlets across all communities?

Response by Councillor Rania Khan, Cabinet Member for Culture

Thank you your question. The Council will engage with the corporate communications team to capitalise on the great opportunity the T20 Cricket World Cup offers.

This will be done through promotional work before and during the start of the cricket season, engaging with residents, local clubs, schools and youth organisations to take advantage of the enhanced media coverage of the sport during the T20 World Cup.

8.9 Question from Councillor M.A. Mukit M.B.E.

How many residents in Weavers Ward are affected by the Mayor's trial to dim street lights in the Borough?

Response by Councillor Ohid Ahmed, Deputy Mayor

None. There have been no changes to street lights in Weavers Ward.

The Government recommends that local authorities save costs by reducing the amount of energy burnt by streetlights and we are testing this on 50 streetlights to confirm whether the assertion that this does not produce a visible impact on street lighting is true. We are reviewing anti-social behaviour statistics and defect reports to see if there has been any impact on the local community.

Calling this “dimming” is incorrect. We are investing in brighter more energy efficient streetlights throughout the borough with 500 brighter white lights replacing amber lighting in this year alone. That is 5% of our stock. Where

this replaces dated amber lighting the net impact of reducing energy use may result in higher levels of lighting than currently experienced.

8.10 Question from Councillor Craig Aston

How many bin collections were missed in Tower Hamlets in the last municipal year, and what is the Mayor doing to address the persistent complaints of missed bin collections?

Response by Councillor Shahed Ali, Cabinet Member for Environment

Thank you Councillor Aston for your question. There were over two million bin collections between April and December 2013. Zero point one per cent of these were missed.

Of course, even one bin collection missed is one too many. And because we believe this, we even publish the performance data of missed collections on our website.

The council meets regularly with Veolia to address any issues and officers are out on the street responding to complaints, checking collections and performance.

8.11 Question from Councillor Amy Whitelock Gibbs

Could the Mayor update the council on what action has been taken since he signed the Time to Change pledge against mental health discrimination in April 2012, and reaffirmed the pledge with the Health and Wellbeing Board in October 2013?

Response by Councillor Abdul Asad, Cabinet Member for Health & Wellbeing

Thank you Councillor Whitelock Gibbs for your question. The Time to Change Campaign has been agreed as a key priority of the Tower Hamlets Health and Wellbeing Board.

In October 2013 the Tower Hamlets Health and Wellbeing Board developed a Time to Change Action plan and signed the Time to Change Pledge as a Partnership. This made it the first Health and Wellbeing Board to do so in the UK.

A work programme and action plan has been developed and agreed for the Time to Change Campaign for 2013/2014. Actions taken since April 2013 include:

The Council have reviewed and audited the organisation's ambitions, policies and interventions around mental health. As a result of this audit it was agreed that the Council will develop and implement a Mental Health and Wellbeing

Policy, sign up to the Mindful Employer Charter and undertake an independent 'Mental Health check' (which will be undertaken by Time to Change).

The Council wide Mental Health and Wellbeing Policy is being developed, reaffirming commitment through ongoing messages include: internal messages to staff, an article in East End Life about mental health for Mental Health Awareness Week in May 2013 and a double page spread on Mental Health and the Time to Change Campaign in East End Life for World Mental Health Day in October 2013.

8.12 Question from Councillor Kabir Ahmed

What are the Mayor's views about the findings of the Transforming Education for All report which stated that Tower Hamlets has some of the best urban schools in the world?

Response by Councillor Oliur Rahman, Cabinet Member for Children's Services

Thank you for your question Councillor Kabir Ahmed. The Mayor is extremely proud of the findings documented in the research report. It makes clear the years of hard work, and the impressive outcomes achieved by our local young people, their parents and teachers as well as this administration and its officers.

Our success is rooted in working with and enabling the local community to shape and contribute to aspirational achievement, and presents a powerful alternative to academisation. The report is an example to not only the UK but the wider world in how to improve and excel across a whole locality in a systematic and effective way.

8.13 Question from Councillor Marc Francis

Who authorised the developer of the former Methodist Church on the corner of Armagh Road and Old Ford Road to obstruct hoardings across the footpath? Given that this has resulted in pedestrians including children and pensioners, being forced to walk in the road at this dangerous junction and why LBTH did not require the creation of a temporary walkway to ensure the safety of pedestrians before these hoardings were erected?

Response by Councillor Shahed Ali, Cabinet Member for Environment

Thank you Councillor Francis for your question. The hoarding around the construction site is for the safety and protection of residents, workers and members of the public.

Temporary walkways for construction sites are not usually required where a safe and convenient alternative already exists that can accommodate all

pedestrian needs including the needs of children and pensioners. The footways on the other side of the roads to the construction site are both convenient and safe. To ensure pedestrians are not forced into the road signs are located well before the site to notify pedestrians to use the other side of the road.

8.14 Question from Councillor Dr Emma Jones

Will the Mayor please confirm what steps are taken to ensure council leisure facilities are clean and safe for the public?

Response by Councillor Rania Khan, Cabinet Member for Culture

Thank you Councillor Dr. Emma Jones for your question. The Council's Partnership and Participation Team conducts quarterly site monitoring visits, as well as conducting sporadic visits to check the cleanliness of the centres, and to ensure that statutory obligations are being fulfilled.

Following inspections of the centres, if standards are deemed to be below that expected, the Council can issue a service improvement notification, with a specific time frame for any improvements to be made.

Furthermore monitoring of complaints and feedback from the public is undertaken that also informs spot check activity.

8.15 Question from Councillor Shiria Khatun

What response does the Mayor have to George Osborne's suggestion that the Government should further cut welfare benefits from the poorest in our community? The Conservative Government would cut housing benefit from under 25 year olds & increase rent for social housing tenants if they are re-elected isn't the only choice to elect a Labour Government?

Response by Councillor Alibor Choudhury, Cabinet Member for Resources

Thank you for your question Cllr Shiria Khatun. But I'm slightly confused by your question. The last time I looked – at the end of last year – there was confusion about whether the Labour Party were also considering scrapping Housing Benefit for the under 25s?!

So I only hope that Rachel Reeves MP, will stick to her words that they are not planning to cut housing benefit for under 25s and will revoke this policy if elected.

My response, and the Mayor's response, has been to consistently oppose this Government's disgraceful attacks on the poorest and most vulnerable in our community.

I have personally lobbied government ministers and countered this government's narrative through interviews and debates.

Moreover we've invested in financial support for those residents affected, we've:

- Kept our council rents as low as possible and campaigned against the national government's 80% affordable rent level.
- Set aside a provision of £2.2m to help the most vulnerable homeless households
- Invested in £3m funding to offset the Government's 10% reduction in Council Tax Benefit Subsidy thereby protecting approximately 25,000 working age households who would otherwise have to pay a Council Tax charge.

So my final response to your question is that I will continue to look to Labour to confirm that they will reverse the Government's welfare reforms

8.16 Question from Councillor Gulam Robbani

Councillors launched a campaign based on the statement that the Mayor was unwilling to clean up the borough, only to find it was the cleanest it had ever been. Now they are claiming that rubbish miscollections are out of hand. Could the Lead Member tell us what the real figures are?

Response by Councillor Shahed Ali, Cabinet Member for Environment

Thank you Councillor Robbani for your question. Borough cleanliness is at an all-time high. We have a 99.89% record for collections on time and the borough is the cleanest it has ever been.

Last year, Keep Britain Tidy awarded us a prize for the tidiest borough and the latest survey undertaken by local residents showed that they feel the same, giving us a 97% score for being free of litter and refuse.

8.17 Question from Councillor Carli Harper-Penman

The Council's new Communications Protocol states that the Council "may not publish material that, having regard to the content and style, appears, in whole or in part, to be designed to affect public support for a political party." Can the Mayor therefore explain why over six months last year East End Life featured 320 quotes from the Mayor and independent councillors compared with only 15 from Labour, Conservative, Liberal Democrat and Respect councillors combined. Or why the paper also ran 164 images of the Mayor and his supporters as opposed to 26 featuring opposition councillors including the ceremonial speaker of the Council?

Response by Councillor Ohid Ahmed, Deputy Mayor

Thank you Councillor Harper-Penman for your question. The council publicises council services and activity in line with the rules, guidance and statute of the day. In 2011 the current government issued a new Code of Recommended Practice on Local Authority Publicity. It explicitly allows politicians to be presented as the face of particular campaigns.

Given that the Mayor was elected by the people of the borough to serve them, it stands to reason that he and his cabinet will be quoted – every council and government department follows this process.

Previous administrations have used the council's communications channels to inform the public about services and we will not be prevented from doing so.

This council is doing what councils up and down the country are doing – namely informing residents about the services and policies of the administration they elected.

You have quoted selectively from the Communications Protocol. Specifically it says:- “East End Life has a clear set of editorial guidelines which have been reviewed legally, approved by Cabinet and been ‘approved’ by the then district auditor. It is appropriate to cover the actions of the Mayor and Cabinet as they, through the Mayor's executive powers, perform a policy making role for the authority. Cabinet members and those with specific responsibilities are often the ‘faces’ of the Council's many campaigns and services.

However such coverage needs to meet the seven principles listed in the Publicity Code, and in particular should be fair, balanced and objective. It would represent a breach of the code to include quotes from any member that politically criticises another member. Where balance is best served by obtaining an opposition leader quote, in line with the Publicity Code, inclusion may take place as long as the quote is locally focused and avoids personal criticism of other members.”

8.18 Question from Councillor David Snowdon

What is the Mayor doing to ensure that the Thames Path on the western side of the Isle of Dogs is made safe as soon as practical? It has been blocked by building work north of Cascades Tower, and residents have also contacted me regarding unfinished pavement repairs next to Sir John McDougal Gardens?

Response by Councillor Shahed Ali, Cabinet Member for Environment

Thank you Councillor Snowdon for your question. The private landowner is now in the process of carrying pavement repairs next to Sir John McDougal Gardens. Most of the Thames Path along the western wide of the Isle of Dogs is owned privately and just a small part, including Sir John McDougal Gardens, is owned by the council.

There are legal agreements with the private owners of land along the river edge to permit passage of the public along the Thames Path. These agreements usually formed part of the planning permission for the developments.

Responsibility for maintenance is usually covered in these agreements and it varies between the council or the landowner. The Council can require the owner to maintain it through enforcement of the planning agreement.

The Council is continuing to review all these agreements and take direct action with the private landowner where necessary.

8.19 Question from Councillor Judith Gardiner

What contingency planning has the Mayor and his officers undertaken in relation to the impact that the Tory Government's Plans to privatise the probation service and cut legal aid will have on the borough's ability to effectively deliver its crime and anti-social behaviour strategies?

Response by Councillor Ohid Ahmed, Deputy Mayor

Thank you for your question Councillor Gardiner. The Mayor opposes the Tory Government's plans to privatise the probation service and cut legal aid.

The Mayor shares the view of Supreme Court President, Lord Neuberger who expressed that 'less legal aid means more unrepresented litigants'.

In relation to the probation service, the Mayor agrees with the assistant general secretary of National Association of Probation Officers Union, Harry Fletcher, who rightly claims that the government's decision is purely ideological, ill-thought out, chaotic and will compromise public protection. It is therefore essential for the Council to work hard to mitigate the effect of the government's decision.

The Council is one of only 4 London Local Authorities represented at the Ministry of Justice Local Authority Reference Group on Transforming Rehabilitation. Officers have sought to influence the development of the government plans on privatising the probation service, highlighting the uniqueness of Tower Hamlets in particular the partnership structure in Tower Hamlets.

In relation to legal aid cuts, officers have worked with Rights of Women as well as local solicitors firms to hold a number of training sessions and workshops regarding the effect of legal aid cuts in the domestic violence field.

Work and services provided by the Council for domestic violence cases will continue, including specialist victim support.

8.20 Question from Councillor Lutfa Begum

What are the Mayor's views about the impact on Tower Hamlets of George Osborne's decision to make a further £25 billion of cuts, half of which are to come from welfare spending?

Response by Councillor Alibor Choudhury, Cabinet Member for Resources

Thank you for your question Councillor Lutfa Begum. The Mayor and I are very worried about the scale of the cuts being planned and especially their implications for the welfare state, which this government is hell-bent on eroding.

These cuts are part and parcel of a package that demonises the poor and people on welfare and blame them for an economic crisis.

But the facts are that only 3% of the welfare budget goes on the unemployment and only 0.7% of benefits are claimed fraudulently. That's about £1bn, compared to an [estimated £70bn of tax evasion](#).

For all their talk about benefit scroungers more than half the children and working-age adults in poverty today actually live in households where at least one person is working. These are the people being hit hardest by government cuts.

This economic crisis that continues to affect us is that fault of a rich elite of bankers, and the politicians who failed to regulate them, who gambled us all to the edge of oblivion.

These cuts will further contribute to a London that is becoming increasingly exclusive, increasingly unequal, increasingly divided, with an economy which has a small number of highly paid jobs, millions of badly paid jobs and little in the middle.

That's why they should be resisted.

8.21 Question from Councillor Sirajul Islam

Does the Mayor welcome John Biggs' lobbying efforts which helped to secure the TFL investment in Cambridge Heath and Bethnal Green train stations? Does he agree with me that this will have a significant and positive effect on residents in my ward?

Response by Councillor Ohid Ahmed, Deputy Mayor

Thank you for your question Councillor Sirajul Islam. The Mayor notes Mr Biggs' attempt to take credit for this investment made by Boris Johnson.

The Mayor welcomes the improvements to the Cambridge Heath and Bethnal Green train stations. This will benefit both Tower Hamlets' residents and visitors to your ward.

The Mayor has long indicated his support for the proposal to connect lines between Liverpool Street and Chingford as part of the London Overground network.

The Mayor has supported the proposal in light of the benefits that has come from the investment of other London Overground services, such as the East London Line and North London Line. The improved service has been positive for the local economy.

8.22 Question from Councillor Tim Archer

What steps is the Mayor taking to combat speeding on Manchester Road?

Response by Councillor Shahed Ali, Cabinet Member for Environment

Thank you for your question Councillor Tim Archer. Enforcement of speeding traffic is a matter for the Police.

8.23 Question from Councillor Ann Jackson

Why has the Mayor, in his 'frontline saving' budget, cut vital mental health supported accommodation and older people's telecare; yet last month thought it right to agree over 150k of third sector support grants be 'moved' to spend on events such as Gala Dinners and concerts?

Response by Councillor Alibor Choudhury, Cabinet Member for Resources

Thank you Councillor Ann Jackson for your question. There has been NO reduction in our mental health supported accommodation. Instead, we have been able to make savings WITHOUT reducing services.

And we have been able to do this because we have developed in-borough supported housing schemes as an alternative to expensive out of borough placements. This has enabled us to save money and reducing the need for vulnerable adults to move outside the borough.

In addition, we have negotiated better rates with external providers. This saving has been achieved whilst improving provision for our residents.

Secondly, I'm afraid you've misunderstood the nature of the telecare saving. We are actually increasing the provision of telecare – investing an extra £100,000 and helping more residents to live independently.

This means we can make savings by a reduced need for expensive care packages. Again not reducing care, but improving residents' independence and ability to live in their own homes.

Finally I'd like to remind Cllr Jackson, that these savings were all agreed by Full Council at last year's budget meeting.

On the issue of the events grant, this events fund has been going since 2009 and has simply been topped up by money by unallocated third sector grants, this was due to the huge demand for community events grants. This money would never have provided core council services like adult service care.

The Labour Party really need to stop scaremongering and spreading misinformation about council spending.

8.24 Question from Councillor Maium Miah

Following the opposition publication of inaccurate and alarmist statistics on crime last month, can the lead member tell us what the true figures are and how they compare to other London Boroughs?

Response by Councillor Ohid Ahmed, Deputy Mayor

Thank you for your question Councillor Maium Miah. Looking at the actual figures it is surprising that the Labour Party seem to be spending so much of their election war chest on the so-called 'rising crime'.

In fact, crime has been reduced by 7.2% in the last 12 months.

This is lower than in neighbouring boroughs Hackney (13,649), Newham (15,853) and Southwark (16,579) than in Tower Hamlets (12,891).

8.25 Question from Councillor Helal Uddin

Can I ask the Mayor whether he has any further update on Watts Grove housing development scheme in Bromley by Bow?

Response by Councillor Rabina Khan, Cabinet Member for Housing

Thank you for your question Councillor Uddin. The Mayor is committed to continuing to explore options that bring forward funding or delivery models that will support the delivery of council homes. This review will include Watts Grove.

It is not possible at this stage to confirm any details of proposals for Watts Grove, funding or delivery timescales. The opportunities to bring forward homes on this site will continue to be kept under close review.

8.26 Question from Councillor Zara Davis

Could the Mayor outline the impact on the council of the recent case of East End Homes Ltd vs London Borough of Tower Hamlets Council, heard at the Chancery Court in December?

Response by Councillor Rabina Khan, Cabinet Member for Housing

Thank you Councillor Zara Davis for your question. There has been limited impact on the Council regarding this matter. The Council undertook the CPO (Compulsory Purchase Order) on behalf of East End Homes in order to assist the redevelopment on Holland estate; all the CPO and acquisition costs were borne by the Registered Provider.

8.27 Question from Councillor Motin Uz-Zaman

An independent review found last month that the reforms brought in under the last Labour Government and Council helped create some of the “best urban schools in the world.” Instead of taking credit for the work of those who came before him, could the Mayor now congratulate those Labour politicians, council officers and local school teachers who have made this transformation possible?

Response by Councillor Oliur Rahman, Cabinet Member for Children’s Services

Thank you for your question Councillor Motin Uz- Zaman. Of course the Mayor is proud to have played his small part in the massive team effort that has been the transformation of Tower Hamlets schools. As Lead Member for Education in 2002-3 and Leader of the Council 2008-10, as well as with initiatives like our university grants and reintroducing the EMA, he has certainly done his best to help.

However the real credit belongs to the pupils, teachers, parents and council officers who’ve made that change happen. The Mayor has always publicly thanked all these groups for their work, and acknowledges that he has built on the work of his predecessors, as you will find in the press releases and speeches that the Mayor has given since the report was published.

8.28 Question from Councillor Aminur Khan

Can the Mayor tell us if he has heard back from Boris Johnson after writing to him regarding cycling safety?

Response by Councillor Shahed Ali, Cabinet Member for Environment

Thank you Councillor Aminur Khan for your question. The Mayor was successful in engaging Boris Johnson, who has made a number of commitments to the borough since our letter.

Boris has promised to review safety along the length of the A11 and has committed to reviewing all existing Cycle Superhighways.

He also advised that his team are to ensure segregation of cycle lanes from general traffic along the length of the A11 with “pioneering” new designs for cycle separated junctions; and that they will be looking at Cycle Superhighway 3 on Cable Street which he has promised to consult the council on.

Further to this, he has mentioned the possibility of a parallel “Quietway” for less confident cyclists, and will confirm later in 2014 then producing a timetable for delivery.

I think we should wholly thank the Mayor for his achievement and clear commitment to the safety of cyclists in the borough.

8.29 Question from Councillor Anwar Khan

What’s the plan to reform Bow West road network?

Response by Councillor Ohid Ahmed, Deputy Mayor

Thank you Councillor Anwar Khan for your question. A series of traffic surveys have been carried out to enable the existing traffic patterns to be modelled which will allow changes to the traffic management network to be tested.

This is in response to a number of concerns raised by residents about the level of traffic, congestion and rat running in the following areas in Bow:

Driffield Road area;
St Stephen’s Road
Old Ford Road – and its junction with Parnell Road
Fairfield Road
Tredegar Road
Antill Road
Cardigan Road

Such work would help to inform consultation with local residents to take place in future before any decisions were made.

LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL (BUDGET MEETING)

HELD AT 7.30 P.M. ON WEDNESDAY, 26TH FEBRUARY 2014

**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 Kabir Ahmed	Councillor Dr. Emma Jones
Councillor Ohid Ahmed	Councillor Anwar Khan
Councillor Rajib Ahmed	Councillor Rabina Khan
Councillor Rofique U Ahmed	Councillor Aminur Khan
Councillor Shahed Ali	Councillor Rania Khan
Councillor Tim Archer	Councillor Md. Maium Miah
Councillor Abdul Asad	Councillor Fozol Miah
Councillor Craig Aston	Councillor M. A. Mukit MBE
Councillor Lutfu Begum	Councillor Lesley Pavitt
Councillor Mizan Chaudhury	Councillor Joshua Peck
Councillor Alibor Choudhury	Councillor John Pierce
Councillor Zara Davis	Councillor Zenith Rahman
Councillor Stephanie Eaton	Councillor Oliur Rahman
Councillor David Edgar	Councillor Gulam Robbani
Councillor Marc Francis	Councillor Rachael Saunders
Councillor Judith Gardiner	Councillor David Snowdon
Councillor Carlo Gibbs	Councillor Gloria Thienel
Councillor Amy Whitelock Gibbs	Councillor Bill Turner
Councillor Peter Golds	Councillor Helal Uddin
Councillor Shafiqul Haque	Councillor Abdal Ullah
Councillor Carli Harper-Penman	Councillor Motin Uz-Zaman
Councillor Sirajul Islam	

The meeting commenced at 7.31 p.m.

The Speaker of the Council, Councillor Lesley Pavitt, in the Chair

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors Khaled Uddin Ahmed, Shiria Khatun, Harun Miah and Kosru Uddin.

2. DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS

No declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests were made.

3. TO RECEIVE ANNOUNCEMENTS (IF ANY) FROM THE SPEAKER OF THE COUNCIL OR THE HEAD OF PAID SERVICE

There were no announcements.

4. REGULATIONS REGARDING RECORDED VOTES AT BUDGET COUNCIL MEETINGS - AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION

The Council considered the report of the Service Head, Democratic Services on changes to the regulations regarding voting at Budget Council meetings and consequent amendments made by the Monitoring Officer to Council Procedure Rule 17.

Councillor Peter Golds **moved**, and Councillor Tim Archer **seconded** an amendment to expand the requirement to record votes to include those on amendments as well as the substantive motion.

The amendment was put to the vote and was **agreed**.

RESOLVED

This Council Notes:-

- The action taken by the Monitoring Officer to amend Council Procedure Rule 17 in response to the Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulation 2014.
- That the amendment to Procedure Rule 17 falls short of the Government's intentions in making the regulations, as set out in a letter from Brandon Lewis MP to all Councils in England on 4th February 2014. Specifically, Ministers intend for a recorded vote to be taken on any amendments voted on by councillors
- That the Statutory Instrument states "immediately after any vote is taken at a budget decision meeting of an authority there must be recorded in the minutes of the proceedings of the meeting the names of the persons who cast a vote for the decision or against the decision or who abstained from voting."
- That the Explanatory Notes to the Statutory Instrument states "Regulation 2 provides that the votes (plural) at key budget decision meetings by local authority are recorded."
- That in this context "any vote" includes votes on amendments at such a meeting; and that the use of the plural "votes" further indicates that the regulations are intended to cover votes on amendments. That a short piece of research of a number of authorities this afternoon has established that:
 1. Conservative-run Swindon Borough Council accordingly held a recorded vote on amendments at their budget meeting
 2. Labour/Lib Dem-run Norfolk County Council accordingly held a recorded vote on amendments at their budget meeting

3. Conservative-run Suffolk County Council accordingly held a recorded vote on amendments at their budget meeting
 4. Labour/Lib Dem-run Cumbria County Council accordingly held a recorded vote on amendments at their budget meeting
 5. And that Labour-run Nottingham City Council accordingly will hold a recorded vote on amendments at their budget meeting
 6. That many other councils held, or will hold, a recorded vote on amendments at their budget meeting
- That the European Parliament has today decided to take a recorded vote for every future decision, by 617 votes to 23

This Council Believes:

- That local people should be able to see how their councillors vote, not only on the substantive budget motions agreeing the budget or setting council taxes, but also on any amendments proposed at the meeting.

This Council Resolves:

- To amend the new Council Procedure Rule 17.5 to read as follows:- “In relation to any debate at a Budget Council Meeting on the authority’s budget and level of the Council Tax to be levied for each financial year, a recorded vote shall take place on any amendment that is put to the vote during that debate and on the substantive motion. Such votes to be undertaken in accordance with Procedure Rule 17.4.”

5. TO RECEIVE ANY PETITIONS

5.1 Petition regarding support for fair pay for Local Government Workers

Mr John McLoughlin addressed the meeting on behalf of the petitioners and responded to questions from Members. Councillor Alibor Choudhury, Cabinet Member for Resources, then responded to the matters raised in the petition. He called the current 1% offer derisory and stated that the Administration supported the Unions campaign for a significantly improved offer.

RESOLVED

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

5.2 Petition regarding Mayor’s Car and Advisors

Mr Kahar Chowdhury addressed the meeting on behalf of the petitioners and responded to questions from Members. Councillor Alibor Choudhury, the Cabinet Member for Resources, responded to the matters raised in the petition. He stated that the car was an essential support to the Mayor and enabled him to work whilst travelling to all the meetings he held to engage

with local people. He also highlighted the value to the Council of the advice and policies that were developed in conjunction with the Mayor's advisors.

RESOLVED

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

5.3 Petition regarding Free School Meals

Mr John Biggs addressed the meeting on behalf of the petitioners and responded to questions from Members. Councillor Oliur Rahman, the Cabinet Member for Children's Services, then responded to the matters raised in the petition. He pointed out that the Administration had already brought in free school meals for the younger primary school children and would welcome the idea of extending this to all primary pupils. However, he explained that the Labour Group's proposals were not properly funded so the Mayor would be looking to bring forward his own, properly costed, proposals at a later date.

RESOLVED

That the petition be referred to the Corporate Director, Education, Social Care and Wellbeing for a written response on any outstanding matters within 28 days.

6. BUDGET AND COUNCIL TAX 2014/15

Mayor Lutfur Rahman introduced, and Councillor Alibor Choudhury **moved**, the budget proposals of the Mayor and Executive as set out in the agenda pack. Councillor Ohid Ahmed **seconded** the proposals.

Three amendments were tabled and moved as follows:

- (i) Amendment **proposed** by Councillor Carlo Gibbs and **seconded** by Councillor Sirajul Islam.
- (ii) Amendment **proposed** by Councillor David Snowdon and **seconded** by Councillor Zara Davis.
- (iii) Amendment **proposed** by Councillor Peter Golds and **seconded** by Councillor Tim Archer.

Additional papers were tabled as follows:-

- Comments of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee from their meeting on Tuesday 11th February on the revised budget proposals agreed at Cabinet on 5th February 2014; and
- Officers' amended comments on alternative budget proposal by the Labour Group: Restoration of Victoria Park Fireworks Display

Procedural Motions

During the debate, Councillor Peter Golds **moved** and Councillor Bill Turner **seconded**, a procedural motion “that under Procedure Rule 14.1.16 Councillor Alibor Choudhury be not further heard” due to misconduct.

The procedural motion was put to the vote and was **agreed**.

A second procedural motion was **moved** by Councillor Ohid Ahmed and **seconded** by Councillor Oliur Rahman “that under Procedure Rule 14.1.6 Councillor Rachael Saunders be not further heard” due to misconduct.

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

A third procedural motion was later **moved** by Councillor Anwar Khan and **seconded** by Councillor Rabina Khan “that under Procedure Rule 14.1.6 Councillor Joshua Peck be not further heard” due to misconduct.

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

Following debate the budget amendment proposed by Councillor Carlo Gibbs was put to the vote and was **agreed**. Councillors recorded their votes on the amendment as follows:-

Councillor	For	Against	Abstain	Absent
Helal Abbas	X			
Kabir Ahmed		X		
Khales Uddin Ahmed				Absent
Ohid Ahmed		X		
Rajib Ahmed	X			
Rofique Uddin Ahmed		X		
Shahed Ali		X		
Timothy Archer			X	
Abdul Asad		X		
Craig Aston			X	
Lutfa Begum		X		
Mizan Chaudhury	X			
Alibor Choudhury		X		
Zara Davis			X	
Stephanie Eaton		X		
David Edgar	X			
Marc Francis	X			
Judith Gardiner	X			
Carlo Gibbs	X			
Peter Golds			X	
Shafiqul Haque		X		
Carli Harper-Penman	X			
Sirajul Islam	X			
Ann Jackson	X			
Denise Jones	X			

Dr Emma Jones			X		
Aminur Khan		X			
Anwar Khan		X			
Rabina Khan		X			
Rania Khan		X			
Shiria Khatun					Absent
Fozol Miah		X			
Harun Miah					Absent
Maium Miah		X			
Mohammed Abdul Mukit	X				
Ahmed Omer					Absent
Lesley Pavitt	X				
Joshua Peck	X				
John Pierce	X				
Oliur Rahman		X			
Zenith Rahman	X				
Gulam Robbani		X			
Rachael Saunders	X				
David Snowdon			X		
Gloria Thienel			X		
Bill Turner	X				
Helal Uddin	X				
Kosru Uddin					Absent
Abdal Ullah	X				
Motin Uz-Zaman	X				
Amy Whitelock	X				
Total Votes	22	17	7	5	51

The amendment proposed by Councillor David Snowdon was then put to the vote and was **defeated**. Councillors recorded their votes on the amendment as follows:-

Councillor	For	Against	Abstain	Absent
Helal Abbas		X		
Kabir Ahmed		X		
Khales Uddin Ahmed				Absent
Ohid Ahmed		X		
Rajib Ahmed		X		
Rofique Uddin Ahmed		X		
Shahed Ali		X		
Timothy Archer	X			
Abdul Asad		X		
Craig Aston	X			
Lutfu Begum		X		
Mizan Chaudhury		X		
Alibor Choudhury		X		
Zara Davis	X			
Stephanie Eaton		X		
David Edgar		X		

Marc Francis		X			
Judith Gardiner		X			
Carlo Gibbs		X			
Peter Golds	X				
Shafiqul Haque		X			
Carli Harper-Penman		X			
Sirajul Islam		X			
Ann Jackson		X			
Denise Jones		X			
Dr Emma Jones	X				
Aminur Khan		X			
Anwar Khan		X			
Rabina Khan		X			
Rania Khan		X			
Shiria Khatun					Absent
Fozol Miah		X			
Harun Miah					Absent
Maium Miah		X			
Mohammed Abdul Mukit		X			
Ahmed Omer					Absent
Lesley Pavitt		X			
Joshua Peck		X			
John Pierce		X			
Oliur Rahman		X			
Zenith Rahman		X			
Gulam Robbani		X			
Rachael Saunders		X			
David Snowdon	X				
Gloria Thienel	X				
Bill Turner		X			
Helal Uddin		X			
Kosru Uddin					Absent
Abdal Ullah		X			
Motin Uz-Zaman		X			
Amy Whitelock		X			
Total Votes	7	39	0	5	51

The amendment proposed by Councillor Peter Golds was then put to the vote and was **defeated**. Councillors recorded their votes on the amendment as follows:-

Councillor	For	Against	Abstain	Notes
Helal Abbas		X		
Kabir Ahmed		X		
Khales Uddin Ahmed				Absent
Ohid Ahmed		X		
Rajib Ahmed		X		
Rofique Uddin Ahmed		X		
Shahed Ali		X		

Timothy Archer	X				
Abdul Asad		X			
Craig Aston	X				
Lutfu Begum		X			
Mizan Chaudhury		X			
Alibor Choudhury		X			
Zara Davis	X				
Stephanie Eaton		X			
David Edgar		X			
Marc Francis		X			
Judith Gardiner		X			
Carlo Gibbs		X			
Peter Golds	X				
Shafiqul Haque		X			
Carli Harper-Penman		X			
Sirajul Islam		X			
Ann Jackson		X			
Denise Jones		X			
Dr Emma Jones	X				
Aminur Khan		X			
Anwar Khan		X			
Rabina Khan		X			
Rania Khan		X			
Shiria Khatun					Absent
Fozol Miah		X			
Harun Miah					Absent
Maium Miah		X			
Mohammed Abdul Mukit		X			
Ahmed Omer					Absent
Lesley Pavitt		X			
Joshua Peck		X			
John Pierce		X			
Oliur Rahman		X			
Zenith Rahman		X			
Gulam Robbani		X			
Rachael Saunders		X			
David Snowdon	X				
Gloria Thienel	X				
Bill Turner		X			
Helal Uddin		X			
Kosru Uddin					Absent
Abdal Ullah		X			
Motin Uz-Zaman		X			
Amy Whitelock		X			
Total Votes	7	39	0	5	51

Finally, the substantive motion as amended was put to the vote and was **agreed**. Councillors recorded their votes as follows:-

Councillor	For	Against	Abstain	Notes
Helal Abbas	X			
Kabir Ahmed		X		
Khales Uddin Ahmed				Absent
Ohid Ahmed		X		
Rajib Ahmed	X			
Rofique Uddin Ahmed		X		
Shahed Ali		X		
Timothy Archer			X	
Abdul Asad		X		
Craig Aston			X	
Lutfu Begum		X		
Mizan Chaudhury	X			
Alibor Choudhury		X		
Zara Davis			X	
Stephanie Eaton		X		
David Edgar	X			
Marc Francis	X			
Judith Gardiner	X			
Carlo Gibbs	X			
Peter Golds			X	
Shafiqul Haque		X		
Carli Harper-Penman	X			
Sirajul Islam	X			
Ann Jackson	X			
Denise Jones	X			
Dr Emma Jones			X	
Aminur Khan		X		
Anwar Khan		X		
Rabina Khan		X		
Rania Khan		X		
Shiria Khatun				Absent
Fozol Miah		X		
Harun Miah				Absent
Maium Miah		X		
Mohammed Abdul Mukit	X			
Ahmed Omer				Absent
Lesley Pavitt	X			
Joshua Peck	X			
John Pierce	X			
Oliur Rahman		X		
Zenith Rahman	X			
Gulam Robbani		X		
Rachael Saunders	X			
David Snowdon			X	

Gloria Thienel			X		
Bill Turner	X				
Helal Uddin	X				
Kosru Uddin				Absent	
Abdal Ullah	X				
Motin Uz-Zaman	X				
Amy Whitelock	X				
Total Votes	22	17	7	5	51

Accordingly it was **RESOLVED:-**

That the Mayor and Executive be informed of the Council's objections to their budget proposals as set out in the decision below; be requested to reconsider their proposals in the light of those objections; and in accordance with the Budget and Policy Framework Procedure Rules submit revised proposals for consideration at a further Budget Council Meeting to be held on 6th March 2014.

Foreword:

- The ConDem Government continues in its ideological austerity drive hitting the most deprived communities such as ours the hardest. Whilst local councils face difficult decisions in the years ahead, strong, honest and fair leadership is required to ensure the most vulnerable are protected and services continue to serve residents' needs.
- The emptiness of this year's budget proposals from the Mayor shows that Lutfur Rahman has run out of ideas and has no plan to lead the borough through this difficult financial time.
- When John Biggs wins the Mayoralty in May we will be able to set about making the changes necessary to deliver the services residents rightly demand. Until then we need to send a clear message about the kind of administration we would lead.
- This Budget amendment starts to set out the progressive things that a Labour administration under John Biggs would seek to achieve. This includes;
 1. **Free School Meals for all primary school children;**
 2. **A 24h weekend noise nuisance and ASB reporting service;**
 3. **Action to tackle drug dealing;**
 4. **A private lettings service to cut out rip off charges and powers to hold RSLs to account;**
 5. **Utilising the council's capacity to build council housing;**
 6. **Funding to restore our much loved parks** including bringing back the popular **Victoria Park firework** display.
 7. **Cutting the Mayor's excessive spending** on cars, advisors and communications;

This Council believes:

- The budget deficit in 2015/16 stands at £28m and in 2016/17 this increases to £67m;
- The council budget for 2014/15 is not balanced and reserves are being used to cover the shortfall;
- The Mayor has failed to produce a plan of how he will tackle the deficit.
- Following years of pressure from Labour Group the Mayor has finally conceded that a plan is needed to deal with this deficit but has only just begun looking into this.
- This failure of leadership has led to two wasted years in which proposals could have been brought together in order to ensure our residents are protected from the worst of the Governments ideological cuts;
- The Mayor has left Tower Hamlets vulnerable because of this lack of leadership:
- The majority of the Mayors' current policies are not funded on a sustainable basis and are surviving on short term one off funding.
- It is important to show leadership in the face of ideological cuts driven by the Conservative / Liberal Democrat Coalition, and that as politicians we should be honest about the scale of the challenge we face and ensure that the council implements policies that are fair for its residents.

This Council therefore resolves to make the following amendments to the Mayor's budget for 2014/15:**Housing****1. Leaseholders and tenants**

While the Mayor claims housing as one of his key priorities, he has failed to show leadership in an area of significant importance to residents. His failures include:

- Failing to get a grip on rising leaseholder charges and provide transparency for what residents are being charged for;
- Failing to take leadership over housing in the borough, instead meddling in the affairs of Tower Hamlets Homes board by hijacking the nominations and allowing the Chair to be forced out by independent representatives;
- Failing to implement all of the recommendations from the Beavers and Struthers Leaseholder audit;
- Failing to build council housing - disgracefully only building 15 council homes in his three and half years in office;
- Presiding over the Watts Grove site fiasco;
- Failing to get a fair deal from the Olympic village, securing just 27 homes;
- Failing to crack down on rogue landlords and failing to support people in the private rented sector;

- Hypocritically allowing his Cabinet to brand Registered Social Landlords “dodgy” despite them delivering 99% of affordable housing in the borough, for which he takes credit;
- Failing to hold RSLs to account when they don't deliver for their residents on issues such as anti-social behaviour;
- Overseeing a 109% increase in homelessness;
- Unlawfully leaving 94 families in bed and breakfast accommodation for over 6 weeks;

This Council resolves to reverse this legacy of failure by:

- We will, following the election, begin looking at bringing Tower Hamlets Home back under council control to provide stronger leadership and investigating the potential for savings from this process;
- Providing the support and leadership required to allow the council to deliver an ambitious council house building programme as the Labour Party has done in other areas such as Southwark, by preparing to deliver 1000 new homes;
- Providing funding to establish a council run lettings agency to support residents into the private rented sector that are facing high rents, charges and excessive credit checks and bring forward proposals around to crack down on rogue private landlords;
- Implementing the final recommendations in the Scrutiny review into co-regulation and accountability to ensure that Registered Housing Providers are delivering for residents;

This will allow a Labour Mayor to show much needed leadership by:

- Reviewing the Service Level Agreements between the council and THH with a view to providing better value for money;
- Reviewing costs to service charges with a view to providing a more efficient and transparent service for THH leaseholders and residents;
- Immediately implementing all of the recommendations in the Beavers and Struthers audit.
- Building the council homes that are so desperately needed;
- Support residents who are victims of rogue landlords or struggling to find housing in the private rented sector;
- Hold Registered Social Landlords to account and ensure they are deliver a decent standard of services for our residents;

This council further believes:

2. Tackling poverty

- Despite the political will and the financial capability, the Mayor has failed to show the leadership that is needed in order to deliver free school meals for all primary school pupils in Tower Hamlets. This lack of leadership and disingenuous attempt to convince residents he has already delivered this fails our young people and their parents.

- That the mayor disgracefully cut funding to advice centres at the height of the welfare cuts and proposed closing the one stop shop at Rushmead. That only through Labour Group's campaigning were the worst of these cuts reversed.
- The Conservative/Liberal Democrat Government have further cut the funding for crises payments, leaving the council £1.7m down in funding.
- Typically, the Mayor has no idea how to implement a policy to replace this scheme and has simply used reserves to cover the shortfall for one year

This Council resolves to show leadership by diverting resources back to free school meals in order to deliver this for all primary school pupils as the Labour Party has done in Newham, Southwark and Islington. This will include:

- Reversing the Mayor's decision to remove £1.3m of funding for free school meals from public health funds;
- Showing leadership by ensuring that the power of the Mayor's office is used to work with business, third sector and NHS partners to ensure that more than 100 women over 25 are given opportunities for employment in the health sector in a sustainable way and not just as a one off.
- Ensuring that through the main stream grants programme organisations that provide welfare advice are given priority and that Lutfur Rahman's disgraceful politicisation of the grants process is ended.

This Council further believes:

3. Crime and safety

Under Lutfur Rahman crime in Tower Hamlets has risen while it is falling in neighbouring boroughs. The Mayor has failed to show leadership on this issue and this failure includes:

- Restricting the operating times for the out of hours noise service, restricting residents ability to raise noise complaints at key times;
- Presiding over an increase in crime of 1.4% since he came to power, while neighbouring Labour boroughs have seen significant falls of up to 8%;
- Drug dealing remains a major issue on the borough's streets and estates;
- Failing to challenge the Conservative Mayor of London's cuts to police numbers and police stations;

In order to address these important issues, this Council resolves to:

- Develop capacity to implement a community safety plan for each neighbourhood to ensure local residents have their say on local priorities;
- Provide additional resources to officers to tackle the scourge of drug dealing that blights many parts of the borough, including fully funding the sniffer dogs patrols to be rolled out across the borough;
- Reverse the cuts to the out of hours noise team to ensure that all noise nuisance and ASB can be reported around the clock at the weekends.

This Council further believes:**4. Communications and good governance**

The communications budget and other resources at this council has been wilfully abused by the Mayor, and at a time that council services are being cut and staffing levels reduced, it is disgraceful that council funds are being used to promote the Mayor to support his re-election.

Examples of this unfair excess include:

- £1m per year on a newspaper which favours the Mayor and independent councillors and which the Council's own statistics have shown featured 320 quotes from the Mayor and independent councillors compared with only 15 from Labour, Conservative, Liberal Democrat and Respect councillors combined. The paper also ran 164 images of the Mayor and his supporters as opposed to the 26 featuring opposition councillors including the ceremonial speaker of the Council;
- £16,000 spent on propaganda telling residents the streets are 'clean';
- £37,000 spent on letters announcing policy decisions;
- Last year choosing to increase spending on his office by 65% to £700,000, including £296k for advisors whilst cutting frontline staffing budgets elsewhere in the Council.
- Spent £42k on a mayoral Limousine and personal chauffeur and dishonestly claimed that this was being scrapped;, when funding continues to remain in the MTFP for 3 years;
- £170,000 Spent on community forums where just a handful of residents attended. Whilst we fully support deliberative democracy this this should be done in a truly engaging way and thus we would review this programme and look to work in partnership with resident organisations and others.

In order to address this abuse of public funds this Council resolves to:

- To remove the capacity for departments to spend on advertising by reducing their budgets by £200,000;
- Cut funding to the Chief Executive's department by £326,000 to remove the advisors and the Mayoral Car;

This council further believes:**5. Community and Public Realm**

That the Mayor has failed to ensure that the borough is clean and that the community benefit from commercial events in the boroughs parks. Including;

- Nearly 4,000 missed collections in three months;
- Charging for bulk waste collections and having one of the worst record in the country for infestations;
- A dog fouling machine costing over £41,000 a year that services only a small part of the Deputy Mayor's ward, cleaning the street he lives on twice a week;
- The removal of one of London's favourite fireworks displays from Victoria Park for no good reason;
- Refusing to listen to residents concerns over the commercial use of Victoria Park and other parks;
- The decision to move the council Town Hall to Mulberry Place was made by the Lib Dems in 1993, and not under Labour as the Mayor is dishonestly trying to claim;
- That the options for a new town hall have not be properly scrutinised or explored by the Mayor;

This council resolves:

- To redeploy the Dog Fouling machine to work for residents across the borough;
- To return the annual fireworks event to its home at Victoria Park;
- Allocate £125,000 to support the restoration and improvement of the borough's other parks and open spaces;
- To delay the decision to build a multimillion pound town hall. Moving allocated funding back to a reserve fund for decision after a thorough review of options.

2014/15 Budget Proposals

Project	Change
Saving Proposals	
Cancel the decision to remove £1.3m of funding for free school meals for 2014/15	£1,300,000
Departmental top slice for advertising CLC, D&R, ESWB	£200,000
Cut the Mayoral car	£30,000
Cut the Chief Executives cost for mayoral advisors/consultants	£296,000
Remove community ward forum funding following completion of 2013/14 programme pending review	£170,000
Savings from the reduction to 45 councillors	£28,000
Delay decision on Town Hall pending options review	£2,000,000

Total	+ £4,024,000
Spending Proposals	
Provide universal free school meals for all primary pupils	- £1,300,000
Provide funding to develop a council run lettings agency to support people into the private rented sector	- £250,000
Restoration of Victoria Park firework display	- £45,000
Build capacity for council house building programme	£0 – From existing budget
Restoration of 24 hours noise service at weekends	-£110,000
Neighbourhood community safety plan (from existing resources)	£0 – From existing budget
Expansion of sniffer dog patrols to tackle drug dealing	-£144,000
Deliver the final recommendations from RSL co-regulation scrutiny review specifically in relation to the tenants' panel.	-£50,000
Public realm and park improvements	- £125,000
Move funding allocated for Town Hall to separate earmarked reserve	-£2,000,000
Total:	-£4,024,000

The meeting ended at 10.38 p.m.

Speaker of the Council

LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL (SECOND BUDGET MEETING)

HELD AT 7.30 P.M. ON THURSDAY, 6TH MARCH 2014

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

Members Present:

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

The Speaker of the Council, Councillor Lesley Pavitt, in the Chair

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors Khaled Uddin Ahmed, Dr Emma Jones, Ahmed Omer and Carli Harper-Penman.

2. DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS

No declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests were made.

3. TO RECEIVE ANNOUNCEMENTS (IF ANY) FROM THE SPEAKER OF THE COUNCIL OR THE HEAD OR PAID SERVICE

There were no announcements from the Head of Paid Service or from the Speaker of the Council.

Councillor Rachael Saunders referred to statements made by Councillor Alibor Choudhury at the last meeting that related to Councillor Ann Jackson.

Councillor Alibor Choudhury apologised to Councillor Ann Jackson for the statements he had made and any distress caused.

4. TO RECEIVE PETITIONS

There were no petitions.

5. BUDGET AND COUNCIL TAX 2014/15

The Mayor's response to the budget amendments agreed by the Council at the Budget Meeting on 26th February were tabled.

Mayor Lutfur Rahman introduced, and Councillor Alibor Choudhury **moved**, the budget proposals of the Mayor and Executive as set out in the tabled report. Councillor Ohid Ahmed **seconded** the proposals. The Mayor stated that he and the Executive were unable to accept any of the amendments proposed by Council on 26th February 2014, with the reasons set out in the tabled report.

Councillor Carlo Gibbs **moved** and Councillor Sirajul Islam **seconded**, the Council's amended budget proposals as agreed at the meeting on 26 February 2014 and set out in the agenda.

During debate, Councillor Rachael Saunders **moved** and Councillor Bill Turner **seconded** a procedural motion 'that under Procedure Rule 15.11.4, the question be now put'. The procedural motion was put to the vote and was **defeated**.

Following further debate the Council's amended budget proposals were put to the vote. They did not achieve the necessary two-thirds majority of those present and voting as required by the regulations, with 22 Members voting in favour, 18 against and 6 abstentions as set out below:-

Councillor	For	Against	Abstain	Notes
Helal Abbas	X			
Kabir Ahmed		X		
Khales Uddin Ahmed				Absent
Ohid Ahmed		X		
Rajib Ahmed	X			
Rofique Uddin Ahmed		X		
Shahed Ali		X		

Timothy Archer			X		
Abdul Asad		X			
Craig Aston			X		
Lutfa Begum		X			
Mizan Chaudhury					Absent
Alibor Choudhury		X			
Zara Davis			X		
Stephanie Eaton		X			
David Edgar	X				
Marc Francis	X				
Judith Gardiner	X				
Carlo Gibbs	X				
Peter Golds			X		
Shafiqul Haque		X			
Carli Harper-Penman					Absent
Sirajul Islam	X				
Ann Jackson	X				
Denise Jones	X				
Dr Emma Jones					Absent
Aminur Khan		X			
Anwar Khan		X			
Rabina Khan		X			
Rania Khan		X			
Shiria Khatun	X				
Fozol Miah		X			
Harun Miah		X			
Maium Miah		X			
Mohammed Abdul Mukit	X				
Ahmed Omer					Absent
Lesley Pavitt	X				
Joshua Peck	X				
John Pierce	X				
Oliur Rahman		X			
Zenith Rahman	X				
Gulam Robbani		X			
Rachael Saunders	X				
David Snowdon			X		
Gloria Thienel			X		
Bill Turner	X				
Helal Uddin	X				
Kosru Uddin	X				
Abdal Ullah	X				
Motin Uz-Zaman	X				
Amy Whitelock Gibbs	X				
Total Votes	22	18	6	5	51

The Mayor and Executive's budget proposals were therefore **adopted**. Accordingly it was:-

RESOLVED

General Fund Revenue Budget and Council Tax 2014/15; Capital Programme and Medium Term Finance Plan 2014-2017; Treasury Management Strategy Statement, Minimum Revenue Provision Policy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy 2014/15

1. To agree a General Fund revenue budget of £293.933m and a total Council Tax Requirement for Tower Hamlets in 2014/15 of £66,396,000 as set out in the table below.

Service	Revised Base 2013-14 £'000	Savings		Growth £'000	Adjustments £'000	Total Budget 2014-15 £'000
		Approved £'000	New £'000			
Education, Social Care and Wellbeing	195,442	(2,010)	0	1,105	(7,005)	187,532
Communities, Localities and Culture	79,471	(350)	0	1,654	(1,591)	79,184
Development & Renewal	19,648	(1,534)	0	(2,062)	(1,365)	14,687
Resources	6,795	(230)	0	19	(36)	6,548
Chief Executives	9,760	0	0	13	(381)	9,392
Public Health	29,982	0	0	0	0	29,982
Net Service Costs	341,098	(4,124)	0	728	(10,378)	327,324
Other Net Costs						
Capital Charges	9,444	0	0	1,845	0	11,289
Levies	1,661	0	0	0	0	1,661
Pensions	14,393	0	0	2,599	0	16,992
Other Corporate Costs	(6,230)	(2,568)	0	1,447	4	(7,347)
Total Other Net costs	19,268	(2,568)	0	5,891	4	22,595
Public Health	(31,382)	0	(879)	0	0	(32,261)
Core Grants	(23,452)	(3,408)	(2,265)	2,286	0	(26,839)
Reserves						
General Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Earmarked	(9,799)	0	0	(239)	9,809	(229)
General Fund (Smoothing)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Inflation	-	0	(1,500)	6,342	0	4,842
Total Financing Requirement	295,732	(10,100)	(4,644)	15,008	(565)	293,933
Government Funding	(150,670)	0	(82)	28,172	0	(122,580)
Retained Business Rates	(100,800)	0	(2,016)	0	0	(102,816)
Council Tax	(63,343)	0	(3,053)	0	0	(66,396)
Collection Fund Surplus	(1,645)	0	0	1,645	0	0
Total Financing	(316,458)	0	(5,151)	29,817	0	(291,792)

2. To agree a Council Tax for Tower Hamlets in 2014/15 of £885.52 at Band D resulting in a Council Tax for all other band taxpayers, before any discounts, and excluding the GLA precept, as set out in the table below:-

BAND	PROPERTY VALUE		RATIO TO BAND D	LBTH COUNCIL TAX FOR EACH BAND
	FROM £	TO £		
A	0	40,000	$\frac{6}{9}$	£590.35
B	40,001	52,000	$\frac{7}{9}$	£688.74
C	52,001	68,000	$\frac{8}{9}$	£787.13
D	68,001	88,000	$\frac{9}{9}$	£885.52
E	88,001	120,000	$\frac{11}{9}$	£1,082.30
F	120,001	160,000	$\frac{13}{9}$	£1,279.08
G	160,001	320,000	$\frac{15}{9}$	£1,475.87
H	320,001	and over	$\frac{18}{9}$	£1,771.04

3. To agree that for the London Borough of Tower Hamlets in 2014/15:-

(a) The Council Tax for Band D taxpayers, before any discounts, and including the GLA precept, shall be £1,184.52 as shown below: -

	£
	(Band D, No Discounts)
LBTH	885.52
GLA	299.00
Total	1,184.52

(b) The Council Tax for taxpayers in all other bands, before any discounts, and including the GLA precept, shall be as detailed in the table below: -

BAND	PROPERTY VALUE		RATIO TO BAND D	LBTH	GLA	TOTAL
	FROM	TO				
	£	£		£	£	£
A	0	40,000	$\frac{6}{9}$	590.35	199.33	789.68
B	40,001	52,000	$\frac{7}{9}$	688.74	232.56	921.30
C	52,001	68,000	$\frac{8}{9}$	787.13	265.78	1,052.91
D	68,001	88,000	$\frac{9}{9}$	885.52	299.00	1,184.52
E	88,001	120,000	$\frac{11}{9}$	1,082.30	365.44	1,447.74
F	120,001	160,000	$\frac{13}{9}$	1,279.08	431.89	1,710.97
G	160,001	320,000	$\frac{15}{9}$	1,475.87	498.33	1,974.20
H	320,001	and over	$\frac{18}{9}$	1,771.04	598.00	2,369.04

4 To approve the statutory calculations of this Authority's Council Tax Requirement in 2014/15, detailed in **Appendix A** to the motion, undertaken by the Chief Financial Officer in accordance with the requirements of Sections 31 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.

- 5 To approve the Treasury Management Strategy Statement, the Annual Investment Strategy and the Minimum Revenue Provision Policy Statement as presented to Cabinet on 5 February 2014.
- 6 To approve the General Fund Capital and Revenue Budgets and Medium Term Financial Plan 2014-2017 as amended by the alternative options as agreed by the Mayor in Cabinet on 5 February and as set out in the report of the Mayor in Cabinet as summarised in the tables below.

Summary Draft Medium Term Financial Plan 2014-17

	2013-14 £'000	2014-15 £'000	2015-16 £'000	2016-17 £'000
Net Service Costs	292,004	295,732	293,933	311,545
Growth (Incl Public Health) CLG transferring into baseline Savings	40,566	6,619	2,306	7,619
Approved	23,717	0	0	0
New	(26,029)	(6,692)	0	0
Inflation	0	0	0	0
	5,760	4,842	5,500	5,500
Core Grants (incl Public Health)	(40,522)	(4,266)	9,074	1,540
Earmarked Reserves (Directorates)	(530)	(804)	0	0
Contribution to/from Reserves	766	(1,498)	732	0
Total Requirement	<u>295,732</u>	<u>293,933</u>	<u>311,545</u>	<u>326,204</u>
Government Funding	(150,670)	(122,580)	(86,595)	(69,271)
Retained Business Rates	(100,800)	(102,816)	(104,872)	(106,970)
Council Tax Collection Surplus	(63,343)	(66,396)	(67,392)	(68,402)
	(1,645)	0	0	0
Total Funding	<u>(316,458)</u>	<u>(291,792)</u>	<u>(258,859)</u>	<u>(244,643)</u>

Detailed analysis of the Medium Term Financial Plan by service area 2013/14 to 2016/17

Service	Total	Savings		Growth	Adjustments	Total	Savings		Growth	Adjustments	Total	Savings		Growth	Adjustments	Total
	2013-14	Approved	New			2014-15	Approved	New			2015-16	Approved	New			2016-17
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000		£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Education, Social Care and Wellbeing	195,442	(2,010)	0	1,105	(7,005)	187,532	0	0	138	(272)	187,398	0	0	1,111	0	188,509
Communities, Localities and Culture	79,471	(350)	0	1,654	(1,591)	79,184	0	0	1,235	(73)	80,346	0	0	910	(199)	81,057
Development & Renewal	19,648	(1,534)	0	(2,062)	(1,365)	14,687	0	0	261	(150)	14,798	0	0	339	0	15,137
Resources	6,795	(230)	0	19	(36)	6,548	0	0	0	0	6,548	0	0	0	0	6,548
Chief Executives	9,760	0	0	13	(381)	9,392	0	0	0	0	9,392	0	0	0	0	9,392
Public Health	29,982	0	0	0	0	29,982	0	0	0	0	29,982	0	0	0	0	29,982
Net Service Costs	341,098	(4,124)	0	728	(10,378)	327,324	0	0	1,634	(495)	328,463	0	0	2,360	(199)	330,624
Other Net Costs																
Capital Charges	9,444	0	0	1,845	0	11,289	0	0	0	0	11,289	0	0	0	0	11,289
Leases	1,661	0	0	0	0	1,661	0	0	0	0	1,661	0	0	0	0	1,661
Depreciation	14,393	0	0	2,599	0	16,992	0	0	2,000	0	18,992	0	0	1,500	0	20,492
Other Corporate Costs	(6,230)	(2,568)	0	1,447	4	(7,347)	0	0	(1,328)	0	(8,675)	0	0	3,759	0	(4,916)
Total Other Net costs	19,268	(2,568)	0	5,891	4	22,595	0	0	672	0	23,267	0	0	5,259	0	28,526
Public Health Grant	(31,382)	0	(879)	0	0	(32,261)	0	0	0	0	(32,261)	0	0	0	0	(32,261)
Core Grants	(23,452)	(3,408)	(2,265)	2,286	0	(26,839)	(3,000)	529	11,545	0	(17,765)	0	1,540	0	0	(16,225)
Reserves																
General Fund (Corporate)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	(766)	0	(766)	0	0	0	0	(766)
Earmarked (Directorate)	(9,799)	0	0	(239)	9,809	(229)	0	0	0	495	266	0	0	0	199	465
General Fund (Smoothing)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Inflation	0	0	(1,500)	6,342	0	4,842	0	(1,500)	7,000	0	10,342	0	(1,500)	7,000	0	15,842
Total Financing Requirement	295,732	(10,100)	(4,644)	15,008	(565)	293,933	(3,000)	(971)	20,085	0	311,545	0	40	14,619	0	326,204
Government Funding	(150,670)	0	(82)	28,172	0	(122,580)	0	(119)	36,104	0	(86,595)	0	(139)	17,463	0	(69,271)
Retained Business Rates	(100,800)	0	(2,016)	0	0	(102,816)	0	(2,056)	0	0	(104,872)	0	(2,098)	0	0	(106,970)
Council Tax	(63,343)	0	(3,053)	0	0	(66,396)	0	(996)	0	0	(67,392)	0	(1,011)	0	0	(68,402)
Collection Fund Surplus	(1,645)	0	0	1,645	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Financing	(316,458)	0	(5,151)	29,817	0	(291,792)	0	(1,115)	36,104	0	(258,859)	0	(1,150)	17,463	0	(244,643)

APPENDIX A**SETTING THE AMOUNT OF COUNCIL TAX FOR THE COUNCIL'S AREA**

1. That the revenue estimates for 2014/2015 be approved.
2. That it be noted that, at its meeting on 8th January 2014, Cabinet calculated 74,979 as its Council Tax base for the year 2014/2015 [Item T in the formula in Section 31B of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended (the "Act")]
3. That the following amounts be now calculated by the Council for the year 2014/2015 in accordance with Section 31 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 as amended and the Local Authorities (Alteration of Requisite Calculations) (England) Regulations 2011:
 - (a) £1,184,928,000 Being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(2) of The Act. [Gross Expenditure]
 - (b) £1,118,532,000 Being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(3) of The Act. [Gross Income]
 - (c) £66,396,000 Being the amount by which the aggregate at 3(a) above exceeds the aggregate at 3(b) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31A(4) of The Act, as its council tax requirement for the year. (Item R in the formula in Section 31B of The Act). [Council Tax Requirement]
 - (d) £885.52 Being the amount at 3(c) above (Item R), all divided by Item T (2 above), calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31B(1) of The Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year. [Council Tax]

(e)	VALUATION BAND	LBTH £
	A	590.35
	B	688.74
	C	787.13
	D	885.52
	E	1,082.30
	F	1,279.08
	G	1,475.87
	H	1,771.04

Being the amount given by multiplying the amount at 3(d) above by the number which, in the proportion set out in Section 5(1) of The Act, is applicable to dwellings listed in a particular valuation band divided by the number which in that proportion is applicable to dwellings listed in valuation band D, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 36(1) of The Act, as the amount to be taken into account for the year in respect of categories of dwellings listed in different valuation bands.

4. That it be noted that for the year 2014/15 the Greater London Authority has stated the following amounts in precepts issued to the Council, in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, for each of the categories of the dwellings shown below:-

VALUATION BAND	GLA £
A	199.33
B	232.56
C	265.78
D	299.00
E	365.44
F	431.89
G	498.33
H	598.00

5. That, having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts at 3(d) and 4 above, the Council, in accordance with Section 30(2) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, hereby sets the following amounts as the amounts of Council Tax for the year 2014/15 for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:-

VALUATION BAND	TOTAL COUNCIL TAX £
A	789.68
B	921.30
C	1,052.91
D	1,184.52
E	1,447.74
F	1,710.97
G	1,974.20
H	2,369.04

6. New government regulation now requires a local authority to conduct a referendum where if compared with the previous year, they set council tax increases that are “excessive”. Under current legislation and in accordance with principles approved under Section 52ZB Local Government Finance Act 1992, the Council tax set by the London Borough of Tower Hamlets for 2014/15 is not deemed to be excessive.

The meeting ended at 9.09 p.m.

Speaker of the Council

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LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

COUNCIL MEETING

WEDNESDAY 26th MARCH 2014

PETITIONS

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

SUMMARY

1. The Council's Constitution provides for up to three petitions to be received at each Council Meeting. These are taken in order of receipt. This report sets out the valid petitions submitted for presentation at the Council meeting on Wednesday 26th March 2014.
2. The deadline for receipt of petitions for this meeting is noon on Thursday 20th March. However, at the time of agenda despatch the maximum number of petitions has already been received as set out overleaf.
3. The texts of the petitions received for presentation to this meeting are set out in the attached report. 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, other than a Cabinet Member or Committee Chair responding at the end of the item, should confine their contributions to questions and not make statements or attempt to debate.

5.1 Save Kobi Nazrul School (Petition from Mr Suroth Miah and others)

“We, the undersigned parents, and residents within the immediate neighbourhood of Kobi Nazrul School, are extremely concerned and furious at the Headteacher and Governing Body. It transpired at a meeting held on 17/12/2013 to our shock, that they have already made an application to the DfE for our school to become an academy, and that an unknown entity known as OCA Trust has been chosen as the preferred sponsor and already started working with the school. The Headteacher and Governing Body have completely failed to consult with teaching staff, parents, residents, our elected Mayor and ward councillors. We request that the local authority council immediately intervene. Our children’s wellbeing and education is being destroyed.”

5.2 Illegal ‘raves’ in Wapping (Petition from Mr Nahimaul Islam, Mr Stuart Madewell and others)

“Two people were stabbed at an illegal ‘rave’ held in Pennington Street on the 21st December. We, the undersigned, are concerned residents of Wapping who are calling on the Mayor to take action against the owners of dis-used warehouses in Pennington Street which are being used for illegal ‘raves’.”

5.3 Road safety and traffic calming in Devons Road, E3 (Petition from Mr Shahnur Miah and others)

“Petition calling for Tower Hamlets Council to construct speed humps along the stretch of Devons Road running beside Tidey Street, E3, for traffic running in both directions.”

LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

COUNCIL MEETING

WEDNESDAY 26th MARCH 2014

**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 Mayor or appropriate Cabinet Member at the Council Meeting on 26th March 2014.
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 Speaker 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

Fifteen public questions have been submitted as set out below:-

6.1 Question from Mr Geoff Juden:

Would full Council agree with the residents of Weavers, Spitalfields and Banglatown that the park atop the arches, within the Bishopsgate Goods Yard development, be a park which, in all circumstances, is able to provide a cleaner air environment. A Forest Garden?

6.2 Question from Ms Pawla Cottage

Does the Cabinet Member for Culture support the on-line petition, signed by 124 people, calling for the building of a Columbia Market war memorial to commemorate the air raid on Columbia Market, Columbia Rd, E2 on the first night of the Blitz, 7th September 1940, whereby a German bomb entered the ventilation shaft of the air raid shelter situated under the Great Hall of Columbia Market, which had a glass roof, causing mass devastation and the loss of 51 lives? The memorial will be dedicated to those who died as a consequence and to those who survived and still survive.

6.3 Question from Ms Shuliy Akhter:

The residents of this Borough are really concerned regarding Sex Establishment and Gambling Issues. While we understand the Council's limitation regarding Gambling because of Gambling Act but this Council could have a "NO Sex Establishment Policy" like other councils. I understand it went to Licensing Committee on 8th October 2013 but the framework was not adopted. Can the Council inform the public those councillors were in favour and against? Since the Oct 2013 how many applications this Council received and how many of these given permission? What other steps Council took to ensure this Council has No SEV policy?

6.4 Question from Mr Mahbub Alam:

The existing Town Hall at Mulberry Place has cost residents over £50 million in rent alone. Can the Lead Member tell us the progress that has been made with the proposed town hall move to Whitechapel and can he tell us why we need to move?

6.5 Question from Mr Brian Nicholson:

What is the update on Watts Grove?

6.6 Question from Mr Stephen Beckett:

Does the Lead Member agree with me that Tower Hamlets is one of the most diverse and cohesive communities in the UK?

6.7 Question from Mr Gary Reddin:

Will the Lead Member for Resources tell me how much money, resources and officer time has been spent on various investigations instigated by full Council motions?

6.8 Question from Mr Suluk Ahmed:

Does the Lead Member agree with me that Tower Hamlets is rich in its diversity and culture due to the contributions of all communities that have settled here?

6.9 Question from Ms Sabia Kamali:

Can the Lead Member outline the role and purpose of the Local Ward Forums?

6.10 Question from Ms Fatima Khatun:

I was deeply concerned to see the rise of media attacks on our community recently, targeting the Council and certain sections of our diverse community. What is the Council doing to address these attacks and protect the reputation of the borough and its people?

6.11 Question from Ms Jusna Begum:

As local women we are deeply concerned at the proposals of Tower Hamlets Labour Party to axe funding for the women into health jobs project. We call on Labour Councillors to urgently overturn such plans. We value the importance of such a unique project which will help women in the borough to access flexible employment and training opportunities, especially for those affected by welfare reform and benefit changes. With Government cuts affecting women the hardest, we ask that Mayor Lutfur Rahman ensures that funding for the women into health jobs project in the borough is retained?

6.12 Question from Mr Mohammed Mufti Miah:

Can the Lead Member confirm the purpose of Council assets and how often they are audited?

6.13 Question from Mr Mickey Ambrose:

The Mayor's record of investing, £17 million to provide free home care to vulnerable residents, £380m in education making Tower Hamlets schools standing in the top ten in the country, building the most affordable homes in the UK should be commended. I also note his investments in high street market to support small high street businesses through these tough times including our markets. Will he commit to continuing to support these initiatives to support local residents like those in Bow?

6.14 Question from Mr Abjol Miah:

Does the Lead Member agree with me that all Members within the Council have a right to be heard?

6.15 Question from Ms Kathy McTasney:

Will the Mayor consider extending Free School Meals at our Primary Schools all year round and not just before an election like the Labour Party?

LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

COUNCIL MEETING

WEDNESDAY 26th MARCH 2014

**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 the Speaker, the Mayor or the relevant Committee/Sub-Committee Chair at the Council meeting on Wednesday 26th March 2014.
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 Speaker 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

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

8.1 Question from Councillor Abdal Ullah

Will the Lead Member for Jobs and Skills apologise for the fact that under Lutfur Rahman's administration the number of 18-24 year olds claiming JSA for over a year has increased by over 110%?

8.2 Question from Councillor Zara Davis

What is the Council doing to accelerate the reopening of the Thames Path, next to Sir John McDougal Gardens?

8.3 Question from Councillor Judith Gardiner to the Speaker of the Council

Can the Speaker inform the Council exactly how many public and councillor questions have been asked at Council meetings since October 2010 as well as how many of these questions have been answered by the Mayor personally?

8.4 Question from Councillor Kabir Ahmed

Congratulations on Tower Hamlets being awarded an "excellent" rating for equalities. Can you tell us how this was achieved and how it reflects on the opposition claims that the Mayor is only for one community and Robin Wales' scurrilous and divisive accusation that there is a form of apartheid in Tower Hamlets?

8.5 Question from Councillor Motin Uz-Zaman to the Chair of the Development Committee

How many social homes have been secured each year of this Council term through the planning permission process by the Labour controlled Development and SDC committees?

8.6 Question from Councillor Peter Golds

On 12th March, the Evening Standard reported that 55 towers of 20 storeys or above are in the pipeline for Tower Hamlets, almost a quarter of the London total. Will the portfolio holder for regeneration outline what steps he is taking to prevent overdevelopment on the Isle of Dogs?

8.7 Question from Councillor Denise Jones

What impact does the Lead Member for Regeneration believe the 2012 Olympic Games have had on the borough?

8.8 Question from Councillor Gulam Robbani

Can the Lead Member give some examples of the events delivered through the Mayor's Community Events Grant that was so strongly opposed by the Labour Party in last year's budget?

8.9 Question from Councillor Ann Jackson to the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Given that the Mayor has chosen not to delegate any of his powers, can the Chair of the O&S Committee tell us how many meetings his Committee has held during this Council term and how many of those the Mayor has attended to account for his administration's decisions?

8.10 Question from Councillor Gloria Thienel

Residents and visitors to Island Gardens are being directed to the London Borough of Greenwich for public lavatories. Will the Mayor or portfolio holder for regeneration explain why this is happening when perfectly usable lavatories transferred to East End Homes are kept locked up, despite their being no future plans for them?

8.11 Question from Councillor Rachael Saunders

Will the Lead Member for Health and Wellbeing tell us what assessment he has made of the impact of the Mayor's 5% cut to the social worker staffing budget last year?

8.12 Question from Councillor Lutfa Begum

Can the Lead Member tell us what is being done to get more people, especially women, into work?

8.13 Question from Councillor John Pierce

What has the Mayor done in the last four years to reduce street urination in the Brick Lane area and the Shoreditch fringe?

8.14 Question from Councillor Tim Archer

Before Christmas, a quote released in the name of Mayor in relation to Anjem Choudary had to be withdrawn after being released without authorisation.

In relation to Cllr Alibor Choudhury's "black cardigan" comment the East London Advertiser quoted the Mayor's office on 28th February as saying "The Labour and Tory groups used their majority in the council chamber to stop the lead member for finance from speaking for part of the budget meeting. This is how the Tower Hamlets Labour-Tory coalition stifles dissent."

Does the Mayor wish to withdraw these comments too?

8.15 Question from Councillor Marc Francis

Will the Mayor be installing CCTV in Grove Hall Park to address the persistent problems with anti-social behaviour there in recent years, including vandalism of the war memorial?

8.16 Question from Councillor Maium Miah

Can the Lead Member tell us what is being done to support residents with the cost of living?

8.17 Question from Councillor M. A. Mukit M.B.E.

Too many families and businesses emerge every weekend to find their streets used as a rubbish dump by the revellers the night before. Whilst we should encourage a vibrant night-time economy, this cannot come at the expense of those who work and live there. Can the Mayor tell us why his complacency has meant little has been done to tackle the problems caused by the night time economy?

8.18 Question from Councillor David Snowdon

Will the Mayor please outline why his Cabinet opposed Conservative budget plans to prioritise repairing potholes, dealing with dog's mess and keeping our parks clear of commercial and private events?

8.19 Question from Councillor Helal Abbas

Does the Lead Member for Environment think it is acceptable that 24,000 bins have been reported uncollected since the Mayor came to power?

8.20 Question from Councillor Aminur Khan

Can the Deputy Mayor tell us how many Members' Enquiries the Mayor and his administration have raised since 2010 and how this compares to neighbouring Mayors and GLA member John Biggs?

8.21 Question from Councillor Shiria Khatun

What response has the Mayor given to Boris Johnson's recent statement that children being radicalised at home should be taken in to care?

8.22 Question from Councillor Dr Emma Jones

What has the Mayor done to improve road safety on zebra crossings?

8.23 Question from Councillor Craig Aston

In the opinion of the Cabinet Member for Jobs and Skills, what is the acceptable waiting time for ESOL classes?

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LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

COUNCIL MEETING

WEDNESDAY 26th MARCH 2014

**COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP PLAN 2013-16:
PROPOSALS OF THE MAYOR AND EXECUTIVE**

1. INTRODUCTION/SUMMARY

On 27th November 2013, Full Council considered a report (attached at Appendix 6 to this report) setting out the proposals of the Mayor and Executive for the Community Safety Partnership Plan 2013-16 (CSP Plan). The Council did not adopt the draft plan, but agreed a motion containing a number of comments and objections to the content of the plan and the current partnership structure/performance (attached at Appendix 7). In accordance with the Budget and Policy Framework Procedure Rules, referred the CSP Plan back to the Mayor to be reconsidered in the light of the Council resolution.

The CSP Plan 2013-16 (Appendix 1) was approved by the Community Safety Partnership in March 2013, prior to coming into effect on the 1st April, 2013. The Council's Constitution requires that the Crime & Disorder Reduction Strategy (now known nationally as 'Community Safety Plan') must be approved by Full Council. The CSP Plan 2013-16 has been in the formal Council committee process awaiting approval since being approved by the CSP in March 2013 and is due to be reviewed by the partnership in March 2014, as part of its statutory responsibility to review annually.

It should be noted that the CSP Plan 2013-16 is a Partnership Plan and not a Council Plan. The Council has its own Strategic Plan in place to address its priorities. The Partnership Plan takes into account the priorities of the whole Community Safety Partnership (of which the Council is but one member). These individual partner agency priorities are included in the Partnership's Strategic Assessment and are considered along with its Public Consultation findings from the year previous to the term of the CSP Plan. The CSP reviews its CSP Plan on an annual basis as a statutory duty.

This report and appendices set out the proposals of the Mayor and Executive for the CSP Plan 2013-16 following reconsideration in the light of the Council resolution of 27th November 2013. The proposed plan is unchanged from that submitted to the November 2013 Council meeting. In accordance with

the Budget and Policy Framework this report sets out the reasons for the Mayor and Executive's disagreement with the Council's objections.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Council approve the Community Safety Partnership Plan 2013-16 (attached at Appendix 1 to this report) and the priorities set out within it.

3. RESPONSE TO THE MATTERS RAISED IN THE COUNCIL RESOLUTION OF 27TH NOVEMBER 2013

The Mayor, the Executive and the Community Safety Partnership respond to the Full Council motion 27th November 2013 regarding the CSP Plan 2013-16 and Crime & Disorder in general, as follows:

Metropolitan Police Crime Figures

In response to the parts of the motion (see Appendix 7), regarding:

- *Metropolitan Police crime figures for Tower Hamlets and a claimed 1.4% increase since 2010.*
- *It was said that the figures from the Strategic Assessment for the period October 2009 – September 2012, showed a 50% increase in Robbery and a 49% increase in knife crime over that period.*
- *There was claimed to be 50% increase in robberies between October 2009 and September 2012*
- *There was claimed to be a 49% increase in knife crime between October 2009 and September 2012*
- *Metropolitan Police crime figures on their website were claimed to be inaccurate*

The figures in the Community Safety Plan included (on page 21 – 29 of the Plan) were taken from the Community Safety Partnership's 2012 Strategic Assessment. This is the annual statutory document, which the Partnership uses to analyse local performance over the preceding 3 years (in this case October 2009 to September 2012) and establish emerging trends, to shape the Community Safety Plan. Those figures were used at the time of writing the CSP Plan as they were the most up to date at that time.

The figures included on page 102 (appendix 5) compare crime levels by crime type in Tower Hamlets over the period 2000/01 to 2012/13.

The figures on page 103 (appendix 5), compare levels of Total Notifiable Offences (which is a count of all offences which are statutorily notifiable to the Home Office) in Tower Hamlets with our neighbouring boroughs, over the same period as above (2000/01 – 2012/13).

The figures on page 104 (appendix 5), compare crime levels by crime type in Tower Hamlets with neighbouring boroughs over three specific years (2000/01, 2011/12 and 2012/13).

Unfortunately it was not clear in the Full Council motion (27th November 2013) where the Metropolitan Police figures documenting a 1.4% increase were obtained, or what period the figures related to, which ultimately made it difficult for the Council and the Police to clarify if they were accurate.

The figures contained in the Community Safety Partnership Plan (page 102) show that Total Notifiable Offences (TNOs):

- Reduced by 17.21% (6,037 offences) from 35,070 in 2000/01 to 29,033 in 2012/13
- Peaked in 2002/03 at 41,124 and the 2012/13 figures represents a 29.4% reduction (12,091 offences) when compared to this peak
- Amounted to 29,463 offences in 2011/12, which decreased by 1.45% (430 offences) in 2012/13.

In addition to the above commentary and reductions, the latest Metropolitan Police figures at the time of writing (Scorecard 02.01.14), show that Total Notifiable Offences:

- Reduced by 7.2% (2,122 offences) from 29,621 to 27,499 when comparing rolling 12 months to the previous rolling 12 months (i.e. Full Year up to 02.01.14 vs Full Year up to 02.01.13)

Comparing Tower Hamlets to Other London Boroughs:

According to the recent Metropolitan Police Scorecard (02.01.14), which compares the rolling 12 months up to 02.01.14 against the previous rolling 12 months up to 02.01.13, the following comparisons can be made on crime levels/performance in Tower Hamlets and the 31 other London Boroughs:

MOPAC 7 (Metropolitan Police Priorities from the MOPAC Police and Crime Plan 2013-16 – i.e. measures the total of Burglary, Robbery, 2 types of Motor Vehicle Crime, Violence with Injury and Criminal Damage:

- Comparing the MOPAC 7 Totals (Metropolitan Police Priorities from the MOPAC Police and Crime Plan 2013-16), there are currently 11 other London boroughs with higher levels than Tower Hamlets (12,891), of those Hackney (13,649), Newham (15,853) and Southwark (16,579) border the borough.

Burglary (total)

- Figures show that Hackney (2,802), Newham (2,921) and Southwark (3,472) as well as 13 other London boroughs experienced higher numbers of burglaries than Tower Hamlets (2,763) in the same period

Robbery (total)

- Figures show that Newham (2,137) and Southwark (2,334) as well as 3 other London boroughs experienced higher numbers of robberies than Tower Hamlets (1,299) in the same period
- In Tower Hamlets Robbery is down 8.3% (from 1,416 to 1,299)

Theft from Motor Vehicle (TFMV)

- Figures show that Hackney (2,281), Newham (3,075) and Southwark (2,111) as well as 15 other London boroughs experienced higher numbers of TFMV than Tower Hamlets (1,948)

Theft from Person

- Figures show that Hackney (3,032), Newham (2,209) and Southwark (2,802) as well as 5 other London boroughs experienced higher numbers of thefts from a person than Tower Hamlets (1,659)

Violence with Injury (total)

- Figures show that Newham (2,366) and Southwark (2,461) as well as 4 other London boroughs experienced higher numbers of Violence with Injury than Tower Hamlets (2,299)

Domestic Violence with Injury

- Figures show that Greenwich (801), Hackney (707), Lewisham (880), Newham (820) and Southwark (874) as well as 6 other London boroughs experienced higher numbers of domestic violence with injury than Tower Hamlets (702)

Knife Crime

- The number of knife crime offences this Financial Year to Date, taken from the Metropolitan Police's Knife Crime Scorecard (02.01.14), had reduced by 13.5% to 377 offences, compared to the previous Financial Year to Date of 436 offences
- The Sanction Detection Rate for Knife Crime in the borough is currently 28% (86 incidents) compared to 23.2% (101 incidents) the previous Financial Year to Date
- Knife Robbery offences have reduced by 19%, to 238 offences this Financial Year to Date, compared to 294 offences the previous Financial Year to Date
- Significant work is being undertaken under the Gangs and Serious Youth Violence Priority in the current CSP Plan to address this area as a priority for the Partnership

The Council has no authority over the content of the Metropolitan Police website, where they publish their crime and ASB figures. The figures quoted by the Labour Group in the Full Council Motion do not include the source or date that their figures were obtained. Due to this, it makes it extremely difficult for the Council to confirm the accuracy of Labour's crime figures from their motion.

The Police produce a daily Performance Scorecard, which is a Police Restricted document and compares current rolling 12 months' performance figures with the previous rolling 12 months performance figures for their key crime types. It also compares the current rolling 12 months' performance figures with the previous full financial year figures for its Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime key priority performance indicators.

This Police Scorecard is the main source of data used by the Community Safety Partnership and in turn the Council.

The figures within the Police Scorecard change on a daily basis, which makes it difficult for the Police and even more so, the Council Community Safety Team to confirm accuracy when figures quoted by third parties do not contain a date, source or accurate description.

Once it was established that the figures quoted were inaccurate, steps were taken to ensure that the figures on the Police website were corrected by the appropriate officers in the Metropolitan Police's central Performance Information Bureau, who are the only officers authorised to do so. Accurate figures were then supplied to all those concerned.

Anti-Social Behaviour

In response to the parts of the Full Council motion (see Appendix 7), regarding:

- *The claim that in 2011/12 there were almost 20,000 reported incidents of anti-social behaviour*
- *The claim that Tower Hamlets has the second highest level of anti-social behaviour*

The level of reporting of anti-social behaviour (ASB) to the Police in the borough reflects the work that we have been doing as a partnership to educate and encourage our residents to report ASB on the Police 101 telephone number.

When the council invested in additional police officers (35 of the 40 in the Partnership Task Force), Tower Hamlets Enforcement Officers (THEOs) and the 'Dealer a Day' programme, we wanted to make sure that we effectively tackled ASB and drugs. To tackle it, we need to know where and when the issues are occurring.

We embarked upon an extensive campaign to inform and encourage residents to use the 101 number and that is clearly working. The information from the Police's 101 Contact Centre, forms the basis of taskings for the THEOs, Neighbourhood Policing Teams and Council funded Partnership Taskforce, enabling them to target the 'hotspot' areas, highlighted by resident's reporting.

It is important to note that the figure quoted in the Full Council Motion of 20,000, relates to the number of reports, not the number of incidents. This is due in part to our encouragement for all residents to report all incidents of ASB to 101 and therefore 20,000 reports will contain multiple reports of the same incident, so the actual number of incidents is likely to be significantly less.

Tower Hamlets has seen a slight increase in ASB reports of 0.2% (up 32 reports of ASB) to 20,321 in the Metropolitan Police's figures for the rolling 12

months up to 02.01.14 compared to 20,289 in the previous rolling 12 months up to 02.01.13.

Public Perception

In response to the parts of the Full Council motion (see Appendix 7), regarding:

- *The statement that the 2013 Annual Residents Survey found 41% of people said crime was one of their top three concerns*

Crime remains the top personal concern for borough residents: 41 per cent of the residents said it was one of their top 3 concerns, similar to the London-wide average. However this percentage has been decreasing steadily since its highest point of 55% of residents in 2007/08. It fell to 47% in 2008/09, then 46% in 2009/10, then 42% in both 2010/11 and 2011/12. The latest figures (2012/13) show a further 1% reduction to 41%.

The Community Safety Partnership and its members have been working together to lower this perception, with high visibility patrols by partnership officers including those from the council funded Police Partnership Taskforce, the THEOs and drug outreach workers. They have taken action in our communities to address local concerns around crime, anti-social behaviour and drugs. The partnership have informed the residents of the action taken in their local areas to address their concerns, in the form of the 'You Said We Did' leaflets, which has led to an increase in public confidence to report incidents. The Community Safety Ward Walk-about also gives the community an opportunity to inform us of and importantly show us their local concerns in person and then allow the partnership a chance to address these concerns and feedback to them what we have done or are doing in response.

Police Structure

In response to the parts of the motion (see Appendix 7), regarding:

- *Restructure of Neighbourhood Policing*
- *Structure of Neighbourhood Policing Teams*
- *Safer Neighbourhood Team impact on crime and public confidence*
- *The claimed failure to protect the previous Community Policing Model*
- *Opening hours of Police Stations*
- *Council funding of Police and Tower Hamlets Enforcement Officers*
- *Labour's proposal in 2011 Budget to fund 17 Police Officers*

Recently there has been a restructuring of services across the entire Metropolitan Police Service. Each ward now has one dedicated Police Constable and one Police Community Safety Officer, however the re-organisation of the Police resources into four Neighbourhood Policing Teams, means that teams and officers formerly centrally tasked and located, are now based within those Neighbourhood Policing Teams and the residents they serve. These new Neighbourhood Policing Teams actually have more officers in them than the old Safer Neighbourhood Teams they replaced.

This new structure gives local neighbourhoods more control of those additional officers and the ability to draw on additional neighbourhood officers to respond to local community concerns and emerging issues. It also allows the Borough Commander to move additional officers into a specific ward to respond to need.

Rather than closing Police Stations in the Borough, as mentioned in the Full Council Motion, opening times of the Police Station front counters have been amended in some Police Stations to reflect their levels of use by the public for reporting. Their opening times, at the time of writing, are as follows:

- Bethnal Green: Open 24 hours a day
- Bow: Wednesday & Thursday 7 - 8pm, Saturday 2 - 3pm
- Brick Lane: Wednesday to Sunday 12 – 8pm
- Isle of Dogs: Wednesday & Thursday 7 - 8pm, Saturday 2 - 3pm
- Limehouse: Monday 12 – 8Pm, Tuesday to Sunday 10am – 8pm
- Poplar: Wednesday & Thursday 7 - 8pm, Saturday 2 - 3pm
- St Georges Town Hall: Wednesday & Thursday 7 - 8pm, Saturday 2 - 3pm

The Council and Mayor has made clear its concern over the restructuring of the Metropolitan Police Service in Tower Hamlets, and the overall reduction of Police Officers in the borough over the past 3 years.

The Mayor of Tower Hamlets has funded and established the Partnership Taskforce within the Police. That team is made up of 40 Police Officers (35 funded by the Council), including an Inspector, Sergeants and Constables, who work closely with the Council Officers and others from across the Community Safety Partnership and national agencies like Border and Immigration when appropriate, to address the community's concerns/issues around anti-social behaviour, drugs, gangs and prostitution. These additional officers are able to assist local policing teams across the borough, to respond to these local concerns through the formal Partnership Tasking Process.

By funding the Partnership Taskforce, the Council maintains a significant level of influence, as well as flexibility in determining what those Partnership Taskforce Officers are tasked to respond to and tackle in the Borough. This Council funding enables the Police to tackle these key community concerns as part of a powerful team approach (including other partnership agencies), instead of individually, as a single Police Officer on each ward.

There is a need for a mixed approach to tackling ASB using THEOs and Police together, as Police Priorities are primarily set by New Scotland Yard and MOPAC, rather than locally. Police officers in all London Boroughs are subject to abstraction to cover big events or issues in other parts of London and the United Kingdom.

As part of a Council priority of ASB, the Council funds the Tower Hamlets Enforcement Officers (THEOs), to supplement the work of the Police, and to deal with issues that the Police cannot deal with. The Police in Tower Hamlets rely on the THEOs to provide support on ASB matters that they themselves are unable to address immediately or at all. If the Council were to discontinue

funding the THEOs, it would mean that large amounts of ASB would go unchallenged and a lot of issues of high concern to local residents, would not get a uniformed response at all.

Without the THEOs, large amounts of ASB would go unchallenged. An example of this is the joint patrols by THEOs and a Dog Handler with a drug sniffer dog, which are proving very successful in tackling both ASB and drugs in our community.

The Council are aware of drug dealing and use being a concern for the community, and continue to fund the 'Dealer a Day' initiative with the Police. No other London borough operates a similar initiative, taking the problem as seriously as we do on behalf of our residents. The 'Dealer a Day' initiative aims to arrest 365 drug dealers a year and has exceeded this target year on year since its inception.

The Community Safety Partnership continues to reduce crime in the borough (7.2% reduction over the last rolling 12 month period up to 02.01.14 compared to the previous rolling 12 months). The Community Safety Partnership, including the Council and Police, continue to work in partnership with other agencies to increase confidence in community safety agencies (including the Police), and reduce concern about crime, down to 41% in the 2012/13 Annual Residents' Survey. The Neighbourhood Policing Teams, Partnership Taskforce and Tower Hamlets Enforcement Officers have an important role in both increasing community safety in the community as well as increasing visibility and public confidence, in the Police, Council and Partnership addressing their concerns and tackling crime and disorder.

The Council and other partners continue to work with the Police in their new Neighbourhood Policing Structure to ensure that community safety remains a partnership priority and to tackle community concerns including crime, ASB, drugs and reducing re-offending. The Council is not in a position to dictate Policing structure in Tower Hamlets; however by funding the Partnership Taskforce, it has ensured that Police Officers are in place to respond to the issues of most concern to our communities.

London Fire Brigade

In response to the parts of the motion (see Appendix 7), regarding:

- *31% reduction of incidences of arson since 2009/10*
- *Restructuring of London Fire Brigade's resources in Tower Hamlets*

Over recent years a considerable amount of work has been done by the London Fire Brigade to reduce the possibility of fires, and to improve the response to fires in the borough. The 31% reduction figure represents a reduction in the number of arson incidents (all deliberate fires), as documented in the ASB Performance Section of the CSP Plan 2013-16. The reduction is over the period October 2009 to September 2012 (the period covered by the CSP's 2012 Strategic Assessment).

The Council and Mayor have made clear their concern about the proposed London Fire Brigade restructure. The Council and Mayor have fought against the proposed restructuring of London Fire Brigade Resources (including staff, stations and fire-fighting equipment/appliances), in partnership with other London boroughs facing similar reductions. This opposition to the restructure took the form of an application for a judicial enquiry. Unfortunately for Tower Hamlets and those other London boroughs, this application was unsuccessful.

Leadership

In response to the parts of the motion (see Appendix 7), regarding:

- *The claim that the CSP Plan lacks references to increases in crime and ASB or the challenges the borough faces*
- *A claimed lack of focus on tackling what residents see as their most important issue*
- *The stated need to challenge ASB and task Council officers appropriately and working in partnership with other agencies including the Police*

The Community Safety Partnership Plan is owned by the Community Safety Partnership. The Mayor is one of a number of leaders of agencies across the Partnership (including Health, Probation, Police, Fire Brigade, Registered Social Landlords and Voluntary/Community Sector agencies) that sign up to the Plan together. The Community Safety Partnership Plan documents increases and decreases in Crime, Anti-Social Behaviour (including Arson), Substance Misuse and Re-offending in its Performance section. The Performance section of the Plan is taken from the Partnership's annual Strategic Assessment document (2012), in accordance with the legal requirements for Community Safety Partnerships. The Strategic Assessment, which is a restricted Partnership document, looks at performance and trends over the previous 3 years, as well as future threats and opportunities. The Partnership considers the contents and findings of the Strategic Assessment, when deciding the priorities and content of its Community Safety Partnership Plans.

The Community Safety Partnership, in order to produce this Plan, held a considerable public consultation exercise over 3 months in 2012. The consultation included a series of public meetings across the borough's wards, a borough-wide public meeting, a meeting specifically for ward councillors (although only a small number actually attended on 1st August 2012), an online survey and letters to over 600 residents, community groups and agencies. Over 1000 responses were received, informing the Partnership of their top community safety priorities.

The Partnership considered the findings of the public consultation, along with the findings of the Strategic Assessment and the partner agencies' own priorities for the coming three years, when it agreed the Partnership's priorities for 2013-16. The Partnership decided that Serious Acquisitive Crime would be addressed within the Reducing Re-offending & Drugs and Alcohol priorities, as both would primarily address Serious Acquisitive Crime.

The priorities within the Community Safety Partnership Plan aim to address the challenges identified in the Strategic Assessment and its Public Consultation throughout the year. It is important to note that, while the priorities within the Plan are what we have signed up to as a Partnership, member agencies including the Council, may still have their own organisational priorities in addition to these. These organisational priorities will be documented in their own strategies and these agencies will be working towards these as part of their day to day (often statutory) responsibilities.

The Partnership leads a co-ordinated approach to address Crime and Disorder, ASB, Substance Misuse and Reducing Re-offending as a statutory duty. Council officers are tasked to respond to emerging issues through the Partnership Tasking Process. This process sees the community and partnership concerns/issues set out, along with the latest reporting data, to allow informed consideration and decision making by senior operational staff from the Police, Council and Registered Social Landlords. This Partnership Tasking Process allows the Partnership to task resources appropriately and in a co-ordinated manner to best respond to the issues highlighted to them.

The Community Safety Partnership is statutorily responsible for setting strategic priorities for the borough as a partnership. The Partnership and member agencies (of which the Council is one), continue to work together to address the community's concerns and tackle crime, disorder, substance misuse and reduce re-offending.

Other Considerations/Implications and Statements

One Tower Hamlets considerations, Risk Management, Crime and Disorder implications and best value/efficiency statement remain the same as those recorded in the original CSP Plan 2013-16 Report (appendix 6).

4. COMMENTS OF THE CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER

- 4.1 There are no specific financial implications emanating from this report. The report however, highlights the Council's additional funding commitment through the Mayors accelerated delivery programme. The programme funds 10 additional THEO's and 35 additional Police Officers as part of the current two Partnership Task Force (PTF) teams which adds to the overall number of police officers in the borough.
- 4.2 The alignment of the priorities within the Community Safety Plan 2013-16 and its implementation will need to be managed within the existing budgeted resources.

5. LEGAL COMMENTS

- 5.1 Under the Council Constitution, the Community Safety Partnership Plan (also known as a Crime and Disorder Reduction Strategy) is required to be approved by the formal council approval process, culminating in Full Council.
- 5.2 On 13 July 2011, the Council adopted a revised Community Plan, which contains the Council's sustainable community strategy as required by section 4 of the Local Government Act 2000. A key theme of the Community Plan is to make Tower Hamlets a safe and cohesive community, that is, a safer place where people feel safer, get on better together and where difference is not seen as a threat, but a core-strength.
- 5.3 The Council is one of the responsible authorities for Tower Hamlets, within the meaning of section 5 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. Other responsible authorities for Tower Hamlets include: every provider of probation services in Tower Hamlets; the chief officer of police whose police area lies within Tower Hamlets; and the fire and rescue authority for Tower Hamlets. Together, the responsible authorities for Tower Hamlets are required to formulate and implement strategies for: the reduction of crime and disorder; combating the misuse of drugs, alcohol and other substances; and the reduction of re-offending. When formulating and implementing these strategies, each authority is required to have regard to the police and crime objectives set out in the police and crime plan for Tower Hamlets.
- 5.4 The Crime and Disorder (Formulation and Implementation of Strategy) Regulations 2007 require that there be a strategy group whose functions are to prepare strategic assessments, following community engagement, and to prepare and implement a partnership plan and community safety agreement for Tower Hamlets. The partnership plan must set out a crime and disorder reduction strategy, amongst other matters. The strategy group must consider the strategic assessment and the community safety agreement in the formulation of the partnership plan. The Safe and Cohesive Community Plan Delivery Group discharges these functions in Tower Hamlets. The report indicates that the Community Safety Plan is the relevant partnership plan and has been prepared in accordance with the Regulations.
- 5.5 The making of a crime and disorder reduction strategy pursuant to section 6 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 is a function that is required not to be the sole responsibility of the Council's executive. This is the effect of the Local Government Act 2000 and the Local Authorities (Functions and Responsibilities) (England) Regulations 2000. The requirement is reflected in the Council's Constitution, which makes the crime and disorder reduction strategy part of the Council's policy framework.
- 5.6 On 27th November 2013, Full Council considered the Community Safety Partnership Plan 2013-16 (CSP Plan) Report and a motion was tabled with regards to the content of the plan and current partnership structure/performance. Full Council agreed that the CSP Plan should be taken back to Cabinet to reconsider its content, in line with the Full Council Motion and this report sets out the responses to the motion.

5.7 Before adopting the Community Safety Partnership Plan, 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. Equalities considerations and an Equalities Analysis Initial Screening Document have previously been prepared.

6. APPENDICES ATTACHED

Appendix 1 – Community Safety Plan 2013-16

Appendix 2 – Community Safety Plan – Public Consultation Report

Appendix 3 – Equalities Considerations

Appendix 4 – Equalities Analysis – Initial Screening Document

Appendix 5 – Borough Crime Statistics and Trends 2000/1 – 2012/13

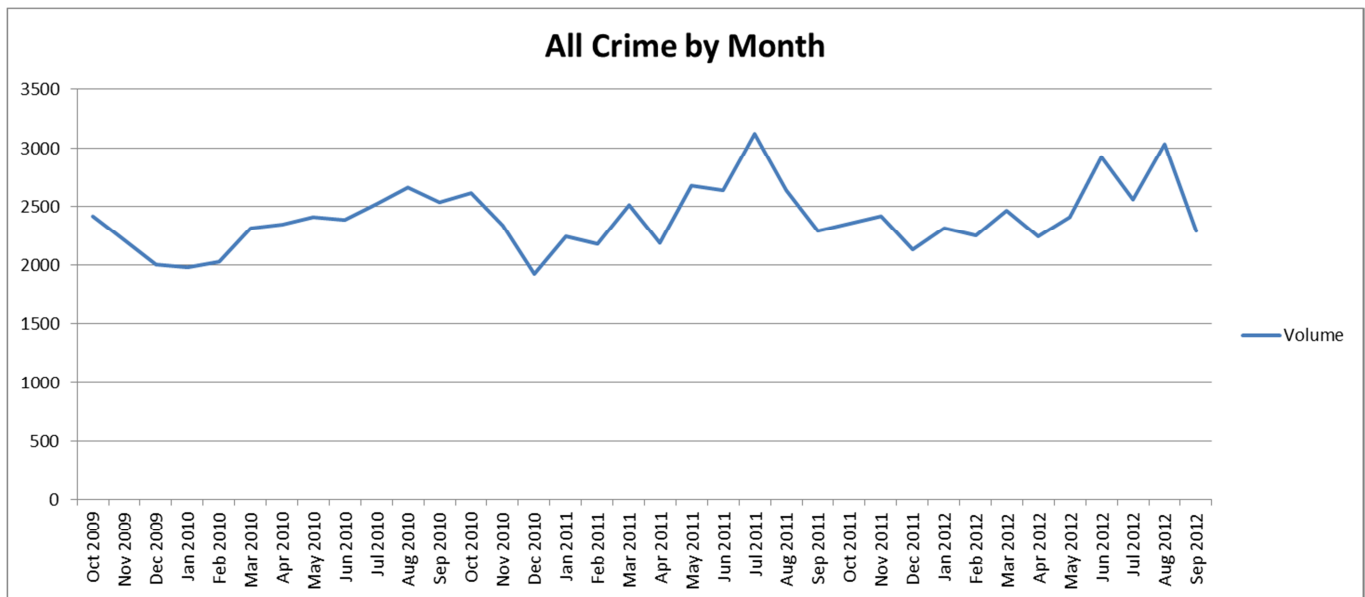
Appendix 6 – Report to Full Council, 27th November 2013

Appendix 7 – Resolution of Full Council, 27th November 2013

Tower Hamlets
Community Safety Partnership Plan
2013 – 2016

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Key Facts about Crime and Disorder in Tower Hamlets



Between 1st October, 2011 and 30th September 2012, the Community Safety Partnership has achieved the following:

- Reduced the number of Most Serious Violence offences (Grievous Bodily Harm and Murder) per 1000 of the population by 22% (102 less offences than the same period the year before)
- Reduced the number of Gun Crime Offences by 5% (3 less offences than the same period the year before)
- Reduced the number of Residential Burglaries by 6% (84 less offences than the same period the year before)
- Reduced the number of Thefts From Motor Vehicles by 28% (668 less offences than the same period the year before)
- Reduced the number of Serious Youth Violence victims by 27% (80 less victims than the same period the year before)
- Reduced the number of young people entering the criminal justice system by 27% (64 less young people)
- Reduced the number of Anti-Social Behaviour reports to the Police by 11.9% (3130 less reports)
- Reduced the number of arson incidents by 21% (156 less incidents)
- Increased the number of drug users in treatment, so that the borough now has the highest number in treatment compared to all other London Boroughs

Foreword by Mayor of Tower Hamlets and Co-Chairs of CSP

Welcome to Tower Hamlet's Community Safety Plan covering the three years 2013/14 to 2015/16.

The Community Safety Plan sets out how the Police, Council, Probation, Health, Fire Service, voluntary and community sectors and individuals can all contribute to reducing crime, disorder, anti-social behaviour, substance misuse and re-offending to keep Tower Hamlets a safe place.

This Plan aims to reduce the number of crimes and anti-social behaviour in the borough, but in some categories, it aims to increase the number of reports, due to under reporting where historically victims don't feel confident enough to report it to us. By increasing reporting and therefore recording, we will then be able to offer support to those victims and take appropriate action against the perpetrators.

The people in our communities are not just numbers or statistics, crime and disorder impacts on not only the victim's but also the wider community's quality of life, so we understand how important it is for you that we tackle it in a timely, efficient and effective way.

We are confident that this plan not only captures and addresses the priorities that have been identified through our analysis of evidential information and performance in the borough, but also the concerns of the people of Tower Hamlets.

We recognise that not only do we have a duty to continue to tackle crime and disorder but we all (both organisations and members of the public), have a duty to prevent it from happening in the first place.

As a partnership we are responsible for community safety and community cohesion. We will work with our local communities to ensure we protect the vulnerable, support our communities to develop and make Tower Hamlets a safer place for everyone.

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Introduction

The Tower Hamlets Community Safety Partnership (CSP) is required by law to conduct an annual assessment of crime, disorder, anti-social behaviour, substance misuse and re-offending within the borough, this is known as the Strategic Assessment. It is also required to consult members of the public and the wider partnership on the levels of the above. The Strategic Assessment and the findings of the public consultation are then used to produce the partnership's Community Safety Plan.

Since 2011, the CSP has had the power to decide the term of its Community Safety Plan. In 2012, the CSP chose to have a one year plan, this decision was based on the unique budgetary pressures on partner agencies and the anticipated demand on service from London hosting the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic games.

This Community Safety Plan will run for a period of 3 years from 1st April 2013 to 31st March 2016, with performance against the priorities within it reviewed on an annual basis in the form of the annual Strategic Assessment. The Community Safety Partnership Subgroups each produce an Action/Delivery Plan to reflect both the Priorities of the Community Safety Partnership and their own subgroup priorities. If due to external pressures or levels of performance against the priorities, the Community Safety Plan can be amended on an annual basis within its three year term.

Reducing crime and anti-social behaviour requires a careful balance between reducing recorded incidents, encouraging reporting and addressing negative perceptions of those who believe its levels are worse than they are in reality.

This plan will ensure that the issues that are most important to the people of Tower Hamlets will be addressed in the most appropriate and cost effective way. The partnership are committed to ensuring the low levels of particular crimes and issues are maintained but have also identified through local evidence and perception, a number of priorities that require particular partnership focus in the coming three years.

This Plan sets out the main objectives of the CSP and how it plans to achieve those objectives.

About The Partnership

The Tower Hamlets Community Safety Partnership (CSP) is a multi-agency strategic group set up following the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. The partnership approach is built on the premise that no single agency can deal with, or be responsible for dealing with, complex community safety issues and that these issues can be addressed with more effectively and efficiently through working in partnership. It does this by overseeing the following:

- Service Outcomes
- Leadership and Partnership Working
- Service Planning & Performance Management
- Resource Management & Value for Money
- Service Use and Community Engagement
- Equality & Diversity

The CSP is made up of both Statutory Agencies and Co-operating Bodies within the Borough. The Statutory Agencies are:

- Tower Hamlets Police
- London Borough of Tower Hamlets
- London Probation Trust
- London Fire Brigade
- Tower Hamlets Public Health / NHS

The Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC), replaced the Metropolitan Police Authority in February 2012, is no longer a statutory agency of the CSP, but becomes a co-operating body. Representatives from MOPAC and the Tower Hamlets Police and Community Safety Board are both members of the CSP.

The above are supported by key local agencies from both the Public and Voluntary Sectors. Registered Social Landlords (RSLs) have a key role to play in addressing crime and disorder in their housing estates and these are represented by the Chair of the Tower Hamlets Housing Forum. Victims and witnesses of crime and disorder are represented on the CSP by Victim Support. The extensive network of voluntary organisations within the borough, are represented by Tower Hamlets Council for Voluntary Services' Chief Executive.

Representation on the CSP is through attendance by senior officer / person within that organisation, with the authority to make strategic decisions on behalf of their agency/organisation.

Partners bring different skills and responsibilities to the CSP. Some agencies are responsible for crime prevention while others are responsible for intervention or enforcement. Some have a responsibility to support the victim and others have a responsibility to deal with the perpetrator. Ultimately the CSP has a duty to make Tower Hamlets a safer place for everyone.

Governance

The Community Safety Partnership is one of 4 Community Plan Delivery Groups which are held responsible by the Partnership Executive for delivering the aims/actions contained within the Community Plan.

Partnership Executive

The Partnership Executive is the borough's Local Strategic Partnership and brings key stakeholders together to create and deliver the borough's Community Plan. Members of the Partnership include the Council, Police, NHS, other statutory service providers, voluntary and community groups, faith communities, businesses and citizens. It acts as the governing body for the Partnership, agreeing priorities and monitoring performance against the Community Plan targets and holding the Partnership to account through active involvement of local residents. The Community Plan is an agreement that articulates the aspirations of local communities and sets out how the Borough will work together to realise these priorities.

Community Plan

The overall vision for the community plan is to improve the lives of all those living and working in the borough. The Community Plan includes 4 main priorities of which 'A Safe and Cohesive Community' and 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. To make Tower Hamlets a Safe and Cohesive Community the Partnership will focus on achieving the following objectives:

- 1: Focusing on crime and anti-social behaviour
- 2: Reducing re-offending
- 3: Reducing the fear of crime
- 4: Fostering greater community cohesion
- 5: Tackling violent extremism

Mayor's Priorities/Pledge

As part of his election manifesto, the Mayor of Tower Hamlets committed to pledges under 7 key areas, one of these was Community Safety/Cohesion. Under this Pledge, the Mayor and the Community Safety Partnership are committed to:

- Continue no means-tested charges for Telecare Alarms
- Put a more visible uniformed police presence on our streets and estates
- Bring our diverse communities together to build 'One Tower Hamlets'

Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC)

The Mayor of London's Office for Policing and Crime, under the remit of being London's Police and Crime Commissioner has several responsibilities regarding Community Safety Partnerships. They are:

- a duty to consult the communities (including victims) and to publish a Police and Crime Plan
- determining police and crime objectives
- are a co-operating body on Community Safety Partnerships
- have the power to 'call in' poor performing Community Safety Partnerships

As of February 2013, MOPAC are in the process of consulting the public on their draft Police and Crime Plan 2013 – 17. The proposed priorities within that Plan are:

- Strengthen the Metropolitan Police Service and drive a renewed focus on street policing
- Give victims a greater voice
- Create a safer London for women
- Develop smarter solutions to alcohol and drug crime
- Help London's vulnerable young people

In addition to the above, the Mayor of London has placed special emphasis on a number of additional public safety challenges and concerns of Londoners, which include:

- Violence Against Women and Girls
- Serious Youth Violence
- Business Crime

It proposes to set a total 20% reduction target for the following group of 'key crimes' across the whole of London by 2016:

- Reduction in the number of Personal Robberies
- Reduction in the number of Residential Burglaries
- Reduction in the number of Thefts From Motor Vehicles
- Reduction in the number of Thefts of Motor Vehicles
- Reduction in the number of Thefts From a Person
- Reduction in the number of Violence with Injury incidents
- Reduction in the number of acts of Vandalism

In addition to the above, it also proposes the following individual targets to achieve by 2016:

- 20% Increase in Public Confidence in the Police
- 20% Reduction in Re-offending by Young People Leaving Custody
- 20% Reduction in Court Delays
- 20% Increase in Compliance with Community Sentences

MOPAC is also responsible for the management and allocation of the Community Safety Fund monies from Central Government. Allocations for funding will be made on a 'Challenge Fund' approach, which will determine the nature and scale of funding to individual boroughs based on their proposal's alignment with the Police and Crime Plan Priorities.

Community Safety Partnership Sub-Groups

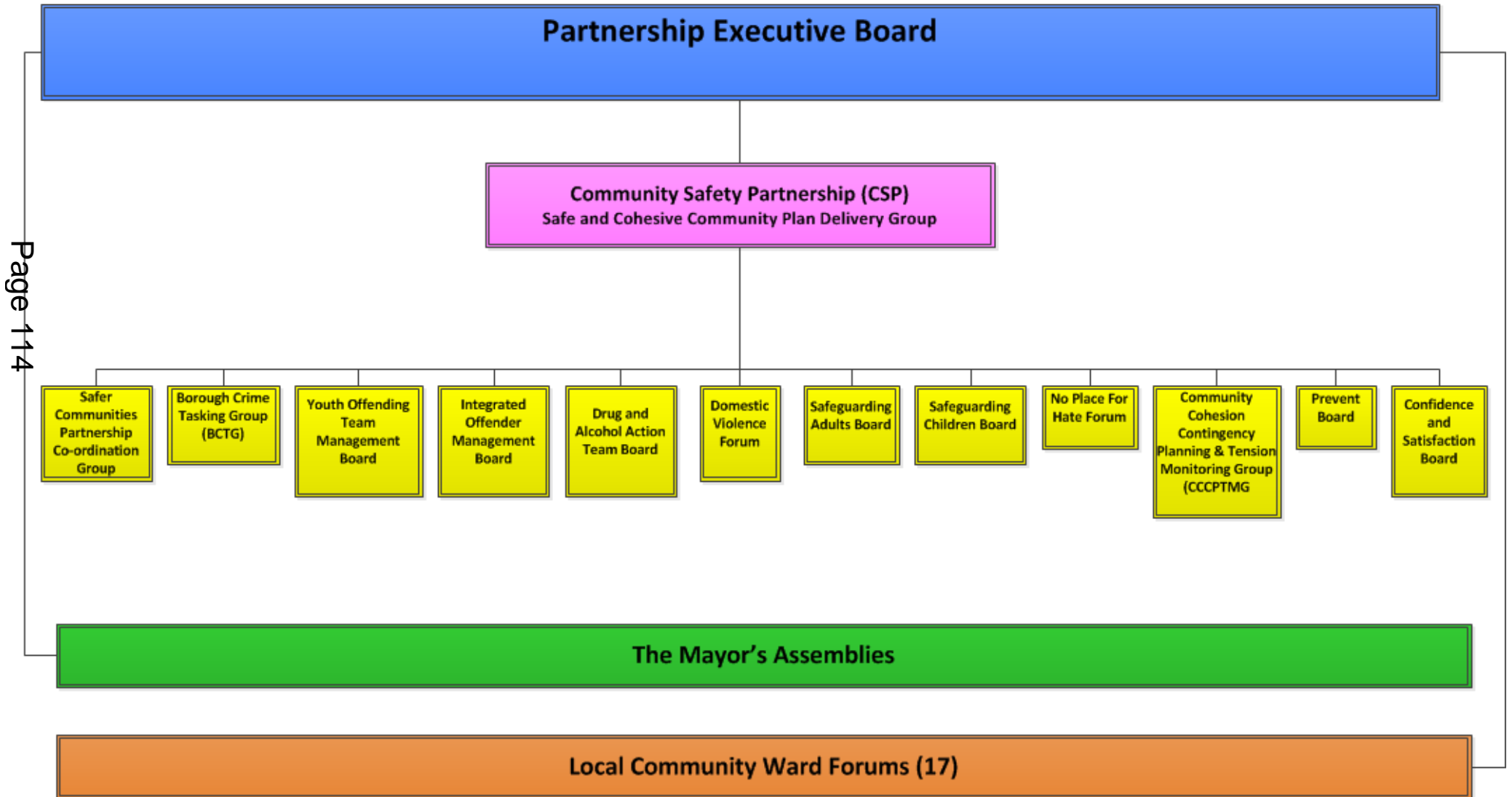
In order to co-ordinate and deliver activity in the various areas of crime, disorder, anti-social behaviour, substance misuse and reducing re-offending, the CSP has a sub-structure of groups and boards. Each sub-group/board is responsible for producing a delivery plan which aims to address the overarching partnership priorities and fulfil any additional priorities they see fit as a sub-group/board. They are responsible for ensuring there are resources available to deliver their actions and if needed, produce and submit detailed funding applications to enable this.

Subgroups are represented through their Chairperson on the Community Safety Partnership, who is required to provide a bi-monthly update on performance against their delivery plan.

Subgroups are made up of senior officers within key agencies who have a direct responsibility for service delivery in these specific areas of work.

The diagram on the next page illustrates the current Community Safety Partnership governance structure.

Community Safety Partnership Governance



Community Safety Partnership and Subgroups

Community Safety Partnership

The CSP as it is known amongst the partners is accountable for the reduction of crime, disorder, anti-social behaviour, substance misuse and reoffending as well as increasing community cohesion under the Community Plan Partnership Structure. It will determine priorities and oversee the statutory and non-statutory boards responsible to deliver against these priorities. The CSP meets on a bi-monthly basis and is co-chaired by the Tower Hamlets Police Borough Commander and the Tower Hamlets Deputy Mayor with responsibility for Community Safety. Membership of the CSP is at organisational Chief Executive/Officer level.

Youth Offending Team Management Board

The YOT Management Board oversees the youth offending multi-agency team which comprises of staff from: the Council (Education Social Care and Wellbeing, and the Youth Service), Police, Probation and Health. The team works with young people from arrest through to sentencing. Staff provide services including bail and remand management and Pre-Sentence reports to the Youth, Magistrates and Crown Courts and work with young people subject to reprimands and final warnings from police, and those charged, convicted and given community and custodial sentences. The team also works with young people and the wider community to prevent young people entering the criminal justice system.

Safeguarding Children Board

This multi-agency board comprises of lead officers from; Health; Police; Housing; Education Social Care and Wellbeing; Commissioning Bodies; Voluntary Sector; Probation; Legal Services; Department for Work and Pensions and Social Services who are the lead agency. The board co-ordinates activity aimed at ensuring that vulnerable children are protected through the application of LBTH's Child Protection Policy. In addition to reporting to the CSP, the Board reports to the Health and Wellbeing Board on an annual basis.

Safeguarding Adults Board

This multi-agency board comprises of lead officers from; Health; Police; Housing; Education; Commissioning Bodies; Voluntary Sector; Probation; Legal Services; Department for Work and Pensions, London Fire Brigade and Social Services who are the lead agency. The board co-ordinates activity aimed at ensuring that vulnerable adults are protected through the application of LBTH's Adult Protection Policy. In addition to reporting to the CSP, the Board reports to the Health and Wellbeing Board on an annual basis.

Drug and Alcohol Action Team Board

This board is chaired by the Corporate Director of Communities, Localities and Culture, with membership representing the CLC DAAT team, health services, the Metropolitan Police Service, London Probation Service, Public Health and Education, Social Care and Wellbeing. It is a statutory board with responsibilities for co-ordinating and commissioning services relating to drug / alcohol issues in the borough including; drug / alcohol treatment for adults and young people, prevention and behaviour change, licensing and regulation / enforcement.

Domestic Violence Forum

The Domestic Violence Forum is chaired by the Head of Community Safety and oversees the borough's multi-agency approach to addressing domestic violence against men, women and young people. This includes sexual violence, trafficking, prostitution, sexual exploitation, dowry abuse, female genital mutilation, forced marriage, so called 'honour' based violence, stalking and harassment which are the Borough's strands within its Violence Against Women and Girls Plan.

Membership comprises of approx. 80 organisations representing both statutory and voluntary services providers in the borough. The forum takes place quarterly and has oversight of the Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (The MARAC), the Specialist Domestic Violence Court, The DV One Stop Shop, The Housing & Health DV drop-in services, The LBTH Domestic Violence duty line, training and all safeguarding matters related to domestic abuse. The Forum is ultimately responsible for ensuring that appropriate services are provided within the borough for both domestic violence victims and those perpetrating violence against them.

Borough Crime Tasking Group

The board was established as part of the programme to join together partnership service delivery in the localities. It meets on a fortnightly basis and uses an analytical product/profile on current/emerging crime and anti-social behaviour issues to task police resources to respond. The group is chaired by the Police Borough Commander and the membership includes various ranking police officers. The London Fire Brigade and Tower Hamlets Homes are represented on group in addition to the following officers from the council; Head of Community Safety, Head of Enforcement & Markets, ASB Analyst and Surveillance & Intelligence Officer.

Safer Communities Partnership Co-ordination Group

This group is made up of operational managers from Safer Communities Service within the Council and is responsible for the tasking of council resources to respond to emerging local issues and concerns based on an analytical product/profile of emerging/current community safety issues. The group is chaired by the Head of Safer Communities and is also attended by other operational managers from across the partnership.

Integrated Offender Management Board

This group is responsible for the management of offenders in the community. The board is chaired by a Police Superintendent and brings together a range of activity including the Priority and Prolific Offender Scheme, the Youth Offending Team, Probation and the Drugs Intervention Programme. The objective of this board is to increase community safety, community confidence and reduce the level of re-offending of identified individuals.

Community Cohesion Contingency Planning and Tension Monitoring Group (CCCPTMG)

This group is chaired by the Service Head of Corporate Strategy and Equalities and acts as an operational tension monitoring group. The group is made up of representatives from the Interfaith Forum, the London Muslim Centre, the Council of Mosques, Rainbow Hamlets, Tower Hamlets Housing Forum, Youth Services, Tower Hamlets Police, London Fire Brigade, the Council's Safer Communities Service, Corporate Safety and Civil Protection, Communications and One Tower Hamlets

Preventing Violent Extremism Programme Board

This board is chaired by the Council Service Head for Corporate Strategy and Equality; it operates as a distinct board with responsibility for delivering the local Prevent programme. The board is made up of officers from One Tower Hamlets, Youth Services, Tower Hamlets Police, NHS Tower Hamlets, Safer Communities, Communications, London Fire Brigade and the Council's Education, Social Care and Wellbeing Directorate.

No Place For Hate Forum

The forum brings key agencies together to work in partnership to make Tower Hamlets a better place to live, work and visit by developing and promoting a co-ordinated response to race and hate crimes. It aims to protect and support victims, deter perpetrators, challenge prejudice and hate, which ultimately contributes to creating a safer, more cohesive community. The Forum meets on a quarterly basis, is chaired by the Chair of the borough's Interfaith Forum,

with members from both statutory and voluntary organisations, all of whom represent specific areas or communities concerning hate crime.

Confidence and Satisfaction Board

The confidence and satisfaction of the community in our shared approach to crime and cohesion are key success measures. The group is chaired by the Police Borough Commander, with representatives from the Council and the Police & Community Safety Board. It has an overview of activity to ensure that community views and concerns are understood and addressed both efficiently and effectively. It also ensures that residents have access to relevant information, including feedback on action taken.

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Highlights from 2012/13

The Community Safety Partnership faced a challenging year in 2012/13, with cuts to resources (both financial and human), organisational restructures and the added pressure on service delivery from the Olympic and Paralympic Games in the summer months. However, partners still managed to reduce crime and disorder in the borough.

During the summer the borough saw an increase in visitors to the borough from all over the world, coped with a severely restricted transport infrastructure (main arterial roads in/out of the borough designated part of Olympic Route and Alternative Route Networks) and hosting the Victoria Park Live Site.

Domestic Violence:

The last 12 months has seen extensive developments in the services provided by the LBTH Domestic Violence Team. We opened up the boroughs first DV One Stop Shop in partnership with the Police Community Safety Unit and have implemented a further 2 weekly drop-in services in partnership with Housing & Health. This has not only increased the reporting of domestic violence substantially, but raised awareness of our services which has led to a 400% increase in DV1 referrals to the team.

We have provided extensive training to both the statutory & voluntary sector organisations and are currently supporting agencies to develop their own DV policies & procedures.

Drugs and Alcohol:

The DAAT Board Launched our Substance Misuse Strategy 2012-15 in 2012. It increased the number of drug and alcohol users accessing treatment so that the borough now has the highest number of drug users in treatment in the whole of London. It increased the number of Drug Intervention Programme referrals into treatment so this too is the highest in the whole of London. The DAAT Implemented Alcohol Treatment Satellites in GP surgeries and the Royal London Hospital, which improves accessibility for those who need it most. Through the Somali Engagement Action Plan, it commissioned a Somali Link Worker service to improve access to services for the borough's Somali community. We were also recognised for our 'Hidden Harm' work by being named 'runner-up' in the London Safeguarding Awards.

Anti-Social Behaviour:

The use of an anti-social behaviour order or ASBO, are seen as an important tool used by the police and partners as a non-judicial order to prevent offending and improve the behaviour within Tower Hamlets. There are currently 62 ASBO's, of those 16 have been obtained in the past year, 4 relate directly to Anti-Social Behaviour and 5 have been obtained for alcohol related ASB. There are currently 6 gang related orders, which is an area that the police intend to concentrate on, to address the gang and serious youth violence issues. Local partners also utilise Anti-Social Behaviour Injunctions (ASBI's) and Acceptable Behaviour Contracts (ABC's).

Arson across the borough has fallen by 37% over the last 12 months, this has been achieved through Fire Brigade crews working alongside partners in the Council to identify rubbish "hotspots" and ensure the sites are cleared before arson is committed. The firework period, which after many years of high numbers of arson incidents, saw incidents fall dramatically this November following partnership working between LFB, Police Safer Neighbourhood Teams and Trading Standards/Licensing to limit the sale of fireworks.

Reduction of first time entrants in Criminal Justice System:

We have continued to reduce and prevent the number of young people entering the criminal justice system for the first time through our partnership working between Police and YOTs Pre-court/Triage Team.

The latest Ministry of Justice figure published in Feb 2013, reported that over the 12 month period ending in September 2012, we have seen the lowest number of young people entering the criminal justice system for the first time. The report confirmed that during this period 167 young people entered the criminal justice system compared to 231 in the previous 12 month. The YOT Pre-court/triage team dealt with 213 young people during this reporting period.

Furthermore, the first time entrants rate per 100,000 - 10-17 year old receiving their first reprimand, warning or conviction for the same periods has also seen an improvement from 1,288 down to 799.

Integrated Offender Management:

During 2012/13 the IOM Board and Team have successfully supported and provided 8 individuals with treatment and provision of on-going support, so that none of them are currently committing offences. This has resulted in these individuals no longer committing burglaries and other related criminal offences and providing for a safer community.

Confidence and Satisfaction:

Tower Hamlets Police have worked to engender improved professionalism amongst its staff so that a quality service is provided to all victims of crime and Anti-Social Behaviour, as well as responding more effectively to calls for Police assistance. This has resulted in an improvement in Customer Confidence in 2012/13 to date (Feb 2013), which we will further build on in the coming 3 years.

Hate Crime and Cohesion:

12 Hate Crime Third Party Reporting Centres have been maintained, which have received 80 reports since the 2008 re-launch. Victim Support have trained 6 Specialist Hate Crime Volunteers to support victims and are offering support to both victims and witnesses of hate crime through the court process. All victims of hate crime have, where possible been visited in person by the Police Community Safety Unit, who also now have a 24 hour specialist advice line for partnership officers. The Hate Incident Panel has reviewed 73 cases from April – September 2012, which resulted in further action taken in 14 of these.

Community Cohesion Contingency Planning and Tension Monitoring Group (CCCPTMG):

The CCCPTMG has undertaken a partnership approach to both tackling and reducing tensions in a number of areas. The group were actively involved with the planning of protocols to tackle any cohesion related issues that may arise from the Olympics, in particular around Team USA being based at Mile End Park. In addition to this, work has been undertaken throughout the year to tackle the threat posed by the English Defence League. This included a dedicated seminar to look at our response to the English Defence League and also supporting Waltham Forest in their successful application banning the EDL from marching in their borough.

We have also been at the forefront of reducing local tensions as a result of the recent 'Muslim patrol' videos that had appeared online. This has led to the arrest of 5 individuals, none of whom reside in Tower Hamlets.

The Group has been involved in reducing tensions that have come about from international issues but have had an impact locally. In particular the Hanbury Street Mural, tensions in the Middle East and more recently the political issues in Bangladesh.

Our success is evidenced through the boroughs annual residents' survey where the majority of residents (78%) feel that the local area is a place where people from different backgrounds get on well together. This is a growing trend and the highest in the past 5 years.

Preventing Violent Extremism Programme Board:

We secured funding from the Home Office for five projects working with a wide range of local partners, including schools, tenants and residents associations and parents groups.

We developed and rolled out the 'Building Community Resilience' project, working with London Tigers and colleagues in Redbridge and Barking and Dagenham to engage and support young people to become resilient to extremism. The success of this project has been recognised by the Home Office and we have secured funding to extend the project into 2013/14.

We have seen a reduction of on-street recruitment by extremist organisations during the course of the year and an increase in community venues signing up to the No Place for Hate pledge and preventing such groups hiring venues in the borough. We have also delivered Prevent training to more than 60 staff this year and expecting to continue to deliver further training throughout 2013.

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Strategic Assessment 2012

The Strategic Assessment aims to fulfil the Partnership's statutory responsibility and identify key strategic priorities for the Partnership, which will then inform the Community Safety Plan.

The Strategic Assessment provides data driven evaluation of the current community safety issues in the Borough, possible developments over the next 3 years and recommendations for further action to address issues.

The partnership examined the context of current themes within community safety and took into account key national, regional and local priorities. In addition to these, it also included priorities for partner agencies over the coming years

The Strategic Assessment was developed based on close analysis of data against the CSP's 64 performance indicators (CSP Performance Dashboard), which are monitored at the CSP meetings under the nine existing headings below that reflect the CSP Sub-groups. The Partnership believed that these headings are the most efficient way to monitor data, and take into account the national, regional and local priorities. The nine headings are:

- Violent Crime (11 indicators)
- Property Crime (9 indicators)
- Youth Crime (6 indicators)
- Violence Against Women and Girls (10 indicators)
- Drugs and Alcohol (10 indicators)
- Integrated Offender Management (3 indicators)
- Anti-social Behaviour (ASB) (5 indicators)
- Cohesion and Hate Crime (6 indicators)
- Public Confidence (4 indicators)

The statutory partners provided information on the above indicators and they have been reviewed in the Strategic Assessment in terms of the following factors:

- Data and Analysis: 1st October 2011 – 30th September 2012
- Trends over the last 3 years (October 2009 – September 2012)
- Foreseeable developments in the next 3 years
- Recommendations

In addition to the information supplied by the statutory partners, additional information was provided by Victim Support and Tower Hamlets Council for Voluntary Services (on behalf of victims, witnesses and organisations working in the voluntary and community sector) and Registered Social Landlords.

Please note: Due to the time scales and production schedule for the Community Safety Plan, we are unable to use full financial year figures to base the plan on. For an up to date position on the CSP's performance see Performance 2012/13 column overleaf

Performance from Strategic Assessment 2012

1st October 2011 – 30th September 2012

Please note: There are no Sanction Detection (SD) Rates available from 3 previous years, which prevents comparison with current rates.

***Sanction Detections** can be defined as those where an offender has been charged, cautioned, reported for summons, reprimanded, the offence has been taken into consideration or where a fixed penalty notice has been issued in relation to a Notifiable Offence.

Violent Crime							
Performance Indicator	Lead Agency for Performance Indicator	Performance 2009/10 (Oct – Sept)	Performance 2010/11 (Oct – Sept)	Performance 2011/12 (Oct – Sept)	Performance 2012/13 (Apr – Mar)	Difference (+/-%) 2011/12 - 2010/11	Direction of Travel (Oct 2009 – Sept 2012)
Number of 'Most Serious Violence' offences	Police	401	456	354	345	-22%	11% Decrease
Most Serious Violence Sanction Detection (SD) Rate*	Police	-	-	142 (40%)	145 (42%)	-	-
Number of Gun Crimes	Police	74	60	57	48	-5%	23% Decrease
Gun Crime SD Rate*	Police	-	-	15 (26%)	20 (41%)	-	-
Number of Knife Crimes	Police	406	599	606	573	+1%	49% Increase
Knife Crime SD Rate*	Police	-	-	145 (24%)	134 (23%)	-	-
Assault with Injury	Police	1963	1732	1716	1860	-1%	13% Decrease
Number of DV Murders	Police	3	2	2	1	-	33% Decrease

Property Crime

Performance Indicator	Lead Agency for performance indicator	Performance 2009/10 (Oct – Sept)	Performance 2010/11 (Oct – Sept)	Performance 2011/12 (Oct – Sept)	Performance 2012/13 (Apr – Mar)	Difference (+/-%) 2011/12 - 2010/11	Direction of Travel (Oct 2009 – Sept 2012)
Number of Personal Robberies	Police	887	1307	1317	1357	+1%	48% Increase
Number of Commercial Robberies	Police	41	87	72	79	-19%	76% Increase
Total Robbery Numbers	Police	928	1396	1389	1436	-0.5%	50% Increase
Robbery SD Rate*	Police	-	-	180 (13%)	197 (14%)	-	-
Number of Residential Burglaries	Police	1014	1472	1388	1409	-6%	37% Increase
Residential Burglary SD Rate*	Police	-	-	132 (9.5%)	118 (8%)	-	-
Number of Thefts of Motor Vehicle	Police	854	858	845	846	-1.5%	1.1% Decrease
Number of Thefts From Motor Vehicle	Police	1730	2404	1716	1821	-28%	1% Decrease
Number of Theft of Pedal Cycle	Police	1448	1192	1517	1467	+27%	5% Increase

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Youth Crime

Performance Indicator	Lead Agency for performance indicator	Performance 2009/10 (Oct – Sept)	Performance 2010/11 (Oct – Sept)	Performance 2011/12 (Oct – Sept)	Performance 2012/13 (Apr – Mar)	Difference (+/-%) 2011/12 - 2010/11	Direction of Travel (Oct 2009 – Sept 2012)
Number of Serious Youth Violence offences	Police	234	297	217	212	-27%	7% Decrease
Number of young people entering the Youth Justice System for the first time	LBTH - YOT	241	229	-	169	-	2010/11 vs 2009/10 5% Decrease
Triage Restorative Intervention diverting 1 st time offenders from Youth Justice System:	LBTH - YOT	157	154	180	178	+17%	15% Increase
a) Referrals to pre-court intervention (Triage, Reprimand & Final Warning)		234	255	246	214	-3.5%	5% Increase
b) Satisfactory completion of intervention		96	118 (76.6%)	103 (57.2%)	Available Aug 2013	-13%	7% Increase
c) Satisfactory completion who go on to re-offend		14	19 (16.1%)	13 (12.6%)	Available Aug 2013	-31%	7% Decrease
d) Failed to complete intervention who go on to re-offend		20	4 (11.1%)	7 (24.1%)	Available Aug 2013	+75%	65% Decrease
% of custodial remands compared to 'all' remand decisions	LBTH - YOT	13.22%	21.56%	18.66%	15.5%	-3%	5% Increase
% of custodial sentences compared to all court disposals	LBTH - YOT	22 (4.35%)	40 (7.81%)	23 (5.57%)	7.1%	-2%	1% Increase
Proven re-offending by young offenders	LBTH - YOT	35.9%	35.8%	37.4% (9 months data)	40%	+2%	2% Increase

Violence Against Women and Girls

Please note: Due to historic under reporting of violence against women and girls, significant work is being undertaken to increase both confidence in reporting and early reporting of these offences/crimes, to ensure that the actual levels of are established and more importantly, so that the victim/survivors receive partnership support at the earliest possible opportunity (see Priority D Violence (with a focus on Domestic Violence, page 44 for what action the partnership takes to address VAWG). Due to this work, we hope that this will have an impact (increase) on the number of reports of violence against women and girls, as seen below.

Performance Indicator	Lead Agency for performance indicator	Performance 2009/10 (Oct – Sept)	Performance 2010/11 (Oct – Sept)	Performance 2011/12 (Oct – Sept)	Performance 2012/13 (Apr – Mar)	Difference (+/-%) 2011/12 - 2010/11	Direction of Travel (Oct 2009 – Sept 2012)
Number of Domestic Violence offences	Police	1719	1682	1789	1993	+6%	4% Increase
Domestic Violence SD Rate*	Police	-	-	774 (43%)	953 (48%)	-	-
Domestic Offence Arrest Rate	Police	-	-	1483 (83%)	1664	-	-
Number of Rapes	Police	122	138	136	119	-1%	11% Increase
Rape SD Rate*	Police	-	-	28 (21%)	35 (22%)	-	-
Number of Other Serious Sexual offences	Police	289	271	269	257	-1%	7% Decrease
Other Serious Sexual Offences SD Rate*	Police	-	-	56 (21%)	56 (17%)	-	-
Reduce the length of time DV is experiences before it is reported to a specialist agency	LBTH	No Data	No data	3.63 years	3.63 years	-	-
Number of individuals referred to MARAC again within 12 months of original referral	LBTH	No Data	No data	59	52	-	-
% victim satisfaction rate of victims cases coming through the Specialist Domestic Violence Court	LBTH	No Data	No data	80% - 100%	90% - 100%	-	-

Drugs and Alcohol

Performance Indicator	Lead Agency for performance indicator	Performance 2009/10 (Oct – Sept)	Performance 2010/11 (Oct – Sept)	Performance 2011/12 (Oct – Sept)	Performance 2012/13 (Apr – Mar)	Difference (+/-%) 2011/12 - 2010/11	Direction of Travel (Oct 2009 – Sept 2012)
Number of drug intervention programme referrals that re-offend	LBTH - DAAT	257	242	No data	No data	-	2010/11 vs 2009/10 6% Decrease
Number of drug users recorded as being in effective treatment	LBTH - DAAT	1616 <small>(Nov 2009- Oct. 2010)</small>	1636 <small>(Nov 2010- Oct. 2011)</small>	1573 <small>(June 2011-May 2012)</small>	1483 <small>(Jan – Dec 2012)</small>	-	3% Decrease
Number of drug users successfully completing treatment	LBTH - DAAT	Not measured by NDTs	137 <small>(April 2011 – March 2012)</small>	147 <small>(April – Sept. 2012)</small>	240	+7%	
Number of arrests made under 'Dealer a Day'	Police	420	382	415	397	+9%	1% Decrease
Number of prison release clients referred and commenced treatment	LBTH - DAAT	32%	42%	75%	129 / 174 74% <small>(June 2012 – March 2013)</small>	+33%	43% Increase
Number of DIP CJS clients completing treatment	LBTH - DAAT	No Data	No data	45 <small>(April –Aug 2012)</small>	403 <small>(May 2012 – March 2013)</small>	-	-
Number of DIP clients re-offending after completing treatment	LBTH - DAAT	No Data	No data	7 <small>(April – Aug 2012)</small>	88/269 <small>(June 2012 – March 2013)</small>	-	-
Number of clients engaging with DIP, captured and referred via targeted testing	LBTH - DAAT	No Data	No data	No data	1080 Tests 461 Positive <small>(Aug 2012 – Mar 2013)</small>	-	-

Integrated Offender Management

Performance Indicator	Lead Agency for performance indicator	Performance 2009/10 (Oct – Sept)	Performance 2010/11 (Oct – Sept)	Performance 2011/12 (Oct – Sept)	Performance 2012/13 (Apr – Mar)	Difference (+/-%) 2011/12 - 2010/11	Direction of Travel (Oct 2009 – Sept 2012)
Percentage of offenders under Probation supervision living in settled and suitable accommodation at the end of their order or license	Probation	No data	87.6% (Apr. 2011 – Mar. 2012)	86.7% (Apr. – Sept. 2012)	87.2%	-1%	-
Percentage of offenders under Probation supervision in employment at the end of their order or license	Probation	No data	55.7% (Apr. 2011 – Mar. 2012)	57% (Apr. – Mar. 2012)	52.6%	+1%	-
Adult re-offending rates for those under Probation supervision	Probation	9.76% (Mar. 2010)	8.96% (Mar. 2011)	9.1% (Sept. 2012)	-9.85 (July 2011 – June 2012)	+0.1%	0.6% Decrease

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Anti-Social Behaviour

Performance Indicator	Lead Agency for performance indicator	Performance 2009/10 (Oct – Sept)	Performance 2010/11 (Oct – Sept)	Performance 2011/12 (Oct – Sept)	Performance 2012/13 (Apr – Mar)	Difference (+/-%) 2011/12 - 2010/11	Direction of Travel (Oct 2009 – Sept 2012)
Number of Police CAD calls for ASB	Police	No data	26,378	23,248	19,203	-11.9%	-
LBTH ASB Data	LBTH	3,619	3,260	3,128	2,803	-4%	13% Decrease
Number of Arson incidents (all deliberate fires)	London Fire Brigade	878	759	603	353	-21%	31% Decrease
Number of Primary fires in domestic buildings	London Fire Brigade	249	233	229	236	-2%	8% Decrease
Number of Primary fires in non-domestic buildings	London Fire Brigade	88	87	83	99	-5%	6% Decrease

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Cohesion and Hate Crime

Please note: Due to historic under reporting of hate crime, significant work is being undertaken to increase both confidence in reporting and early reporting of these offences/crimes, to ensure that the actual levels are established and more importantly, so that the victims receive partnership support at the earliest possible opportunity. The performance data below is in the format/categories provided by the police, unfortunately this does not disaggregate it into the 7 strands of hate crime (Disability; Race or Ethnic Identity; Religion/Belief; Gender or Gender Identity; Sexual Orientation; Age and Immigration Status or Nationality), which has historically only been recorded by the police as Race and Religious or Homophobic incidents/crimes (see Priority E Hate Crime and Cohesion, page 48 for what action the partnership takes to address Hate Crime and Cohesion). Due to this work, we hope that this will have an impact (increase) on the number of reports of all types of hate incidents/crimes, as seen below.

Performance Indicator	Lead Agency for performance indicator	Performance 2009/10 (Oct – Sept)	Performance 2010/11 (Oct – Sept)	Performance 2011/12 (Oct – Sept)	Performance 2012/13 (Apr – Mar)	Difference (+/-%) 2011/12 - 2010/11	Direction of Travel (Oct 2009 – Sept 2012)
Number of Racist and Religious offences	Police	350	378	345	364	-9%	1% Decrease
Racist and Religious SD Rate*	Police	-	-	146 (42%)	140 (42%)	-	-
Number of Homophobic offences	Police	66	82	71	53	-13%	8% Increase
Homophobic SD Rate*	Police	-	-	34 (48%)	29 (56%)	-	-
% of hate crime cases coming before the Hate Incidents Panel where formal action is taken	LBTH	100% 243 (Apr. 2009 – Mar. 2010)	100% 128 (Apr.2010 – Mar. 2011)	100% 143 (Apr.2011 – Mar. 2012)	100% 125 (Apr.2012 – Mar. 2013)	-	-
% of people who believe people from different backgrounds get on well together in their local area	LBTH	75% (Apr. 2009 – Mar. 2010)	76% (Apr. 2010 – Mar. 2011)	78% (Apr. 2011- Mar.12)	Awaiting Publishing of Annual Resident Survey	+2%	3% Increase

Public Confidence

Performance Indicator	Lead Agency for performance indicator	Performance 2009/10 (Oct – Sept)	Performance 2010/11 (Oct – Sept)	Performance 2011/12 (Oct – Sept)	Performance 2012/13 (Apr – Mar)	Difference (+/-%) 2011/12 - 2010/11	Direction of Travel (Oct 2009 – Sept 2012)
% of people who feel that 'people being drunk or rowdy in public places' is a fairly/very big problem in their local area	LBTH	40% (Apr. 2009 – Mar. 2010)	40% (Apr. 2010 – Mar. 2011)	43% (Apr. 2011- Mar.12)	Awaiting Publishing of Annual Resident Survey	+3%	3% Increase
% of people who feel that 'vandalism, graffiti and criminal damage' is a fairly/very big problem in their local area	LBTH	42% (Apr. 2009 – Mar. 2010)	37% (Apr. 2010 – Mar. 2011)	41% (Apr. 2011- Mar.12)	Awaiting Publishing of Annual Resident Survey	+4%	1% Decrease
% of people who feel that 'people using or dealing drugs' is a fairly/very big problem in their local area	LBTH	51% (Apr. 2009 – Mar. 2010)	52% (Apr. 2010 – Mar. 2011)	53% (Apr. 2011- Mar.12)	Awaiting Publishing of Annual Resident Survey	+1%	2% Increase
% of people who feel that the 'Council and Police are dealing effectively with local concerns about anti-social behaviour and crime'	LBTH	48% (Apr. 2009 – Mar. 2010)	48% (Apr. 2010 – Mar. 2011)	50% (Apr. 2011- Mar.12)	Awaiting Publishing of Annual Resident Survey	+2%	2% Increase

Public Consultation

As part of the partnership's duties to consult the community and the wider partnership on community safety in the borough, an extensive 5 week public consultation took place during May and June 2012.

The public consultation provided the public with the community safety priorities for 2012/13 and gave them the option to choose their top 3 from the list and or to supplement this with any other they deemed appropriate.

People were made aware of the consultation via press articles, letters and email alerts. They were given the opportunity to attend their local Police Safer Neighbourhood Team's Public Meeting, a Borough Public Meeting or a Members' Consultation Session (for elected members only). In addition they could reply in writing /email or respond via the dedicated webpage. This consultation asked members of the public (residents and business people), partnership and community groups/organisations for their top three community safety priorities.

In total 1,013 responses were received, the majority of which (862) were collected through the dedicated web page (Mytowerhamlets) and survey. This collection method also enabled us to monitor the equalities data of those 862 recipients against the Greater London Assembly's 2011 data, full findings of which are included in Public Consultation Report. In summary 65.71% of recipients identified their ethnicity as White (17 percentage point overrepresentation) and 20.36% as Bangladeshi (14 percentage point underrepresentation). In terms of Gender, 42% of respondents were female and 58% were male, which shows a 6.5 percentage point underrepresentation for female. With regards to age the largest group of respondents were those aged between 25 and 39 years of age, making up 50.2% (3.2% overrepresentation) of respondents and the smallest group being the 0 to 16 age group, making up only 5.1% (14.9% underrepresentation), however we cannot expect infants and minors to respond, so we cannot make meaningful statements about this. Those aged between 17 and 24 years made up 9% of respondents, which is an 11 percentage point underrepresentation.

Results:

Based solely on the number of selections by members of the public in Tower Hamlets across all the different collection methods, the top 3 (4 in reality due to two priorities receiving the same number of responses) community safety priorities for the Community Safety Plan 2013-16 are:

1) Anti-social Behaviour (ASB)	298
2) Serious Acquisitive Crime	200
3) Drugs and Alcohol	196
- Violence	196
5) Youth Crime	175
6) Integrated Offender Management	130
7) Community Cohesion and Hate Crime	124
8) Public Confidence	104
9) Violence Against Women and Girls	88
10) Other	28

Priorities – How the Partnership Decided

In December 2012, the Community Safety Partnership was presented with the Strategic Assessment 2012, an Executive Summary of the Strategic Assessment 2012, the Public Consultation Report and a paper which made recommendations based on their findings.

The recommendations took into account areas where trends were going in the wrong direction, areas which the partner agencies had highlighted as being priorities for all the partnership and existing priorities external to the partnership i.e. Home Office, MOPAC and Community Plan as well as the public's perception/priorities.

There are some areas of work which are priorities for individual and/or several partner agencies which the Community Safety Partnership has also taken into account when agreeing its own priorities for the term of this plan. The priorities that have not been deemed a priority by/for the Partnership will continue to remain priorities for those individual agencies and their performance will continue to be monitored and managed by each respective agency.

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Priorities for 2013 -2016

The Partnership recognises that it has a responsibility to address all areas of crime, disorder, anti-social behaviour, substance misuse and re-offending as part of its core business. However, it also recognises that there are a few particular areas, which have a greater impact on the people of Tower Hamlets and their quality of life. For this reason, it has agreed that it will place an added focus on these areas and they will form the priorities for the next 3 years.

- **Gangs and Serious Youth Violence**
- **Anti-Social Behaviour (including Arson)**
- **Drugs and Alcohol**
- **Violence (with focus on Domestic Violence)**
- **Hate Crime and Cohesion**
- **Public Confidence**
- **Reducing Re-offending**

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Priority A:

Gangs and Serious Youth Violence

Why is it a priority?

Tower Hamlets has one of the highest proportions of young people as a percentage of its population compared to other boroughs both in London and nationally. Whilst Tower Hamlets does not have a significant gang problem compared to other London Boroughs, there are a small number of geographically based gangs in the borough, who sporadically come into conflict with each other. These gangs are responsible for a significant amount of the borough's youth crime and drug dealing. The effects that gangs and incidents of serious youth violence, although both uncommon, have on members' of the wider communities feeling of safety, especially other young people, makes this a priority for the Community Safety Partnership to address.

The borough saw a 27% reduction in the number of serious youth violence incidents and therefore victims for the period October 2011 – September 2012 when compared to the previous year. However, it is common to see increases and decreases, year on year as they can be skewed by unexpected events.

Young people aged 8 - 17, which form the Youth Offending Service's service users' age cohort, account for 10.4% of the Tower Hamlets population (27,280 residents^[1]). This is above the proportion those aged 0 to 17 for Inner London which stands at 9.8% of the population, but below the figure for Greater London of 11%

This age group is projected to increase in size by 7.8% over the next 5 years^[2] to reach 29,400 8 - 17 year olds by 2017. It is then projected to increase further over the following 5 years to reach 33,426 residents by 2022, which represents a 22.5% increase over the current 2012 number.

Responsible Board/CSP Sub-group:

Youth Offending Team Management Board
Strategic Gangs Strategy Board
Operational Gangs Partnership

What will we aim to achieve this year?

- Reduce the levels of ASB, Drugs, Homicide, Firearms discharges, Knife crime, and Serious Youth Violence
- Reduce First Time Entrants (FTE) to the youth justice system by early intervention
- Reduce the harm caused by street gangs across the borough
- Reduce re-offending

^[1] ONS 2011 Census

^[2] GLA SHLAA population projections – 2012 Round

- Reduce the use of custody, especially remands into custody
- Focus activity towards offenders who present most risk and harm to the community
- Support interventions to prevent young people from becoming involved in gang crime and serious youth violence
- Improve the numbers of young offenders in Education, Training and Employment
- With partners, offer practical assistance to individuals wishing to stop their involvement in gang criminality
- Engage young people on the periphery of gangs in positive activities
- Deliver sturdy enforcement of the law against those who persist with gang criminality, ASB, drugs, knife crime and youth violence
- Make best use of all available Criminal Justice opportunities to prevent and disrupt gang criminality and bring offenders before the courts
- Train magistrates in the work we are doing in respect of gangs
- Ensure there is process for the community to provide information and we can demonstrate it has been acted upon
- Run a violent offender group-work programme via the Youth Offending Service
- Become actively involved in the Safe and Secure Project

How will we measure success?

- Number of Serious Youth Violence incidents
- Number of young people engaged with through the Police Gang Matrix
- Reduction in the number of First Time Entrants into the Criminal Justice System
- Number of young people from Police Gang Matrix:
 - Placed in Education, Training or Employment
 - Placed in suitable housing
- Re-offending Rates
- Performance Framework
- Police Public Attitude Survey
- Social Networks / Media Scanning
- Community Tension Reports
- Reducing Youth on Youth Violence and anti-social behaviour through Rapid Response team in identified Hotspot zone (identified by partners)

How will we do this?

Youth Offending

- Identification and Priority Cohort – the key trigger for diversion and engagement targeted support and enforcement measures will be based on intelligence about young people shared between key partners and stakeholders.
- Young people (8-17 years) at risk of involvement in violent behaviour (including victims of SYV); those seeking a route out of violence and gang culture; and those being considered for enforcement measures due to refusing to exit violent lifestyles.
- Referrals will continue to come from schools to the Social Inclusion Panel and support will extend to siblings of the target cohort as well as children of adult offenders via the Youth Inclusion Support Programme. The Youth Offending

Prevention Service will build on its existing referral mechanisms for parents and self-referrals.

- We will also build on the Council's current arrangements for ASB enforcement measures and Gang Injunctions to ensure that young people have access to support services to prevent further escalation.
- Young people supported through diversion and engagement will be formally assessed using the Youth Justice Board's assessment framework. Assessments will aid the development of integrated action plans for each young person, determine and manage risks, taking into account safeguarding concerns.
- Interventions will be initiated via letter to both the young person and his/her guardian.
- Support available includes education, training, employment, accommodation (Police – Safe and Secure Initiative), substance misuse services, parental support, violent offenders/identity workshops, mentoring and positive activities, health and emotional wellbeing services and having a named key-worker.
- Early enforcement includes Behaviour Contracts (including exclusion zones and prohibitions), joint home visits and 'Buddi' monitoring tags.
- Civil enforcement includes Gang Injunctions, Parenting Orders, Anti-Social Behaviour Orders and Individual Support Orders.

Integrated Youth and Community Service

- The service will work in partnership with the police and respond to "Youth on Youth Violence" issues and engage them in to structured learning opportunities.

Troubled Families Programme

- The Troubled Families Programme will enhance the work of the Police and Youth Offending Team to broaden the offer of support and therapeutic intervention to the families of young people whose lives are affected by gangs. Outcomes are linked to the PBR element of the troubled families programme and focus primarily on reducing offending, increasing educational attendance and achievement and in getting young adults and their parents either into work or on the way to work.

Police

- The Police will use a range of activities in their approach to tackling Gangs and Serious Youth Violence. These will include activity analysis, weapons seizures, arrests, detections, search warrants, CHIS coverage and financial investigation.
- Produce Gang Related Intervention Profiles (GRIPs) on each individual which will include information on and from MATRIX analysis, reaching minimum threshold, intelligence coverage and whether they have been convicted in the past 6 months, charged in the past 3 months, under judicial restriction, named in proactive enquiry, a subject of financial investigation, engaging in a diversionary scheme and/or have no restrictions or current interventions in place.

What we will aim to achieve over the 3 years?

Over the next 3 years we will:

- Aim to alter the public's perception and increase both confidence and satisfaction
- Increase the number of gang nominal's in custody by 20% of the 140 on the Matrix
- Increase the number of those exiting gang offending
- Focus enforcement work on those who reject the offer of intervention
- Increase the use of the family intervention: proportion of gang nominal's supported within a Family Intervention Project
- Increase the proportion of those supported into Education, Training and Employment
- Provide meaningful community engagement and full multi-agency collaboration and communication
- Through early intervention improve PRU and school truancy rates of those in the cohort
- Develop effective Accident & Emergency data sharing
- Provide enhanced offender management for gang members
- Maintain a fast response to critical incidents
- Develop shared ownership; strong leadership; information sharing; assessment and referral and targeted services
- To be able to identify what success is for key agencies, young people, families, government and for those involved in serious youth violence

Priority B:

Anti-Social Behaviour (including Arson)

Why is it a priority?

Anti-social behaviour (ASB) is both a National and Local priority. ASB can include behaviour such as noise, graffiti, abandoned cars and threatening behaviour which affects people's quality of life and can leave them feeling intimidated, angry or frightened. Tower Hamlets Community Safety Partnership works with all its partners to reduce levels of ASB so that residents and people, who work and visit the borough, maintain a good quality of life.

Responsible Board/CSP Sub-group:

Borough Crime Tasking Group
Safer Communities Partnership Co-ordination Group

What will we aim to achieve this year?

- To better identify all incidents reported to partners in conjunction with Police data, to better identify all victims of ASB within the borough and provide a quality response to their needs.
- To reduce the number of anti-social behaviour incidents recorded on the Police CAD System by 10% based on end of year figures for 2011-2012. This equates to approximately 2356 calls less **(19176/16810)** for 2012-2013.
- Reduce the number of anti-social behaviour incidents reported to Registered Social Landlords
- Reduce the number of incidents of Vandalism

How will we measure success?

- Number of Police Computer Aided Despatch (CAD) calls for ASB**
- Newly implemented (MPS) Airspace* data
- LBTH ASB data
- RSL ASB (no. of ASB incidents reported) data
- Number of young people engaged by the Youth Inclusion and Support Programme
- Number of ASB referrals securing EET destination through Targeted Support Team.
- Reducing Youth on Youth Violence and anti-social behaviour through Rapid Response team in identified Hotspot zone (identified by partners)
- Reduction in calls

*Airspace is a new IT based system that provides an enhanced method of identifying ASB that could not previously be identified and will enhance the Metropolitan Police's ability to resolve such identified problems

** Using Metropolitan Police definition of Anti-social behaviour

- Improved Public Confidence and Victim Satisfaction
- Number of incidents of Criminal Damage
- Number of Arson incidents – All Deliberate Fires
- Number of Accidental Dwelling Fires
- Number of Primary Fires in Non-Domestic Buildings
- Number of incidents of Vandalism

How will we do this?

- Increasing Police officer numbers to Neighbourhood Policing Teams through the implementation of the MPS Local Policing Model, combined with Partnership Funded officers and new methods of identifying individuals and areas. e.g. Airspace
- Regular meetings between Police, Fire Brigade, Council ASB and Integrated Youth & Community Service (especially Rapid Response Team) Teams together with key partners (including Housing Providers) to prioritise identified problems and tasking of resources committed to the reduction of anti-social behaviour
- Better identification of ASB through enhanced information sharing, improved data collection, recording and analysis
- Contact will be made with 100% of victims of ASB reported to the Police within 24 hours of initial call. Agreements will be made with victims to ensure quality service is provided to resolve their concerns and prevent on-going incidents
- All activity will be recorded on new systems to identify individual team performance
- Every cluster/ward team will be measured as to their success and levels of intervention
- Better use and co-ordination of civil tools and legislative powers available to landlords to tackle ASB in neighbourhoods
- More use of informal tools, such as agreements and undertakings available to landlords to prevent and tackle ASB
- Improved relationships between police, council workers and partners, such as housing providers through co-location will improve identification of ASB, joint working and case resolution
- RSLs will explore opportunities to work in partnership to prevent crime and anti-social behaviour in their neighbourhoods and utilise secure by design principles
- Engaging 60% of ASB referrals to Integrated Youth & Community Service into enrichment and Positive Activities.
- Engaging young people into Universal services in their locality.
- Maximise young people's participation during school holiday period through Integrated Youth and Community Services programme / initiatives.
- Increasing the number of Tower Hamlets Enforcement Officers in order to build on the successful enforcement and reassurance patrols to tackle ASB and other community concerns

What we will aim to achieve over the 3 years?

- Through enhanced police and partnership activity we will seek a minimum 10% year on year reduction in the number of reported ASB
- We will identify ASB incidents initially reported as crime, ensuring ownership and commitment by their Safer Neighbourhood Team, so that all victims receive a quality service
- We will improve our standing from 2nd highest borough contributor of ASB in London to 5th highest or better
- Respond to new legislation and ensure any new powers for CSP agencies are utilised to prevent and respond to anti-social behaviour
- We will identify potential ASB perpetrators early, refer, develop a support/development plan and engage them onto positive activities through Targeted Youth Support Service
- Secure 90% of ASB referrals into EET destinations year on year
- Reduction in the Number of Incidents of Vandalism

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Priority C:

Drugs and Alcohol

Please Note: Drugs and alcohol misuse is a known driver of property crime, by addressing this priority we expect this to have a positive impact on property crime in the borough.

Why is it a priority?

There is a clear link between dependent users of Class A Drugs (like heroin and crack cocaine) with burglary, robbery, theft from a person or vehicle (collectively known as Serious Acquisitive Crimes), fraud, shoplifting and prostitution, which they commit in order to fund the drug dependency.

The effects of alcohol on the body mean it is often more likely for the drinker to either be a victim or perpetrator of crime. Alcohol is often linked to both violence and anti-social behaviour. Its use is particularly linked to incidents of domestic abuse and violence.

Treatment for drug and alcohol users, particularly young people is important so that their health and well-being is safeguarded and they make a positive contribution to their local communities.

Responsible Board/CSP Sub-group:

Drug and Alcohol Action Team Board

What will we aim to achieve this year?

- Implement a multi-agency communications plan for service users and professionals which raises awareness of harm reduction & safe drinking levels; drug related harm & treatment services available; supports parents to address their child's drug and alcohol misuse
- Ensure school staff, pupils and parents receive substance misuse education
- Understand local trends in alcohol and drug consumption so that they inform the borough's Needs Assessment which in turn shapes service provision
- Report the number of young offenders screened and engaged by the YOT substance misuse worker
- Review and map prevention initiatives for both adults and children including referral and threshold criteria
- Strengthen primary care responses to substance misuse
- Increase the number of alcohol screenings in Police custody suites with referrals into treatment services
- Increase the number of drug users accessing targeted interventions who are identified via Police custody suite screening and widen the testing from Class A
- Improve the identification of and response to individuals presenting themselves to secondary care services including A&E

- Increase the number of 18-24 year olds referred and engaging in treatment for drug and alcohol problems
- Combat sales to underage drinkers including proxy sales including using young offenders as part of community reparation
- Disrupt the supply of drugs through effective enforcement
- Reduce the number of Property Crimes:
 - Reduce the number of Personal Robberies
 - Reduce the number of Residential Burglaries
 - Reduce the number of Thefts From Motor Vehicles
 - Reduce the number of Thefts of Motor Vehicles
 - Reduce the number of Thefts From a Person
- Reduce the number of incidents of Vandalism

How will we measure success?

- Number of Drug Intervention Programme (DIP) referrals that re-offend
- Number of drug users recorded as being in effective treatment
- Number of drug users successfully completing treatment
- % of individuals in alcohol treatment, demonstrating abstinence or improvement in alcohol intake at 6 month review
- Dealer a day programme – Arrests made
- Number of prison release clients referred and commenced treatment
- Number of DIP Criminal Justice System clients completing treatment
- Number of DIP clients re-offending after completing treatment
- Number of clients engaging with DIP, captured and referred via targeted testing
- Number of young people taking drugs and/or alcohol, in specialist treatment
- Number of Personal Robberies
- Number of Residential Burglaries
- Number of Thefts From Motor Vehicles
- Number of Thefts of Motor Vehicles
- Number of Thefts From a Person
- Number of incidents of Vandalism

How will we do this?

- Public Health working in partnership with Safer Communities and Children's Schools & Families Directorate to develop and implement the multi-agency communications plan will lead to a heightened awareness of services and referral mechanisms into those services.
- Provide training to schools, parents and peer educators on substance misuse education
- Conduct a Healthy Lifestyles Survey, analysis of GP drugs / alcohol data; hospital admissions; outreach data and treatment data to produce an annual Needs Assessment which will then inform and shape targeted provision.
- Holding mapping events for children's and adults services will enable us to identify all prevention initiatives and both their referral and threshold criteria.
- Deliver pilot sessions for invited services on the Behaviour Change Toolkit.

- The introduction of Alcohol Champions within the Royal London Hospital, having an Acute Trust alcohol strategy in place with buy in from a range of stakeholders and all wards and departments of secondary care having access to and implementing the guidance on 'the appropriate and effective management of alcohol dependent patients' and 'management of withdrawal from alcohol' will improve identification and response to individuals with alcohol problems.
- Implement targeted interventions for 18-24 year olds and ensure adult treatment providers offer an appropriate approach for them.
- Conduct underage alcohol sales operations which are supported by information and education for licensees on their legal obligations and follow up illegal sales with well-publicised prosecutions.
- Continue to deliver the 'Dealer a Day' operation which aims to arrest a drug dealer every day of the year.

What we will aim to achieve over the 3 years?

- Review provision and configuration of drug and alcohol treatment for adults; including a redesign of treatment provision; facilitate a widespread consultation and an equalities impact assessment
- 20% reduction in total number of 'key crimes', as identified in the London Crime Reduction Plan which includes:
 - Robbery
 - Residential Burglary
 - Theft from Motor Vehicles
 - Theft of Motor Vehicles
 - Theft from a Person
 - Vandalism
 - Violence with Injury

Priority D:

Violence (with a focus on Domestic Violence)

Why is it a priority?

Violent crime is defined by the Home Office as robbery, sexual offences and violence against a person (ranging from assault without injury to homicide). While the number of incidences of Most Serious Violence (GBH and above) in the borough has shown a significant decrease over the last 12 months, it has been counteracted by a 51% increase in the number of reported domestic violence offences and a 3% increase in other non-domestic violent offences. This increase in violence could be attributed to increased confidence in reporting, where in the past the incident would have gone unreported.

Domestic violence has serious consequences affecting both adults and children with documented evidence showing that domestic violence is already endemic in a relationship before it is reported to the police for the first time.

Particular focus will be placed on Domestic Violence within this priority as well as all of the 8 other strands of Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) contained within the borough's VAWG Plan. The definition of domestic violence and abuse now explicitly includes 16 - 17 year olds and incorporates a wide range of abusive and controlling behaviours including physical, sexual, financial, emotional and psychological abuse, which contribute to the increase in violence across the borough. The cross-cutting nature of the Violence Against Women and Girls agenda means that responsibility for tackling these issues falls across a wide range of different agencies. Co-ordinating service provision and ensuring clear governance and accountability for this agenda is therefore a key challenge and a priority for the borough.

Responsible Board/CSP Sub-group:

Borough Crime Tasking Group
Domestic Violence Forum

What will we aim to achieve this year?

- A reduction in the volume of non-domestic violence recorded Violence with injury compared with 2012/13 performance
- Achieving of Sanctioned Detection targets for the above crime types in terms of offences brought to justice
- Continued increase in the reporting of domestic abuse and sexual violence
- Developing partnership work across the borough to ensure that the Local Safeguarding Children Board's Safeguarding Policy is adhered to by all agencies
- Increase third party reporting by promoting the service and an increase in the number of sites
- Further development of an all-day DV One Stop Service

- Increase the number of DV perpetrators being referred to and accessing the IDAP Programme within the borough
- Run a violent offender group-work programme in the Youth Offending Team including an offensive weapon and joint enterprise session.
- Reduce the number of incidents of Violence with Injury
- Increased reporting of levels of sexual violence to the Haven, the Independent Sexual Violence Adviser and to East London Rape Crisis
- Increased identification of female genital mutilation (FGM) through health and community safety measures
- Increased identification of victims of trafficking or other forms of sexual exploitation

How will we measure success?

- Number of Most Serious Violence offences per 1000 of the population
- Most Serious Sanction Detection (SD) Rate
- Number of Gun Crimes
- Gun Crime Sanction Detection (SD) Rate
- Number of Knife Crimes
- Knife Crime Sanction Detection (SD) Rate
- Number of Assaults with Injury
- Number of incidents of Violence with injury
- Number of DV Murders
- Number of Domestic Violence Offences
- Domestic Violence Sanction Detection (SD) Rate
- Domestic Offence Arrest Rate
- Number of Rapes
- Rape Sanction Detection (SD) Rate
- Number of Serious Sexual Offences
- Other Serious Sexual Offences Sanction Detection (SD) Rate
- Reduce the amount of time Domestic Violence is experienced before it is initially reported to a specialist agency
- Number of individuals to MARAC again within 12 months of original referral
- % victim satisfaction rate of victim's cases coming through the Specialist Domestic Violence Court
- Number of service users who attend the DV One Stop Shop, Homeless Persons Unit and Barkentine DV drop-in services
- Number of young women reported as missing from care or at risk of sexual exploitation to children's services
- Number of women identified as having undergone FGM
- Number of women (14 plus) who have presented to sexual violence services in the borough

How will we do this?

- The Police will work to the 'action plans' for Violence with Injury and Domestic Violence which are designed to drive forward performance.
- The Council have recently recruited a Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) Strategy Manager (funded for 3 years) to develop the VAWG Plan across the 9 strands, working with services across the borough, to develop services and provide training on VAWG issues.
- Multi-agency support services developed to tackle all forms of VAWG including specific case management services to support women involved in prostitution.
- The Council will continue to develop partnership working with the Police, Health and the Voluntary Sector, to increase the reporting of domestic abuse by providing more reporting centres.

Domestic Violence and Hate Crime Team

- Holding the Domestic Violence Forum
- Co-ordinating The Tower Hamlets Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC): attended by key officers from the Police, Homelessness Service, Children's Social Care, Health, Probation, Victim Support, specialist domestic and sexual violence services, Drug/ Alcohol Services, Mental Health and Education services which meets monthly to review and plan action in identified high risk cases.
- Co-ordinating the Tower Hamlets' Prostitution Partnership (THPP) meetings: interagency meetings to support sex workers including a MARAC style meeting
- DV1 inter-agency referral form and DV database
- Support Partnership DV One Stop Shop at the Jagonari Centre
- Hold DV Drop in Surgery at the Barkentine
- Homeless Person's Unit DV Drop in Surgery
- Survivors' Network
- Specialist Domestic Violence Court Steering Group Meeting
- Support and give information to staff by providing:
 - Telephone advice & information
 - Resources and guidance
 - Training
 - Working with health and VAWG agencies to develop an appropriate response to tackling FGM, so-called 'honour' based violence, forced marriage, trafficking and dowry abuse

What we will aim to achieve over the 3 years?

- The Police will continue to work towards the MOPAC directive to achieve a 20% reduction in 'key crime' (Including Violence with Injury) by the end of 2015/16 performance year. The contribution to this performance through 2013/14 will be a 5% Reduction in Violent Crime married with a 34% detection rate against the 2012/13 performance year.
- Reduce the length of time it takes individuals to report domestic abuse.
- Increase awareness of DV and increase their reporting of domestic abuse.

- Increased awareness of other forms of VAWG and increased reporting
- Increase training to service providers, so that all organisations are consistent in their approach to addressing issues of domestic abuse.
- Support organisations to increase their referrals to the MARAC, with a focus on 'high-risk' groups such as sex workers, those who are dependent on alcohol or drugs, carers and young people.
- Develop specialist health pathways for survivors of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) and develop educational resources for schools as well as training for staff on how to respond in cases of FGM. Development of a multi-agency forum on FGM with public health, midwifery and the health trust
- Increase safety and health of street based sex workers as well as reducing associated ASB.
- Work with school staff, governors and parents to develop appropriate training resources to enable young people to increase their awareness of abuse and recognise when they are at risk in their own intimate relationships
- Work with young people to raise awareness around all forms of violence
- Support children's services to support young women (and men) that are at risk of sexual exploitation.

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Priority E:

Hate Crime and Cohesion

Why is it a priority?

The Tower Hamlets Community Plan aims to make the borough a better place for everyone who lives and works here. The Borough's diversity is one of its greatest strengths with the richness, vibrancy and energy that our communities bring. As a partnership we are committed to build One Tower Hamlets, to tackle inequality, strengthen cohesion and build both community leadership and personal responsibility.

The borough is a diverse and tolerant place, where the vast majority of people treat each other with dignity and respect. Unfortunately there is a small minority of people who don't hold those same values and perpetuate hate. Hate crimes are committed on the grounds of prejudice against people who are different than the perpetrator in some way.

Preventing violent extremism and people becoming involved in it, is fundamental to achieving One Tower Hamlets. Our partnership approach has developed over the past five years and enabled us to tackle complex and contentious issues during that time.

Responsible Board/CSP Sub-group:

No Place For Hate Forum
Community Cohesion Contingency Planning and Tension Monitoring Group

What will we aim to achieve this year?

Tower Hamlets No Place For Hate Forum

We know that for some people difference is a frightening thing. In difference, they see a threat and that is when prejudice takes hold. Sometimes prejudice results in the abuse and violence that undermines the borough's proud tradition of diversity and tolerance.

The experience of prejudice and hate isn't limited to one particular group. Hate crimes are committed against people of different races, faiths/beliefs, sexual orientations, gender identities, ages and disabilities and other actual or perceived difference. The Tower Hamlets No Place for Hate Forum (THNPFHF) and partners aim to stamp out all forms of hate, and ensure that the borough is a safe place for everyone.

- In 2013/14 we aim to increase the reporting of hate across all strands and raise awareness of the impacts of hate through education and awareness.
- We will aim to raise awareness of disability hate crime, utilising suitable methods to engage with the community to build confidence and increase reports
- THNPFHF partners will deliver various activities throughout the year that all contribute to making this borough proud and tolerant of its diversity.

Community Cohesion Contingency Planning and Tension Monitoring Group (CCCPTMG)

The Council established the CCCPTMG in 2007. Its role has been to provide a wide-ranging key individual network of those who represent statutory, voluntary and community organisations in Tower Hamlets. The ability to have a network of individuals prepared to respond in real time to critical incidents is a pivotal part of an effective emergency response. In 2013/14 we aim to:

- Plug gaps that we may have in the membership of the group in order to strengthen its impact in protecting local communities.
- Continue to respond to cohesion related issues in the borough in real time.
- Undertake one off seminars to look at specific threats to cohesion in order to both increase our learning of the threat and to identify what the boroughs response will be to reduce the threat.
- Undertake a piece of research on Islamophobia and how it impacts the local community.

Preventing Violent Extremism Programme Board

- Deliver phase two of Building Community Resilience project, engaging at least 70 young people in the borough in workshops to build their resilience to extremism
- 'Deliver the Connecting with the next generation' project to provide continuing professional development opportunities for teaching staff in madrasahs to develop their teaching skills and knowledge and understanding of the safeguarding agenda

How will we measure success?

- Number of Hate Crimes (overall and broken down into 7 strands of hate)
- Racist Sanction Detection (SD) Rate (overall and broken down into 7 strands of hate)
- % of hate crime cases coming to the Hate Incidents Panel where formal action is taken
- % of people who believe people from different backgrounds get on well together in their local area

How will we do this?

Tower Hamlets No Place For Hate Forum

- The Hate Incident Panel will continue to ensure that key agencies meet regularly to review and plan effective actions, share information effectively and swiftly to manage responses to hate incidents. Agencies including the Council, Police, Legal Services, Housing Associations, Victim Support and Youth Services will ensure that a co-ordinated and more structured response, gives out the message to offenders that we will not tolerate hate and they will be held accountable for their actions.

- The Hate Incident Panel will aim to increase the percentage of hate crime cases reviewed at the Panel, where formal action is taken (baseline to be set in March 2013).
- Free advice and guidance will be offered to non-council services (including Registered Social Landlords (RSLs)) will result in a more collective response to hate incidents across the borough.
- The Panel will continue to encourage RSLs to refer cases and access appropriate advice when investigating cases.
- The Panel will support the Police in achieving their targets for Racist Sanction Detection (SD) Rate and Homophobic Sanction Detection (SD) Rate.

Community Cohesion Contingency Planning and Tension Monitoring Group (CCCPTMG)

- The CCCPTMG will continue to meet on a 6 weekly basis with emergency meetings taking place if and when needed to discuss imminent threats to cohesion. The group will also look at increasing its membership to ensure that all sections of the community are being engaged with and are part of the discussion on cohesion related issues.

Preventing Violent Extremism Programme Board

- The preventing Violent Extremism Programme Board will continue to meet every quarter. In addition to this we also hope to set up an operations group for frontline managers in relevant services to engage with frontline staff in relation to the Preventing Violent Extremism agenda.

What we will aim to achieve over the 3 years?

Tower Hamlets No Place For Hate Forum

- We will maintain and further develop the Third Party Reporting Project, by delivering refresher training to existing centres and recruiting new significant sites with established links and trust within their community to become Third Party Reporting Centres. Currently the Reporting Centres reflect the hate crime strands and include Age Concern, Dellow Centre, Real (formerly Disability Information Training Opportunities), London Muslim Centre, New Start, Positive East, Praxis, Step Forward Tower Hamlets, Victim Support, One Stop Shops, City Gateway and Young People's One Stop Shop.
- In 2013/14 we aim to increase reports via the Third Party Reporting Centres by 13% compared to the current baseline of 80 Reports as of February 2013. Over the 3 years we aim to increase third part reporting by 36%.
- Tower Hamlets No Place For Hate Pledge – we will continue the campaign which promotes an established clear message to the community. The campaign will link to and support national and international campaign and local festivals, highlighting clearly that the partners will not tolerate hate in any form or nature in our diverse and cohesive borough, that is 'One Tower Hamlets'.

- The Forum will continue to promote the 'Pledge' at outreach events in the community whilst delivering workshops, at training and awareness stalls encouraging as many individuals and organisations to make a pledge against hate.
- The Forum aspires to increase the sign up of individuals and organisations to the pledge by 50% per year over the next three years when compared to the February 2013 baseline.

Community Cohesion Contingency Planning and Tension Monitoring Group (CCCPTMG)

- Maintain its role in monitoring local tensions and responding to threats to cohesion that may arise
- Aspires to ensure that we continue to increase, on an annual basis, the percentage of people who believe people from different backgrounds get on well together in their local area
- Tackle negative media perceptions that the borough attracts cohesion related issues and tensions.

Preventing Violent Extremism Programme Board

- Targeting social, peer and educational support and advice to individuals identified as at risk of involvement in extremist activity and violence
- Strengthening community leadership to enable key individuals and organisations to challenge/disrupt extremist ideology

Cross-Cutting Priorities

When the Strategic Assessment and Public Consultation findings were presented to the Community Safety Partnership, they recognised that there were a number of areas of work that cut across other priority areas. Action taken to address the stand-alone priorities would be impacted by and impact upon these cross-cutting areas. For this reason the Community Safety Partnership agreed that this Plan would also contain the following two cross-cutting priorities:

Public Confidence

Reducing Re-offending

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Cross-Cutting Priority 1:

Public Confidence

Why is it a priority?

Public Confidence is a Government priority and a measurement of the level of Confidence in Policing and the wider partnership. Reducing the community's fear of crime is therefore a priority as how we deal with crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour impacts on the community's well-being, feeling confident to report incidents and support future investigations and prosecutions.

The perception of, and fear of both crime and ASB directly impacts on public confidence. Being a victim of or knowing a victim of a Serious Acquisitive Crime (robbery, burglary, car crime and theft), has a particular impact on public confidence and can generate negative perceptions of both agencies and particular geographical areas or estates in the borough.

Responsible Board/CSP Sub-group:

Confidence and Satisfaction Board

What will we aim to achieve this year?

- Ensure that residents and people who work in or visit the borough, have a realistic understanding of the levels of crime and disorder within the borough, so that their fear does not become disproportionate
- Encourage people to take reasonable steps to protect themselves, their neighbours and their property
- Ensure that people continue to report crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour to the relevant agencies and that they are confident their issues will be dealt with
- Reduce the level of reported ASB and Crime, including Serious Acquisitive Crime, which are known drivers of public confidence
- Improve the public's perception of police by 20% and improve satisfaction with the policing service provided

How will we measure success?

- % of residents who feel the local Council and Police deal effectively with local concerns about anti-social behaviour and crime
- Perceptions of Crime and ASB as measured by MPS and Council data reduced based on 2012/13 end of year performance data.
 - Local concern about ASB and Crime a) Drunk and rowdy behaviour in a public place
 - Local concern about ASB and Crime b) Vandalism and Graffiti
 - Local concern about ASB and Crime c) Drug use or drug dealing as a problem

- Local council and police are dealing effectively with local concerns about anti-social behaviour and crime
- Year on year improvement in published performance data relating to Confidence and Satisfaction measures
- Number of Property Crimes:
 - Number of Personal Robberies
 - Number of Residential Burglaries
 - Number of Thefts From Motor Vehicles
 - Number of Thefts of Motor Vehicles
 - Number of Thefts From a Person
- Number of incidents of Vandalism

How will we do this?

- Continue and improve partnership working to provide a quality response to all victim needs and identified crime trends.
- Respond to every victim's call for help by responding in a timely fashion while delivering a quality service.
- Contact every victim of ASB to establish how we can support them better, to improve theirs and their community's quality of life.
- Contact a range of victims of crime to identify the level of service delivered and identify opportunities to improve service delivery.
- Restructure local policing by moving detectives into front line policing, so we improve primary investigation of reported crime.
- Reduce the Number of Personal Robberies
- Reduce the Number of Residential Burglaries
- Reduce the Number of Thefts From Motor Vehicles
- Reduce the Number of Thefts of Motor Vehicles
- Reduce the Number of Thefts From a Person
- Reduce the number of incidents of Vandalism

What we will aim to achieve over the 3 years?

- 20% Increase in Public Confidence
- Reduce the Volume of Reported Crime and ASB each year from a baseline measured on 2012/13 financial year.
- Improve our Confidence and Satisfaction Performance data by 2 percentage points per year based on 2012/13 financial year.
- Through better contact with victims, we will improve victim care and increase our Public Confidence and Satisfaction performance that will contribute together with other activity to show Tower Hamlets as the 'best in class' within inner London.
- 20% total reduction in Property Crime and MOPAC's 'key crimes' as a group:
 - Reduction in the Number of Personal Robberies
 - Reduction in the Number of Residential Burglaries
 - Reduction in the Number of Thefts From Motor Vehicles
 - Reduction in the Number of Thefts of Motor Vehicles
 - Reduction in the Number of Thefts From a Person
 - Reduction in the Number of incidents of Vandalism

Cross-Cutting Priority 2:

Reducing Re-offending

Please Note: Reducing the re-offending of prolific offenders will have a positive impact primarily on the level of property crime in the borough.

Why is it a priority?

Partners in Tower Hamlets are committed to working together to reduce crime and disorder, and tackling deprivation, worklessness and social exclusion. We know that 50% of all crime is committed by people who have already been through the criminal justice system – re-conviction rates for some offenders can reach over 70%.

In Tower Hamlets, like most boroughs there are a relatively small number of people who carry out the majority of criminal acts. By targeting resources at these prolific offenders, to improve the level of support provided for those who wish to change their lives in a positive way and fast-tracking the prosecution process for those who refuse to change, we aim to reduce the number of prolific offenders in the borough and make it a safer environment for everyone.

By reducing the number of prolific offenders in the borough, we will directly impact the levels of crime and anti-social behaviour which will particularly lead to a reduction in Serious Acquisitive Crime (Personal Robbery, Residential Burglary, Theft from Motor Vehicle, Theft of Motor Vehicle and Theft from a Person).

Responsible Board/CSP Sub-group:

Integrated Offender Management Board
Youth Offending Team Management Board

What will we aim to achieve this year?

- Develop our joint understanding and commitment to Integrated Offender Management and review our Reducing Reoffending Strategy
- Reduce the level of recorded crime within the borough
- Reduce the Number of Personal Robberies
- Reduce the Number of Residential Burglaries
- Reduce the Number of Thefts From Motor Vehicles
- Reduce the Number of Thefts of Motor Vehicles
- Reduce the Number of Thefts From a Person
- Reduce the Number of incidents of Violence with Injury
- Reduce the Number of incidents of Vandalism
- Reduce the number of first time offenders entering the criminal justice system
- Reduce the re-offending rate of Prolific offenders
- Reduce the re-offending of young people leaving custody

- Engage more closely with and support identified criminals to encourage them to desist from their criminal lifestyle
- Provide targeted treatment and support for identified offenders, i.e. housing, benefits and treatment

How will we measure success?

- Number of Youths not entering Criminal Justice System through Triage
- Proven reduced re-offending by offenders supported by Youth Offending Service
- Number of Offenders being supported by key agencies to help them disengage from criminal lifestyle
- Number of Priority Prolific Offenders engaging with the PPO Scheme who no longer have criminal offences recorded against them
- Number of Offenders under Probation supervision, living in settled and suitable accommodation at the end of their order/licence.
- Number of Offenders under Probation supervision in employment at the end of their order/licence
- Adult re-offending rates for those under Probation supervision
- Percentage of offenders under Probation supervision living in settled and suitable accommodation at the end of their order or licence
- Percentage of offenders under Probation supervision in employment at the end of their order or licence
- Number of Personal Robberies
- Number of Residential Burglaries
- Number of Thefts From Motor Vehicles
- Number of Thefts of Motor Vehicles
- Number of Thefts From a Person
- Number of incidents of Vandalism
- Number of young people leaving custody who go on to re-offend

How will we do this?

- Better identify youths who are suitable for non-Criminal Justice outcomes by improved triage processes and introduce conditional cautioning as a disposal option.
- Improve drug testing activity in Police custody, to identify potential offenders and provide support / treatment
- Improve partnership engagement to better identify third sector agencies that can support identified offenders who require help to escape their life of crime.
- Secure increased funding and resources aimed at offenders in the community to reduce/cease re-offending
- Enhance our daily contact with named individuals through the Integrated Offender Management Team (Police, Probation and Drug Intervention Project), to ensure their on-going commitment to a non-criminal lifestyle

What we will aim to achieve over the 3 years?

- Increase the level of engagement (through IOM Board) provided by partner agencies and Third sector, to help identified individuals escape their criminal lifestyle
- Identify the number of offenders entering custody who have a drug habit, through targeted drug testing and providing appropriate support mechanisms and referrals
- Reduce the number of Youths entering the Criminal Justice System by providing alternative disposal options (CJB Data)
- Reduce the number of Adult Prolific and Priority Offenders (PPO) who commit crime, aiming at a 10% reduction each year from the 2012/13 baseline
- Show reduction in recorded crime for identified / supported offenders
- 20% reduction in MOPAC's 'key crimes' including Property Crime, as identified in the London Crime Reduction Plan:
 - Robbery
 - Residential Burglary
 - Theft from Motor Vehicles
 - Theft of Motor Vehicles
 - Theft from a Person
 - Violence with Injury
 - Incidents of Vandalism
 - Re-offending of young people leaving custody

APPENDIX 2 - Community Safety Plan - Public Consultation Report

Executive Summary

The Tower Hamlets Community Safety Partnership, via the Community Safety Team in LBTH conducted an extensive public consultation over 5 weeks from May to June 2012, in line with the Community Safety Plan 2013 Consultation and Development Plan, the timetable of which can be found in Appendix 3.

Consultees were contacted via press articles, letters and email alerts. They were given the opportunity to attend their local SNT Public Meeting, a borough wide Public Meeting or a Members' Consultation Session (if they were an elected member), to reply in writing /email or via the dedicated webpage. This consultation asked members of the public (residents and business people), partnership and community groups/organisations for their top three community safety priorities.

In total 1,013 responses were received which have been grouped by how they were collected (due to recording issues with web-based consultation). Those groups are Public Meetings Results and Web-based Results.

Public Meetings Top 3:

1)	Drugs and Alcohol	94
2)	Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)	89
3)	Youth Crime	55

Web-based Top 2 Crime Priorities:

1)	Serious Acquisitive Crime	147
2)	Violence	146
3)	Youth Crime	120

Web-based Top 2 Crime Themes:

1)	Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)	209
2)	Reducing Re-offending	121
3)	Community Cohesion and Hate Crime	113

Results in Total:

Based solely on the number of selections by members of the public in Tower Hamlets across all the different collection methods, the top 3 (highlighted in yellow below) community safety priorities for the Community Safety Plan 2013 are:

1)	Anti-social Behaviour (ASB)	298
2)	Serious Acquisitive Crime	200
3)	Drugs and Alcohol	196
-	Violence	196
5)	Youth Crime	175
6)	Integrated Offender Management	130
7)	Community Cohesion and Hate Crime	124
8)	Public Confidence	104
9)	Violence Against Women and Girls	88
10)	Other	28

Consultation Objectives

- To obtain views on the current levels of crime, disorder, substance misuse and re-offending rates within Tower Hamlets.
- To identify community safety priorities from members of the community, partner agencies (including the 3rd sector) and the Community Safety Partnership (Safe and Cohesive CDPG) for 2013 onwards*.
- To include analysis of these perceptions on levels of crime, disorder, substance misuse and re-offending rates and subsequent priorities will then be included in the 2012 Community Safety Partnership's Strategic Review. This will then be used to shape the Community Safety Plan 2013 onwards* before entering into formal approval mechanisms.

Key Messages

- Community safety is one of the Mayor's five priorities
- Community safety and cohesion are a priority for the Partnership.
- The 2012 Community Safety Partnership Plan Priorities
- This consultation is their opportunity to shape crime, disorder and cohesion priorities for 2013 onwards.
- Take part in the consultation to help make Tower Hamlets a safer place

Target Audiences

- Residents
- Members
- Businesses
- Partners (inc. Police/NHS/THH/Third Sector)
- Young people
- Support/Advice agencies
- Hostels
- Media

Methods:

Community Safety Partnership (Safe and Cohesive CDPG)

Key senior officers from the Community Safety Partnership (Police, Council, Probation, Fire Service and Health) set up a Strategy Development Group to ensure that the Community Safety Plan was produced and have been heavily involved in both the design and the content of the Strategic Assessment and the Community Safety Plan from the outset.

The Strategic Assessment 2011, draft Community Safety Plan 2012/13 and this Consultation Plan were presented to the Community Safety Partnership on 18th October 2011, where the Assessment and Consultation Plans were approved and the draft Plan was signed off pending feedback from the Consultation.

* The length of the Community Safety Plan is determined at a local level by Statutory Authorities within the Community Safety Partnership and can cover either 1, 3 or 5 years.

Press Release

In May 2012 a press release was issued launching the public consultation. Within the release were quotes from the Co-Chair of the Safe and Cohesive Community Plan Delivery Group (Borough Commander) and the Mayor of Tower Hamlets, Lutfur Rahman.

Letters

In May 2012, 481 letters were sent out on behalf of the chairs of the CSP. Each letter included the 2012/13 Plan's priorities, asked for their top 3 borough priorities and feedback either by letter or through the consultation webpage (mytowerhamlets) were sent, to the following:

- Residents (identified through previous consultation exercises)
- Residents Groups including TRA's, Ward Panels and Neighbourhood Watch
- Subgroups of the Community Safety Partnership (Safe & Cohesive CPDG):
- Drug and Alcohol Action Team Board
- Youth Offending Team Management Board
- Safeguarding Boards (Adults and Children)
- Integrated Offender Management Board
- Equality and Cohesion Board
- Violence Against Women and Girls Board
- Confidence and Satisfaction Board (Police Board)
- Borough Criminal Justice Group

By contacting the above boards/subgroups, we consulted the agencies below, who are all members of them:

- Tower Hamlets Housing Forum (all Registered Social Landlords invited)
- British Transport Police
- NHS
- Voluntary Sector
- Faith Organisations
- Community Groups
- Canary Wharf Group
- Hostels
- Victims via Victim Support
- One Tower Hamlets
- Support Groups
- Transport For London
- Jobcentre Plus
- Veolia Environmental Services
- Disability groups
- Schools and Youth Centres
- Older peoples' centres

Members Briefing

An article publicising the Police public meetings appeared in weekly Members' Briefing. The Police public meetings were the face to face consultation method for the partnership on the priorities, which gave local police and representatives from the council the opportunity to explain the current priorities (both local and borough-wide) to residents in the context of the current performance. These events were Police lead due to them taking place during a by-election and London Mayor election period.

Consultation Events:

Police and Community Safety Board – Executive on 18th July, were given a presentation of CSP Plan Development Schedule, and the options for 2013 onwards community safety priorities. This is the first time that the executive board has been asked to give their comments on the priorities before the plan has been written, as in the past they have been consulted on the draft Plan. They were asked for their opinion on the current levels and asked for their priorities for the next Plan period (likely to be 1, 3 or 5 years) based on the 2012-13 Plan's Priorities. Most of the members had already given their personal priorities via the public consultation. The board discussed the mechanisms for the Plan's delivery, development and strategic review of performance.

Borough Café Connect event took place on Thursday 21st June in Shadwell. This featured presentations from the Deputy Mayor for Community Safety and the Borough Commander, both Co-chairs of the Community Safety Partnership. Residents from across the borough were presented with the current community safety priorities, the current levels of crime and disorder. They then took part in a table top discussion exercise on each community safety priority which focussed their thoughts on tackling them in partnership (residents and agencies). This exercise enabled them to make informed decisions on their top 3 priorities for the 2013 Plan. The event was attended by 33 residents which also reflected the social makeup of the borough.

Community Safety Road-shows - 26th April until 14th June. These were hosted by the Police Safer Neighbourhood Teams on a local basis, with support from LBTH Community Safety officers regarding the CSP Priority Consultation session. It gave the Partnership an opportunity to inform residents on the CSP Plan 2012/13 priorities and the current levels of crime, disorder/anti-social behaviour, substance misuse and re-offending rates. The residents were able to comment on these levels and make informed recommendations for the borough's top priorities 2013 onwards. The Road shows' ultimate aim was to give residents the opportunity to set their local Public Set Priorities and identify ways to tackle them.

In total there were 12 Police Public Meetings with attendance ranging from 7 to 23 residents. The overall attendance was 114.

Members Consultation Event – Wednesday 1st August. This enabled the elected members to contribute their own top three community safety priorities for the borough, prior to the production of the Strategic Review. In the past members have been consulted through the committee approval process once the report has already been approved by the Community Safety Partnership and then the formal council process. 6 elected members attended the event, 4 staying from start to finish and a further 2 who had to attend other council meetings. Of those 6, 4 completed the 'Top 3 Survey'

Website

A dedicated consultation page on Tower Hamlets Council's webpage was operational during the 5 week consultation period. The mytowerhamlets webpage facilitated this element of the public consultation and the benefit of this system is that it is the borough's consultation and communication tool. The Mytowerhamlets system also sent out alerts requesting responses from all members of the community who have already registered for a mytowerhamlets consultation.

The public consultation ended on Friday 22nd June. In total there were 862 respondents to the mytowerhamlets web-survey.

Media

Consultation launch article in East End Life and media/press release, asking community to take part in consultation and reminder to appear week prior to consultation ends.

****Key notes to consider when analysing the public consultation:**

The public consultation set out to inform the public of the 2012/13 borough community safety priorities. In all correspondence, meetings and events the public and partners were asked to choose their top 3 priorities from the list of current priorities or if not present to state other and give further details.

A significant flaw became apparent during the set-up of the mytowerhamlets page, that webpage design would not allow us to ask the question of their top 3 priorities in such a simplistic manner. The solution was to break the question up into two, this would be to identify their Top 2 Crime Priorities from (Violence, Serious Acquisitive Crime, Youth Crime, Violence Against Women and Girls, Drugs and Alcohol and/or Other). They were then asked to identify their Top 2 Crime Themes from (Reducing Re-offending, Antisocial Behaviour, Community Cohesion, Public Confidence and/or Other).

While those who attended a public meeting and gave their top 3 priorities had the opportunity to ask questions about each option and were also given information on the current local and borough levels of crime and disorder, those who were directed to mytowerhamlets web survey were not able to discuss the priorities further with so-called experts to enable them to make a truly informed decision on their top 3 (or top 4 as it turned out).

Also worth pointing out before we look at the actual results, is that due to the mytowerhamlets survey splitting the list of priorities into two questions, with each answer option presented in a series of pages, it did not allow the respondent to see all the options in full view and then make a decision weighing up all their options. With this in mind, we will look at the findings from the two different collection methods separately:

- 1) Public Meetings (Police Public Meetings, Cafe Connect Event and Elected Members Consultation Meeting)
- 2) Webpage Based Survey (mytowerhamlets)

Results

Public Meetings

Public meetings took place locally in the borough from 24th April to 14th June, in 12 areas which mirrored the areas managed by Police Safer Neighbourhood Sergeants. Tower Hamlets has 17 co-terminus electoral wards and Police Safer Neighbourhood Teams, however following a review of police SNT staffing structure, some SNTs share a Police Sergeant. Therefore it made sense given that the sergeant was running the police public meetings, that they should only host one covering their SNT/s area. In total 114 people at these events completed the top 3 priority survey.

A borough-wide consultation event took place on Thursday 21st June. This was hosted by the 2 co-chairs of the Community Safety Partnership. Residents and representatives from the Voluntary/Third Sector were all invited to take part. In total 33 people at these events completed the top 3 priority survey.

In total 147 people attended during the course of 13 events. Each person was asked to mark their top 3 priorities from the current priorities on the paper survey and if they chose 'Other', they were asked to specify what that other priority was.

The results from the Police led Public Meetings are:

(1)	Drugs and Alcohol Abuse	80
(2)	Anti-social Behaviour	78
(3)	Serious Acquisitive Crime	47
(4)	Violence	39
(5)	Youth Crime	36
(6)	Public Confidence	26
(7)	Violence Against Women and Girls	15
(8)	Community Cohesion and Hate Crime	7
-	Other	7
(10)	Integrated Offender Management	6

Respondents who chose 'other' listed the following:

More supervised play areas for school children
Crime and the Elderly (2)
Reassure vulnerable older people
Terrorism
Gangs
Hate Crime
Domestic Violence
Need an Older Peoples' Champion / Mayor / Ambassador

Borough Café Connect Event

This consultation event was held from 6pm – 8.30pm on Wednesday 21st June in the Tarling East Community Centre was part of the broader consultation programme. This event was hosted by the Co-Chairs of the Community Safety Partnership (Chief Superintendent Dave Stringer, Borough Commander and Deputy Mayor Cllr Ohid Ahmed) and included presentations on levels of crime and disorder, recent achievements and current priorities.

The two main parts of event concerning the consultation were a table based discussion on each of the current crime and disorder priorities, which aimed at thought provoking on challenges and opportunities for the Community Safety Partnership in the coming years and finally to obtain their top three borough community safety priorities.

33 members of the public, including local youth club members, Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinators, probation workers in the local community, students from the local university and residents attended the event. Each took part in the table top discussions and submitted their top 3 priorities. The feedback from the table top exercise is attached in Appendix 2.

Top 3 Priorities (Results):

1)	Youth Crime	16
2)	Drugs and Alcohol	10
3)	Violence	10
4)	Anti-Social Behaviour	9
5)	Violence Against Women and Girls	8
6)	Serious Acquisitive Crime	6
7)	Public Confidence	6
8)	Community Cohesion and Hate Crime	4
9)	Integrated Offender Management	3
10)	Other	1

Members Consultation

A Members Consultation Event took place on Wednesday 1st August. This enabled the elected members to contribute their own top three community safety priorities for the borough, prior to the production of the Strategic Review. 6 elected members attended the event, 4 staying from start to finish and a further 2 who had to attend other council meetings. Of those 6 members, all gave specific issues affecting their ward, but only 4 completed the 'Top 3 Survey'.

The results from the members' completed surveys are:

(1)	Drugs and Alcohol	4
(2)	Youth Crime	3
(3)	Anti-Social Behaviour	2
(4)	Violence	1
-	Violence Against Women and Girls	1
-	Public Confidence	1

Web based Consultation

Over the 6 week consultation period, 862 people responded to the web based consultation, responding to the two separate questions as follows:

Top 2 Crime Priorities

(1)	Serious Acquisitive Crime	147
(2)	Violence	146
(3)	Youth Crime	120
(4)	Drugs and Alcohol	102
(5)	Violence Against Women and Girls	64
(6)	Other	12

People who chose 'Other' and detailed their other priority stated the following:

- Any form of theft
- Anti-social
- Petty crime carried out by companies like builders and shoddy work but still charging
- Loitering in car parks day and night drinking, taking drugs and selling them
- Government cuts in police services and cuts to youth and pensioner services due to legislation
- Complaint about survey not working
- Drug dealing
- Anti-social behaviour
- Social exclusion and isolation
- N/A
- Violence is top priority and this should include terrorism which must be at the top given our location between the Tower of London and Canary Wharf

Top 2 Crime Themes

(1)	Anti-social Behaviour	209
(2)	Reducing Re-offending	121
(3)	Community Cohesion and Hate Crime	113
(4)	Public Confidence	71
(5)	Other	8

People who chose 'Other' and detailed their other priority stated the following:

- Littering of school children and parents outside my house and in the car park
- Safer streets
- Police, Youth and Drug Service cuts as a result of the new government legislation
- Your survey is useless all of these things are important to us!
- Prevent drug dealing in estates
- Crimes against women and serious acquisitive crime....as before
- More Police
- Reducing exclusion from society with ethnic minorities in particular through better education and involvement of women in such groups and their greater involvement in the community, greater promotion of social cohesion by ensuring the promotion of common language, English, to ensure all communities, both male and female, can communication among one another.

*****Please note:** due to the design of the online survey, people were still presented with the opportunity to list their other choice, even if they had not chosen the 'Other' option/answer. 116 people chose to submit an answer to 'Other' even though they had already chosen their top two priorities in each question. Whilst technically these can be included in the responses/findings of the survey they cannot be included in the official results as some people therefore had chosen their priorities twice.

Additional comments under 'Other' tend to reflect the top priorities, although they refer to specific types of issues within those broad offence/crime themes/types ie. Youths causing ASB, which is a sub category of Anti-Social Behaviour; bicycle theft which is a sub category of Acquisitive Crime.

Equalities Analysis of Respondents

Of the 862 people who responded electronically on the Mytowerhamlets survey, 238 completed it correctly, 56 filled out the survey incorrectly (more or less than the requested two responses per question) and a further 568 gave no responses to the questions (did not select other as their answer but then completed the other section). This makes it difficult to analyse the overall 862 respondents for their answers, so the following analysis is based on those 294 who completed the survey correctly/incorrectly who gave responses.

Ethnicity

Ethnicity	Respondents	% of survey	Ethnic group proportions taken from GLA 2011 PP
White	184	65.71%	48.8%
Bangladeshi	57	20.36%	34.3%
Black Caribbean/African	11	3.93%	6.1%
Indian	11	3.93%	2.1%
Other	17	6.07%	8.8%
Did not specify	14	4.76%	
Total respondents	294		

White - overrepresented in the survey sample by 17 percentage points

Bangladeshi - underrepresented in the survey sample by 14 percentage points

Black Caribbean/African - underrepresented in the survey sample by 2 percentage points

Indian - overrepresented in the survey sample by 2 percentage points

Other' ethnic groups - underrepresented in the survey sample by 3 percentage points

Compared to ethnicity figures from the Greater London Assembly, White people were overrepresented in responding to the survey, all other ethnic groupings except Indian were underrepresented.

Gender

Gender	Respondents	% of survey	Census 2011
Female	111	42.0%	48.5%
Male	153	58.0%	51.5%
Total respondents	264	100.0%	100.0%

Males slightly overrepresented in the survey sample by 6.5 percentage points

Sexual Orientation

Sexual orientation	Respondents	%
Heterosexual	191	65.0%
Prefer not to say / Blank	80	27.2%
LGBT	23	7.8%
Grand Total	294	100%

No reliable comparator information for the borough as a whole and so we cannot talk about representation, though 7.8% is consistent with some estimates that range from 4 to 9% of residents

Disability

Disability	Respondents	% of survey
No	233	79.3%
Yes	17	5.8%
Prefer not to say / Blank	44	15.0%
Grand Total	294	100%

No reliable comparator information for the borough as a whole and depends on definitions of a disability, so we cannot really talk about representation

Age

Age	Respondents	%	Census 2011	percentage point difference
Did not specify	2	0.7%		
0 - 16	15	5.1%	20.7%	-15.6%
17 - 24	25	9.0%	20%	-11.0%
25 - 39	139	50.2%	47%	3.2%
40 - 49	53	19.1%	14%	5.5%
50 - 59	40	14.4%	9%	5.7%
60+*	20	7.2%	10.6%	-3.4%
Grand Total	277	100%		

0-16's underrepresented compared to number in borough population, however we can't expect infants and minors to be responding and so cannot make any meaningful statements about this

For the following part of the table '0-16's have been excluded from the sample %, and population % to get around the issue

underrepresented
over represented
over represented
over represented
underrepresented

* aggregated due to small numbers

Ward

Ward	Respondents	% of survey
Bethnal Green North	13	4.4%
Bethnal Green South	20	6.8%
Blackwall and Cubitt Town	24	8.2%
Bow East	21	7.1%
Bow West	31	10.5%
Bromley-by-Bow	10	3.4%
East India and Lansbury	9	3.1%
Limehouse	15	5.1%
Mile End and Globe Town	22	7.5%
Mile End East	16	5.4%
Millwall	19	6.5%
Shadwell	18	6.1%
Spitalfields and Banglatown	11	3.7%
St Dunstan's and Stepney Green	17	5.8%
St Katharine's and Wapping	15	5.1%
Weavers	13	4.4%
Whitechapel	14	4.8%
Did not specify	6	2.0%
Grand Total	294	100.0%

Top 2 Crime Priorities and Top 2 Crime Themes by Equalities Grouping

Ethnicity	Violence	Serious Acquisitive Crime	Youth Crime	Violence Against Women and Girls	Drugs and Alcohol	Other	Reducing Re-offending	Anti-Social Behaviour	Community Cohesion and Hate Crime	Public Confidence	Other2	Respondents
Asian or Asian British: Bangladeshi	26	25	22	8	37	*	23	41	21	16	*	57
White	91	97	82	41	50	7	80	138	69	42	5	184
All other ethnic groups	30	26	17	16	16	*	19	31	24	14	*	53
Total	147	148	121	65	103	12	122	210	114	72	9	294

Each ethnic group within 'all other ethnic groups' had 11 responses or fewer and so could not be disaggregated

Gender	Violence	Serious Acquisitive Crime	Youth Crime	Violence Against Women and Girls	Drugs and Alcohol	Other	Reducing Re-offending	Anti-Social Behaviour	Community Cohesion and Hate Crime	Public Confidence	Other2	Respondents
Female	48	55	44	32	37	*	42	78	50	23	*	111
Male	91	77	64	27	53	5	70	114	53	46	*	153
Not specified/ Other	8	16	13	6	13	5	10	18	11	*	*	30
Total	147	148	121	65	103	12	122	210	114	72	9	294

* Less than 5 responses, so too few to show or measure

Age group	Violence	Serious Acquisitive Crime	Youth Crime	Violence Against Women and Girls	Drugs and Alcohol	Other	Reducing Re-offending	Anti-Social Behaviour	Community Cohesion and Hate Crime	Public Confidence	Other2	Respondents
0 - 16	6	5	10	*	5		6	11	7	5	*	15
17 - 24	9	15	9	5	12		10	13	9	6	*	25
25 - 39	72	70	63	35	38	5	62	105	57	28	*	139
40 - 49	27	23	23	10	24	*	23	38	23	15	*	53
50 - 59	18	20	13	8	19	*	12	30	11	11	*	40
60+	15	14	*	*	*	*	8	13	6	7	*	20
Not specified	2	2					1		1			2
Grand Total	149	149	121	65	102	11	122	210	114	72	9	294

Sexual orientation	Violence	Serious Acquisitive Crime	Youth Crime	Violence Against Women and Girls	Drugs and Alcohol	Other	Reducing Re-offending	Anti-Social Behaviour	Community Cohesion and Hate Crime	Public Confidence	Other2	Respondents
Heterosexual	94	95	78	45	64	6	87	142	73	47	6	191
Prefer not to say / Blank	38	43	29	18	34	6	26	54	28	19	*	80
LGBT	15	10	14	*	5		9	14	13	6	*	23
Grand Total	147	148	121	65	103	12	122	210	114	72	9	294

* Less than 5 responses, so too few to show or measure

	Violence	Serious Acquisitive Crime	Youth Crime	Violence Against Women and Girls	Drugs and Alcohol	Other	Reducing Re-offending	Anti-Social Behaviour	Community Cohesion and Hate Crime	Public Confidence	Other2	Respondents
Disability												
No	119	115	98	53	79	6	101	168	92	60	5	233
Yes	10	7	7	*	8	*	5	12	6	5	*	17
Prefer not to say / Blank	18	26	16	11	16	*	16	30	16	7	*	44
Grand Total	147	148	121	65	103	12	122	210	114	72	9	294

* Less than 5 responses, so too few to show or measure

Ward	Violence	Serious Acquisitive Crime	Youth Crime	Violence Against Women and Girls	Drugs and Alcohol	Other	Reducing Re-offending	Anti-Social Behaviour	Community Cohesion and Hate Crime	Public Confidence	Other2	Count of Request Id
Bethnal Green North	*	9	5	*	6	*	*	8	5	5	*	13
Bethnal Green South	7	7	11	5	8	*	7	15	10	*	*	20
Blackwall and Cubitt Town	12	13	7	7	6	*	9	18	8	7	*	24
Bow East	9	9	11	6	5	*	9	15	9	5		21
Bow West	16	15	15	8	9		16	21	11	6	*	31
Bromley-by-Bow	4	6	6	*	*		*	10	*	*		10
East India and Lansbury	6	4	3	*	*		*	8	6	*		9
Whitehouse	6	8	7	*	7		11	11	*	6		15
Mile End and Globe Town	11	10	8	6	9	*	11	14	7	*		22
Mile End East	7	9	7	*	6		6	11	8	*		16
Millwall	12	8	8	*	6	*	6	15	5	6		19
Shadwell	7	12	8	*	8	*	5	12	*	*	*	18
Spitalfields and Banglatown	7	6	2	*	5		*	8	*	6		11
St Dunstan's and Stepney Green	9	6	9	6	*	*	8	11	8	*		17
St Katharine's and Wapping	10	10	*	*	*	*	7	10	8	*	*	15
Weavers	7	5	*	*	8	*	6	10	7	*		13
Whitechapel	11	7	5	5	*	*	5	9	8	6		14
Not specified	*	*	*	*	*		*	*	*			6
Grand Total	147	148	121	65	103	12	122	210	114	72	9	294

* Less than 5 responses, so too few to show or measure

Answer Combinations

Responses	Top priority combinations (not in order of priority)	
62	Violence	Serious Acquisitive Crime
37	Youth Crime	Drugs and Alcohol
35	Violence	Youth Crime
31	Serious Acquisitive Crime	Drugs and Alcohol
25	Serious Acquisitive Crime	Youth Crime
21	Serious Acquisitive Crime	Violence Against Women and Girls
21	Violence	Drugs and Alcohol
20	Violence	Violence Against Women and Girls
14	Youth Crime	Violence Against Women and Girls
266	responses	
90.48%	of online survey sample	

Responses	Top theme combinations (not in order of priority)	
80	Anti-Social Behaviour	Reducing Re-offending
71	Anti-Social Behaviour	Community Cohesion and Hate Crime
48	Anti-Social Behaviour	Public Confidence
27	Reducing Re-offending	Community Cohesion and Hate Crime
10	Public Confidence	Community Cohesion and Hate Crime
236	responses	
80.27%	of online survey sample	

Conclusion:

This public consultation on top 3 community safety priorities has been the most extensive and responded to in the borough for a several years. Using multiple media channels and attracting 1,013 responses. Crime remains a significant concern of the borough residents as shown in the recent Annual Resident Survey (42% of 1,171 residents said it was their top concern).

The opportunity for members of the public in Tower Hamlets to tell us their priorities has been taken by a significant 1,013 people. Their priorities and ideas of how we can work together as a partnership (both agencies and communities), should be valued and seriously considered along with the findings of our Strategic Review (once produced). These perceptions and comments are key to addressing our community's fear of crime and confidence in the partnership and ultimately Tower Hamlets as a safe place to live.

While there have been a couple of minor flaws in the public consultation collection methods (namely the web page), this does not take anything away from the information that the Tower Hamlets has given us. Based solely on the number of selections by members of the public in Tower Hamlets across all the different collection methods, the top 3 community safety priorities for the Community Safety Plan 2013 are:

1) Anti-social Behaviour (ASB)	298
2) Serious Acquisitive Crime	200
3) Drugs and Alcohol	196
- Violence	196

Timetable of CSP Plan Consultation and Plan Development:
(Presented to and signed off by CSP on 23rd February 2012)

April – 14th June Public and Partnership Consultation

- Extensive Public Consultation on levels of crime, disorder/anti-social behaviour, substance misuse and re-offending rates identifying community safety priorities for the 2013 onwards* Plan
- Analysis of consultation findings for inclusion in Strategic Review
- Update on feedback from consultation exercise will be presented to the CSP on 13th June.

1st July – 23rd August Community Safety Strategic Review carried out

- The partnership agencies will produce the Strategic Assessment/Review and present the findings to the Partnership at 23rd August CSP Meeting.
- CSP then use the information in the Strategic Review and Consultation Findings to decide on the term of the next CSP Plan.

24th August – 24th October Community Safety Plan (2013 onwards*) written

- Plan produced based on Public Consultation and Strategic Review Findings

25th October – 11th December Partnership Feedback on Draft Plan

- Partnership agencies send comments, amendments for Final version of the CSP Plan 2013*
- Final draft of Plan is presented and approved by CSP at meeting on 11th December

12th December 2012 – 31st March 2013 Council Approval Process

- Community Safety Plan 2013* enters the council committee approval process (CMT, MAB, PAP and Cabinet), culminating in Full Council as per the Council Constitution.

Recommendations from Café Connect Discussions

Menu 1 – Drugs, Alcohol and Anti-Social Behaviour

Drugs and alcohol issues are of particular concern for residents. Is this your experience?

How would you want the Police, Council and other partners to deal with those issues?

For police

- Need to tackle visible drug dealing in local communities

Council

- Need more youth engagement via youth centres
- Early intervention – engage parents to educate about drugs/types (BME community)
- Use media options that work and reach communities
- Need programme for alternative therapy for skunk and cannabis users
- Some young people prefer alcohol treatment service that is specifically for them e.g. don't want to join older people/adults

Police and Council

- Need to work with registered social landlords – need rapid action
- Provide targeted social education (social marketing) to disengaged young people that shows the effects of underage drinking or irresponsible drinking.

Peoples' observations/general comments

- Young people drinking late on residential estates
- They influence others (younger peers)
- Anti-social drinking or drug use causes noise nuisance
- Friends are sometimes more supportive than families
- Hold conference with parents; get them involved in their children's rehabilitation.
- Dealing seen as income source; parents/guardians need to question young people's income sources.

Anti-social behaviour

For police

- Police officers need to listen to residents/customers and do follow up work
- Need to actively engage the local community

For council

- Need coordination of services
- Need restorative justice programmes delivered in the community
- Facilitate more involvement from male parents/fathers

- More sporting programmes to engage people early

Peoples' observations/general comments

- Young people need more role models, senior police officers etc
- Parents need to take more ownership of their children's' behaviour

Menu 2 - Robbery and Burglary

Have you been or know somebody who has been a victim of burglary or robbery? And what impact did that have on you/them?

Have you been or know somebody who has been a victim of violent crime? And what impact did that have on you/them?

For police

- Bag theft on licensed premises – delay in police response
- Educating youth regarding implication of crime, particularly knife crime

For police and council

- Education of community regarding reporting suspicious activity
- Weapons and drugs found in public places – need more regular maintenance of public places
- Thrill of crime – need to divert young people through youth club activities

For council

- Early intervention with problem youths
- Need to increase the safety of older people who are vulnerable

Peoples' observations/general comments

- Youth related crime is on the up – need to make parents more accountable
- Under reporting by BME people/communities
- Perception that robbery and burglary vehicle crime is up.

Menu 3- Youth and prolific offending

What can the Borough do to divert young people from crime and anti-social behaviour?

How can the community support the Council and partners in helping rehabilitate young people that have been previously involved in crime and criminality?

For council

Early Intervention -

- Have provisions to target support to children and young people before problems escalate, including providing education around drugs.
- Provide support to parents of children and young people at risk of engaging in crime.

- Work closely with primary schools, to provide support to both parents and children.

Community Events: Involving young offenders –

- Engaging young offenders on court orders to help with events as part of their reparations session e.g. young offenders could assist by helping to put out tables and chairs, distribute leaflets for public events.
- Support community to organise intergenerational events such as tea mornings to help tackle negative perception held of young people

Menu 4 - Hate Crime & Cohesion and Public Confidence

How would you want the Police to build / improve relationship with the community?

Given that there are lots of different communities in Tower Hamlets, do you think people live together peacefully?

For police

- Crime figures need to be better explained and broken down into categories that lay people can understand
- Police need to provide feedback to victims of case outcome
- Police not recording incidents as hate crime; appearing to ignore it.
- Enable victims to provide feedback on police case investigations
- Need more higher visibility of police officers
- Community want to see evidence of crime falling e.g. transparency, openness and breakdown.

For council and police

- Educate young people and community about hate crime/cohesion
- Homophobia in schools is a part of everyday life and needs to be tackled
- Increased awareness of hate crime services for young people, agencies and communities
- Ignorance of what services are provided; residents do not know what police/council do

Peoples' observations/general comments

- We rarely see police on the streets
- We need to integrate communities, not segregate e.g. especially in housing
- People feel safer in London/THs than in other cities
- The only people you can rely on is the police
- This is a general cohesive borough
- Prejudice against certain groups of parents that 'they cannot look after their children'
- More can be done by Police to stop fights in schools
- Language prevents access to services
- In some parts of the borough, there is still respect for each other
- Muslim people respect Christians and vice versa.
- Tower Hamlets is a very diverse borough

- Groups of youths in Tower Hamlets are more respectful to older people than in other boroughs
- Older people are also harassed/ignored and vulnerable to crime

Menu 5 – Violence against Women and Girls

At least 1 in 4 women experience violence in their lifetime. The vast majority of the victims of domestic violence are women and children (over 95% of police reports in Tower Hamlets), and women are also considerably more likely to experience repeated and severe forms of violence, as well as sexual assault.

Partner agencies in the borough have a range of services to raise awareness, encourage reporting, support victims and take action against perpetrators of violence.

What kind of actions do you think are most important in addressing this problem?

For council

- Duty line – should be 24 hours not Mon-Fri, better promotion of this
- Organise themed awareness raising weeks e.g. tie a purple ribbon around a tree
- School places available for women's children if moving out (as women may not be allowed out)
- Encourage shopkeepers to report, put up posters
- Encourage schools to put up posters for women and parents; deliver talks to children - that it's not ok, they can tell
- Educate men; awareness programmes e.g. films – on control and early signs
- Youth clubs for boys and girls; to learn about equality between genders
- Provide anger management courses for men
- To provide suitable housing for those that are fleeing domestic violence
- Provide guidance for women on how to cope and stay safe
- Provide counselling/guidance for couples or signpost to such services
- Empower voices of women and children – your rights, you are valued (women leadership development)

For council and police

- Encourage people to report to police
- Support community centres to hold regular forums on this topic and will filter down
- Deal with cases where the woman drops the case e.g. if he promises never to do it again. Meet women in public/community centres. Police used as a warning e.g. if you do it again, you will be going to court
- Make clear where people can go
- Provide counselling services for victims and explain confidentiality if people report
- Design posters in different languages; deliver poster campaigns
- Facilitate men's access to childcare in public (not via woman), police on standby
- Provide, facilitate and support Safe houses

Peoples' observations/general comments

- Children witness it are victims too – refer to social services
- Not only husband and wife, can be against older relatives/women

- Men are victims too; grown up children are victims too
- Not everyone will report to police, we need to explore other routes e.g. volunteers on the streets who people can go to
- Are the police the best agency to report to
- Encouraging men to consider their children more
- Men never go to police if victims
- Address cause of violence e.g. money problems, money management, alcohol, drugs, medicine/treatment
- BME communities – lack of reporting due to stigma and social issues e.g. rape would be a scandal and person not punished
- Churches and mosques (safe places) - their role in reporting to police.

Additional Comments from Public Consultation on Mytowerhamlets

Due to the design of the online survey, people were still presented with the opportunity to list their other choice, even if they had not chosen the 'Other' option/answer. 116 people chose to submit an answer to 'Other', even though they had already chosen their top two priorities in each question. Whilst technically these can be included in the responses/findings of the survey they cannot be included in the official results as some people therefore had chosen their priorities twice.

Additional comments under 'Other' tend to reflect the top priorities, although they refer to specific types of issues within those broad offence/crime themes/types i.e. Youths causing ASB, which is a sub category of Anti-Social Behaviour; bicycle theft which is a sub category of Acquisitive Crime.

APPENDIX 3 – Equalities Considerations

The Community Safety Plan 2013-16 is informed by both the Strategic Assessment 2012, which analyses data on the trends and future local challenges, and through consultation with both members of the public and the wide membership of the Community Safety Partnership (Safe and Cohesive Community Plan Delivery Group). A number of cross cutting issues were also considered as part of this process.

From this detailed evaluation of the strategic landscape and assessment of the most effective governance arrangements, priority areas were developed. This included consideration of the drivers of crime locally and equalities - through the impact on people from different protected characteristic groups. This has influenced the identification of the Plan's priorities for 2013-16, which are:

- Gangs and Serious Youth Violence
- Anti-Social Behaviour (including Arson)
- Drugs and Alcohol
- Violence (with a focus on Domestic Violence)
- Hate Crime and Cohesion

Cross-cutting Priorities:

- Public Confidence
- Reducing Re-offending

A high level test of relevance equalities screening has been undertaken on the Plan. This is attached as appendix 4. As the Plan is to be further developed through Community Safety Partnership (CSP) subgroup action plans – further detailed evaluation of equalities in the action plans will be undertaken by those subgroups to ensure they continue to be considered with the development of the Plan.

The Plan is a jointly owned partnership approach – it is not solely owned by the Council – so the authority will communicate the importance of ensuring subgroups give 'due regard' to equalities in the action plan development process and are aware of the requirement to provide appropriate evidence: These considerations will be recorded through the inclusion of equalities considerations in the template for creating their action plans. As sub-group action plans are presented to the Community Safety Partnership (Safe and Cohesive CPDG) equalities considerations will be evaluated by the members.

APPENDIX 4 - Equalities Analysis - Initial Screening Document

This document is to be used for:-

- Establishing whether an Equality Analysis needs to be undertaken for the policy, function or strategy. *(Based on Section 4 around Impacts)*
- Reviewing existing equality analysis (EQIA) to ascertain whether the original EQIA needs revising.

Section 1 – General Information

Name of the Policy or Function Safe and Cohesive Plan 2013-16
Service area Safer Communities Service
Team name The Community Safety Partnership
Service manager Emily Fieran-Reed
Name and role of the officer completing the Initial Screening <i>(Explain why these people were selected i.e. the knowledge and experience they bring to the process)</i> Colin Hewitt – CSP Officer, Community Safety

Section 2 - Information about the Policy or Function

Is this a policy or function?	Policy <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Function <input type="checkbox"/>
Is the policy or function strategic or developmental?	Strategic <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Developmental <input type="checkbox"/>
Is this a new or existing policy or function?	New <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Existing <input type="checkbox"/>
If for a new policy or function, please indicate the date this form was undertaken April 2013		
If for an existing policy or function, what was the original date(s) the equality analysis (Initial Screening or EQIA) was undertaken <i>(please attach a copy of any previous equality analysis)</i>		
What are the main aims and objectives of the Policy or Function		
There is a legal requirement for each Community Safety Partnership formerly Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (Safe & Cohesive CPDG) to have a Community Safety Plan.		

The Safe and Cohesive Plan 2013-2016 has been created in consultation with members of the Safe & Cohesive CPDG. The objective of the Plan is to address the following local priorities:

- Gangs and Serious Youth Violence
- Anti-Social Behaviour (including Arson)
- Drugs and Alcohol
- Violence (with a focus on Domestic Violence)
- Hate Crime and Cohesion

Cross-cutting Priorities:

- Public Confidence
- Reducing Re-offending

Who are the main stakeholders:

The London Borough of Tower Hamlets
The Police
London Fire Brigade
Probation Services
Tower Hamlets Primary Care Trust
Those who live, work and visit the borough

Is this policy/function associated with any other policy or function of the Council
(i.e. *Community Plan, One Tower Hamlets etc.*)

- The Community Plan
- Children and Young People's Plan
- Substance Misuse Strategy 2011-2014 (Drugs & Alcohol)
- Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy
- Integrated Offender Management Plan
- Tower Hamlets Prevent Delivery Plan (under review in line with National Guidance)
- ASB Profile
- Hate Crime Strategy
- Community Cohesion Contingency Plan

Section 3 – Information about Existing Policies and, or Changes to Functions only

Has there been any 'significant' change to the Policy or Function?

Yes No

If yes, Please indicate what the change will be and what has brought about this change to the policy or function?

has been NO SIGNIFICANT amendments to an existing policy/function there is no need to continue to Section 4 below or a full equalities analysis

DRAFT

Section 4 – The Impact

(Briefly assess the potential impact that the policy/function could have on each of the target groups. The potential impact could be negative, positive or neutral. If you have assessed negative potential impact for any of the target groups you will need to also assess whether that negative potential impact is high, medium or low). Please also indicate if there is any link to Community Cohesion.

Identify the potential impact on the following groups and:

Target Groups What impact will the 'new' or 'significantly' amended policy or function have on specific groups of service users?	Impact – Positive or Adverse	Reason(s) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Please add a narrative to justify your claims around impacts and, • Please describe the analysis and interpretation of evidence to support your conclusion as this will inform members decision making • Can the negative impact be justified on the grounds of promoting equality?
Race Page 189	Positive	<p>For race equality the priority of addressing Hate Crime and Cohesion may be of particular relevance.</p> <p>The data collected in the CSP Strategic Assessment 2012 suggests that depending on your racial background, the likelihood of you being a victim of crime or identified as a perpetrator of crime varies significantly. The analysis below summarises this information and sets out key areas which will be addressed by sub-groups in developing detailed plans to reduce crime, protect victims and promote equality for people from different racial backgrounds.</p> <p>National crime data There is a significant amount of national and regional evidence about the different experiences of crime by people from different racial background, some of which is summarised below. These suggest possible areas of inequality locally. In developing the CSPP sub-group action plans we will seek to collect and analyse local data to identify patterns in the borough:</p> <p>Overall crime: Analysis from the Ministry of Justice's Statistics on Race and the Criminal Justice System 2010 and according to the 2010/11 British Crime Survey, showed that nationally the risk of</p>

being a victim of personal crime was higher for adults from a Mixed background than for other ethnic groups. It was also higher for members of all BME groups than for the White group. Over the five year period 2006/7 to 2010/11, there was a statistically significant fall in the risk of being a victim of personal crime for members of the White group of 0.8%. The apparent decrease for those from BME groups was not statistically significant.

Violent crime: Of the 2,007 homicides nation-wide recorded between 2007/8 and 2009/10, 75% of victims were White, 12% Black and 8% Asian. These proportions are lower for the white group and higher for the Black and Asian groups than reflected in estimates of the general population. In the majority of homicide cases, victims were suspected of being killed by someone of the same ethnic group, which is consistent with the previous trend (88% of White victims, 78% of Black victims and 60% of Asian victims).

Arrest and sanction rates: Across England and Wales, there was a 3% decrease in the total number of arrests in 2009/10 (1,386,030) compared to 2005/6 (1,429,785). The number of arrests for the White group also decreased during this period, arrests of Black persons rose by 5% and arrests of Asian people by 13%. Overall, there were more arrests per 1,000 population of each BME group (except for Chinese or Other) than for people of White ethnicity in 2009/10. Per 1,000 population, Black persons were arrested 3.3 times more than White people and those from Mixed ethnic group 2.3 times more than White people.

Conviction ratios for indictable offences were higher for White persons in 2010 than those in the Black and Asian groups (81% for White, 74% for Black and 77% for Asian). A higher percentage of those in the BME groups were sentenced to immediate custody for indictable offences than in the White group in 2010 (White 23%, Black 27%, Asian 29% and Other 42%), this is mainly due to differences in plea between ethnic groups.

Regional crime data:

Analysis from the MOPAC Policing and Crime Plan 2013-17 Equality Impact Assessment 2013 states that London is disproportionately affected by crime problems, such as robbery and knife crime, typically associated with young males who often operate in groups or 'gangs'. Current analysis shows that all of the gang members scored on the MPS matrix are male and that 79% are described as Black and Minority Ethnic (BME). In 2011 14% of homicides (19) were gang related and two thirds (12) were

teenagers and all but one was male and from a BME background.

Hate crime: Analysis from the MOPAC Policing and Crime Plan 2013-17 Equality Impact Assessment 2013 states that hate crime is greatly unreported and which is a great concern for many communities. In 2011/12 there was a 6.8% reduction in the number of reported racist and religious hate crimes.

Analysis by the Home Office shows that there were 43,748 hate crimes recorded by the police in 2011/12 in England and Wales, of which 35,816 (82%) were race hate crimes

The number of Racially motivated crimes/incident recorded by the Police in 2010/11 was 18% lower at 51,187, than they were during the 5 year period 2006/7 to 2010/11.

Local data

Analysis from the CSP Strategic Assessment 2012 under Cohesion & Hate Crime indicator recording the number of racist and religious offences showed a 9% decrease (34 less) in the number of offences in the year up to September 2012, when compared to the previous year. Offence numbers have remained reasonable static for the last 3 years, with an average of 358 offences a year, or one a day.

Recommendations from CSP Strategic Assessment to CSP and Subgroups were that their action plans should maintain a continued focus on all Hate Crime Offences of which Racist and Religious Offences fall into. The CSP and its Subgroups to continue their work around education of potential victims and suspects within this crime category and to carry on with various education/crime prevention plans linked to this subject.

Analysis from the CSP Strategic Assessment 2012 provided by the Metropolitan Police to Victim Support regarding victims of crime by ethnicity and age is not thorough and reliant on the information recorded on the Police CRIS system. However combined figures for segmented groups into large groups (Asian, White, Black, Other) shows that during the period 1st October 2011 to 30th September 2012, 45% of victims of crime were from the White group, 35% from the Asian group and 9% from the Black group. Population figures for Tower Hamlets from the 2011 Census shows 45% from the White group, 41% from the Asian Group and 7% from the Black group. Therefore the Asian group is underrepresented by 6 percentage points and the Black group is over represented by 2 percentage points.

		<p>Looking at crime breakdown by ethnicity White people are over represented in the borough being victims to 60% of burglary and 50% of robbery, when compared to the population figure of 45%. Black people are over represented in the borough being victims to 12% of violent crime, when compared to the population figure of 7%.</p> <p>Recommendation from Victim Support in the CSP Strategic Assessment 2012 is for the Metropolitan Police to improve the recording of specific hate crime categories which will improve the referrals to Victim Support via the automatic data transfer from the Police CRIS system. More accurate recording of ethnicity of victims will enable Victim Support to analyse trends in crimes for the borough and assist in targeted work for CSP Subgroups to deliver.</p>
<p>Disability</p> <p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Page 192</p>	<p>Positive</p>	<p>For disability equality, the priority of addressing Hate Crime and Cohesion may be of particular relevance.</p> <p><u>National and regional data</u></p> <p>Analysis by the Home Office shows that there were 43,748 hate crimes recorded by the police in 2011/12 in England and Wales, of which 1,744 (4%) were disability hate crimes</p> <p>Analysis of regional police force figures show that there were 133 disability hate crimes recorded by the Metropolitan Police Force in 2011. This demonstrates a 14.66% increase on the number of recorded disability hate crimes in 2010 (116) and a 34% increase when compared to the ACPO figures for London in 2009 (99).</p> <p>Analysis in the British Crime Survey 2010/11 shows that Disabled people are significantly more likely to be victims of crime than non-disabled people. This gap is largest amongst 16-34 year-olds where 39 per cent of disabled people reported having been a victim of crime compared to 28 per cent of non-disabled people. Disabled people are less likely than their non-disabled peers to think the Criminal Justice System (CJS) is fair. This gap is largest amongst 16-34 year-olds, where 54 per cent of disabled people think that the CJS is fair compared to 66 per cent of non-disabled people</p> <p>Analysis from the MOPAC Policing and Crime Plan 2013-17 Equality Impact Assessment 2013 states that hate crime is greatly unreported and which is a great concern for many communities. There is significant underreporting of disability hate crimes (according to the Met's 2011/12 Annual Report).</p>

		<p><u>Local data:</u></p> <p>Analysis from the Tower Hamlets Local Voices report (Hearing the Voices of Disabled People in Tower Hamlets) produced by REAL in 2013, of which 99 disabled people responded to the survey showed that the number one issue for 12% of the survey respondents and number 2 issue for 9.1% of the respondents was Crime and Safety. Older people, Asian people and those with a Mental Health condition has slightly higher levels of concern and a greater sense that crime and safety services were failing disabled people than others. Nearly half of the survey respondents disagreed/strongly disagreed that disabled people were safe from harassment and hate crime and only 30% agreed they were safe. Within each gender, age and ethnicity groups of those disabled people who completed the survey, it was Men, people under 60 and Asian people who most tended not to agree that disabled people were safe. Amongst different impairment groups, disagreement was particularly high for people with visual impairment (55%), people with learning disability or cognitive impairment (80%) and people with mental health condition (87%). Overall 28% of survey respondents believed crime and safety services did not serve disabled people well, making it fourth worst performing service out of the survey. People with visual impairment were particularly critical, with 25% saying it fails disabled people.</p> <p>Response - In line with the equalities duty and the No Place For Hate & Domestic Violence action plan, The Domestic Violence & Hate Crime Team are committed to supporting both agencies and disabled service users in the context of all crime and disorder.</p> <p>The DV & Hate Crime Team currently provide monthly training to service users who experience mental health illness & learning disabilities around recognising what domestic violence and hate crime is, which also shows them how they can report incidents. We have recently produced an 'easy read' DV leaflet for adults with learning disabilities and will have finished an easy read HC leaflet by November 2013. The team also provide regular training to the Community Mental Health Team, Safeguarding Adults Board, Safeguarding Adults Champions and local community groups including REAL, Positive East and MIND.</p>
Gender	Positive	<p>For gender equality, the priority of addressing Violence (with a focus on Domestic Violence) may be of particular relevance.</p> <p><u>National and regional data</u></p>

Analysis from the Ministry of Justice's Statistics on Women and the Criminal Justice System 2012, shows an estimated three in every 100 adults were a victim of violent crime according to the Crime Survey England and Wales 2011/12, with 2% of women reporting being victims of violent crime compared to 4% of men. The type of violence most commonly reported differs by gender. Women who reported being a victim of violence were most commonly victimized by an acquaintance whereas men most commonly were victims of stranger violence.

A higher proportion of women reported being victims of intimate violence such as partner or family non-physical abuse, threats sexual assault or stalking - 7% of women compared with 5% of men.

201 women were victims of homicide in 2010/11 compared with 435 men according to data from the Homicide Index. A greater proportion of female victims than male victims knew the principal suspect, 78% and 57% respectively in 2011.

34% of females and 31% of males were arrested for violence against the person in 2010/11 - the most common offence group for arrest during the five year period 2006/7 to 2010/11.

According to the Ministry of Justice figures for 2010/11 by Police Force area, the Metropolitan Police arrested 50,293 men and 9,464 women that year for Violence Against the Person. The next highest was 28,207 arrests of men and 8,471 arrests of women for Theft and Handling, followed by 20,980 arrests of men and 1,894 arrests of women for Drug Offences.

Nationally more than 1.2m persons of known gender were convicted and sentenced at all courts in 2011. Of these 24% were female and 76% were male.

Analysis from the MOPAC Policing and Crime Plan 2013-17 Equality Impact Assessment 2013 states that London is disproportionately affected by crime problems, such as robbery and knife crime, typically associated with young males who often operate in groups or 'gangs'. Current analysis shows that all of the gang members scored on the MPS matrix are male. In 2011 14% of homicides (19) were gang related and two thirds (12) were teenagers and all but one was male.

Local data

Analysis from the CSP Strategic Assessment 2012 under Violent Crime Indicator for the 'Number of Most Serious Violence offences per 1,000 of the population' and 'Number of Assault with Injury' show that victims are more likely to be male although repeat victims are more likely to be female. Currently

(October 2013) Non Domestic Violence with Injury accounts for 68% and Domestic Violence With Injury accounts for 32% of all Violence with Injury in the borough. In the town centre hotspot, victims and suspects are less likely to know each other. When they do know each other they are more likely to be acquaintances, whereas on the rest of the borough, they are more likely to have been in a past or current relationship with each other (domestic violence).

Recommendations from CSP Strategic Assessment to CSP and Subgroups was that their action plan should include a continued focus on Violence Related Offences, the Community Safety Partnership to continue its work around education of potential victims and suspects within this crime category. Carry on with various education plans linked to this subject and continue crime prevention programmes. The subgroup responsible for the CSP Priority Violence (with a focus on Domestic Violence) action plan should contain detailed actions to address these findings, which should lead to a decrease in the number of offences and an increase in partnership working, social cohesion and education around this subject.

Analysis from the CSP Strategic Assessment 2012 under Violence Against women and Girls, measures the number of Domestic Violence Offences shows an increase in the number of offences by 6% year on year over the three year period. This increase could be down to a number of factors including numbers of people living in the borough, overcrowding and the economic downturn, particularly the associated pressures that these can bring, but also may be down to an increase in confidence to report offences. A lot of work has been done in the borough to raise awareness of domestic violence, specifically Violence Against Women and Girls as it has been both nationally and locally grossly under reported. The Crime Survey for England and Wales estimates that since the age of 16, 29% of Women have experienced Domestic Violence; 20% have experience Sexual Assault and 19% have experienced Stalking. Approximately 97% of all known victims of interpersonal violence in Tower Hamlets are Female, which is a significant gender bias towards Women.

Recommendations from CSP Strategic Assessment to CSP and Subgroups were that their action plan should include a continued focus on all violence related offences, especially those that can be linked to Domestic Violence. The CSP and Subgroups should continue to work and focus around education of potential victims and engaging with suspects within this crime category. Carry on with various education plans linked to this subject and continue with gender specific crime prevention programmes.

Gender Reassignment	Positive	<p>For transgender equality, the priority of addressing Hate Crime and Cohesion may be of particular relevance, as this priority aims to address all hate crimes, of which trans phobic crime is one.</p> <p>Analysis by the Home Office shows that there were 43,748 hate crimes recorded by the police in 2011/12 in England and Wales, of which 315 (1%) were transgender hate crimes.</p> <p>In 2013 Galup's hate crime report stated that there were only 50 transphobic crimes recorded in London during 2012/13, yet anecdotal evidence collected by Galup identifies individual trans people who are the target of over 50 transphobic crimes each year.</p> <p>We do not have any local or borough data to analyse as there were no recorded trans phobic crimes in last year according the local Police data.</p>
Sexual Orientation	Positive	<p>For Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual people, the priority of addressing Hate Crime and Cohesion may be of particular relevance.</p> <p><u>National and regional data</u></p> <p>Analysis by the Home Office shows that there were 43,748 hate crimes recorded by the police in 2011/12 in England and Wales, of which 4,252 (10%) were sexual orientation hate crimes.</p> <p>Analysis from the MOPAC Policing and Crime Plan 2013-17 Equality Impact Assessment 2013 states that hate crime is greatly unreported and which is a great concern for many communities. In 2011/12 there was a 5.5% reduction in the number of reported homophobic crimes.</p> <p>A report on homophobic crime produced by the Equality and Human Rights Commission shows that LGB people appear to worry about being the victim of crime to a greater degree than other minority groups. In 2008 around 40 per cent of LGB people say they are worried about being the victim of a crime. This compares to 13 per cent of people on average who are worried about being the victim of a crime. A survey of Homophobic hate crime in 2008 showed that eleven per cent of LGB people say being the victim of a crime is their biggest worry.</p> <p><u>Local data</u></p> <p>Analysis from the CSP Strategic Assessment 2012 under Cohesion & Hate Crime indicator recording the number of Homophobic offences shows no pattern in the levels of offences each year. The figures</p>

		<p>from the control period shows increases one year and decreases the following, this is due to the low number of offences that are reported each year in the borough, 71 in the year up to September 2012. Over the past three years the average number of offences was 73.</p> <p>Recommendations from CSP Strategic Assessment to CSP and Subgroups were that their action plan should maintain a continued focus on all Hate Crime Offences of which Homophobic Crime can be categorised. The CSP and its Subgroups should continue their work around education of potential victims to boost confidence and increase reporting and work with the LGB community to address homophobic attitudes which drive hate incidents and hate crimes. It should also carry on with various education/crime prevention plans linked to this subject to prevent further incidents/crimes.</p>
<p>Religion or Belief</p>	<p>Positive</p>	<p>For Religion/Belief equality, the priority of addressing Hate Crime and Cohesion may be of particular relevance.</p> <p><u>National and regional data</u> Analysis by the Home Office shows that there were 43,748 hate crimes recorded by the police in 2011/12 in England and Wales, of which 1,621 (4%) were religion hate crimes.</p> <p>Analysis from the MOPAC Policing and Crime Plan 2013-17 Equality Impact Assessment 2013 states that hate crime is greatly unreported and which is a great concern for many communities. In 2011/12 there was a 6.8% reduction in the number of reported racist and religious hate crimes.</p> <p><u>Local data</u> Analysis from the CSP Strategic Assessment 2012 under Cohesion & Hate Crime indicator recording the number of racist and religious offences showed a 9% decrease (34 less) in the number of offences in the year up to September 2012, when compared to the previous year. Offence numbers have remained reasonable static for the last 3 years, with an average of 358 offences a year, or one a day.</p> <p>Recommendations from CSP Strategic Assessment to CSP and Subgroups were that their action plans should maintain a continued focus on all Hate Crime Offences of which Racist and Religious Offences fall into. The CSP and its Subgroups to continue their work around education of potential victims and suspects within this crime category and to carry on with various education/crime prevention plans linked to this subject.</p>

Age	Positive	<p>For age equality , the priorities of addressing Gangs & Serious Youth Violence and Reducing Re-offending may be of particular relevance.</p> <p><u>National and regional data</u></p> <p>Analysis from the Mayor’s Office for Policing and Crime states that London is disproportionately affected by crime problems, such as robbery and knife crime, typically associated with young males who often operate in groups or ‘gangs’. In 2011 14% of homicides (19) were gang related and two thirds (12) were teenagers. Gang members mostly fall into the 13-24 age range, with the largest cohort being 18-24 (75% of the highest harm individuals are over the age of 18); intelligence also suggests that 10-13 year olds are increasingly being drawn into gang membership.</p> <p>Analysis from the Ministry of Justice’s Breaking the Cycle: Effective punishment, rehabilitation and sentencing of offending 2010, states that 75% of young people released from custody and 68% of young people on community sentences re-offend within a year</p> <p>Analysis from the CSP Strategic Assessment 2012 provided by the Metropolitan Police to Victim Support regarding victims of crime by ethnicity and age is not thorough. However looking at victim breakdown by age shows that 18 – 24 year olds are over represented at 24% of the borough’s victims when compared to the population figure from the 2011 census of 12%. It also shows that 25-34 year olds are over represented in the victim breakdown for the borough at 34%, when compared to this group making up 25% of the population.</p> <p><u>Local data</u></p> <p>Analysis from the CSP Strategic Assessment 2012 under Violent Crime Indicator for the ‘Number of Most Serious Violence offences per 1,000 of the population’ and ‘Number of Assault with Injury’ show that offenders and victims show similar patterns of age, with a peak occurring in the 20’s and a steep decline as age increases.</p> <p>Recommendations from CSP Strategic Assessment to CSP and Subgroups was that their action plan should include a continued focus on Violence Related Offences, the Community Safety Partnership to continue its work around education of potential victims and suspects within this crime category. Carry on with various education plans linked to this subject and continue crime prevention programmes. The subgroup responsible for the CSP Priority Violence (with a focus on Domestic Violence) action plan should contain detailed actions to address these findings, which should lead to a decrease in the number of offences and an increase in partnership working, social cohesion and education around this</p>
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subject. It recommends a continued investment in youth diversionary/outreach services to prevent young people being involved in crime and anti-social behaviour either as a victim or a perpetrator. The borough Gangs Matrix aims to tackle those already involved in gang activity/crime, offering ways out of offending behaviour or where this is not accepted by the offender, taking enforcement action against them.

Analysis from the CSP Strategic Assessment 2012 under Violent Crime Indicator for the number of 'Hospital admissions for unintentional and deliberate injuries for young people aged 0 – 17 years, shows that 0 – 4 and 5 – 14 age groups by 3 year pooled data, show downward trends in the numbers of admissions, with a more pronounced downward trend in 0 – 4 year age group.

Recommendations from CSP Strategic Assessment to CSP and Subgroups are for

- Programmes that support parents and families, develop life skills in children, work with high risk youth and reduce availability of and misuse of alcohol have proven effective at reducing violence. Measures to ensure appropriate identification, care and support mechanisms are in place are important in minimising the harms caused by violence and reducing its recurrence.
- Reducing violence to 0-5 does depend on widespread, multi-sectorial action and requires a well-planned strategic approach to involving all members of the partnership and Local Safeguarding Children Board. Moving straight into action planning now would be precipitate. However better data on presentations to A&E (work is on-going), we need better information on what is being delivered across the piece and thirdly we need a strategy that sets out what, why and how we are proposing action.

The subgroup responsible for the CSP Priority Violence (with a focus on Domestic Violence) and Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) action plans should contain detailed actions to address these findings, which should lead to a decrease in the number of offences and an increase in partnership working, social cohesion and education around this subject.

Analysis from the CSP Strategic Assessment 2012 under Property Crime indicator 'Number of Personal Robberies' will also contain some correlation with Serious Youth Violence and Knife Crime and shows that School pupils and students account for almost half of all victims on the borough, with mobile phones being the most frequently stolen property around 29% of all property taken. Personal Robbery appears to be mainly a crime whereby the majority of suspects are aged between 15 and 19 years and the majority of victims tend to be youths. Knife Enabled Robbery remained a persistent

proportion of all personal robbery offences.

Recommendations from CSP Strategic Assessment to CSP and Subgroups was that their action plan should include a continued focus on Personal Robbery Offences and offenders as there are overlaps between offenders for robbery and other offence types. Community Safety Partnership and subgroups to continue their work around education of potential victims and suspects within this crime category. Carry on with various education plans linked to this subject and continue with crime prevention programmes. The subgroups responsible for the CSP Priorities Reducing Re-offending and Gangs & Serious Youth Violence action plans should contain detailed actions to address these findings, which should lead to a decrease in the number of offences and an increase in partnership working, social cohesion and education around this subject.

Analysis from the CSP Strategic Assessment 2012 under Youth Crime, measures the number of victims, offenders, incidents, entering custody, successfully completing orders and proven re-offending of young people. They show clear correlations between Knife Crime Offences, Robbery Offences and Serious Youth Violence as these offences tend to overlay each other in crime types and peak and trough at the same time throughout the year.

Recommendations from CSP Strategic Assessment to CSP and Subgroups was that their action plan should acknowledge the clear correlation between Knife Crime, Robbery and Serious Youth Violence and vital partnership working around all three identify the link and adapt their plans accordingly to ensure that they are all part of the strategy and performance measure. Increase in activity around hotspot wards for these offences will impact on one another as there is a link between the schools and robbery offences. Partnership working around facilities provided (ie. Schools, youth clubs and leisure facilities), as 80% of all Tower Hamlets' serious youth violence victims lives within the borough. The subgroups responsible for the CSP Priorities Reducing Re-offending and Gangs & Serious Youth Violence action plans should contain detailed actions to address these findings, which should lead to a decrease in the number of offences and an increase in partnership working, social cohesion and education around this subject.

Analysis from the CSP Strategic Assessment 2012 under Drugs and Alcohol, measures the number of Young People taking drugs and or alcohol in specialist treatment has shown an 11.5% increase in the number of Young People in treatment over the three year period. This could be down to the realignment of services due to changes in funding, the YOT becoming part of the specialist treatment

<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Page 201</p>		<p>network and having a dedicated drug worker or a combination of both. However it is expected that the performance over the coming 3 years is likely to stay relatively stable, which goes against the national trend of a decrease over both periods.</p> <p>Recommendations from CSP Strategic Assessment to CSP and Subgroups was that specialist treatment service should continue to be monitored and adjustments made to it in accordance with the needs of the users/clients.</p> <p>Analysis of National Research shows that Domestic violence is a significant issue for the welfare of children and young people. It is estimated that nearly three quarters of children on the ‘at risk’ register live in households where domestic violence is occurring (Department of Health 2002 – Women’s Mental Health: Into the mainstream). The majority of children in households experiencing domestic violence will witness abusive behaviour. It is estimated that 90% of children are in the same or next room when abuse occurs (Hughes, 1992)</p> <p>Response from Tower Hamlets Safeguarding Children’s Board is that it has risk assessment tool to support professionals in identifying risks to children in families experiencing domestic violence and ensure appropriate response and actions. The tool and accompanying guidance supports the London safeguarding children board procedure “Safeguarding children abused through domestic violence”.</p>
<p>Socio-economic</p>	<p>Positive</p>	<p>For this target group, the priorities of Drugs and Alcohol and Reducing Re-offending may be of particular relevance.</p> <p>Analysis from the CSP Strategic Assessment 2012 under Violence Against women and Girls, shows an increase in the number of domestic violence offences by 6% year on year over the three year period. This increase could be down to a number of factors including an increasing number of people living in the borough; overcrowding and; the economic downturn, particularly the associated pressures that these can bring, but also may be down to an increase in confidence to report offences.</p> <p>Recommendations from CSP Strategic Assessment to CSP and Subgroups were that their action plans should include a continued focus on all violence related offences, especially those that can be linked to Domestic Violence. The CSP and Subgroups should continue to work and focus around</p>

		education of potential victims and engaging with suspects within this crime category. Carry on with various education plans linked to this subject and continue with crime prevention programmes.
Marriage and Civil Partnerships.	Positive	No data available for analysis
Pregnancy and Maternity	Positive	<p>Research nationally shows that It is estimated 30% of domestic violence begins or escalates during pregnancy, and it has been identified as a prime cause of miscarriage or still-birth, premature birth, foetal psychological damage, foetal physical injury and foetal death. The mother may be prevented from seeking or receiving adequate ante-natal or post-natal care. In addition, if the mother is being abused this may affect her attachment to her child, more so if the pregnancy is a result of rape by her partner.</p> <p>Response from the CSP and the DV Forum is that they have recognised this increased risk during pregnancy and recent birth of a child. It has included this in their Domestic Abuse Stalking and Honour-based Violence Risk Assessment Form, for consideration of individual cases when taking cases to their Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference on a bi-monthly basis.</p>

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As a result of completing the above, what is the potential impact of your policy/function on the public, giving particular regard to potential impacts on minority or protected groups?

High Medium Low

Equalities to be further considered at the Action Planning stage.

If you have identified a LOW impact or, there has been NO SIGNIFICANT amendments to an existing policy/function there is no need to continue to a full equalities analysis.

If you have assessed the potential impact as MEDIUM or HIGH you will now need to complete a full equalities analysis - building upon the findings of the initial impact assessment (section 4)

APPENDIX 5 - Borough Crime Statistics & Trends 2000/01 – 2012/13

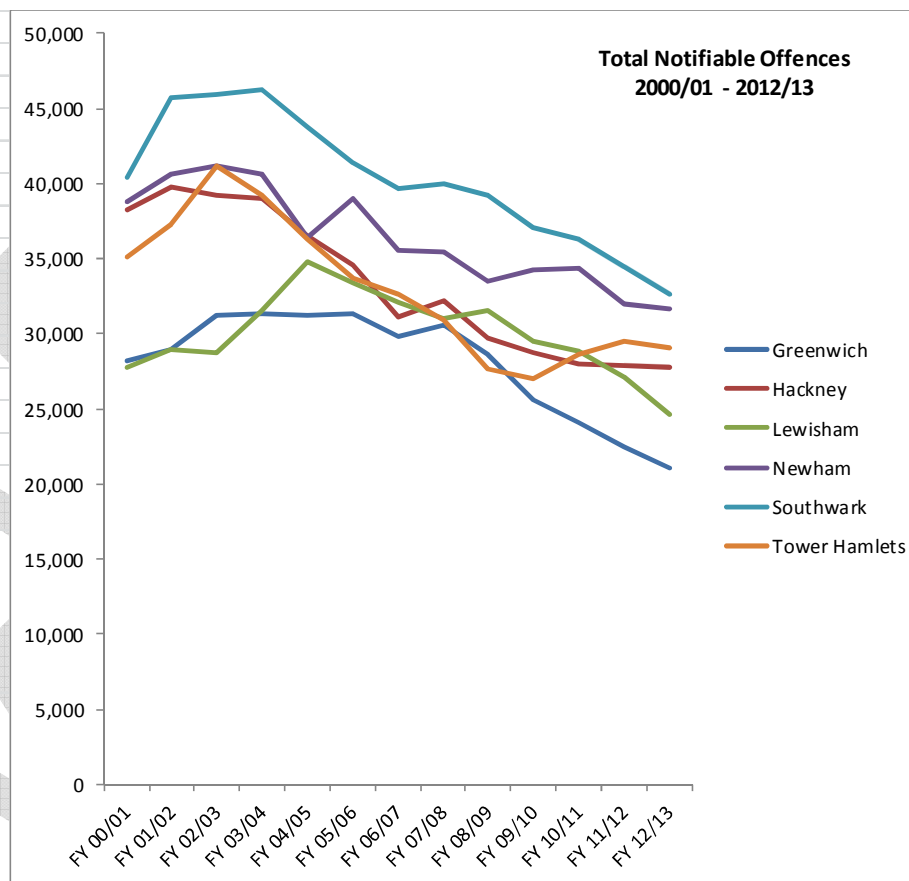
Tower Hamlets Crime Types 2000/01 – 2012/13

Year	Violence Against The Person Total	Sexual Offences Total	Robbery Total	Burglary in a Dwelling	Theft/Taking Of Motor Vehicle	Theft From Motor Vehicle	Theft Person	Criminal Damage Total	Dealer a Day Arrests	Total Notifiable Offences
FY 00/01	5965	383	1757	1878	2466	4374	538	4608		35,070
FY 01/02	6390	347	2117	1900	2225	5091	1059	4710		37,273
FY 02/03	7538	449	1790	2114	2260	6026	943	5278		41,124
FY 03/04	7724	372	1568	1735	2094	4471	830	5036		39,188
FY 04/05	7895	410	1457	1699	1843	3437	595	4427		36,329
FY 05/06	7455	401	1675	2108	1570	3642	578	3720		33,756
FY 06/07	7727	403	1908	1638	1289	2965	479	3523		32,627
FY 07/08	6701	354	1367	1585	1161	3004	316	3326		30,892
FY 08/09	6070	309	1069	1077	898	2441	878	3130	421	27,712
FY 09/10	6195	336	934	1073	797	1672	1158	2948	409	26,989
FY 10/11	6302	378	1163	1231	825	2133	1366	2804	412	28,668
FY 11/12	5817	431	1415	1538	873	1944	1606	2464	433	29463
FY 12/13	6119	380	1440	1390	842	1817	1816	2190	397	29033
Difference 2012/13 - 2011/12 (percentage)	↑302 (5.19%)	↓51 (11.83%)	↑25 (1.76%)	↓148 (9.62%)	↓31 (3.55%)	↓127 (6.53%)	↑210 (13.07%)	↓274 (11.12%)	↓36 (8.31%)	↓430 (1.45%)
Difference 2012/13 - 2000/01 (percentage)	↑154 (2.58%)	↓3 (0.78%)	↓317 (18.04%)	↓488 (25.98%)	↓1624 (65.85%)	↓2557 (58.45%)	↑1278 (237%)	↓2418 (52.47%)	↓24 (5.7%) 2012/13 - 2008/09	↓6037 (17.21%)

Total Notifiable Offences Comparison with Surrounding Boroughs 2000/01 – 2012/13

Year	Total Notifiable Offences					
	Greenwich	Hackney	Lewisham	Newham	Southwark	Tower Hamlets
FY 00/01	28,165	38,242	27,814	38,776	40,447	35,070
FY 01/02	28,995	39,769	29,008	40,616	45,707	37,273
FY 02/03	31,202	39,267	28,763	41,157	45,960	41,124
FY 03/04	31,347	39,035	31,577	40,615	46,276	39,188
FY 04/05	31,186	36,492	34,833	36,460	43,771	36,329
FY 05/06	31,354	34,630	33,387	39,020	41,432	33,756
FY 06/07	29,829	31,160	32,150	35,597	39,713	32,627
FY 07/08	30,617	32,241	31,055	35,448	40,029	30,892
FY 08/09	28,690	29,715	31,549	33,536	39,271	27,712
FY 09/10	25,631	28,722	29,544	34,240	37,037	26,989
FY 10/11	24,148	28,035	28,888	34,374	36,273	28,668
FY 11/12	22434	27902	27168	32011	34483	29463
FY 12/13	21078	27733	24654	31686	32616	29033

Difference 2012/13 - 2011/12 (percentage)	↓ 1356 (6.04%)	↓ 169 (0.6%)	↓ 2514 (9.25%)	↓ 325 (1.01%)	↓ 1867 (5.41%)	↓ 430 (1.45%)
Difference 2012/13 - 2000/01 (percentage)	↓ 7087 (25.15%)	↓ 10509 (27.69%)	↓ 3160 (11.36%)	↓ 7090 (18.28%)	↓ 7831 (19.36%)	↓ 6037 (17.21%)



Crime Type Comparisons with Surrounding Boroughs

2000/01

	Violence Against The Person Total	Sexual Offences Total	Robbery Total	Burglary in a Dwelling	Theft/Taking Of Motor Vehicle	Theft From Motor Vehicle	Theft Person	Criminal Damage Total	Total Notifiable Offences
Greenwich	6308	343	469	1904	2443	2913	151	5057	28,165
Hackney	6320	371	2275	3130	2990	5104	879	4828	38,242
Lewisham	5331	372	1547	2494	2196	2240	307	4549	27,814
Newham	7344	334	2106	1839	3848	5176	649	6282	38,776
Southwark	7442	444	2162	2699	2483	3798	743	5279	40,447
Tower Hamlets	5965	383	1757	1878	2466	4374	538	4608	35,070

2011/12

	Violence Against The Person Total	Sexual Offences Total	Robbery Total	Burglary in A Dwelling	Theft/Taking Of Motor Vehicle	Theft From Motor Vehicle	Theft Person	Criminal Damage Total	Total Notifiable Offences
Greenwich	5305	365	756	1739	685	1912	666	2712	22434
Hackney	5393	370	1222	1347	899	1918	2831	2111	27902
Lewisham	6252	436	1557	2218	890	2192	743	2944	27168
Newham	6415	432	2458	2113	1495	3340	1735	2577	32011
Southwark	6610	503	2476	2182	1085	2074	2071	3023	34483
Tower Hamlets	5817	431	1415	1538	873	1944	1606	2464	29463

2012/13

	Violence Against The Person Total	Sexual Offences Total	Robbery Total	Burglary in A Dwelling	Theft/Taking Of Motor Vehicle	Theft From Motor Vehicle	Theft Person	Criminal Damage Total	Total Notifiable Offences
Greenwich	5293	325	554	1464	606	1700	735	2197	21078
Hackney	5693	367	1233	1432	687	2490	3146	1809	27733
Lewisham	5759	401	1340	2462	834	2105	773	2315	24654
Newham	6451	402	2260	1982	1075	3050	2352	2283	31686
Southwark	6490	415	2583	1924	895	1910	2663	2356	32616
Tower Hamlets	6119	380	1440	1390	842	1817	1816	2190	29033

APPENDIX - 6 CSP Plan 2013-16 Report to Full Council 27th November 2013

Committee: Full Council	Date: 27 th November 2013	Classification: Unrestricted	Report No:	Agenda Item: 9.1
Report of: Corporate Director Stephen Halsey Originating officer(s) Colin Hewitt Community Safety Partnership Officer		Title: Community Safety Partnership Plan 2013 - 16 Wards Affected: All Wards (Borough-wide)		

1. **SUMMARY**

- 1.1. Community Safety Partnerships have a statutory duty to produce a Community Safety Partnership Plan (formerly known as a Crime and Disorder Reduction Strategy) which investigates challenges and opportunities for the borough and identifies its priorities for the term of the plan.
- 1.2. The Plan (appendix 1) outlines the Strategic Framework within Tower Hamlets and how the Community Safety Partnership Plan fits into this, specifically through the 'Safe and Cohesive Community' theme of the Community Plan.
- 1.3. It includes highlights of partnership performance during 2012/13, it also describes the methodology and the findings of the Partnership's Strategic Assessment 2012, which includes performance trends over 2009-12.
- 1.4. It summarises the results of the Public Consultation Report (Appendix 2 of this report) which identifies the public's top three crime priorities for the Plan.
- 1.5. The Community Safety Plan is required by the constitution to go before Full Council for ratification.

2. **RECOMMENDATIONS**

Full Council is recommended to:-

- 2.1 Approve the Community Safety Partnership Plan 2013-16 (Appendix A) and the priorities set out within it.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 This Plan was produced by an executive steering group including senior representatives from the Police, Council, Probation, Health, Fire Service, Youth Services and policy officers from CLC.
- 3.2 It has been produced in line with the Crime and Disorder (Formulation and Implementation of Strategy) Regulations 2007.
- 3.3 A strategic assessment on crime and disorder data was carried out in October 2012 and the findings of this assessment were considered by the Executive Steering Group and the Community Safety Partnership. The Strategic Assessment was approved by the Community Safety Partnership in December 2012.
- 3.4 This Plan includes a summary of partnership performance against previous CSP priorities and identifies emerging trends taken from the Strategic Assessment 2012.
- 3.5 This Plan includes crime and anti-social behaviour levels in the borough over the period 2000/01 to 2012/13, it also compares Tower Hamlets levels with those of surrounding London boroughs.
- 3.6 Engagement with partners and members of the community has taken place in line with the Development and Consultation Plan which accompanied the 2012 CSP Plan through the full council approval process.
- 3.7 In arriving at the priorities and governance structure in this plan, the executive steering group specifically considered i) the Strategic Assessment (which included data from partner agencies); ii) Relevant existing or emerging plans of partner agencies, including the Tower Hamlets Policing Plan and control strategy; iii) Existing and emerging performance indicators monitored by partner agencies; iv) Existing and emerging priorities of partner organisations and v) Public Consultation Feedback (Appendix 2). This was also considered as an agenda item at the Community Safety Partnership.
- 3.8 As of 1st June 2011, through the amended Crime and Disorder Regulations, Community Safety Partnerships were given the opportunity to set the term of their Community Safety Plan for the coming period locally. Previously this had been set by central government. The Community Safety Partnership has agreed that the new plan be for 3 financial years (2013-16). The decision was based on the recommendations from the Strategic Assessment 2012 and feedback from the Executive Steering Group.
- 3.9 None of the sections are mutually exclusive and impacts will be addressed in more detail in the Delivery Action Plans for each Priority. The Delivery Action Plans may include some detailed analysis of data relating to particular priority areas. It is important to note that the Plan itself sets the strategic framework that guides the subsequent work of the partnership sub groups who develop the detail of the delivery action plans which are annually reviewed over the term of the plan to adapt to what is a very dynamic environment.

4. BODY OF REPORT

- 4.1 To produce this plan, an executive steering group (CSP Strategy Group) was established which included senior representatives from the 5 Responsible Authorities (Police, Council, Probation, Health, Fire Service) in addition to the Chairs of the CSP Subgroups and policy officers from LBTH CLC.
- 4.2 This plan has been produced in line with 'The Crime and Disorder (Formulation and Implementation of Strategy) Regulations 2011', which include reference to the production of a strategic assessment for the partnership and community engagement in terms of identifying priorities. An amendment to the law on 1st June 2011 made the decision on the length of the plan a local one.
- 4.3 Community Safety Partnerships have a statutory duty to produce a Community Safety Partnership Plan (formerly known as a Crime and Disorder Reduction Strategy) which investigates challenges and opportunities for the borough and identifies its priorities for the term of the plan.
- 4.4 The Plan outlines the Strategic Framework within Tower Hamlets and how the Community Safety Partnership Plan fits into this, specifically through the 'Safe and Cohesive Community' theme of the Community Plan.
- 4.5 It includes highlights on partnership performance during 2012/13 and describes the methodology, the findings of the Partnership's Strategic Assessment 2012, including performance trends over 2009-12. It summarises the results of the Public Consultation Report (Appendix 2) which identifies the public's top three crime priorities for the Plan.
- 4.6 The Plan describes the newly approved Community Safety Partnership Delivery Structure including its sub groups and documents the make-up of those subgroups.

Consultation and Partnership Involvement

- 4.7 A public consultation exercise was conducted from April to August 2012, this asked members of the public, the 3rd sector, elected members and partner agencies to identify their top 3 community safety priorities for 2013 onwards. In total 1,013 responses were received, 862 by the dedicated mytowerhamlets web-survey and the remainder at the public meetings. Further details on the public consultation can be found in Appendix 2 of this report. A summary of the public consultation meetings is as follows:
- 12 public meetings were hosted by the local Police Safer Neighbourhood Teams (one in each ward unless the ward shared a ward sergeant). Overall 114 members of the public attended and completed the survey.
 - A borough-wide public consultation event was held by the Community Safety Partnership on 21st June 2012. In total 33 members of the public attended and completed the survey.
 - A consultation event for elected members took place on 1st August 2012. All elected members were invited via the members bulletin, in total 6 elected members attended the meeting, with 4 of them staying for the entire meeting and completing the survey.

Strategic Assessment

4.8 A Strategic Assessment on crime and disorder was carried out in October - December 2012 and the findings of this assessment were considered by the CSP Steering Group and the Community Safety Partnership. The Strategic Assessment was presented to and approved by the Community Safety Partnership in December 2012, where both the draft Community Safety Plan and Strategic Assessment were presented and discussed.

Term of Plan and Priorities

4.9 This year the CSP Strategy Group recommended to the Community Safety Partnership, that the next plan should cover 2013-16 and the CSP agreed at its meeting on 11th December 2012.

4.10 The Community Safety Partnership Plan 2013-16 and its priorities, was approved by the Community Safety Partnership on the 13th March 2013.

4.11 The Plan sets out the Community Safety Partnership's priorities (7 in total) for 2013-16:

- Gangs and Serious Youth Violence
- Anti-Social Behaviour (including Arson)
- Drugs and Alcohol
- Violence (with a focus on Domestic Violence)
- Hate Crime and Cohesion
- Public Confidence
- Reducing Re-offending

4.12 It is important to note that the subgroups of the Community Safety Partnership produce their own action plans. These explain how they will address the CSP priorities annually throughout the term of the Plan. Each Subgroup Action Plan will be monitored at both the individual Sub-Group and Community Safety Partnership level. These are organic plans that follow the adoption of the Plan itself.

4.13 The Mayor of Tower Hamlets and the Council recognise the importance of tackling crime and ASB (including prostitution and drugs) which are key concerns for the borough residents. The Council continues to fund the Police to deliver the Partnership Task Force (PTF). The PTF is currently made up of two teams, one dedicated to tackling drugs, gangs & ASB and the other dedicated to tackling prostitution. The team works in partnership with the Council and other key partners to coordinate interventions to maximum effect.

4.14 The Plan not only takes into account local policy and priorities across the partnership agencies, it also includes both national and regional (pan London) policy and priorities.

4.15 A number of changes have occurred since the drafting of the CSP Plan that whilst not materially impacting on the content of the Plan will have implications for the development of the relevant action plans. The Local Policing Model, for example, was proposed in the MOPAC Policing and Crime Plan, which was still in draft for public consultation at the time of writing this CSP Plan. The model restructures Police Safer Neighbourhood Teams into wider Neighbourhoods, reducing the number of ring-fenced officers per ward. It also includes changes to opening hours of front counters at police stations. Overall the number of police officers in the borough has been stated by MOPAC as 715, and under the plan may increase to 717 by 2015, however this figure disguises the fact that it includes officers that are not funded by the MPS, in particular the LBTH funded Partnership Taskforce.

5. COMMENTS OF THE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

5.1 There are no specific financial implications emanating from this report. However, the report does highlight the Council's funding contribution to the Police for the current two Partnership Task Force (PTF) teams which adds to the overall number of police officers in the borough. Each agreement with the Police covers a two year funding commitment. The cost of PTF1 is £685,000 and covers 7th July 2011 to 6th July 2013. PTF2 costs £495,000 and covers the period 1st October 2012 and will expire 30th September 2014.

5.2 The implementation of the new 3 year Plan will need to be managed within existing budgeted resources.

6. LEGAL COMMENTS

6.1 Under the Council Constitution, the Community Safety Partnership Plan (also known as a Crime and Disorder Reduction Strategy) is required to be approved by the formal council approval process, culminating in Full Council.

6.2 On 13 July 2011, the Council adopted a revised Community Plan, which contains the Council's sustainable community strategy as required by section 4 of the Local Government Act 2000. A key theme of the Community Plan is to make Tower Hamlets a safe and cohesive community, that is, a safer place where people feel safer, get on better together and where difference is not seen as a threat, but a core-strength.

6.3 The Council is one of the responsible authorities for Tower Hamlets, within the meaning of section 5 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. Other responsible authorities for Tower Hamlets include: every provider of probation services in Tower Hamlets; the chief officer of police whose police area lies within Tower Hamlets; and the fire and rescue authority for Tower Hamlets. Together, the responsible authorities for Tower Hamlets are required to formulate and implement strategies for: the reduction of crime and disorder; combating the misuse of drugs, alcohol and other substances; and the reduction of re-offending. When formulating and implementing these strategies, each authority is required to have regard to the police and crime objectives set out in the police and crime plan for Tower Hamlets.

6.4 The Crime and Disorder (Formulation and Implementation of Strategy) Regulations 2007 require that there be a strategy group whose functions are to prepare strategic

assessments, following community engagement, and to prepare and implement a partnership plan and community safety agreement for Tower Hamlets. The partnership plan must set out a crime and disorder reduction strategy, amongst other matters. The strategy group must consider the strategic assessment and the community safety agreement in the formulation of the partnership plan. The Safe and Cohesive Community Plan Delivery Group discharges these functions in Tower Hamlets. The report indicates that the Community Safety Partnership Plan is the relevant partnership plan and has been prepared in accordance with the Regulations.

- 6.5 The making of a crime and disorder reduction strategy pursuant to section 6 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 is a function that is required not to be the sole responsibility of the Council's executive. This is the effect of the Local Government Act 2000 and the Local Authorities (Functions and Responsibilities) (England) Regulations 2000. The requirement is reflected in the Council's Constitution, which makes the crime and disorder reduction strategy part of the Council's policy framework.
- 6.6 When planning action under the Community Safety Partnership Plan, it will be necessary for officers to have regard to the Council's statutory functions and ensure these are not exceeded.
- 6.7 Before adopting the Community Safety Partnership Plan, 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. Equalities considerations and an Equalities Analysis Initial Screening Document are at appendices 3 and 4 respectively.

7. ONE TOWER HAMLETS CONSIDERATIONS

- 7.1 The Community Safety Partnership (Safe and Cohesion Community Plan Delivery Group) aims through its plan, to make Tower Hamlets a more cohesive place to live, work, study and visit. The work of the No Place For Hate Forum; Community Cohesion, Contingency Planning Tension Monitoring Group and the Preventing Violent Extremism Programme Board, all subgroups of the CSP aim to carry-out this important part of work for the Partnership. Hate Crime and Cohesion remains an important priority for the Partnership, please see Priority E on page 41 of the CSP Plan for further details.
- 7.2 Equalities analysis has been carried out on the priorities identified in the Plan (see appendix 3 & 4 of this report) with recommendations made for further considerations when supporting action plans are developed.

8. SUSTAINABLE ACTION FOR A GREENER ENVIRONMENT

- 8.1 Implementation of the Community Safety Plan 2013-16 is expected to have a positive effect on the environment by helping to reduce anti-social behaviour. This will then reduce the amount of criminal damage, graffiti, fly-tipping and fly-posting and other environmental crimes in the borough.

9. RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

9.1 The Community Safety Plan sets out an overarching structure and framework of priorities within which management of risks will take place. There are no particular risk management implications attached to the plan itself.

10. CRIME AND DISORDER REDUCTION IMPLICATIONS

10.1 The Community Safety Partnership Plan 2013-16 will help to reduce crime, anti-social behaviour, substance misuse and re-offending; it will also meet the Mayors priorities whilst reducing fear of crime and contributing to relevant community plan commitments.

11. EFFICIENCY STATEMENT

11.1 There are potentially significant efficiency gains from working in partnership to reduce crime and disorder in the borough. The Community Safety Plan 2013-16 is a partnership document and brings together key crime and disorder reduction agencies to work together and share resources.

11.2 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. This work is integrated in to the corporate efficiency planning processes supporting the Medium Term Financial Plan.

12. APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Community Safety Plan 2013-16

Appendix 2 – Community Safety Plan – Public Consultation Report

Appendix 3 – Equalities Considerations

Appendix 4 – Equalities Analysis – Initial Screening Document

Appendix 5 – Borough Crime Statistics and Trends 2000/1 – 2012/13

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

Brief description of “background papers”	Name and telephone number of holder and address where open to inspection.
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None	n/a
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APPENDIX 7- Full Council 27th November Motion

The Council notes:

That by the Metropolitan Police's own figures, crime in Tower Hamlets has increased 1.4% since 2010.

Over the same period, crime in neighbouring Newham is down 8% and in Barking and Dagenham it is down 10%.

In 2011/12 there were almost 20,000 reported incidents of anti-social behaviour.

Tower Hamlets has the second highest level of anti-social behaviour in London (p.149)

Figures in the Community Safety Plan, buried on page 130, show that between October 2009 and September 2012, robberies were up 50%, knife crime was up 49%

In the 2013 Annual Residents Survey 41% of people said crime was one of their top three concerns this was the biggest overall concern from residents.

The Mayor's Community Safety Plan makes no reference to the significant increases in crime and ASB nor does it give a true appreciation of the key challenges facing the borough.

The Mayor Vetoed Labour's proposal at the 2011 Budget to fund 17 new police officers.

That crime figures previously published on the Metropolitan Police website were deemed inaccurate last week, over a month after Labour first raised concerns about the increasing crime levels

The Council Believes:

That the Mayor's complacent approach to crime has meant the Council has not been focused on tackling what residents see as the most important issue facing the borough.

The borough needs a Mayor who will show leadership in facing up to and challenging anti-social behaviour, tasking council officers appropriately and working in partnership with other organisations including the Police

That the inaccurate crime statistics previously published on the Metropolitan Police's website, and the fact that it took the Council over a month to realise the figures were inaccurate, show the level of disorganisation between the police and the Council.

The Council further notes:

Neighbourhood policing has been essentially destroyed – many wards now have just one PC and one PCSO.

The positive impact of the Safer Neighbourhood Teams which were introduced by the Labour Government and Labour Council in Tower Hamlets. That the SNTs helped to not only reduce crime in Tower Hamlets but also increased public confidence in the Police.

The Changes introduced by Boris Johnson which have cut Safer Neighbourhood Teams to the bone by cutting the teams to one police officer and one police community support officer per ward, down from 6 officers under Labour.

The CSP figures show that incidences of arson in the borough are down 31% since 2009/10.

Boris Johnson continues to pursue his plan to close half of the borough's police stations as well as closing Bow fire station and halving the number of fire engines at Whitechapel.

The Council further believes:

The neighbourhood policing model introduced by the last Labour Government and piloted by the Labour Council was a strong and successful model for local policing.

Under the current Mayor of London, neighbourhood policing has been significantly dismantled.

The current Mayor of Tower Hamlets has completely failed to protect the community policing model which was so successful after Labour introduced it.

Boris Johnson's cuts to police and fire stations in the borough will have a detrimental effect on community safety.

The closure of Bow and cuts to Whitechapel fire station will not only reduce capacity but also put additional pressure on the remaining stations and staff. This will in turn reduce their ability to undertake fire prevention outreach work and could threaten to reverse the positive gains made over the previous years.

The Council Resolves:

To condemn the Mayor of Tower Hamlets for his failure of leadership in tackling crime and anti-social behaviour.

To reassert the importance of strong and locally integrated neighbourhood policing team and to support Labour's approach to reassert a neighbourhood policing model.

To reiterate Labour's call for the Mayor to support and fund new police officers as opposed to new THEOs.

To refer the Community Safety Plan back to the Mayor and Cabinet for reconsideration and to take into account the serious comments and concerns raised by Council.

Agenda Item 9.2

Committee :	Date	Classification	Report No.	Agenda Item No.
Full Council	26th March 2014	Unclassified		

Report of Consumer and Business Regulations Originating Officer: David Tolley – Head of Consumer and Business Regulations	Title Consideration of the Adoption of the Sexual Entertainment Licensing Regime.
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1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 It is proposed that the Council adopt a legislative scheme for the control of lap dancing and striptease premises in Tower Hamlets, set out in Schedule 3 to the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982. If the Council determines that the scheme should apply in Tower Hamlets, then no person may operate a sex establishment (including a sexual entertainment venue) in the borough without first obtaining a licence from the Council.
- 1.2 The proposal was initially considered by the Licensing Committee on 8th October 2013, at which time the Committee was not in favour of adopting the scheme. Concerns were expressed regarding the treatment of premises known as the White Swan, should the scheme be adopted and the level of the application fee to be charged.
- 1.3 On the 8th January 2014 the matter of adoption of Schedule 3 to the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 was brought before the Licensing Committee to enable a further exploration and discussion of the issues of concern.
- 1.4 At the meeting on 8th January 2014 the Licensing Committee resolved to recommend to full Council that Schedule 3 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982, as amended, should apply to the London Borough of Tower Hamlets, along with the proposed standard conditions and fees. This will bring into effect the Sexual Entertainment Venues Policy, which applies a nil limit for new establishments but exempts current operators from the nil limit criteria.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

Full Council is requested to –

- 2.1 Consider whether it is appropriate to reconsider whether to adopt Schedule 3 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 as amended by section 27 of the Policing and Crime Act 2009.
- 2.2 Should Full Council consider it appropriate to adopt then to resolve that Schedule 3 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 as amended by section 27 of the Policing and Crime Act 2009 shall apply in the London Borough of Tower Hamlets area and which shall come into force on 1st June 2014.
- 2.3 Should Full Council pass the resolution in 2.2 then Full Council is also requested to agree the proposed standard conditions in Appendix 2 and to also agree the fee structure in Appendix 3.
- 2.4 Note that the policy in Appendix 1, which will apply on the application of Schedule 3 in Tower Hamlets, and which supports continued operation of existing premises, including the White Swan.

3 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The legislation brought in by Government in 2009 allows Local Authorities the discretion to adopt the legislation to regulate sexual entertainment venues. Once the powers have been adopted the Council can, through its licencing processes:
 - (a) Control the number of premises
 - (b) Control the location of premises
 - (c) Give local people a greater say over sexual entertainment venues in their area.
- 3.2 If Full Council is of the view that the above activities are appropriate for the Council to undertake then it will adopt the relevant powers. This report requests consideration of the adoption of the provisions for regulating sexual establishments which cover licences for sex shops, sex cinemas and sexual entertainment venues (SEVs) as set out in the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 ('the 1982 Act') as amended by the Policing and Crime Act 2009.
- 3.3 If the framework legislation is adopted, Members sitting on the Licensing Committee will determine the relevant applications. A policy has been adopted by Cabinet (Appendix 1) that provides a decision making framework for the Licensing Committee to draw upon when making its decisions. It should be noted that the Licencing Committee remains free to and is obliged by law to consider each application on its merits. This flexibility provides Licencing Committee

Members with sufficient leeway to consider direct representations made by different communities within the Borough and to make decisions that are sensitive to residents' concerns, equalities issues and take into account the views of the sexual entertainment venues and those in the community that make use of its services on an application by application basis.

- 3.4 The proposed standard conditions are detailed in Appendix 2 and the schedule of fees at Appendix 3, are not Executive functions and Full Council can consider and approve.
- 3.5 A report relating to the adoption of the framework agreement as set out in the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 was submitted to the Licensing Committee on the 8th October 2013.
- 3.6 Legal representatives from the Sexual Entertainment Venues attended the Licensing Committee on the 8th October 2013 and 8th January 2014 and made oral representations. They also made written representations and which are in Appendix 4.
- 3.7 At the Licensing Committee on the 8th October 2013 the committee was of the view that the framework legislation to enable licensing of sexual entertainment venues should not be adopted by the Council. It also moved to change the Policy to exclude a specific business from the Policy but as this is an Executive function this is not possible. The minutes of this meeting are at Appendix 5.
- 3.8 As requested, a report was prepared to be brought before full Council on the 27th November 2013 to reconsider the adoption of the legal framework. On advice from the Monitoring Officer, that report was pulled and presented to an Extraordinary Licensing Committee in the first instance to enable them to reconsider the matter and to focus on the key areas of concerns previously raised by the Licensing Committee.
- 3.9 The extraordinary Licensing Committee was held on the 8th January 2014 and further letters of representation from the legal representatives of local venues with a striptease waiver were received. Whilst these mainly dealt with what they considered to be the unlawfulness of the Licensing Committee sitting again to consider the matter, they did raise some additional matters. These letters are also contained in Appendix 4.
- 3.10 The Licensing Committee considered the circumstances of the White Swan, an iconic gay venue in Commercial Road. The White Swan currently holds a strip tease waiver on its licence and advertises professional strip tease nights on its website. The premises would be affected by adoption of the proposed licensing regime, because sexual entertainment is conducted at the premises.

- 3.11 Members had previously wished to exempt the White Swan from being required to apply for an SEV licence should the legislation be adopted.
- 3.12 The legal and policy position remained the same as it was when the Licensing Committee considered adoption of the scheme and may be summarised as following in relation to existing premises –
- If adopted the scheme will apply to all sexual entertainment venues, including the White Swan and all premises will need a licence from the Council.
 - The Council's policy provides an exemption from the nil limits for existing premises. This does not provide any guarantee that existing premises would be successful in obtaining licences under the scheme, as all applications must be considered on their merits.
 - The exemption from the nil limits would, however, remove the requirement for existing premises to demonstrate why the Council should depart from its nil policy.
 - The Policy is an Executive Function falling outside the remit of Licencing Committee to change.
- 3.13 It is considered that the nil policy with a limited exception for existing premises strikes the appropriate balance between human rights, the legal requirement to consider every application on its merits and the assorted views of those who do not support a nil policy.
- 3.14 The Licensing Committee was also concerned by the amount of the proposed application fee to be charged by the Council. A proposed fee of £9,000 per application has been proposed. The Committee considered a more detailed explanation of the charging approach and considered it to be consistent with relevant case law and justifiable. This fee has now been increased to £9,070 to take into account the legal fees are now estimated at £1,070 (see Appendix 6 for breakdown).
- 3.15 In calculating the fee for sexual entertainment venues in the Borough, the following costs have been estimated. As this is a new licensing regime a review of the fees will be undertaken at the end of the first licensing period to ensure that the fees are fair and equitable. The table below demonstrates predicted costs.

Activities/ Officer	Estimated time (hours)	Estimated cost (£)
Admin Officer	2	40
Licensing Officer	105	2625
Trading Standards and Licensing Manager	14	420

Compliance visits and costs		2625
Head of Service Reviews	7	245
Service Head – Safer Communities	1	45
Democratic Services/ Committee Hearings		2000
Legal Services	10	1000

- 3.16 A further breakdown of costs Licensing Officer time, compliance visits costs, Democratic Services costs and Legal Service costs are presented in Appendix 6.
- 3.17 Following the decision of the Court of Appeal in *R (Hemming) v Westminster City Council*, it has been made clear that the Council may only charge for authorisation procedures when setting its fees.
- 3.18 It is estimated that Licensing Officers will spend 15 working days on administering each application. Officers will have to –
- Examine the application forms
 - Examination of plans
 - Meeting with applicant
 - Visiting premises to determine accuracy of plans
 - Consideration of conditions and survey of premises
 - Liaison with responsible authorities
 - Liaise with the applicant and objectors.
 - Administer the consultation process
 - Prepare a committee report
 - Attend any licensing committee hearing.
 - Administration of determination
 - Costs associated with appeals
- 3.19 The cost of compliance monitoring and enforcement against an applicant who is given a licence can fall within the costs of ‘authorisation procedures’ and therefore can be included in the licence fee.
- 3.20 These are visits that take place during the course of the year to ensure that conditions are being maintained and that the premises are being managed in line with the licence. Due to the late night operation of these premises, compliance audits are undertaken in the evening and early morning, with more than one Officer in attendance. These audits will require reports to be written and discussion to be held with the licence holder to ensure that compliance with the licensing conditions continue.

- 3.21 There is a considerable amount of test purchasing monies that would need to be made available when undertaking compliance visits. Due to complaints received against a lap dancing club, in 2010, two officers had to spend over £1,000 in that premises to ascertain the veracity of the complaint and to establish whether licence conditions were being complied with.
- 3.22 Costs in relation to compliance visits results from;
- Overtime for overt visits – undertaken in pairs
 - Report writing and feedback to operator
 - Overtime for covert visits
 - Test purchase monies
 - Review costs
 - Committee Hearing costs
 - Investigation costs – e.g. examining CCTV footage
- 3.23 Due to the public interest in the Sexual Entertainment Venue consultation, there will be an expectation that compliance visits are undertaken throughout the regime. In subsequent years the fee structure will be reviewed to ensure that fees are recovered on a cost basis.
- 3.24 The Council must determine its fees on a cost-recovery basis, so comparison with fees in other boroughs is not a relevant consideration. Officers have, however, conducted a benchmarking exercise in respect of 13 other London boroughs and there is nothing to suggest that the Council's costs are excessive. Five London Borough's charge a lesser fee (£3,500 – £8,224) and eight London Boroughs charge more than the proposed £9,000 fee (£10,000-£22,523). The fees cannot be compared with those under the Licensing Act 2003 as this is a different regime and the fees are set by statute.
- 3.25 The fees estimate the amount of time that Council Officers will spend on their part of the Licensing process.
- 3.26 The costs of convening the committee and legal oversight of the SEV process have also been estimated.
- 3.27 At the end of the first year of the SEV process, the actual cost of the new regime will be calculated and the fees will be adjusted accordingly. Should the amount collected be in excess of the actual cost of the SEV regime then the fees will be reduced for the coming year and where applicable refunds made.
- 3.28 Once again during the second year, the amount it costs to administer and ensure compliance with the SEV regime will be calculated and fees adjusted accordingly.

- 3.29 After considering further information the Licensing Committee resolved to recommend to full Council that Schedule 3 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 as amended, should apply to the London Borough of Tower Hamlets, Appendix 7.

Consultation

- 3.29 Consultation on the adoption of the sexual entertainment venues legal framework ran for six weeks from March 18th 2013 to April 29th 2013. The consultation was promoted through East End Life, press releases to all local and Bengali media and on the council's website. Emails notifying about the consultation were sent out, this included emails sent to the responsible authorities, the Licensing Committee, Faith groups, Community Safety Partnership, Women's Organisations, Networks and Forums, Advocacy Services and RSL and Housing Associations. All sexual entertainment venues and their registered owners received letters notifying them of the consultation.
- 3.30 The consultation was hosted online on the Council's website and paper copies were provided if requested. The consultation posed the question 'Do you think the council should adopt new powers to regulate sexual entertainment venues via an enhanced licensing regime?' A concern has been raised that the Council's system permitted only one response per computer, which may have restricted the representations that could be made. This is a possibility which may have affected representations for and against the scheme.
- 3.31 A total of 4,973 responses (526 online and 4,447 paper returns) were received, with 1,400 forms being returned from a single sexual entertainment premises within the Borough. The responses were as follows:
- 108 (2.2%) 'Yes' responses, in favour of adopting
4,865 (97.8) 'No' responses, not in favour of adopting
- 3.32 It is noted the some of the local venues ran a campaign to encourage persons to register their opposition to adoption of the scheme. There is nothing illegitimate about such a campaign. The representatives for these venues have asserted that there is no basis for concluding that this campaign skewed the outcome of consultation Whether or not there were campaigns 'for' and 'against' which took place during consultation about adoption of the scheme, it must be recognised that there was a strong expression of public opinion against adoption.
- 3.33 However it should also be considered, the results are in contrast to the community response received to the Council's consultation on the policy approach that might be taken to control sex entertainment venues where there was up to 75% in favour of aspects of sex establishment policy (specifically delineation of localities) control and a 52% to 48% split in favour of a blanket nil

policy. The position on the nil limits was effectively split, when sampling error is taken into account.

- 3.34 In contrasting the two sets of consultation results, Members should bear in mind that the survey in respect of the Policy came first and as people were consulting on a policy they may have assumed that the Act was already in force and therefore did not respond to a consultation on adopting. It is fair to say that there was not an overwhelming support for a nil limit, which is why the Policy did not extend the “Nil” limit to existing operators.
- 3.35 The Committee should, take the consultation response into consideration when reaching a decision. Whilst the Council is required to undertake consultation on the adoption of the legislation, a strong ‘No’ response does not prevent adoption if there remain good reasons for regulation of sexual entertainment venues under the scheme established by Schedule 3 to the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982. Specifically if the Council considers that there are good reasons for the Council to
- (a) Control the number of premises
 - (b) Control the location of premises
 - (c) Give local people a greater say over sexual entertainment venues in their area.

In forming this view, the following should be taken into account –

- The overall consultation response represents only a small percentage of those who live and work in the borough. It is not possible to know whether those who did not make representations would have supported or been against adoption of the scheme.
- Adoption of the scheme will enable the Council to regulate the number, location and conduct of premises in the borough. Whilst this will apply to all premises, it will be particularly important when dealing with applications from new premises.
- A licensing scheme will give local people a greater say over venues in their areas.
- The adoption of the scheme will facilitate policy interventions that enhance the ability of the Council to limit impact of SEV’s on the community and on particular groups at risk of exploitation.
- Each case will be considered by the Licensing Committee on its own merits, having regard to the Council’s policy. The policy provides support for the continuation of existing premises which meet their licence considerations.
- The licensing regime will allow the Council to take broader policy implications into consideration when judging applications including limiting any negative impacts on local communities brought about by these venues.

3.36 Concerns were raised by Members in discussion, that operators may not be granted their annual licences. This concern is recognised, but in determining applications, members of the Licensing Committee should take account of the Council's policy and also existing operations and whether they have been well controlled.

3.37 These considerations are good reasons for the regulation of sexual entertainment venues under the scheme. On balance, and taking into consideration the outcome of the consultation exercise, it is considered preferable to adopt the scheme in Tower Hamlets and take into account the views of those in favour of sexual entertainment venues when considering each application and in any policy deliberations.

4. COMMENTS OF THE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

4.1 The adoption of the provision will introduce a new fee structure for sexual entertainment venues. They will need to hold two licences one for alcohol and another for the venue. The new fees for the SEV's are set out in Appendix 3. The number of SEV's that would be affected by the adoption of the new licensing regime is currently 11. If all apply and were granted SEV licenses this would achieve £99,000 in fees. This is the maximum that could be achieved and would be dependent on the relative number of refusals for which there is a partial return of the fee paid. The fee will need to be utilised to fund the administration of the new regime process and any potential legal challenge upon refusal.

4.2 With the threat of any legal challenge arising from adoption of the policy considerably reduced, the service will need to ensure that the policy can be adopted within existing budgeted resources.

5 LEGAL COMMENTS

5.1 On 6 April 2010, amendments to the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 ("the 1982 Act") came into effect which permitted local authorities to regulate sexual entertainment venues ("the SEV amendments") in addition to other sex establishments.

5.2 For the purposes of the 1982 Act a sexual entertainment venue ("SEV") means any premises at which entertainment of the following kind is provided before a live audience for the financial gain of the organiser or the entertainer-

- A live performance or a live display of nudity
- Which is of such a nature that, ignoring financial gain, it must reasonably be assumed to be provided solely or principally for the purpose of sexually stimulating any member of the audience (whether by verbal or other means).

- 5.3 The following are not SEVs for the purposes of the 1982 Act –
- Sex cinemas and sex shops (which come within the more general definition of sex establishments).
 - Premises at which the relevant entertainment has been provided no more than 11 times in a 12 month period, provided that on each occasion the entertainment has not been provided for more than 24 hours and the occasions are at least a month apart.
- 5.4 Under section 2 of the 1982 Act the Council may decide that Schedule 3 to the Act, which contains a regime for controlling sex establishments, is to apply in Tower Hamlets. If the Schedule 3 regime is applied in Tower Hamlets, then no person may operate a sex establishment (including an SEV) in the borough without first obtaining a licence from the Council. The requirement for a licence is backed up by provision for offences, each of which carry a maximum penalty of £20,000.
- 5.5 If premises obtain a sex establishment licence under the Schedule 3 licensing regime, those premises will not also require a licence under the Licensing Act 2003 in respect of entertainment permitted by the sex establishment licence. The premises would still, however, require permission under the Licensing Act 2003 in respect of other licensable activities conducted at the premises (e.g. the sale of alcohol or the provision of regulated entertainment that is not permitted by the sex establishment licence).
- 5.6 Prior to the SEV amendments in 2010, the Council had determined that the scheme for licensing sex establishments in Schedule 3 of the 1982 Act should apply in Tower Hamlets. However, at the time of introducing the SEV amendments in 2010, the Policing and Crime Act 2009 put in place transitional arrangements (“the Transitional Arrangements”), which specified that a new resolution is required if a local authority wants the Schedule 3 licensing scheme to extend to SEVs in addition to other types of sex establishments such as sex cinemas and sex shops.
- 5.7 The procedure for deciding that Schedule 3 of the 1982 Act should apply in Tower Hamlets is as follows-
- The Council must consult local people about whether or not to apply the SEV licensing regime in Tower Hamlets. The Transitional Arrangements set up an initial 12-month period in which local authorities might resolve that the SEV amendments would apply in their areas. If an authority did not resolve to adopt the SEV amendments within the timeframe (i.e. by 5 April 2011), then the authority was then required to consult local people about whether to adopt the SEV amendments. The Council was caught

by this requirement to consult and the report sets out the results of that consultation.

- The Council must pass a resolution specifying that the Schedule shall apply in Tower Hamlets. The resolution must specify the day on which the Schedule shall come into force (“the Specified Day”), which must be more than one month after the day on which the resolution is passed.
- The Council must then publish a notice that it is adopting the Schedule 3 regime. This must be published for two consecutive weeks in a local newspaper which is circulated in Tower Hamlets. The first publication of the notice must be at least 28 days before the Specified Day. The notice must state the general effect of Schedule 3.

- 5.8 The Council should have a rational basis for any resolution to adopt the sex establishment (including SEV) licensing regime in Tower Hamlets. The results of the consultation exercise must be taken into account. In this respect, the consultation conducted in relation to whether or not to adopt the sex establishment licensing regime (the 2013 consultation), is the more relevant of the two consultation exercises referred to in the report. If the Council intends to take a different approach than that indicated by the preponderance of views expressed in the 2013 consultation, then it will need to be satisfied there are good reasons for taking that approach. There is material in the report both in favour of and against the adoption of the SEV licensing regime. Before adopting the regime, the Licensing Committee will have to be satisfied that the reasons in favour of adoption are sufficiently cogent.
- 5.9 Standard conditions have been proposed that will be applied to all licensed SEVs (see Appendix 2). Paragraph 13(1) of Schedule 3 to the 1982 Act gives the Council power to make regulations prescribing standard conditions (i.e. the terms, conditions and restrictions on or subject to which licences under Schedule 3 to the 1982 Act are in general to be granted, renewed or transferred by the Council). Such conditions must be proportionate and must be precise so that everyone (Premises Licence holder, those charged with enforcing the conditions, and local residents) would know where they stand. These proposed conditions meet those criteria.
- 5.10 It is proposed to introduce application fees as set out in Appendix 3. Paragraph 1 of Schedule 3 to the 1982 Act allows the Council to set a fee. Such fee must be reasonable and should properly reflect the anticipated costs for the Council in administering the application, holding a hearing to consider the application (including legal costs) and the costs associated with licensing visits should a licence be granted. Fees should not therefore be set at an unreasonably high level to dissuade applications. Further, whilst such fees cannot include costs associated with enforcement of unlicensed venues. The breakdown as to calculation of those fees is in Appendix 6.

- 5.11 Before taking the proposed decisions in relation to the licensing of SEVs, 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 do not. Equality analyses have been conducted and are set out in Appendices 8 and 9.
- 5.12 The Council's Constitution provides that the power to licence sex shops and sex cinemas, as provided in section 2 and Schedule 3 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 is delegated to the Licensing Committee. On one view, this delegation includes a power to decide that the licensing scheme should apply in Tower Hamlets, but another view is that this at best permits the Licensing Committee to express an advisory view about adoption of the scheme. Irrespective of the position concerning the Licensing Committee's role, two matters are clear:
- Full Council may determine whether or not the scheme should apply in Tower Hamlets.
 - Full Council is not prevented from determining whether or not the scheme should apply in Tower Hamlets by reason of any prior consideration by the Licensing Committee.
- 5.13 Determining the Council's policy in relation to licensing under the scheme (should it be adopted) is an executive function which is the responsibility of the Mayor. On 11 September 2013, the Mayor in Cabinet agreed that the policy in Appendix 1 should apply in the event that the scheme is adopted in Tower Hamlets.

6. ONE TOWER HAMLETS CONSIDERATIONS

- 6.1 Legislation gives local authorities the opportunity to control sexual entertainment venues. The legislation was drafted to allow communities to have a say about whether sexual entertainment venues should be allowed to operate in their community and it gives the local authority the power to determine limits on numbers and localities. An equalities impact assessment is provided at Appendix 5. In addition as the decision to adopt the framework legislation will bring the policy into effect. Members may wish to consider the equalities impact assessment at Appendix 6 in relation to the policy.
- 6.2 The adoption of Schedule 3 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 as amended by section 27 of the Policing and Crime Act 2009 will enable this to happen.
- 6.3 It is important to note that, after adopting the above legislation, the Licencing Sub Committee remains free to and is obliged by law to consider each application on its merits. The Sexual Entertainment Venue policy provides flexibility for Licensing Committee Members, to consider representations made

by different communities within the Borough and to make decisions that are sensitive to equalities issues and where relevant to the needs of the sexual entertainment venues and those within the community who make use of its services.

7. SUSTAINABLE ACTION FOR A GREENER ENVIRONMENT

7.1 There are no adverse impacts identified.

8. RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

8.1 The Mayor in Cabinet has adopted the policy on sexual entertainment venues for the Borough. Full Council is being requested to re-consider the adoption of the legislation to enable the policy to take effect. There is potential for legal challenge to the Council's adoption of the licensing regime for sex establishments, which will have significant associated costs.

9. CRIME AND DISORDER REDUCTION IMPLICATIONS

9.1 Adoption of this legislative framework will complement the Crime and Drug Reduction Partnership Plan.

10. EFFICIENCY STATEMENT

10.1 There are no efficiency considerations arising from the report.

11. APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – The Sexual Entertainment Venue Policy

Appendix 2 – Standard Conditions for Sexual Entertainment Venues

Appendix 3 – Fee

Appendix 4 - Written Submissions to the Council

Appendix 5 – Minutes of the Licensing Committee 8th October 2013

Appendix 6 – Breakdown of Licence Fee estimates

Appendix 7 – Minutes of the Licensing Committee 8th January 2014

Appendix 8 - Equalities Impact Assessment – frame work

Appendix 9 – Equalities Impact Assessment – policy

Background Papers: Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972

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Appendix One

Tower Hamlets Council

Sex Establishment Licensing Policy

Introduction

This policy sets out Tower Hamlets Council's proposed approach to regulating sex establishments and the procedure that it will adopt in relation to applications for sex establishment licences.

The policy of the Council is to refuse applications for sexual entertainment venues. This policy is intended to be strictly applied and will only be overridden in genuinely exceptional circumstances. Such circumstances will not be taken to include the quality of the management, its compliance with licence conditions, the size of the premises or its operating hours.

The policy is intended as a guide to applicants, licence holders, people who want to object to applications and members of the Licensing Committee who are responsible for determining contested applications. It also aims to guide and reassure the public and other public authorities, ensuring transparency and consistency in decision making.

When the decision making powers of the Council are engaged each application will be dealt with on its own merits but this policy gives prospective applicants an early indication of whether their application is likely to be granted or not. It also provides prospective applicants details of what is expected of them should an application be made.

The legal controls for sex establishment premises are contained in the Local Governmental (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 as amended by the Policing and Crime Act 2009.

There are 3 types of sex establishments which fall into the licensing regime:-

Sex shops

Sex cinemas

Sexual entertainment venues

The role of the Council in its position as Licensing Authority is to administer the licensing regime in accordance with the law and not in accordance with moral standing. The Council recognises that Parliament has made it lawful to operate a sex establishment and such businesses are a legitimate part of the retail and leisure industries.

Policy Rationale

The policy has been developed that sets out how the legislation will be administered and applied. The policy identifies how the Council would exercise the licensing regime in relation to sexual entertainment venues.

The policy has been developed to reflect and complement existing Council plans and strategic approach, namely:-

- Tower Hamlets Community Plan.
- Tower Hamlets Crime & Drug Reduction Partnership Plan.
- Tower Hamlets Enforcement Policy.
- Tower Hamlets Core Strategy.
- TowerHamletsTown Centre Spatial Strategy.
- Tower Hamlets Statement of Licensing Policy (Licensing Act 2003).
- Tower Hamlets Statement of Licensing Policy (Gambling Act 2005).

The policy has also been prepared with regard to:

- Consultation responses
- Human Rights Act 1998
- Equalities Act 2010

The policy seeks to contribute to the “One Tower Hamlets” principle by fostering community cohesion, reducing inequalities and empowering communities. The public consultation that was undertaken concerning the adoption of a nil policy did not have overwhelming support. Therefore careful consideration has been given

to the policy response, given the balance that the consultation returns did not give overwhelming support.

Policy Considerations

Existing Licensed Premises

The Council has had the ability to licence sex shops and sex cinemas under the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 for many years.

There are no licensed sex shops in Tower Hamlets.

The businesses that hold premises licences under the Licensing Act 2003 with permissions that will be affected by the adoption of the sexual entertainment venue licensing regime are as follows:-

NAME	ADDRESS
THE BEEHIVE	104-106 Empson Street, London, E3 3LT
EONE CLUB	168 Mile End Road, London, E1 4LJ
NAGS HEAD PUBLIC HOUSE	17-19 Whitechapel Road, London, E1 1DU
THE PLEASURE LOUNGE	234 Cambridge Heath Road, London, E2 9NN
WHITE SWAN	556 Commercial Road, London, E14 7JD
ASTON'S CHAMPAGNE AND WINE BAR BASEMENT & 1ST FLOOR	187 Marsh Wall, London, E14 9SH
CLUB PAISA	28 Hancock Road, London, E3 3DA
OOPS	30 Alie Street, London, E1 8DA
WHITE'S GENTLEMANS CLUB	32-38 Lemn Street, London, E1 8EW
SECRETS	43-45 East Smithfield, London, E1W 1AP
IMAGES	483 Hackney Road, London, E2 9ED

Tower Hamlets Council has adopted schedule 3 Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 with effect from 1st June 2014 so that it can:

- set a limit on the number of sexual entertainment venues
- determine premises that are appropriate for the borough and
- licence sexual entertainment venues

Sexual entertainment venues are those that regularly provide lap dancing and other forms of live performance or live display of nudity.

Establishments that hold events involving full or partial nudity less than once a month may be exempt from the requirements to obtain a sex establishment licence and applicants are advised to contact the Licensing Team for advice.

Limits on the number of licensed premises

The Council has determined that there are a sufficient number of sex shops, sex cinemas and sexual entertainment venues currently operating in the borough and it does not want to see an increase in the numbers of premises that are currently providing these activities.

The Council intends to adopt a policy to limit the number of sexual entertainment venues in the borough to nil however it recognises that there are a number of businesses that have been providing sexual entertainment in Tower Hamlets for several years. The Council will not apply this limitation when considering applications for premises that were already trading with express permission for the type of entertainment which is now defined as sexual entertainment on the date that the licensing provisions were adopted by the authority if they can demonstrate in their application:

- High standards of management
- A management structure and capacity to operate the venue
- The ability to adhere to the standard conditions for sex establishments

The Council will consider each application on its merit although new applicants will have to demonstrate why the Council should depart from its policy. Furthermore if any of the existing premises cease trading there is no presumption that the Council will consider any new applications more favourably.

Location of premises

The Council's policy is that there is no locality within Tower Hamlets in which it would be appropriate to license a sex establishment. Accordingly, the appropriate number of sex establishments for each and every locality within Tower Hamlets is zero.

As previously stated in the policy the Council will treat each application on its own merits however applicants should be aware that the Council will take into consideration the location of the proposed premises and its proximity to:

- residential accommodation,
- schools,
- premises used by children and vulnerable persons
- youth, community & leisure centres,
- religious centres and public places of worship
- access routes to and from premises listed above
- existing licensed premises in the vicinity

Impact

In considering applications for the grant of new or variation applications the Council will assess the likelihood of a grant causing impacts, particularly on the local community.

The Council will take the following matters into account:

- the type of activity
- the duration of the proposed licence
- the proposed hours of operation
- the layout and condition of the premises
- the use of other premises in the vicinity
- the character and locality of the area
- the applicant's previous knowledge and experience
- the applicant's ability to minimise the impact of their business on local residents and businesses

- any evidence of the operation of existing /previous licences held by the applicant
- any reports about the applicant and management of the premises received from residents, Council officers or the police
- the ability of the proposed management structure to deliver compliance with licensing requirements, policies on staff training and the welfare of performers
- crime and disorder issues
- cumulative impact of licensed premises, including hours of operation
- the nature and concerns of local residents
- any evidence of complaints about noise or disturbance caused by premises
- planning permission and planning policy considerations

In considering applications for renewal the Council will take into account

- the applicant's ability to minimise the impact of their business on local residents and businesses
- any reports about the licensee and management of the premises received from residents, Council officers or the police
- whether appropriate measures have been agreed and put into place to mitigate any adverse impacts
- any evidence of complaints about noise or disturbance caused by premises

In considering applications for transfer the Council will take into account:

- the applicants previous knowledge and experience
- the applicants ability to minimise the impact of their business on local residents and businesses
- any evidence of the operation of existing /previous licences held by the applicant
- any reports about the applicant and management of the premises received from residents, Council officers or the police

- the ability of the proposed management structure to deliver compliance with licensing requirements, policies on staff training and the welfare of performers

Applicants

Where appropriate the Council expects applicants to:

- demonstrate that they are qualified by experience
- have an understanding of general conditions
- propose a management structure which will deliver compliance with operating conditions for example through
- Management competence
- Presence
- Credible management structure
- enforcement of rules internally – training & monitoring
- a viable business plan covering door staff, CCTV
- policies for welfare of performers
- demonstrate that they can be relied upon to act in best interests of performers through remuneration, facilities, protection, physical and psychological welfare
- have a transparent charging scheme with freedom from solicitation
- a track record of management compliant premises or employ individuals with such a track record

New applicants may be invited for interview by the Licensing Officer and /or Police Officer prior to the application being referred to the Licensing Committee for determination.

Applications from anyone who intends to manage the premises on behalf of third party will be refused.

Premises appearance and layout

The Council expects premises to:-

- have an external appearance which is in keeping with the locality
- prevent the display outside the premises of photographs or other images which may be construed as offensive to public decency

- adequate lighting to allow monitoring of all public areas
- surveillance by CCTV
- surveillance by CCTV of all private booths

Conditions

The council will prescribe, and from time to time revise, standard conditions which will apply generally to licences that the council will grant or renew.

Through standard conditions the council seeks to ensure that sexual entertainment venues are well managed and supervised, restrict the sexual entertainment activities and the manner in which they are permitted to be provided, protect performers, and control the impact of the venue and its customers in relation to its locality.

Specifically, standard conditions could include measures which are found in the appendix of this policy.

The Application Process

Making a new, renewal, transfer or variation application

The Act requires the Council to refuse all application if the applicant:

- Is under the age of 18 or
- Has had their licence revoked in the last 12 months or
- Is not resident in the UK, or has not been a UK resident for the last 6months
or
- Has been refused an application in the last 12 months or
- Is a corporate body which in not incorporated in the UK

Applications forms and details of current fee levels are available:

- on the Council's website (www.towerhamlets.gov.uk)
- from the Licensing Team on 020 7364 5008
- by email to licensing@towerhamlets.gov.uk

The Council prefers to receive electronic applications and *offers a choice off payment options the details of which are contained in the application pack.*

The Council expects the premises to have planning consent for the intended use and hours of operation, or otherwise have lawful planning status before making an application for a new licence.

In order for the application to be valid the applicant must:

- Submit the completed application form
- Pay the application fee
- Submit a floor plan, drawn to scale showing the layout of the premises (new applications only)
- Submit a location plan (1:1250) showing the location of the premises (NB. plans will not be required for transfers nor renewal applications)
- 2 passport size photos of the applicant where the applicant is an individual rather than a limited company
- 2 passport size photos of the manager if applicant is a limited company (NB: photos will only be required if there has been a change of applicant or manager since the last application)
- Display an A4 notice at the proposed premises for 21 days following the date that the completed application is submitted setting out the application details. The notice must be in a prominent position so that it can be easily read by passers-by. A notice template will be provided with the application form.
- publish a notice on at least one occasion in a local newspaper, during the period of ten working days starting on the day the application was given Council. The advert can be any size or colour but must be readable.

Applicants who wish to advertise the application in another local newspaper are advised to contact the Licensing Team beforehand, to confirm that it is acceptable.

On receipt of a valid application the Council will consult:

- The Police
- The Fire Brigade
- Building Control
- Health and Safety
- Ward Councillors

For new and variation applications the Council will also consult:

- Development Control Team
- Local residents living within 50m of the premises

Authorised Officers from the Council, Fire Brigade and Police may choose to inspect the premises and require works to be carried out to bring the premises up to the required standard before the premises can be used for licensable activities.

The Council will not determine an application for a licence unless the applicant allows an authorised officer reasonable opportunity to enter the premises to make such examination and enquiries as may be necessary to determine the suitability of the applicant and the sex establishment.

Representations

Anyone wishing to object to the application must submit a representation, in writing, within 28 days of the date that the valid application was received by the Council.

Representations can either be submitted via

- Our website: www.towerhamlets.gov.uk
- Email to: licensing@towerhamlets.gov.uk
- Post to: Consumer and Business Regulations, Licensing Team, 6th Floor, Mulberry Place, 5 Clove Crescent, E14 2BG.

A person making a representation must clearly state their name, address, and the grounds for objecting to the application and indicate whether they consent to have their name and address revealed to the applicant. Copies of representations will be made available to the applicant 14 days before the committee hearing.

The Council will not consider objections that are frivolous or vexatious or which relate to moral grounds (as these are outside the scope of the Act).

The Council prefers to receive electronic representations.

Late representations may be admissible at the discretion of the Council if there's sufficient reason to indicate that applicants will not be significantly prejudiced by the decision to allow a late objection to be considered. In making such a decision the Council will take into account:

- The length of the delay
- The amount of time that the applicant has to consider the representation before the hearing date
- If other representations have been received before the deadline

Determining an application

Applications with no representations will be approved under delegated authority to officers.

Applications with representations recommending that conditions be attached to the licence and which are acceptable to both the applicant and person making the representation can be approved under delegated authority to officers.

All other contested applications will be referred to the Licensing Committee for determination. The applicant, anyone making a representation and the ward Councillors will be notified the date, time and venue of the hearing and invited to attend to address the committee in person.

Applications can take up to 14 weeks to be determined. If an application is likely to take longer than 14 weeks to determine the Council will notify the applicant in writing before this deadline. Applications for sex establishment licenses are exempt from the tacit consent provisions of the EU Services Directive on the grounds of public interest and the legitimate interests of third parties.

The applicant will be notified in writing about the outcome of their application within 5 working days of the decision being made.

Sex Establishment licences are usually issued for 12 months, but can be issued for a shorter period if deemed appropriate.

In order to continue operating as a sex establishment the licence holder must make a renewal application prior to the expiry of the existing licence.

Appeals

Any applicant who is aggrieved by a decision to refuse an application or by the imposition of any conditions can appeal to the Magistrates Court within 21 days of receiving the decision in writing.

Grounds for refusing an application

1. The applicant is unsuitable to hold a licence by reason of having been convicted of any offence or for any other reason
2. That if the license were to be granted, renewed or transferred the business to which it relates would be managed by or carried on for the benefit of a person, other than the applicant, who would be refused the grant, renewal or transfer of such a license if he made the application himself
3. That the number of sex establishments in the relevant locality at the time the application is made is equal to or exceeds the number which the authority consider is appropriate for that locality
4. That the grant or renewal of the license would be inappropriate, having regard:-
 - a. to the character of the relevant locality
 - b. to the use to which any premises in the vicinity are put; or
 - c. to the layout, character or condition of the premises, vehicle, vessel or stall in respect of which the application is made.

Transitional Arrangements

Broadly speaking, those existing sexual entertainment venues (lap dancing clubs etc) with a premises licence under the Licensing Act 2003, under which it is lawful to provide such entertainment, will continue to be able to operate for one year after the Council adopts the 2009 Act provisions or, if later, the determination of any application submitted during that year.

The 'transitional period' will last for 12-months beginning with the date that the Council resolves that Schedule 3 as amended by the 2009 Act will come into force in their area ('the 1st appointed day'). Six months following the 1st appointed day will be known as the '2nd appointed day' and the day on which the transitional period ends will be known as the '3rd appointed day'

Existing Operators

To allow time to comply with the new regime, existing operators, who, immediately before the 1st appointed day, have a 2003 Act licence and lawfully use premises as a sexual entertainment venue under that licence or are undertaking preparatory work to use the venue in that way will be allowed to continue to provide relevant entertainment until the 3rd appointed day or the determination of any application they have submitted before that time (including any appeal against the refusal to grant a licence), whichever is later

For the purposes of the Transition a "2003 Act Licence" means a premises licence or club premises certificate under the Licensing Act 2003 under which it is lawful to provide relevant entertainment.

"Preparatory work" refers to work carried out by an operator, such as a refurbishment or refit, in order that they can use the premises as a sexual entertainment venue in the future. The operator will have been granted a 2003 Act licence before the 1st appointed day but will not have used the premises as a sexual entertainment venue by that date. It is likely that such operators will be

known to the Council. However, where a dispute arises between the Council and a licence-holder over whether the licence-holder qualifies as an existing operator by virtue of this provision the Council will need to seek evidence from the licence-holder to demonstrate that they clearly intended to operate a sexual entertainment venue in the future and work had been done to achieve this end.

For the purposes of the Transition a “2003 Act Licence” means a premises licence or club premises certificate under the Licensing Act 2003 under which it is lawful to provide relevant entertainment.

Appointed Days

1st Appointed Day

The day on which the Sexual Entertainment Venue regime comes into force in the Borough and the beginning of the transitional period (1st June 2014)

2nd Appointed Day

The day 6 months after the 1st appointed day (1st December 2014)

3rd Appointed Day

The day 6 months after the 2nd appointed day and the end of the transitional period (1st June 2015)

New Applications

New applicants are people who wish to use premises as a sexual entertainment venue after the 1st appointed day but do not already have a premises licence or club premises certificate to operate as such under the 2003 Act or do have such a licence but have not taken any steps towards operating as such. After the 1st appointed day new applicants will not be able to operate as a sexual entertainment venue until they have been granted a sexual entertainment venue licence

Determining Applications Received On or Before the 2nd Appointed Day

Applicants will be able to submit their application for a sexual entertainment venue from the 1st appointed day onwards.

As the Council is able to refuse applications having regard to the number of sex establishments they consider appropriate for a particular locality, all applications made on or after the 1st appointed day but on or before the 2nd appointed day shall be considered together. This will ensure that applicants are given sufficient time to submit their application and all applications received on or before the 2nd appointed day are considered on their individual merit and not on a first come first serve basis.

No applications shall be determined before the 2nd appointed day. After the 2nd appointed day the appropriate authority shall decide what if any licences should be granted. If a new applicant is granted a licence it will take effect immediately. If an existing operator is granted a licence, it will not take effect until the 3rd appointed day, up to which point they will be allowed to continue to operate under their existing premises licence or club premises certificate.

Determining Applications Received After the 2nd Appointed Day

Applications made after the 2nd appointed day shall be considered when they are made but only once all applications made on or before that date have been determined. However, reference to determination here does not include references to the determination of any appeal against the refusal of a licence.

As with applications received on or before the 2nd appointed day, licences granted to new applicants shall take effect immediately and licences granted to existing operators shall take effect from the 3rd appointed day or, if later, the date the application is determined.

Outstanding Applications

The Council will attempt where possible to determine outstanding applications made under the 2003 Act, which include an application for the provision of

relevant entertainment, before the date that Schedule 3 as amended by the 2009 Act comes into force in their area.

Where it has not been possible to determine application before the 1st appointed day, applicants will need to submit an application for a sex establishment licence as set out in Schedule 3 if they wish to provide relevant entertainment. From the 1st appointed day onwards outstanding applicants shall be dealt with as though they are new applicants

Additional information and advice

Please contact:

Consumer and Business Regulations
Licensing Team
6th Floor,
Mulberry Place,
5 Clove Crescent,
E14 2BG.
licensing@towerhamlets.gov.uk
020 7364 5008

Appendix Two

STANDARD CONDITIONS FOR SEXUAL ENTERTAINMENT VENUES

General

1. The Licensee must remain in personal control of the premises at all times that it is trading or nominate in writing an individual over the age of 18 with the authority to direct activities within the Premises.
2. The licensee shall notify the Council, in writing, of any change in directors, trustees, partners or other persons concerned in the management of the licensed activities within fourteen days of such change.
3. The Licensee shall provide in a timely fashion copies of any documents reasonably required by an authorised officer of the Council to prove compliance with this Licence.
4. The licensee must give written notice to the Council if s/he wishes to surrender the licence.
5. The Council reserves the right to amend or alter these conditions (provided that such change will not prevent the operators from viably carrying on the business of the premises) following consultation with licensees
6. The meaning of "sexual entertainment" is given in Section 27 of the Policing and Crime Act 2009.

Management

7. A suitable and sufficient number of door supervisors and trained staff will be employed (based on a risk assessment) when sexual entertainment is offered. Their duties will include monitoring customers and performers to ensure that the Code of Conduct for Dancers and the House Rules are being obeyed and enforcing if necessary.
8. The Licensee shall prepare and implement a Code of Conduct for Performers. The Code shall be approved by the council and will not be altered without their consent.
9. The Licensee shall prepare House Rules governing the conduct of customers. The Rules shall be approved by the council and shall not be altered without their consent.

Premises

10. The approved layout of the premises shall not be altered without prior consent of the council.

11. The Licensee shall ensure that the interior of the premises where sexual entertainment is offered shall not be capable of being seen from the outside of the premises, and that the exterior is maintained to a satisfactory level of decorum.

12. The sexual entertainment shall take place only in the areas designated by the Council and the approved access to the dressing room(s) shall be maintained whilst sexual entertainment is taking place and immediately thereafter.

13. CCTV shall be installed to cover the inside and the outside of the premises covering all areas to which the public have access, including private performance areas and booths, entrances and exits but excluding toilets. All cameras shall continually record whilst the premises are open to the public and the recorded images shall be kept available for a minimum of 31 days. Recorded images shall be made available to an authorised officer or a police officer together with facilities for viewing. The recordings for the preceding two days shall be made available immediately on request. Recordings outside this period shall be made available on 24 hours' notice.

Advertising

14. The Licensee shall not permit the display outside of the premises of photographs or other images, excluding trademarks or logos, which are unacceptable to the Council, and which indicate or suggest that sexual entertainment takes place on the premises.

15. Where the Council has given notice in writing to the Licensee objecting to an advertisement on the grounds that, if displayed, it would offend public decency or be likely to encourage or incite crime and disorder that advertisement shall be removed or not be displayed.

Admission to the Premises

16. No person under the age of 18 years shall be permitted on the premises when sexual entertainment is being offered, and a clear notice to this effect will be displayed at the entrance.

17. Customers who appear to be under the age of 21 must be asked to provide a Pass-Scheme approved photographic card, their passport or photographic driving licence to prove their age. Prominent notices must be clearly displayed to this effect at the entrance(s) to the premises.

18. The content of the House Rules will be made known to customers prior to their admission to the premises when sexual entertainment is provided.

19. Signs must be displayed at appropriate locations advising that any customer attempting to make physical contact with a performer will be asked to leave;

Performers

20. Entertainment will be given only by the performers engaged by or through the Licensee and there will be no audience participation.

21. The licensee shall keep a record of each performer, including their proper name and any aliases, and their residential address. With each record the licensee shall keep a copy of a photographic form of identity and proof of address of the performer.

22. On days when sexual entertainment is provided, the licensee, or their representative, shall keep a record of those performers working at the premises on that day in a daily record. The daily record shall be immediately available for inspection by authorised officers.

23. The licensee shall ensure that each performer signs the code of conduct in their proper name, acknowledging that they have read and understood and are prepared to abide by the code of conduct, and signed copies be kept on the premises for inspection by authorised officers.

24. During a performance there shall be no full bodied physical contact between the customer and the dancer other than the transfer of money or token at the beginning, during and conclusion of the dance.

25. During a performance there shall be no full bodied physical contact between dancers and they are not to touch each other's breasts and or genitalia.

26. Performers must remain fully dressed while on the premises, except while performing in areas approved by the Council for sexual entertainment and in the approved changing rooms.

27. Performers must redress at the conclusion of the performance.

28. Performers must never be in the company of a customer except in an area open to the public (excluding the toilets) within the premises.

29. The Licensee is to implement a policy for the safety of the performers when they leave the premises.

Customers

30. The House Rules regarding customer behaviour will be implemented at all times that the premises are operating with sexual entertainment.

31. No member of the public shall be admitted or allowed to remain in the dance area if they appear to be intoxicated or under the influence of illegal substances.

32. Customers may not be permitted to photograph film or electronically record any performance.

33. Customers shall not be permitted to enter non-public areas of the premises such as changing rooms.

Appendix Three

Sexual Entertainment Fees

Application type	Fee
New Application	£9070
Renewal Application	£9070
Refund if refused	£1500
Transfer of licence	£230
Variation	£3750

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Democratic Services Department
London Borough of Tower Hamlets

DX: 42656 ISLE OF DOGS

Simmi.Yesmin@towerhamlets.gov.uk

Our Ref: dd/lb/STE1-5

Your Ref:

8th January 2014

Dear Sirs,

Re: Adoption of the Sexual Entertainment Licensing Regime under Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982

We write with reference to the above and confirm we are instructed on behalf of Whites Brasserie of 32-38 Lehman Street, London, E1 8EW to make further submissions to you in respect of the matter to be determined at the Licensing Committee Hearing on 8th January 2014.

It is our opinion based on the information presently before us that the Extraordinary Meeting of the licensing committee is not constitutional and any decision it makes ultra vires.

The reason for this is that the council licensing committee meeting held on 8th October 2013 resolved not to adopt Schedule 3 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous provisions) Act 1982 as amended by Section 27 of the Police and Crime Act 2009. This decision of the licensing committee is a valid one and properly made.

As you will be aware the cabinet met on the 11th September 2013 and the Mayor resolved to ask the licensing committee to consider whether to adopt Schedule 3 as aforementioned. Please be aware of the decision of the Mayor in the Minutes of the meeting of the 11th September 2013.

Therefore the authority and delegation for the licensing committee to resolve to refuse to adopt has been made via the resolution of the Mayor.

We do not see on any information before us that the Cabinet has met since the 8th October 2013 decision and resolved any other resolution that would in effect ask the licensing committee to consider this matter again. We also note that previously the licensing committee were asked to resolve the matter in its entirety whereas the proposed resolution for the hearing of tonight, 8th January, just asks whether to recommend to full council to resolve and adopt Schedule 3 as aforementioned.

Dadds Solicitors

Crescent House, 51 High Street, Billericay, Essex CM12 9AX
T: 01277 631811 F: 01277 631055 E: office@dadds.co.uk
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Therefore the licensing committee are being asked to undertake a completely different task in any event and regardless of the adoption or not it would appear that would be a route for which this matter will then proceed to full council. Clearly this course of action has not been resolved by any Cabinet decision that we are aware of.

May we suggest that someone within the local authority, whether it be an officer or a political member, is not happy with decision of 8th October 2013 and wishes for that to be set aside and for the decision to be made again at full council. It is our opinion based on information before us and having regard to the Constitution, that any decision made by the licensing committee tonight would be ultra vires.

We draw your attention to previous correspondence where we set out our view in relation to overturning decisions made by the Council and its committees and the required procedure and signatures required.

Furthermore we are concerned that an Extraordinary Meeting has been called to discuss fee structure and whilst that has been discussed the officer sets out amongst other things that it is an opportunity for members to reconsider their decision of 8th October to refuse to adopt. We say this will be unlawful as the Council's procedure does not allow for other business to be discussed or decided upon at the Extraordinary Meeting.

The suggestion that the licensing committee requested an Extraordinary Meeting to discuss the fee structure for Sexual Entertainment Venues is misconceived because whilst concerns were raised regarding fees they were advised by Paul Greeno solicitor that if they did not choose to adopt Schedule 3 then there would be no need to discuss fees further.

We are surprised of the very short notice given just prior to Christmas and the way in which this matter, being of such importance to our client and many others, of having to respond to such an issue in short notice given the Local Authority as well as most businesses close for an extended period over the holiday period.

In relation to what the committee are being asked to consider this evening notwithstanding the aforementioned comments we say the following:

1. Mr Paul Greeno advised the committee that if they did not adopt Schedule 3 as aforementioned then there would be no requirement to consider the proposed standard conditions and fee structure. Therefore we are surprised that the Local Authority are proceeding to call this Extraordinary Meeting to discuss fee structure when its own Legal Adviser has made it clear that if the matter was not resolved in a positive way then they need not proceed to discuss fees, as the matter falls away in its entirety.

2. The matters raised regards to White Swan remain the same. in other words if it is deemed necessary they would have to apply for a licence had the Local Government (Miscellaneous provisions) Act 1982 as amended by Section 27 of the Police and Crime Act 2009 (Schedule 3) been adopted. The position remains the same that each application would have to be considered on its own merits and in accordance with the Council's own policy at that time. This remains to be the case and we can see no reason why that this matter is being considered again.
3. As mentioned in previous correspondence the main reason in our opinion that two members in particular voted not to resolve was because existing operators would not be assured that their applications would be renewed and having consequences upon their business and secondary trade, for example taxis, restaurants, other services and businesses that support the night time economy. This remains the same and as it was acknowledged by Mr Greeno on the night that even though there is a nil policy and exception for those existing businesses to apply, it does not mean those existing businesses will automatically receive a licence and in fact their applications would be judged by the new policy, and could be refused if the premises and its location are in conflict with the Policy which had been adopted by the Cabinet on the 11th September 2013.

We have had the opportunity to read the letter of Jeffrey Green Russell of 6th January and support the comments made within. For the reasons set out above we do not believe that the Cabinet resolved for the licensing committee to consider this evening to recommend to full council to adopt. Furthermore the council has already resolved not to adopt and we can see no lawful reason why that decision should be overturned and we would expect the council to be open and transparent in its dealings and if it is unhappy with the decision made 8th October 2013 then it should say so and start the process again to reconsider the point.

Therefore we do not believe it will be lawful for the licensing committee to reconsider its lawful decision of the 8th October 2013.

We ask that this letter be placed before members of the licensing committee and confirm as previously written our Mr Dadds will be in attendance.

Yours faithfully



DADDS LLP

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From: Julian Skeens [JMS@jgrlaw.co.uk]
Sent: 07 January 2014 20:22
To: David Tolley
Cc: Gareth Hughes; Simmi Yesmin
Subject: Extraordinary Meeting 8/1/14

Importance: High
Dear Mr Tolley

Thank you for indicating that this missive would be circulated to members of the committee prior to the hearing. I confirm that I shall be representing the Nag's Head 17-19 Whitechapel Road London E1 1DU that has provided nude entertainment at this site since 1982

I have had the benefit of reading my colleague Gareth Hughes' letter of the 6th January and adopt his representations and would make the following additional comments.

The Agenda papers record that the Council delegated power to the Licensing Committee to decide whether or not to adopt the legislative scheme to licence sexual entertainment in the Borough. The committee decided that, following due process, it should not be adopted.

In an apparent ruse to revisit that decision (see para 5.13 page 15), the committee is being asked to consider the appropriate level of fees for the licences that it has decided cannot be granted. If the Council wishes the decision to be revisited, due process requires that it should start the process afresh

The agenda papers record that the existing public consultation "must be taken into account" (para 5.8, page 14) but it was flawed and the papers go on to speculate what the result would have been without that flaw. The only way that issue can be resolved is, due process which requires it to consult afresh without that flaw

The agenda papers recite at 1.5 page 5 that "there is currently no control on the number of venues in the Borough" which is not true. The present licensing regime is controlled by the Licensing Act 2003. Any new application can be refused, any change in style of operation can be the subject of Review and revocation, see also paragraph 3.3 page 6 which correctly states that any application for a sexual entertainment licence must be decided "on its merits". The new regime does not allow councils to refuse licenses on moral grounds

The Nag's Head has provided sexual entertainment (as defined) under a licence since 1982 and the concerns expressed in relation to the White Swan apply equally here and raise the fundamental issue of the protection of human rights (as defined). The holders of licences are entitled to expect organs of government to protect their property, in this case a license (see *Tre Traktor Aktiebolag v Sweden* 1989). Adoption of the new legislation puts that in jeopardy (see White Swan arguments).

Should the committee decide to recommend adoption of the legislation (and it is difficult to understand how it could recommend that given that the Council has delegated the decision to the committee) the Nag's Head should not have any additional conditions as is proposed by the standard conditions

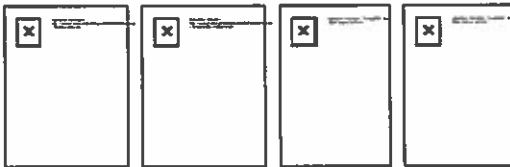
Should the committee adopt the standard conditions may I suggest that the word "drunk" is substituted for "intoxicated" in condition 31. Most customers where alcohol is sold are intoxicated to some degree, it is only when they become drunk that intervention is required

The course of conduct or process recommended by the Agenda papers is fundamentally flawed. The strength of argument and the strength of feeling expressed elsewhere, would suggest that, if the legislation is adopted, it will be the subject of costly challenge. The appropriate way for the Council to reconsider its previous decision is not to fudge it as suggested, but to apply due process, give local democracy a fair hearing by re-consultation and armed with that voice of democracy, reconsider the matter afresh with open minds

Thank you once again for agreeing to circulate this missive

Julian
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Mr David Tolley
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Direct Fax No: 020 7307 0252
Direct Dial No: 020 7339 7012

6 January 2014

By email and post
Our Ref: GBH/SECLIC1/14970.00001

Dear Mr Tolley

Adoption of the Sexual Entertainment Venue Licensing Regime under Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982

I have been requested by my clients at Metropolis and at Astons (Majingos) Champagne Bar to make further submissions to you in respect of matters to be determined at the Licensing Committee Hearing on 8 January 2014. I would be grateful if a copy of this letter could be placed in front of members prior to the meeting in the same way as you did on the previous Licensing Committee and Council Meeting Agenda.

I would ask that my two previous letters to the Council and both to the Licensing Committee dated 7 October and to full Council dated 27 November 2013 be included within the correspondence as well.

There are several comments which we would seek further to add with regard to the latest report to the Licensing Committee both in terms of procedure and content.

Procedure

It is submitted that the Licensing Committee on 8 October did not request an Extraordinary Meeting to be held to discuss the proposed fee structure for Sexual Entertainment Venues as is suggested in paragraph 1.1. This was certainly a matter considered at that meeting but, of course, the eventual decision was to reject the proposal altogether so accordingly there would be no requirement for any report back on the fees in circumstances where the Committee had rejected the proposal outright in any event.

It is therefore submitted that there is no lawful basis for this Extraordinary General Meeting because the Committee which sat in October rejected the proposal outright, and the necessity, therefore, to consider fees was rendered otiose.

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Solicitors

Mr David Tolley

6 January 2014

In our respectful submission the decision of the Committee on 8 October 2013 must stand as a valid decision. The revised report at paragraph 3.5 recognises that:

"A properly made decision not to adopt the framework legislation to enable licensing of Sexual Entertainment Venues was made (on 8 October 2013)".

Given that the author of the report and the Council's legal advisor clearly take the view that the decision in October was "properly made" no legal authority is presented to the Committee which sets out its status in determining this matter in light of the valid previous decision.

Furthermore, the full Council sought to call in this matter for further consideration in December but this was subsequently withdrawn from its consideration by the Council's legal advisor and monitoring officer. There has therefore been no overriding of the October decision.

The monitoring officer of the Council meeting in December agreed that there was no mechanism for tabling this matter before a meeting of the full Council.

In the new report of this meeting the recommendations are ones which involve further recommendation to full Council. Whilst this may be the correct way of removing a matter such as this into a meeting of a full Council there is still the obstacle in the way of the initial rejection properly determined by the Licensing Committee under delegated authorities on 8 October 2013.

Furthermore, whilst the report states that this Extraordinary Meeting was requested by 8 October 2013 Committee it is to be noted that such an Extraordinary Meeting was only suggested in order to discuss the issue of the proposed fee structure which is made clear in paragraph 1.1. It did not recommend an Extraordinary Meeting of the Committee in order to discuss the validity of the decision which it is taking to reject the proposals outright on the 8 October. The lawfulness of the Committee meeting to discuss this matter is therefore in question on this ground.

As a further point, we would ask the Committee to note that it apparently has no power in any event to consider the issue of fees in respect of Sexual Entertainment Venue licences under the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982.

Paragraph 3.3.7 of the scheme of delegations in the Council's constitution sets out the powers of the Licensing Committee and the Committee can determine fees and charges in respect of a number of licensing consents and approvals for which it already has responsibility.

Paragraph 1, referring to its functions, does not include matters under the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 and it is currently therefore unable to make any such recommendation to the full Council.

We would further submit that there is no documented evidence that the 8 October Licensing Committee formally requested an Extraordinary Meeting on the issue of fees. There is no signed Minute of the Meeting of the Licensing Committee on that occasion and it is not clear, therefore, on what basis it is suggested that such an Extraordinary Meeting was sought. In any event, as we have submitted above, no Extraordinary meeting could have been sought in circumstances where the Committee rejected the adoption of the legislation outright.

With specific regard to Extraordinary Meetings of Committees the Council's constitution sets out clearly the procedure for so doing in Part 4 which is entitled "Rules of Procedure". Paragraph 3 refers to the calling of Extraordinary Meetings and indicates that this may only be done by the Council or the Chairman of the Council as well as the monitoring officer and any five members of the Council or relevant Committee if they have signed a requisition presented to the Chairman of the Council and he has refused to call a meeting within 7 days of the presentation of the requisition.

There is no reference in the Committee report as to why the meeting is an Extraordinary Meeting other than the suggestion in paragraph 1.1 that the Licensing Committee suggested such a meeting on 8 October 2013. However, that may only be done if 5 members of the relevant committee have signed a requisition which has been presented to the Chairman of Council and the Chairman of Council has refused to call a meeting within 7 days of the presentation of the requisition.

The Council is now put to proof and we request sight of the relevant requisition document signed by 5 members of the Council set out in paragraph 3.1.1 of the Rules and Procedure and the nature of the subject matter contained within the resolution, request or requisition which led to the Extraordinary Meeting being called.

Finally, if the report of the Licensing Committee is correct at paragraph 1.1 and the Extraordinary Meeting has been called in order to discuss the issue of fees then it is clear from the Council's constitution at paragraph 3.3 of the Rules of Procedure that no other business may be conducted at the Extraordinary Meeting other than that specified in the Resolution which led to its being called. There are clearly other matters set out in the report which officers are seeking the Committee to consider which were not part of the original request of the Extraordinary Meeting which was based upon fees only.

In summary, the Committee may not deliberate on the issue of the adoption of the legislation at this meeting and this is without prejudice to our contention that the adoption was, in any event, rejected at 8 October hearing.

Treatment of Existing Premises

Paragraph 3.9 of the report now acknowledges that there is no guarantee that existing premises would be successful in obtaining licences under an adopted scheme as all applications must be considered on their merits. This was clearly an issue which concerned

members of the Committee sitting on 8 October and was one of the reasons why the adoption was rejected. We make the same submissions that we made on that occasion in respect of this point and that is that the legislation should not be adopted in circumstances where operators who have been based in the area in, for example, in the case of the Pleasure Lounge for 40 years without any significant incident should face the removal of its ability to operate in the way it has done for that period of time. All of the premises in question have been subject to annual renewals in the past without incident and have been subject to the Licensing Act 2003 regime which provides for the review of such licences in the event of any breach of conditions.

That reasoning still applies and we would invite Committee members to consider it at their hearing on 8 January 2013.

Fees

Despite further elaboration in the Committee report it is still not made clear precisely how the fees are comprised.

We make the same point as previously set out in the letter to both the Licensing Committee and the full Council, that 210 hours is an excessive amount to be able to spend upon one application with possible enforcement costs added in.

At paragraph 3.17 the report states that times required for overtime in both covert and overt visits are undertaken by two officers. It is presumed that these are the officers listed in the table on page 8 of the report as "licensing officer" and "compliance enforcement visits". However, there is a total number of hours set out at 210 which at one 2 hour visit would add up to over 100 visits per annum when currently operators are experiencing not a single visit per annum.

It is not clear why given the history of the premises for which this firm acts, and their good records, why a licensing enforcement office visit would be required once every 3 days. Even if each visit were between 4 and 5 hours this would still add up to 42 separate visits and this seems vastly excessive in the circumstances. Our clients currently report to us that they are not even aware of one visit per annum.

The processing of the application also appears to be somewhat excessive given that there is built in an estimate of 15 working days at 8 hours a day on administering one application. This would add up to some 120 hours of officer time simply to process an application which again seems vastly excessive. It should also be remembered that all of the premises named are already subject to the Licensing Act 2003 regime meaning that officers will already be aware of those premises and compliance with plans and surveys. In order to maintain their current status as premises licence holders under the Licensing Act 2003 they are under a duty to ensure that the premises are suitable in terms of public safety and if there is any doubt

Mr David Tolley

6 January 2014

about this then officers will be aware of such matters under the existing regime. This is not a brand new regime where all matters with which officers have to be familiar are new.

It is accepted that officers may have to spend time liaising with applicants and objectors during the consultation process and preparing report for Committee and attending those hearings. However, it is again suggested that the time in this respect is excessive.

At the moment, under the Licensing Act 2003 regime premises pay between £315 and £635 for the renewal of their premises licence.

The figures set out in the recent report represent something like a 2,500% increase on fees compared with those under the 2003 Act.

Accordingly, without prejudice to the argument set out above about the validity of this process, the Committee is invited not to impose fees of this level but at a substantially lower rate.

Consultation

We refer to the points we have previously made in letters to both the Licensing Committee and full Council with regard to the consultation. We invite members to consider the points that we have raised in respect of the consultation in those previous letters. Reference is again made to the "industry" running a campaign. In this case, the "industry" consisted of a handful of local premises licence holders arranging for themselves a doorstep campaign as anyone is entitled to do on any issue. No vast amounts of money were spent on this campaign which consisted merely of the voluntary efforts of those in support of the premises in question. In contrast to the 4 or 5 operators in question there has been a significant national campaign with significant financial backing run by both Object and Fawcett Society who have been present in the debate with regard to the adoption of this legislation in nearly all Boroughs where it is being considered. It was entirely open to them, and it is assumed that this has happened, to run their own doorstep campaign.

It is submitted that just under 5,000 responses to a local government consultation is a significant number and one which councillors will have to take seriously into consideration. The results within the total vote with 97.8% indicating that they do not wish the Act to be adopted in this area is in our submission an overwhelming number.

In paragraph 3.30 it is suggested that the overall consultation represents only a small percentage of those who live and work in the Borough and that it is not possible to know whether those who did not make representations would have supported or were against adoption of the scheme. This would be an argument against having consultation at all on the basis that one could never know how those who did not vote would have voted had they done so. It is submitted that if a local authority decides to consult then it has to take on board the views of the significant number of people who did actually take time to participate in that

exercise rather than make assumptions about how the rest of the population might have voted. There is no way of knowing, without a 100% consultation, how those other people would have voted in the circumstances and accordingly this should not be a matter taken into consideration in this context. There is further a reference to the fact that the adoption of a scheme could "facilitate policy interventions that enhance the ability of the Council to limit the impact of SEVs on the community and on particular groups at risk of exploitation" but it does not go on to say what such "policy interventions" might be or who the groups are who are at risk of exploitation. There is no evidence within the report of any group that is exploited or facing exploitation and whilst this may be an argument for the future in terms of subsequent adoption of the legislation it cannot be submitted as an argument here for such issues that might arise at some non-distinct time in the future.

Further reference is made to the proposed policy providing "support" for the continuation of existing premises but it is submitted that this is not what is proposed with that policy. It only indicates that existing operations will not be subject to the nil policy but it does not provide any protection for existing premises who will still be subject to an application process hearing and to representations that may be made. Such representations may persuade Councillors sitting on the Licensing Committee not to grant the Sexual Entertainment Venue Licence.

Finally, there is a reference in paragraph 3.30 of a new licensing regime "limiting the negative impact on local communities brought about by these venues". However, there is no reference at any point in the report to what these "negative impacts" might be. There is no broad concern expressed in the report from any source about the so called "negative impact" on local communities and it is therefore submitted that this is not a ground or a reason for adopting a policy on this occasion.

Finally, paragraph 5.8 which contains the comments on the legal directorate indicates that the consultation which took place on the adoption of the Sex Establishment Licensing Regime is "the more relevant of the two consultation exercises referred to in the report".

It goes on to advise the Council that if it wishes to take a different approach to that expressed in the consultation then there would need to be good reason for

that approach and then points out that reasons are set out in the report both for and against. However, we can see no reasons set out in the report for or against the adoption of the legislation and have set out our views in this respect in the above paragraphs.

We would be grateful for the ability to elaborate on these points at the Licensing Committee on 8 January 2014 as we did before 8 October hearing and we would respectfully ask that this letter and two previous letters which we submitted both to the October Licensing Committee and to the full Council are attached to this submission.



Solicitors

Mr David Tolley

6 January 2014

We are grateful for your consideration of these matters.

Kind regards.

Yours sincerely

GARETH HUGHES
Barrister and Director
for Jeffrey Green Russell Limited

Enclosure(s)

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Mr John S Williams
Service Head Democratic Services
London Borough of Tower Hamlets
DX: 42656 ISLE OF DOGS

Our Ref: dd/lb/ST/E1-5

Your Ref:

27th November 2013

e-mail: johnS.williams@towerhamlets.gov.uk

Dear Sirs,

**Re: Consideration of the adoption of the Sexual Entertainment Venues
Licensing Regime in Tower Hamlets**

Further to your email of yesterday's date we take the view that there was insufficient time in which to respond fully before 2pm today however we have taken our client's instructions and we are of the view that the decision whether or not to adopt the policy was properly delegated to the Licensing Committee on the 11th September 2013. They have resolved not to adopt the Policy and that is the decision from the resolution of the council.

We would need to reconsider the point on quashing the decision of the council. It is our understanding briefly looking at the Constitution, that there is a mechanism for doing such, however your note suggests this only applies to Full Council and not council meetings. If we are wrong on this point please let us know, i.e. have we misunderstood. We see no provision, or been directed to any decision to allow for the decision to be made again, given the clear democratic rule made by the Licensing Committee.

We note that the council report has not been written in a way that reflects the meeting of the licensing committee. Our Mr Dadds was present along with other solicitors, barrister and members of the public. It was clear, as far as this firm is concerned, that a decision was made.

The salient point why the decision was refused was because there could be no guarantee that the existing trades and business that held a licence would be guaranteed to obtain a new licence. A legal advisor said each application would be made on its own merits subject to policy of the existing Cabinet, and there was the possibility that the existing licence may not be reissued and it was that reason in our opinion the two particular members of Committee decided against the resolution.

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We ask that this matter be deferred from tonight's council meeting to allow those who may be affected by the decision time to consider the report and its contents and make appropriate representations if necessary. We remind you that we wrote to the licensing authority on 15th October 2013 asking for an update. We enclose a copy of our letter for your reference. We do not believe it is appropriate that we should be asked to comment and only given short notice of this matter being revisited.

In the absence of the deferral we seek permission from the Speaker of tonight's meeting to make oral representations and make reference to this letter. Our Mr Dadds could be in attendance if permission is given.

We look forward to hearing from you as a matter of urgency.

Yours faithfully


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Attention: Mr David Tolley
Head of Consumer and Business Regulations Service;
and

All Council Members

London Borough of Tower Hamlets
Mulberry Place
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Direct Fax No: 020 7307 0252
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27 November 2013

Our Ref: GBH/SECLIC1/14970.00001

Dear Mr Tolley and Councillors

Adoption of the Sexual Entertainment Licensing Regime, Policing and Crime Act 2009

We note that the Council has now been asked to adopt the provisions of Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 in respect of Sexual Entertainment Venues which we understood had been rejected by the Licensing Committee at its meeting in October 2013. Notwithstanding that decision, officers have chosen to bring this matter back to full Council and we would ask the Council to adopt the same view as its delegated Licensing Committee.

We would make the following points about the Report submitted to the full Council meeting, whilst relying on all those points made in our previous letter of 7 October 2013 which was before the Licensing Committee.

1. Fees

- 1.1. It is still not clear that fees have been properly calculated either mathematically or in accordance with law. The figures set out at 3.9 of the Report to Council are based upon one establishment and add up to £9,000. However, it is not made clear why a licensing officer should take 105 hours to process an application at a cost of £2,625. 105 hours to administer an application for a sexual entertainment venue licence seems excessive and extreme. Further, it is not made clear as to why it is suggested that a further £2,625 is required under the heading "Compliance Visits and Costs". It is suggested at paragraph 3.10 that certain test purchasing monies are required to pay for lap dancing session for licensing officers. The average cost of a 3 minute dance from a dancer is about £20 so it is difficult to see how a licensing

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Page 1

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officer visiting such a premises would require 130 lap dances before deciding whether there was compliance with or breach of licensing conditions.

- 1.2. As we made clear in our previous letter to the Licensing Committee in October 2013 the recent case of Hemings v Westminster City Council (2013) makes clear that the costs of paying for enforcement are not recoverable by way of a licence fee.
- 1.3. It is hard therefore, to see how there can be such a dramatic difference in licence fees under the Licensing Act 2003 as those which Tower Hamlets are seeking to impose under the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982. The difference is that between what is currently a £600 fee for a premises licence to that which is proposed of a £9,000 fee for an SEV licence.
- 1.4. The Licensing Committee expressed grave concern over the level of fees and before they rejected the adoption of the Act in their area had asked for a review to be carried out of the fee rates. In our submission, this has not been answered by paragraphs 3.9-3.11.

2. The Consultation

- 2.1. With regard to the consultation we make the same points that we made in our letter of 7 October 2013 referring to paragraph 3.7, 3.8 and 3.9 of the Licensing Committee Report and would invite the Council to adopt that reasoning.
- 2.2. In essence, it is inappropriate for Council officers to refer to the fact that the participation in the democratic process has somehow "undermined the consultation". Anyone in the United Kingdom has the right to canvass for support for a particular proposition which stands to be decided in front of a Council Committee or for that matter Parliament. There has certainly been a coordinated campaign run by members of Object and the Fawcett Society society to adopt the provisions of the Act and it was entirely open to those who wished to support the adoption of the Act to themselves canvass local residents to ascertain their views. In this particular incident a decision was taken by the very concerned operators of establishments which have been located in this Borough for many years to conduct a door to door campaign to see how people felt about the adoption of the Act. They obtained responses and submitted these responses with the agreement of all parties to the Council as part of the process.
- 2.3. A point was raised in the Licensing Committee that 4,973 respondents opposing the policy was a fraction of the total population of Tower Hamlets, and whilst this may have been true it is a fraction which is far in excess of the miniscule total in comparison that supported the adoption of the Act, namely 108 people.

- 2.4. It is totally denied, therefore, that the inappropriate remarks contained within the Report about a campaign which has produced a significant number of people opposed to the policy which officers seek to introduce has somehow skewed the process. In our submission it should inform the process and the nearly 5,000 people who oppose the adoption of the Act within the London Borough of Tower Hamlets will clearly be monitoring the Council Committee meeting to see if their views are taken into account. The officers within paragraph 3.15 seek to compare a consultation on the adoption of the Act within the London Borough to a consultation which took place on the adoption of the Policy. However, that consultation was evenly split and give or take the differentials could have resulted in a majority against the adoption of the Policy.
- 2.5. It should be pointed out that the individual operators within Tower Hamlets carried out the same exercise with regard to the adoption of the Policy as they did with regard to the adoption of the 1982 Act. It is interesting to note that officers do not suggest that the results have somehow been skewed in that particular case which appears to be inconsistent thinking.
- 2.6. In any event, a survey on the adoption of the Policy is a very different survey to one on the adoption of the Act. It might be assumed that people thinking about the adoption of the Policy may already assume that the Act has been adopted and that therefore there would have to be a policy of some nature operating underneath that Act. It is then open for people to say that if there has to be a Policy because the Act has been adopted then there will be a greater percentage of support for that Policy given that some form of policy is to be introduced in any event.
3. Further reason for Licensing Committee Decision
- 3.1. There is a singular omission in the Report to Council Committee which is that there was a third reason why the Licensing Committee chose not to adopt the 1982 Act and that is that members were concerned, by a majority, that there was still no guarantee that the existing operators, many of whom have been in the Borough for decades, would retain their licences under the new system.
- 3.2. Whilst officers make clear in the Report that existing operators will not be subject to the "Nil" Policy that is no guarantee that Sexual Entertainment Venue Licences will be granted to those operators. It merely exempts them from one part of the policy. This was of significant concern to some of the members on the Licensing Committee and it was this that eventually led to the dismissal of the option to adopt.
- 3.3. Accordingly, paragraph 2.5 of the Report to Council is misleading when it suggests that the Policy "supports the continued operation of existing premises including The White Swan." The Policy singularly does not support the continued operation of

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Mr David Tolley

26 November 2013

the existing premises but merely indicates that they should be exempt from the "Nil" Policy. That is not, a guarantee of their continued existence under the new regime. Given that this is a significant risk the operators for which this firm acts would oppose the adoption of the Act within the Borough.

- 3.4. It is clear that to date the premises for which this firm acts, namely Majingos and Mctropolis, have operated without any issues or intervention from the Police or the Local Authority in many years, and that they are well controlled by way of conditions under the premises licence already in existence granted to them under the Licensing Act 2003.

This completes the further submissions that we would make on behalf of our clients in respect of the adoption of the 1982 Act by full Council, and we would ask that members take these matters into account as well as those which we still seek to rely upon set out in our letter of 7 October 2013, a copy of which is also attached.

We would respectfully ask that this letter be placed before members prior to the meeting of Full Council on 27 November 2013.

Kind regards.

Yours sincerely



GARETH HUGHES
Barrister and Director
for Jeffrey Green Russell Limited

Enclosure(s)

Mr Paul Greeno
Senior Advocate (Deputy Team Leader)
Tower Hamlets Legal Department
DX: 42656 ISLE OF DOGS

Our Ref: dd/lb/STE1-5

Your Ref:

15th October 2013

Dear Sirs,

Re: Sexual Entertainment Licensing

We write further to the Council Licensing Committee Meeting held on 8th October 2013, where it was resolved not to adopt Schedule 3 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 as amended by section 27 of the Policing and Crime Act 2009.

Please confirm what steps, if any, our client will need to undertake following the above decision, also please confirm if this concludes matters for this municipal year?

We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours faithfully


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7 October 2013

By Post

Our Ref: GBH/SECLIC1/14970.00001

Dear Mr Tolley

Adoption of the Sexual Entertainment Licensing Regime, Policing and Crime Act 2009

I refer to the report which is due to go to Licensing Committee on the evening of 8 October 2013, and would indicate here that we would, given, the Chairman's leave, intend to say a few words about the adoption of this policy to that Committee on Tuesday evening.

However, in the meantime, we would be grateful if you could kindly forward to the Chairman and members some further comments about the report which is drafted, and which will be before them at the Hearing.

As you know, this firm acts for the Pleasure Lounge, known as the Metropolis in Cambridge Heath Road, and for the Majingos Club in Canary Wharf. Both premises have operated as lap dancing venues for a number of years and the Metropolis, in particular, has operated as a dancing venue, and striptease club for decades, and since at least the 1970s.

We have already made our views known as part of the submissions to the consultation exercise which took place with regard to the adoption of the Act, and would refer the Committee to those submissions and we trust that they will be before it on Tuesday evening.

However, we make the following comments on the Report with specific regard to referenced numbered paragraphs within the Report as follows:

Paragraph 3.7

It is indicated that the consultations hosted online on the Council's website and paper copies would be provided if requested. This is not the case insofar as our client's experiences is concerned, or that of the campaign team who found it almost impossible to find paper copies even when asking Council officers, and eventually had to run off copies of the online screens in order to act as the questionnaire. We also

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pointed to the Council, on several occasions during the consultation process, that only one reply could be sent from one computer. This prevented, for example, groups of people in residential care homes or old people's homes who may all have wished to respond to a consultation but could not do so because the computer in their place of residence only allowed for one reply. This problem was highlighted during the consultation process to Council officers by my firm. Copies of the relevant emails are available for inspection by the Committee.

Paragraph 3.8

This paragraph asserts that whilst 4,973 responses were received, some 1,400 forms were received from a single sexual entertainment premises within the Borough. In our submission, this is perfectly acceptable. It is true that a campaign was formed in order to illicit support for the venues arguments that the provisions of the 1982 Act should not be adopted in the Borough. The 1,400 forms collected from the premises were signed by people who either lived in the area or visited the premises regularly. The consultation process did not distinguish between those who lived in the area and those who did not, so there can be nothing wrong with the submission of 1,400 forms from individuals who were interested in responding to this consultation survey.

Paragraph 3.9

There is a reference in this paragraph to the fact that "it is probable" that some of the sexual entertainment venues have coordinated a response to the consultation. It is not probable – it is true. As we have indicated previously, at least three or four of the venues in this area felt under threat after decades of operation, and decided amongst themselves to mount a doorstep campaign which is perfectly legitimate in a democratic society in order to gather support to place before elected decision makers. Paragraph 3.9 seems to suggest that the coordination of the response is to such an extent that it has undermined the consultation as being one that can provide an accurate picture of wider community opinion.

It is unclear what is meant by this statement.

Leaving aside the 1,400 forms returned from one of the premises (which we still say should be included within the consultation) there are still left some 3,500 responses, all of which indicate that the provisions of the 1982 Act should not be adopted in the Borough. These responses have been raised as a result of a doorstep campaign as is perfectly proper and mounted by three of the four premises operating in the Borough. It is not clear why it is suggested that this has somehow "undermined the consultation" when, in fact, it can only serve to support the consultation given the numbers that have taken part. It was perfectly legitimate for those who supported the introduction of the legislation in the Borough to mount their own campaign and indeed Object the campaign group has been a vociferous part of the debate within the Borough. They

were perfectly entitled also to mount a doorstep campaign in the same way as our clients, and in the same way as any other campaign group concerned about any other issue in which the Council is involved. It is all part and parcel of the legitimate process of persuading Councillors by gathering in public opinion.

In our submission, it is not open to the Council to somehow assume what the "wider community opinion" is in this respect when the response to the consultation has been quite enormous and far more substantial than to many Council consultations that would normally take place where one may be lucky if one received a handful of replies.

Paragraph 3.9 also goes on to suggest that these results are in contrast to the community response received at the Council's consultation exercise on the adoption of the policy. However, the consultants used by the Council in scrutinising the results of that consultation came to the view that there was a 50:50 split on the adoption of the policy allowing for a plus or minus variation in numbers. It is incorrect to suggest, as this paragraph does, that there was a 52% vote in support of the policy and a 48% vote against it. The SMSR Report commissioned by the Council to analyse the results of the consultation indicated that there was a sampling error of approximately plus/minus 2% in the figures, and that, accordingly, their conclusion was that, insofar as the nil sexual establishment policy was concerned, opinion was split. They conclude that the survey has produced an inconclusive split result.

While it is correct to say in the report that, in one case, 75% of consultees were in favour of aspects of the sexual establishment policy, it must be pointed out that this figure only relates to the delineation of localities within the policy. An expression in favour of the manner in which the Council has defined the localities contained within the policy is clearly not an expression in favour of the policy itself as the figures reflect in the 50:50 split. In our submission that 75% figure should not be used as a reason for adopting the legislation which is the concern of this Report. That figure arose in the context of the adoption of a policy.

It is not agreed that the results obtained on the Sexual Entertainment Policy Consultation are in contrast necessarily to those obtained on the adoption of the legislation consultation. It would be quite open for someone to suggest that the legislation ought not to be adopted but then to take a different view on the question of whether, if it is adopted, the policy suggested is the right one. It does not necessarily follow that because 98% of respondents were against the adoption of legislation that 98% of respondents should be against the proposed policy.

In our submission, there is therefore no inconsistency with regard to the consultation on the adoption of the legislation. A full, and proper, democratic exercise has been carried out with which the Council has found no fault. There is no allegation by Council officers, nor should there be, that there has been any wrong doing in the

gathering in of support. As indicated above, it is a perfectly correct exercise in a democratic society that proponents of particular arguments on either side may approach members of the public to gauge their support. The response is not misleading or inaccurate if 98% of respondents take a particular view and only 2% take the opposite view.

Accordingly, it is clear to those making this submission that, in the absence of any other indications to the contrary the Council should take on board the views of nearly 5,000 of its own residents or 3,500 of its residents (if one excludes the 1,400 forms from the venue) which is still an enormous majority against the adoption of the legislation.

Paragraph 3.10

The paragraph fairly states what we have set out in our submissions above. That it is for elected members to determine whether a campaign which involves knocking on doors to obtain support for a particular view is legitimate or illegitimate in a democratic society. It is clear that elected politicians, during elections, do exactly the same in order to obtain votes for their own parties on the basis of the attractiveness of the policies offered, and elected members will readily recognise this legitimate function. The same is also true of those who choose to campaign on particular issues whether it be, for example, the closure of a local hospital, the abolition of a school bus service, or a planning development located near to a particular group of residents. All of these issues would engender concerns, both for and against, amongst members of the community, and it would be perfectly valid for those on either side of the argument to gather in support for those arguments. This is exactly the case with regard to the adoption of the provisions of the 1982 Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act.

Whilst it is true that a strong "no" response does not prevent adoption by the elected members, and it is perfectly legitimate for them to find in the alternative, it must be right that such a substantial response of 4,973 responses, as set off against 108 in favour of the policy, should weigh heavily in elected members decisions. It is clear, that certainly 3,500 of those submitting submissions are local residents who will be keen to test whether elected members come to a view fairly based upon what those individuals have expressed in consultation and will bear this in mind during Council elections in 2014. That is the democratic process.

Paragraph 3.11

We are told in paragraph 3.10 that a strong "no" response does not prevent adoption if there remain good reasons for the regulation of sexual entertainment venues. However, it is submitted that paragraph 3.11 and 3.12 do not go on to provide those "good reasons". Paragraph 3.11 merely says that the scheme gives local people a

greater say over venues in their area. However, it is clear that many of the venues have been operating for many years in Tower Hamlets without causing any problems to the local community, and there has not been, over the last 40 years operation of the Metropolis in Cambridge Heath Road, any individuals coming forward to say that the premises should not be in this area. All premises are well controlled already under the Licencing Act 2003, and are subject to strict conditioning about the performances that take place at the premises and the conduct of both dancers and customers. The Police have not expressed any concerns with regard to crime and disorder that is often alleged outside any of the premises and there is no great well of opinion that would demonstrate that, under the Licensing Act 2003, any of these premises are causing any of the problems set out by objectors.

Paragraph 3.11 simply asserts that there are “negative impacts on local communities brought about by these venues” but does NOT provide any evidence of what those negative impacts are. There has certainly been no great campaign over many, many years from members of the public demonstrating against the existence of the current licensed premises, setting out what are the “negative impacts on their local communities”. The Council is invited to list these negative impacts. A mere assertion that there are such impacts is, in our submission and before the adoption of legislation, insufficient.

Members are invited to consider the evidence of what it is alleged are the “negative impacts” on the local communities in reaching this decision. It is submitted by this firm that there is no such evidence presented in this Report that could persuade members to run counter to the expressed views of almost 5,000 people in that area.

Paragraph 4.1

This paragraphs relates to the fees of £9,000 per application as set out in the Appendix to the Report. However, it is not clear how this figure is to be comprised, and the Council will be aware of the recent decision involving Westminster City Council and Hemmings which was decided in the Court of Appeal, which indicated that costs of enforcement could not be recovered under this heading and that it was in fact only the cost of the administration of the licence application system that could be so recovered. The Appendix to the Report does not set out the basis upon which the figure of £9,000 is worked out, and it is, therefore, submitted that without that detailed explanation of how the figures are comprised the licensing committee run the risk of falling foul of the Hemmings decision in seeking to recover monies in respect of which there is no right of recovery.

JEFFREY

GREEN

RUSSELL

Solicitors

David Tolley

7 October 2013

We would be grateful if these submissions could be placed before the members of the Committee prior to, or at the hearing, on Tuesday evening. We would also seek an opportunity of a few minutes to present such arguments before that Committee.

Kind regards,

Yours sincerely



GARETH HUGHES
Barrister and Director
for Jeffrey Green Russell Limited

APPENDIX 5**LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS****MINUTES OF THE LICENSING COMMITTEE****HELD AT 7.00 P.M. ON TUESDAY, 8 OCTOBER 2013****COMMITTEE ROOM C1, 1ST FLOOR, TOWN HALL, MULBERRY PLACE, 5
CLOVE CRESCENT, LONDON, E14 2BG****Members Present:**

Councillor Carli Harper-Penman (Chair)

Councillor Peter Golds (Vice-Chair)

Councillor Khaled Uddin Ahmed

Councillor Rajib Ahmed

Councillor Denise Jones

Councillor David Snowdon

Councillor Ann Jackson

Other Councillors Present:

Nil

Speakers

Gareth Hughes

- Barrister, attending for agenda item 4.1

David Dadds

- Barrister, attending for agenda item 4.1

Insp. Kevin Wheeden

- Metropolitan Police, attending for agenda item 4.3

PC Mark Perry

- Metropolitan Police, attending for agenda item 4.3

Officers Present:

Paul Greeno

- (Senior Advocate, Legal Services, Chief Executive's)

Andy Bamber

- (Service Head Safer Communities, Crime Reduction Services, Communities, Localities and Culture)

Kathy Driver

- (Principal Licensing Officer)

Chris Lovitt

- (Associate Director of Public Health)

Andrew Weaver

- (Head of Environmental Protection, Communities Localities and Culture)

David Tolley

- (Head of Consumer and Business Regulations Service, Safer Communities, Communities Localities & Culture)

Alan Ingram

- (Democratic Services)

COUNCILLOR CARLI HARPER-PENMAN (CHAIR), IN THE CHAIR

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of the following Members:

- § Councillor David Edgar
- § Councillor Marc Francis
- § Councillor Md. Maium Miah
- § Councillor Joshua Peck

Apologies for lateness were submitted on behalf of Councillor Denise Jones.

2. DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTEREST

There were no declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests.

The Chair declared a personal interest in that she had received multiple representations regarding agenda item 4.1 – “Adoption of the Sexual Entertainment Licensing Regime, Policing and Crime Act 2009”, specifically in favour of adopting the new regime, although she had also received some representations against its adoption. However, whilst noting the representations her opinion had not been influenced by them.

Councillor Peter Golds declared a personal interest in the same agenda item on the basis that he would be speaking in favour of the White Swan Public House, 556 Commercial Road, and had visited the premises on occasion.

3. MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the Licensing Committee meeting held on 4 June 2013 be confirmed and signed as a correct record by the Chair.

4. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

The Chair indicated that the order of business of the meeting would be varied so as to consider agenda item 4.4 after item 4.2. However, for ease of reference the order of business in these minutes remains as set out on the original agenda.

4.1 Adoption of the Sexual Entertainment Licensing Regime, Policing and Crime Act 2009

At the request of the Chair, David Tolley, Head of Consumer and Business Regulations, introduced the report requesting the Committee to adopt Schedule 3 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 as amended by section 27 of the Policing and Crime Act 2009, which would allow the licensing of sexual entertainment venues (SEVs) and bring into effect the

policy for control of sexual entertainment premises as adopted by Cabinet on 11 September 2013.

Mr Tolley pointed out that 11 existing businesses held premises licences under the Licensing Act 2003 with permissions that would be affected by the adoption of the SEV legislation and these businesses could submit applications to operate under the new legislation. Such licences would be reviewed annually.

The Chair indicated that she would allow two persons, who had requested speaking rights, to address the Committee. The speakers would be allowed three minutes each, in line with the time limits for speaking at full Council meetings.

Gareth Hughes, speaking on behalf of Aston's Champagne and Wine Bar, 187 Marsh wall, London, E14 9SH, stated that supporters of the premises had experienced difficulties during the consultation on SEV legislation in obtaining paper copies of documents to allow representations. There had also been problems in sending electronic representations from premises where there was only one computer.

Mr Hughes added that the report indicated that 4,973 responses had been received, with 1,400 being submitted from one establishment in the Borough. However, his Clients considered this perfectly acceptable as the forms garnered were signed by local residents or people who visited the premises regularly. This also meant that some 3,500 responses had been received indicating that the SEV regulations should not be adopted and these had been raised as a result of a doorstep campaign by premises operating in the Borough. He made the point that supporters of the SEV legislation (the group "Object") had also led their own campaign in favour of adopting the legislation. He expressed the view that the amount of replies submitted supported non-adoption of the legislation and there had been no hint of foul play in conducting the campaign. There had been no abuse of the consultation process and the Committee should take account of the resulting outcome. Whilst the "no" response did not prevent the Committee from adopting the SEV legislation, there was no evidence to suggest it should be adopted.

David Dadds, speaking on behalf of White's Gentleman's Club, 32-38 Leman Street, London, E1 8EW, stated that he supported all the previous speaker's comments and felt that the Officer request in the report to support adopting the legislation was an undemocratic approach, as the Committee should take account of the results of consultation and give this appropriate weight. In addition, there was an issue relating to staff and job protection, as some 2,000 people in the Borough were employed by establishments affected by the legislation. Businesses should not have to apply annually for licences, as proposed if the new regime were adopted. Mr Dadds expressed concern that the SEV policy had already been adopted and there could be pre-determination of the matter accordingly. He referred to the Chair's remarks that she had not been unduly influenced by representations and asked whether the Committee might have been influenced by the policy.

The Chair stated that it was not unusual for councillors to receive representations from residents on many issues. She had received representations from both sides of the argument but this had not influenced her responsibilities under the Councillor Code of Conduct.

Paul Greeno, Senior Advocate, legal Services, added that the SEV policy had been adopted by Cabinet but none of the Licensing Committee was a Cabinet Member and it was confirmed that none had spoken in favour of the legislation at the Cabinet meeting.

The Chair then invited Members to put questions to the speakers, who responded that:

- § The consultation representations were very significant in that almost 5,000 people felt aggrieved enough by the proposals to say that the legislation should not be adopted. This far outweighed the number in favour.
- § No specific details of claimed negative impact of the premises affected by the SEV legislation had been given.
- § The Cabinet report had raised concerns over women's safety but contained no further details and the current Licensing Act provisions provided satisfactory regulation of licensed premises.

The Chair invited Members to put questions to Officers, who responded that:

- § There had been initial problems in the consultation problem with no more than one response being allowed from any individual computer. However, people had been advised that paper documents were available and the computer bar had been removed later. No complaints had been received from retirement home or care home residents in this connection.
- § There was no way of knowing whether responses had been made by Tower Hamlets residents.
- § The consultation had contained no reference to adverse impacts of SEV premises and simply asked whether or not the legislation should be adopted.
- § The Committee was not obliged to follow the results of the public consultation but must be satisfied in their own minds that it would be appropriate to adopt the SEV legislation. There could be challenge by judicial review, should the legislation be adopted and this could eventually be referred to the European Court of Appeal. However, a decision not to adopt could likewise be challenged.

Councillor Peter Golds asked why the White Swan Public House was included as a SEV establishment as it provided no entertainment such as lap dancing or pole dancing. An amateur strip night was held once per week and people disrobed to their underwear – this was simply burlesque. Like many gay venues in the Borough, the White Swan was experiencing hard times and the proposed £9,000 annual licence fee could put it out of business. The inclusion of the White Swan in this legislation had elicited a world-wide response.

Mr Tolley commented that this pub had been included with all premises that had existing licences containing the provision for regulated sexual entertainment. All such premises would be assessed to see whether they would be covered by the SEV regime. If it were determined that they were not covered, they would only be monitored as usual. There would be an all-encompassing process to examine whether businesses were affected by the legislation and the White Swan was included in this process due to the terms of its current licence.

Councillor Golds expressed concern that the consultation procedure had been launched originally at the London Mosque, where there was unlikely to be much favour for SEV establishments. He felt that the White Swan should be excluded from the SEV policy as it was by no means such a venue. There had never been any complaints about the premises made by responsible authorities or residents during its existence for the best part of a quarter of a century. It was being put forward to be included in the policy on the basis of an event lasting about an hour and a half each Wednesday night. The White Swan was one of the last gay venues in the Borough and he was convinced that the SEV policy would put it out of business. There had been discussions about the premises a year and a half ago and he could not understand why it was included unless due to latent homophobia.

Mr Tolley replied that relevant conditions were already on the premises licence but if sexual entertainment were not offered, it would not be included in the proposed new regime.

Mr Greeno added that the Committee did not have the remit to decide the SEV policy, which had already been decided by Cabinet, but had to consider whether or not to adopt the legislation under which the policy could be implemented. The Committee could not place any premises outside the SEV policy and Officers would have to carry out an assessment to determine whether or not the White Swan was included in that policy.

Councillor Peter Golds then proposed a motion, seconded by Councillor David Snowdon: "That the White Swan Public House be excluded from the proposed SEV policy."

The motion was put to the vote and was **agreed** unanimously. The Chair indicated that she would confer with Councillor Golds on how best to bring this decision before full Council.

Discussion then ensued on the proposed level of SEV licence fees, with Councillor David Snowdon asking how the proposed £9,000 fee had been decided.

Mr Tolley replied that this had been benchmarked with other London Councils who already operated the SEV regime. The fee included compliance time, incorporating premises visits and assessing applications, legal costs and bringing such matters to committee. This was a new fee and could be reviewed, including a downward adjustment. There was a potential for work equivalent to an additional one to one-and-a-half full time posts. In response

to queries, Mr Tolley added that the current liquor licensing fee was in the region of £300.

Councillor Khales Ahmed felt that an increase from £300 to £9,000 could not be justified, especially when there had only been 5,000 consultation responses, and felt that there should be a cap on the 11 SEV premises which were proposed and these should be excluded from the new policy. If this were done, an annual licence review should not be needed.

The Chair commented that the SEV policy would have the effect of applying a cap and the annual review was required by the new legislation.

Members put forward the view that the proposed fee was very high compared to other annual fees that were already charged and no financial analysis was contained in the report to justify this. Mr Tolley referred to his previous comments on matters that had been taken into consideration in deciding the licence fee and stated that benchmarking showed that the proposal was about on parity with neighbouring local authorities that had adopted the policy. The Licensing Committee could review the fee annually and the next review would allow more details of the elements comprising it.

The Chair indicated that a decision on the actual licence fee could be deferred but this would have an impact on the start date for the SEV policy and would potentially require an extraordinary meeting of the Committee. If there were to be further discussion on the proposed fee, members were not best placed to try and set an alternative amount at this meeting.

Councillor David Snowdon proposed a motion, seconded by Councillor Peter Golds: "That any decision on a fee level for a SEV licence be deferred for consideration at an extraordinary meeting of the Licensing Committee to be held prior to a Licensing Sub-Committee this year and contain details of a breakdown of related costs and the outcome of the benchmarking process."

The motion was put to the vote and was **agreed** unanimously.

The Chair indicated that she would confer with Officers on how best to proceed with the matter and added that it would be necessary to hold the extraordinary meeting within the next few weeks to allow a policy implementation date of 1 January 2014.

Councillor Rajib Ahmed referred to the earlier comments of Councillor Khales Ahmed relating to the capping of the number of premises allowed by excluding the 11 premises mentioned in the report. Mr Greeno stated that it would not be possible to adopt new legislation whilst excluding some premises that were affected. He added that, if the Committee did not adopt the legislation, SEV licensing would not apply in Tower Hamlets and premises would continue to be regulated under existing Licensing Act provisions.

The Chair then put to the vote the Officer recommendation to adopt Schedule 3 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 as amended

by section 27 of the Policing and Crime Act 2009, whilst excluding a decision on the licence fee to be charged.

On being put to the vote, with three votes for and four against, it was –

RESOLVED

That the Officer recommendation in the report to adopt Schedule 3 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 as amended by section 27 of the Policing and Crime Act 2009, be **NOT AGREED**.

The Chair indicated that the report, therefore, fell.

4.2 Fees Review - London Local Authorities Act 1991& Gambling Act 2005

At the request of the Chair, David Tolley, Head of Consumer and Business Regulations, introduced the report advising Members of a review that had taken place regarding licence fees that could be set locally and proposing revised levels thereto.

After a short discussion, it was unanimously –

RESOLVED

1. That the fee for Massage and Special Treatment Fees be increased by RPIX 3.1%.
2. That the fee for both a new application and an application for Renewal for Intense Pulse Light laser treatment shall be £500.
3. That the fee for a Betting Shop Licence shall be £500.
4. That the fee for an Adult Gaming Centre Licence shall be £650.
5. That all fees are non refundable once an application has been submitted due to the commencement of processing the licence.
6. That, where a business operates a selection of beauty treatments, only the higher fee is payable.
7. That these fees will commence on the 1st November 2013 and will apply to all new and renewed licences applications received from on or after that date.

4.3 Licensing Act 2003 - Responsible Authorities

The Chair indicated that a document from the Metropolitan Police had been provided for the meeting on a restricted basis and might result in Members asking follow-up questions of the Police in the next few days. Inspector Kevin Wheeden confirmed that Members could retain the paper but asked that its contents be regarded as confidential.

In introducing the report, David Tolley, Head of Consumer and Business Regulations, indicated that relevant Service Heads and Metropolitan Police representatives were in attendance to provide details of the evidential basis on which representations or reviews were brought to the Licensing Sub-Committee.

The Chair then invited those present to address the Committee.

Inspector Wheeden commented that his report showed that:

- § 500 calls complaining of anti-social behaviour were being made each week, although these were not necessarily related to licensed premises.
- § A tri-borough partnership was being set up to include the Tower Hamlets wards of Spitalfields & Banglatown and Weavers. This was currently in the planning stage. He invited suggestions for the best way to present information so as to be of most use to councillors.
- § Theft from the person cases in those wards were very high and much of this related to licensed premises.
- § A monthly licensing visit was undertaken, that included all licensed premises, not only liquor licences. Checks were made that numbers SIA staff were provided in accordance with licence requirements.

Andrew Weaver, Service Head Environmental Protection, presented the information contained in the circulated agenda pack and stated that a 10 year database was available concerning complaints and requests for intervention. When a new application was received, its management plan was examined and Members advised accordingly.

Chris Lovitt, Associate Director of Public Health, presented the information contained in the circulated agenda pack and added that, whilst only the Director of Public Health was able to make representations, bodies such as Barts NHS Trust were invited to make contributions. He added that:

- § Health was not yet a licensing objective, with its closest link being to the public safety objective.
- § London Ambulance Service data around binge drinking callouts was provided in the report, showing a substantial increase over the last year. LBTH had the 5th highest such callout of all London Boroughs and all wards except four had higher such callouts than the average in England.
- § The service was looking at means of highlighting possible problems such as the situation of licensed premises near homeless hostels and the NHS was very supportive of the saturation policy around the Brick Lane area.

Kathy Driver, Principal Licensing Officer, presented the information contained in the circulated agenda pack and indicated that:

- § Her service acted to provide evidence at such time as licence reviews were triggered and it was unlikely they would object to a licence unless another Responsible Authority did so. However, more activity was expected as the saturation policy came into play.
- § Operation Dimmock was an enforcement operation that had started in August this year and targeted instances of complaints from residents and other Responsible Authorities.

The Chair commented that she was particularly interested in noise complaints against pub and takeaways and was staggered by the incidence of such report in the Bow East ward, which had relatively few such premises. She felt that it would be helpful to differentiate between domestic and other premises.

Replies to questions from Members, included the following Officer comments:

- § The location of the Shoreditch triangle resulted in drunken people from other areas entering Tower Hamlets.
- § Operation Dimmock used Officers from other services for test purchases, etc., as Licensing staff were well known locally.
- § Premises selling food were almost exempt from framework hours and any proposal for policy change in this respect would need to be heavily evidence-based.

The Chair then thanked those present for their contributions to the report.

4.4 Legal Review

At the request of the Chair, Paul Greeno, Senior Advocate, Legal Services, introduced the first quarterly report setting out details of prosecutions and appeals relating to licensing enforcement activity.

The Chair thanked Mr Greeno for the information provided.

Councillor Golds thanked Mr Greeno particularly for information regarding 93 Feet East, which demonstrated that decisions made by members at Licensing Sub-Committee were fully justified.

RESOLVED

That the report be noted.

5. ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIR CONSIDERS URGENT

Nil items.

The meeting ended at 9.00 p.m.

Chair, Councillor Carli Harper-Penman
Licensing Committee

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Appendix 6

Activity Analysis for Licensing Team

Administration of Application

Activity	Time (hrs)
Examination of application	7
Examination of plans	3
Meeting applicant	5
Visiting premises - plans	7
Survey of area and consideration of conditions	14
Liaison with responsible authorities	14
Liaison with applicant and objectors	21
Administration of the consultation process	10
Prepare committee report	14
Attend Committee Hearing	6
Administration of determination	4
Total Estimated Hours	105

Compliance Visits

Activity	Time (hrs)
Overtime for two overt visits - pairs	28
Report writing and feedback to operator	10
Overtime for Covert visits (complaints against licence)	14
Investigation costs – CCTV footage, complaint investigation	21
Total Estimated Hours	73
Test Purchase monies	£800
Estimated financial cost	£2625

Hourly rate based at £25

Additional costs not quantified:

Costs associated with appeals
Licence Review costs

Cost Analysis for a Licensing Committee

Licensing Committee	Cost (£)
Meeting room and Refreshments	150
Printing of Agendas	120
Delivery of Agenda's from Print	30
Delivery of Agendas to Members	100
Admin Officer	200
Democratic Staff	1400
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- organising and arranging meeting- agenda planning- preparations for the meeting- correspondences- Chair's briefing- Minutes & Decisions- Members	

Cost Analysis for a Legal Services

SEV Licensing – Legal Costs	Cost (£)
General Advice regarding Licensed Premises – 2 hours	214
Advice on application and preparation – 3 hours	321
Committee Attendance – 3 hours	321
Post committee work – 2 hours	214
Total	1,070

APPENDIX 7

LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

MINUTES OF THE LICENSING COMMITTEE

HELD AT 6.30 P.M. ON WEDNESDAY, 8 JANUARY 2014

**ROOM MP701, 7TH FLOOR, TOWN HALL, MULBERRY PLACE, 5 CLOVE
CRESCENT, LONDON, E14 2BG**

Members Present:

Councillor Peter Golds (Vice-Chair, in the Chair)
Councillor David Edgar
Councillor Marc Francis
Councillor Ann Jackson
Councillor Denise Jones
Councillor David Snowdon

Other Councillors Present:

None

Officers Present:

Paul Greeno – (Senior Advocate, Legal Services)
John McCrohan – (Trading Standards & Licensing Manager)
David Tolley – (Head of Consumer and Business Regulations
Service, Safer Communities, Communities
Localities & Culture)

Simmi Yesmin – (Senior Committee Officer, Democratic Services)

Guests Present:

Gareth Hughes – (Jeffery Green Solicitors)
David Dadds – (Dadds Solicitors)
Julian Skeens – (Jeffery Green Solicitors)

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of the following Members:

- § Councillor Carli Harper-Penman
- § Councillor Khaled Ahmed
- § Councillor Rajib Ahmed
- § Councillor Md. Maium Miah
- § Councillor Joshua Peck

2. DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTEREST

There were no declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests.

3. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

3.1 Consideration of the Adoption of the Sexual Entertainment Licensing Regime, Policing and Crime Act 2009 -Update

At the request of the Chair, David Tolley, Head of Consumer and Business Regulations, introduced the report and explained that the Licensing Committee on 8th October 2013, had requested for an extraordinary meeting to be held to discuss the proposed fees structure for Sexual Entertainment Venues (SEV). It was noted that the report covered a cost analysis of the fees structure and gave the Licensing Committee the option of reconsidering its decision not to adopt the legal framework to licence sexual entertainment venues by proposing recommendations to Full Council.

It was noted that the issues which were of concern were the exclusion of the White Swan Public House from the Sexual Entertainment Policy, the reconsideration of the fees and not to adopt the framework legislation to permit a licensing regime for SEVs.

It was further noted that there was no specific licensing regime in place for SEV's and therefore there is currently no control on the number of venues permitted in the Borough. Mr Tolley explained that 11 existing businesses held premises licences under the Licensing Act 2003 with permissions that would be affected by the adoption of the SEV legislation and these businesses could submit applications to operate under the new legislation and such licences would be reviewed annually.

It was noted that venues including the White Swan as an existing operator would benefit from the exemption of the "nil limit" provided for existing premises in the SEV policy. Mr Tolley stated that it was not possible to withdraw or waiver the White Swan from the policy. However it would benefit from the nil limit as an existing premises.

Mr Tolley then explained the breakdown of the £9000 fee and detailed the costs in relation to compliance visits. He explained that the Council must determine its fees on a cost recovery basis so comparison with fees in other boroughs was not a relevant consideration. However it was noted that compared to 13 other London boroughs there was 5 boroughs charging below Tower Hamlets and 8 boroughs charging higher than Tower Hamlets ranging from £10,000 - £22,523.

Mr Tolley concluded by highlighting the consultation process that took place and was noted that the overall consultation response represented only a small percentage of those who worked and lived in the borough.

The Chair indicated that he would allow three persons, who had requested speaking rights, to address the Committee. The speakers were allowed three minutes each, in line with the time limits for speaking at full Council meetings.

Mr Gareth Hughes, speaking on behalf of Metropolis and Aston's Champagne and Wine Bar, stated that the decision made at the previous Licensing Committee on 8th October 2013 was a valid decision and still stands, he explained that there had been an attempt to take a report to full Council on this matter, which was withdrawn on the night due to legalities.

Mr Hughes questioned the procedure and process which was followed to call the extraordinary meeting as he believed that an extraordinary meeting was not requested at the previous meeting and that the consideration of fees did not allow discussion for the adoption of the legislation. He concluded by asking Members to consider his previous concerns stated in his representations.

Mr David Dadds, speaking on behalf of White's Gentleman's Club, stated that he supported all comments made by the previous speaker. He highlighted the findings from the consultation process and expressed concerns around the fees. He stated that a decision was made on 8th October 2013 not to adopt the legislation and this was valid.

Mr Dadds believed to have had concerns of pre-determination as this meeting was to re-visit the previous decision and to re-open that decision to reconsider the option to adopt the legislation.

Members then heard from Mr Julian Skeens, representing Nag's Head, he also supported the comments made by his colleague Mr Gareth Hughes and added that the agenda papers recorded that Council had delegated power to the Licensing Committee to decide whether or not to adopt the legislative scheme to licence sexual entertainment in the Borough and the Committee had decided that following due process it should not be adopted, therefore the decision was valid.

The Chair then invited Members to put questions to the speakers. There were no questions for the speakers.

The Chair asked Mr Paul Greeno, Senior Advocate to provide legal advice to Members in response to the concerns raised. Mr Greeno explained that issues had been raised in relation to the lawfulness of the Licensing Committee in considering this matter.

It had been stated that the Licensing Committee on 8th October 2013 did not request an extraordinary meeting. This was not correct. He explained that the extraordinary meeting had not been called as a result of that request. It had been called by the Monitoring Officer. This was following the report that

was to go to full Council on 27th November 2013. That report was pulled and following that, the Monitoring Officer advised that a report be re-submitted to full Council dealing with the same matters raised in the full Council report but via an extraordinary meeting of the Licensing Committee.

In respect of calling of an Extraordinary Meeting, Mr Greeno stated that Part 4 of the Council's Constitution set out the Rules of Procedure and which includes the Council Procedure Rules. Paragraph 3.1 of those Rules lists those persons who can request an Extraordinary Meeting. This list is to be read disjunctively as opposed to conjunctively. Paragraph 3.1.3 referred to the Monitoring Officer and the Chair. Following the Monitoring Officer's advice, contact was made with the Chair of the Licensing Committee and he had been advised that The Chair was happy for an extraordinary meeting to be called to consider this matter.

As the Monitoring Officer and the Chair were engaged in the context of the pulled report to full Council then the business on the agenda was not just restricted to merely fees and charges. Further as the Monitoring Officer and Chair were involved there is no need for a requisition document to be signed by five Members of the Council.

It was correct that the mechanism of calling the meeting was not addressed within the report but it was not realised that this was an issue until the representations were received.

It has also been stated that the Licensing Committee had no power to deal with the matters in the report. This was incorrect. Part 3 of the Council's Constitution deals with responsibility of functions and 3.1.1.2B provides for Licensing and Registration Functions. Paragraph 15 provides that the functions under The Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982, section 2 and schedule 3 have been delegated to the Licensing Committee.

Part 3.7.7 sets out the Terms of Reference of the Licensing Committee and paragraph 4 gives to the Licensing Committee the power to determine fees and charges for the issue, approval, consent, license, permit or other registration for functions for which the Committee has responsibility. Pursuant to Part 3.1.1.2B paragraph 15, this is a function for which the Licensing Committee has responsibility.

Given the matters for which the Committee has responsibility it is reasonable for the Committee to be consulted before a report is then presented to full Council.

As to the fact that the Licensing Committee previously decided not to adopt the framework legislation does not stop the Committee from considering this matter afresh. A decision not to adopt a regime, or not to take some other administrative action, is not binding in the sense that the Council is stopped from revisiting it. At the end of the day, all Members are being asked to do is recommend to full Council and it will be for full Council to take the final decision whether to adopt.

As to the reasons why Members made their decision on the last occasion, as members did not give reasons for their decision (and are not required to do so) to suggest what was in Members minds when they made the decision is speculation. At the end of the day, Members were entitled to consider the matter afresh.

Mr Greeno concluded that there was no need for the matter to go firstly to the Mayor in Cabinet. The decision to adopt and in relation to fees and conditions was a non-executive function and as to notice of the meeting, the statutory time limits were met.

The Chair invited Members to put questions to Officers, who responded that:

- The Licensing Committee was not making a decision but had the option to refer recommendations to Full Council.
- That the minutes of the meeting held on 8th October 2013 would be available on the agenda of the Full Licensing Committee meeting scheduled for 11th March 2014.
- That case law provided that one could look forward in relation to fees that would be needed therefore the costs of monitoring an applicant's continued suitability can be included in the calculation for the fee for the licence.
- That costs for compliance can often be very costly as test purchases were necessary.
- That the proposed fee had been benchmarked with other London Councils who already operated the SEV regime. The fee included compliance time, incorporating premises visits and assessing applications, legal costs and bringing such matters to committee. This was a new fee and could be reviewed.

On being put to the vote, with five votes for and one vote against, it was –

RESOLVED

1. That Full Council is recommended that Schedule 3 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982, as amended, shall apply in the London Borough of Tower Hamlets in the London Borough of Tower Hamlets with regards to sexual entertainment venues.
2. That Full Council is recommended that the said Schedule 3 shall apply in the London Borough of Tower Hamlets from 31st March 2014, with regard to sexual entertainment venues.
3. That the proposed Standard Conditions for Sexual Entertainment Venues set out in Appendix 2 of the report is recommended to Full Council.

4. That the Sexual Entertainment Fee Structure set out in Appendix 3 of the report is recommended to Full Council.
5. That the Sex Establishment Licensing Policy set out in Appendix 1 be noted and applied in the application of Schedule 3 in London Borough of Tower Hamlets and supports continued operation of existing premises.

The meeting ended at 7.15 p.m.

Vice Chair, Councillor Peter Golds
Licensing Committee

Appendix 8 - Full Equality Analysis

Section 1 – General Information

Name of policy or function:

Adoption of the Sexual Entertainment Licensing Regime, Policing and Crime Act 2009

Business Unit:

CLC, Safer Communities, Consumer and Business Regulations

Is this a policy or function?

Licensing functions

Is this a new or existing policy or function?

New

Is the policy or function strategic, developmental or operational/functional?

Operational/Functional

Date when the original policy/function was initiated: N/A

Date on which the policy/function is to be reviewed: Licensing Committee 8/10/13

Names and roles of the people carrying out the Equality Analysis:

David Tolley: Head of Consumer and Business Regulations Service (CLC)

Section 2 – Aims and Objectives

What are the aims, objectives or purpose of the policy/function?

Legislation gives local authorities the opportunity to control SEV's. The legislation was drafted to allow communities to have a say about whether sex establishments should be allowed to operate in their community and it gives the local authority the power, through its licensing arrangements, to determine limits on numbers and localities.

The Council's Sex Entertainment Policy was developed with "One Tower Hamlets" as a key part of its rationale and was adopted by Cabinet on the 11th September 2013. To enable the Policy to be brought into effect the provisions under the schedule 3 of the Local Government (miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 as amended by section 27 of the Policing and Crime Act 2009 must be applied to the London Borough of Tower Hamlets area.

What are the main activities of the policy/function?

The adoption of the legislation enables the agreed policy to be applied: The policy establishes a cap on the total number of SEV premises that will be licensed, and it provides a basis for agreeing or refusing licenses with reference to:

- The suitability of any given location
- The management of the establishment
- The conduct within, and in the vicinity of (i.e., associated with) the establishment.

The policy includes both statutory and discretionary conditions that protect performers and help control the management of the premises.

Who is expected to benefit from the policy/function?

The adoption of the legislation will enable the agreed policy to be implemented (Note; a separate EQIA has been undertaken in relation to the setting of the policy framework).

The adoption of the legislation will affect the whole borough and potentially everyone that lives in, works in or visits the area and whom might be affected by the existence and operation of Sexual Entertainment Venues in the locality. Consultation has identified additional considerations in relation to cohesion amongst the LGBT community which have taken into account in developing the policy that this legislation enables.

Section 3 – Consideration of data and research Identifying Differential / Adverse Impacts

Question -

A policy/function can aim to treat all people fairly but unless you analyse data and stats and speak to the people it is going to affect how do you really know?

Evidence Base -

For each of the equality strands in the table below please now **evidence** how you came to the conclusions around differential and negative impacts in relation to the policy or function.

Please use the evidence prompts below to form an evidence base to justify your claims around differential impacts. If there is limited evidence we **strongly recommend** undertaking consultation

Please note – during consultation, if you identify a differential impact it may be advantageous to discuss whether this impact is also negative and record your findings accordingly. If no differential impact is identified there will be NO negative impact.

Evidence Prompt

1 List all qualitative and quantitative evidence

List all examples of quantitative and qualitative data available

(include information where appropriate from other directorates, Census 2001 etc)

2 Equalities profile of users or beneficiaries

Use the Council's approved diversity monitoring categories and provide data by target group of users or beneficiaries to determine whether the service user profile reflects the local population or relevant target group or if there is over or under representation of these groups

3 Equalities profile of staff

Indicate profile by target groups and assess relevance to policy aims and objectives e.g. Workforce to Reflect the Community. Identify staff responsible for delivering the service including where they are not directly employed by the council.

4 Barriers

What are the potential or known barriers to participation for the different equality target groups? Eg, communication, access, locality etc

5 Recent consultation exercises carried out

Detail consultation with relevant interest groups, other public bodies, voluntary organisations, community groups, trade unions, focus groups and other groups, surveys and questionnaires undertaken etc. Focus in particular on the findings of views expressed by the equality target groups. Such consultation exercises should be appropriate and proportionate and may range from assembling focus groups to a one to one meeting.

6 Additional factors which may influence disproportionate or adverse impact

Management Arrangements - How is the Service managed, are there any management arrangements which may have a disproportionate impact on the equality target groups?

7 The Process of Service Delivery

In particular look at the arrangements for the service being provided including opening times, custom and practice, awareness of the service to local people, communication

Please Note -

Reports/stats/data can be added as Appendix – Please send any reports/consultation findings/data and stats to the One Tower Hamlets team

Target Groups	Impact – Positive or Adverse What impact will the ‘new’ or ‘significantly’ amended policy or function have on specific groups of service users or staff?	Reason(s) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Please add a narrative to justify your claims around impacts and, • Please describe the analysis and interpretation of evidence to support your conclusion as this will inform members decision making • Can the negative impact be justified on the grounds of promoting equality?
Page 300		There have been two consultations in relation to the establishment of regulatory controls on sexual entertainment venues. The first, a more detailed consultation was held on the policy direction and the second a basic consultation on the adoption of the legislation which was a Yes/No response. Impacts of the policy can be viewed in the Cabinet report on the 11 th September 2013. The adoption of the legislation would have a neutral impact’ it is the policy that would have relevant impacts.
Race	Neutral	
Disability	Neutral	
Gender	Neutral	
Gender Reassignment	Neutral	
Sexual Orientation	Neutral	
Religion or Belief	Neutral	

Age	Neutral	
Socio-economic	Potential adverse	SEV's are businesses and any policy or licensing decision that results in the cessation of an existing operation would have economic consequences for employees and the self-employed persons who work at the venues. Actual numbers and backgrounds are not known, however the nature of the establishments means that adverse economic impact would specifically fall upon female performers and their economic dependents. By establishing a policy position that allows existing operations to continue, there is no immediate adverse impact on this group*.
Marriage and Civil Partnerships.	Neutral	
Pregnancy and Maternity	Neutral	
Other council staff	Potential adverse	<p>The implementation of more stringent licensing policy and conditions is likely to require additional monitoring, evidence gathering and enforcement action to be undertaken by council staff. Appropriate training and support should be provided to protect staff engaged in these areas from any adverse impacts.</p> <p>The consultation carried out for the adoption of the legislation was a basic Yes/No response. The information detailed in the grid has been drawn from the consultation that has come from the provision of a policy – thus demonstrating the community interest in the enactment of a policy.</p> <p>The consultation for adoption was 97.8% not in favour of adopting the powers, but as discussed in the report, sexual entertainment venues had canvassed their supporters, which is their right, but may have skewed the community response.</p>

Section 4 – Conclusions and Recommendations

Is there any evidence of or view that suggests that different equality or other target groups have a disproportionately high/low take up of the service/function?

Yes

If yes, please detail below how evidence influenced and formed the policy? e.g. why things were added/removed.

O&S review findings
Consultation on adopting the policy
Campaign group responses
LGBT response
Consultation on adopting the legislation
Employment issues
Human Rights issues

Does the policy/function comply with equalities legislation?

Yes

If there are gaps in information or areas for further improvement, please list them below:

Scientific research in relation to SEV's is not sufficiently developed in relation to their impact on protected groups to support more detailed impact assessment.

How will the results of this Equality Analysis feed into the performance planning process?

The SEV project and this associated EA have been incorporated into the Service Plan for Business Regulation and Consumer Protection along with appropriate measures and milestones for delivery, performance monitoring and review.

Section 5 – Action Plan and Monitoring Systems

As a result of these conclusions and recommendations what actions (if any) **will** be included in your business planning and wider review processes (team plan)? Please consider any gaps or areas needing further attention.

Recommendation	Key activity	Progress milestones including target dates for either completion or progress	Officer responsible	Progress
Example				
1. Better collection of feedback, consultation and data sources	1. Create and use feedback forms. Consult other providers and experts	1. Forms ready for January 2010 Start consultations Jan 2010	1.NR & PB	
2. Non-discriminatory behaviour	2. Regular awareness at staff meetings. Train staff in specialist courses	2. Raise awareness at one staff meeting a month. At least 2 specialist courses to be run per year for staff.	2. NR	

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Recommendation	Key activity	Progress milestones including target dates for either completion or progress	Officer responsible	Progress
Further consideration of equalities impacts on protected groups are recommended in situations where licensing decisions are due to be taken that could result in removal of that license.	Undertake EA's to accompany applications for SEV licences as and when these are presented to the Licensing Committee	Target dates are dependent upon license expiry and application dates.	David Tolley	
Appropriate training and support should be	Service Plan and PDR process actions	Service Plan and PDR cycle	David Tolley	

provided to protect staff engaged in these areas from any adverse impacts.				
Maintain ongoing review of SEV related research	Continue to monitor research to further inform analysis of equalities impacts	Ongoing	David Tolley	

Have monitoring systems been put in place to check the implementation of the policy/function and recommendations?

Yes

How will the monitoring systems further assess the impact on the equality target groups?

A set of operating conditions form an intrinsic part of the Policy and associated licensing controls. These include controls that have been specifically designed to improve protection of the public in external areas and performers inside the establishments. Breaches of these conditions (and therefore likely to have a negative impact on protected groups) will result in the implementation of enforcement controls and any breaches will form part of the material considerations for the Licensing Committee at the point at which applications for licence renewals are considered and determined.

Section 6 – Completed Equality Analysis

The draft Equality Analysis will be peer assessed and recommendations made (if needed)

Once any recommendations have been made to the equality analysis – it will be sent back to the author to be signed off by the relevant service head/manager. The equality analysis will then be sent to the One Tower Hamlets Team to be published on the council website.

Name: (signed off by)	
Position:	

Date signed off: (approved)	

Section 7 Appendix – FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

This section to be completed by the One Tower Hamlets team

Policy Hyperlink:

Equality Strand	Evidence
Race	
Disability	
Gender	
Sexual Orientation	
Religion and Belief	
Age	
Socio-Economic	
Other	

Link to original EQIA	Link to original EQIA
EQIAID (Team/Service/Year)	

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Full Equality Analysis

Section 1 – General Information

Name of policy or function:

Sexual Entertainment Venues Policy

Business Unit:

CLC, Safer Communities, Consumer and Business Regulations

Is this a policy or function?

Policy with associated licensing functions

Is this a new or existing policy or function?

New

Is the policy or function strategic, developmental or operational/functional?

Operational/Functional

Date when the original policy/function was initiated: N/A

Date on which the policy/function is to be reviewed: Cabinet tbc

Names and roles of the people carrying out the Equality Analysis:

Oscar Ford: Strategy & Business Development Manager (CLC Equalities Lead)
David Tolley: Head of Consumer and Business Regulations Service (CLC)
Frances Jones: OneTower Hamlets Service Manager (Scrutiny & Equality)

Section 2 – Aims and Objectives

What are the aims, objectives or purpose of the policy/function?

Legislation gives local authorities the opportunity to control SEV's. The legislation was drafted to allow communities to have a say about whether sex establishments should be allowed to operate in their community and it gives the local authority the power, through its licensing policy arrangements, to determine limits on numbers and localities.

The Council's draft Sex Establishment Policy was developed with "One Tower Hamlets" as a key part of its rationale and it is drafted to establish a clear and unambiguous position on Sexual Entertainment Venues.

What are the main activities of the policy/function?

The policy establishes a cap on the total number of SEV premises that will be licensed, and it provides a basis for agreeing or refusing licenses with reference to:

- The suitability of any given location
- The management of the establishment
- The conduct within, and in the vicinity of (i.e., associated with) the establishment.

The policy includes both statutory and discretionary conditions that protect performers and help control the management of the premises.

Who is expected to benefit from the policy/function?

The policy affects the whole borough and potentially everyone that lives in, works in or visits the area and whom might be affected by the existence and operation of sexual Entertainment Venues in the locality. It has particular relevance for people who own, work in or frequent SEV's.

The policy is based on a consideration of the potential impact of SEV's on these groups as well as the wide community and is aimed at ensuring that any negative impacts on individuals or the community that might arise as a consequence of the operation of SEV's are minimised or negated.

Section 3 – Consideration of data and research Identifying Differential / Adverse Impacts

Question -

A policy/function can aim to treat all people fairly but unless you analyse data and stats and speak to the people it is going to affect how do you really know?

Evidence Base -

For each of the equality strands in the table below please now **evidence** how you came to the conclusions around differential and negative impacts in relation to the policy or function.

Please use the evidence prompts below to form an evidence base to justify your claims around differential impacts. If there is limited evidence we **strongly recommend** undertaking consultation

Please note – during consultation, if you identify a differential impact it may be advantageous to discuss whether this impact is also negative and record your findings accordingly. If no differential impact is identified there will be NO negative impact.

Evidence Prompt

1 List all qualitative and quantitative evidence

List all examples of quantitative and qualitative data available

(include information where appropriate from other directorates, Census 2001 etc)

- Tower Hamlets Community Plan.
- Tower Hamlets Crime & Drug Reduction Partnership Plan.
- Tower Hamlets Enforcement Policy.
- Tower Hamlets Core Strategy.
- TowerHamletsTown Centre Spatial Strategy.
- Tower Hamlets Statement of Licensing Policy (Licensing Act 2003).
- Tower Hamlets Statement of Licensing Policy (Gambling Act 2005).

2 Equalities profile of users or beneficiaries

Use the Council's approved diversity monitoring categories and provide data by target group of users or beneficiaries to determine whether the service user profile reflects the local population or relevant target group or if there is over or under representation of these groups

The current premises that are offering some form of sexual entertainment are:

NAME	ADDRESS
THE BEEHIVE	104-106 Empson Street, London, E3 3LT
EONE CLUB	168 Mile End Road, London, E1 4LJ
NAGS HEAD PUBLIC HOUSE	17-19 Whitechapel Road, London, E1 1DU
THE PLEASURE LOUNGE	234 Cambridge Heath Road, London, E2 9NN
WHITE SWAN	556 Commercial Road, London, E14 7JD – LGB venue
ASTON'S CHAMPAGNE AND WINE BAR BASEMENT & 1ST FLOOR	187 Marsh Wall, London, E14 9SH
CLUB PAISA	28 Hancock Road, London, E3 3DA
OOPS	30 Alie Street, London, E1 8DA
WHITE'S GENTLEMANS CLUB	32-38 Leman Street, London, E1 8EW
SECRETS	43-45 East Smithfield, London, E1W 1AP
IMAGES	483 Hackney Road, London, E2 9ED

3 Equalities profile of staff

Indicate profile by target groups and assess relevance to policy aims and objectives e.g. Workforce to Reflect the Community. Identify staff responsible for delivering the service including where they are not directly employed by the council.

4 Barriers

What are the potential or known barriers to participation for the different equality target groups? Eg, communication, access, locality etc

5 Recent consultation exercises carried out

Detail consultation with relevant interest groups, other public bodies, voluntary organisations, community groups, trade unions, focus groups and other groups, surveys and questionnaires undertaken etc. Focus in particular on the findings of views expressed by the equality target groups. Such consultation exercises should be appropriate and proportionate and may range from assembling focus groups to a one to one meeting.

The Consultations carried out involved Legal Submissions, Focus Groups and questionnaires. The following background of respondents was reviewed.

Gender	Number of Responses	Percentage of responses
Male	1,026	23.8%
Female	2,203	51.3%
Transgender	12	0.3%
Prefer not to say	113	2.6%
Not stated	948	22.0%

Age	Number of Responses	Percentage of responses
12-19	120	2.8%
20-25	519	12.1%
26-34	1,028	23.9%
35-43	742	17.2%
44-52	454	10.6%
53-59	206	4.8%
60-64	96	2.2%
65+	104	2.4%
Prefer not to say	115	2.7%
Not stated	918	21.3%

Ethnicity	Number of Responses	Percentage of responses
Asian or Asian British	1,467	34.0%
Black or Black British	154	3.6%
Mixed/Dual Heritage	128	3.0%
White	1,201	28.0%
Other	0	0.0%
Prefer not to say	312	7.2%
Not stated	1,040	24.2%

Religion	Number of Responses	Percentage of responses
None	558	13.0%
Buddhist	40	0.9%
Christian	616	14.3%
Hindu	32	0.7%
Jewish	43	1.0%
Muslim	1,286	29.9%
Sikh	27	0.6%
Other faith	76	1.8%
Prefer not to say	542	12.6%
Not stated	1,082	25.2%

Disability	Number of Responses	Percentage of responses
Yes	136	3.2%
No	2,577	59.9%
Prefer not to say	351	8.2%
Not stated	1,238	28.8%

Sexual Orientation	Number of Responses	Percentage of responses
Bisexual	147	3.4%

Gay man or lesbian/gay woman	161	3.7%
Heterosexual	2,123	49.3%
Other	579	13.5%
Not stated	1,292	30.0%

6 Additional factors which may influence disproportionate or adverse impact

Management Arrangements - How is the Service managed, are there any management arrangements which may have a disproportionate impact on the equality target groups?

7 The Process of Service Delivery

In particular look at the arrangements for the service being provided including opening times, custom and practice, awareness of the service to local people, communication

The Sexual Entertainment Policy covers the detail of how to apply etc,

Please Note -

Reports/stats/data can be added as Appendix – Please send any reports/consultation findings/data and stats to the One Tower Hamlets team

Target Groups	Impact – Positive or Adverse	Reason(s)
Race	Positive	The consultation response identifies distinct differences in views between people of different racial backgrounds. 74% of Asian/Asian British respondents were in favour of a total Nil policy, whereas 72% of Black/Black British respondents, 90% of Mixed/Dual Heritage respondents and 76% White respondents were against the proposed nil policy.
Disability	Neutral	
Gender	Positive	Just under half of female consultation respondents (47%) were supportive of the 'Nil' policy proposal. Research findings from another Borough indicate that women may in particular avoid areas around to SEV's at night. A broader consideration is the impact that SEV's may have on attitudes towards women through the 'normalisation' of male-oriented sexual entertainment and the encouragement or reinforcement of sexist attitudes. In the Borough we are not aware of people trafficking and that performers work in venues freely. Personal incomes would be affected if premises closed. The organisations OBJECT (a human rights organisation specifically set up to challenge the sexual objectification of women) and CAPE (Communities Against People Exploitation) presented written responses to the consultation supporting a nil policy on the basis that SEV's have a negative impact on the safety of women. OBJECT argued associations with prostitution and trafficking, along with the negative impact on attitudes towards women and the negative impact on aspirations of young women and girls as key drivers for their support.
Gender Reassignment	Neutral	

Sexual Orientation	Potential adverse	Consultation response from the local LGBT community forum Rainbow Hamlets highlighted a potential detrimental effect that might arise should a Nil policy be implemented, identifying an existing establishment as having a positive impact on community cohesion, especially amongst the LGBT community. By establishing a policy position that allows existing operations to continue, there is no immediate adverse impact on this group*.
Religion or Belief	Positive	The consultation response identifies distinct differences in views between people of different religious backgrounds. 82% of Muslim respondents were in favour of a total Nil policy, whereas 81% of Christian respondents and 75% of those who said they had no religious belief were against a nil policy.
Age	Neutral	
Socio-economic	Potential adverse	SEV's are businesses and any policy or licensing decision that results in the cessation of an existing operation would have economic consequences for employees and the self-employed persons who work at the venues. Actual numbers and backgrounds are not known, however the nature of the establishments means that adverse economic impact would specifically fall upon female performers and their economic dependents. By establishing a policy position that allows existing operations to continue, there is no immediate adverse impact on this group*.
Marriage and Civil Partnerships.	Neutral	
Pregnancy and Maternity	Neutral	
Other inc staff	Potential adverse	The introduction of more stringent licensing policy and conditions is likely to require additional monitoring, evidence gathering and enforcement action to be undertaken by council staff. Appropriate training and support should be provided to protect staff engaged in these areas from any adverse impacts.

Section 4 – Conclusions and Recommendations

Is there any evidence of or view that suggests that different equality or other target groups have a disproportionately high/low take up of the service/function?

Yes

If yes, please detail below how evidence influenced and formed the policy? e.g. why things were added/removed.

O&S review findings
Consultation on adopting the policy
Campaign group responses
Consultation response from Rainbow Hamlets
Consultation on adopting the legislation
Employment issues
Human Rights issues

Does the policy/function comply with equalities legislation?

Yes

If there are gaps in information or areas for further improvement, please list them below:

Research in relation to SEV's is inconclusive as to the impact of the establishments on protected groups.

How will the results of this Equality Analysis feed into the performance planning process?

The SEV project and this associated EA have been incorporated into the Service Plan for Business Regulation and Consumer Protection along with appropriate measures and milestones for delivery, performance monitoring and review.

Section 5 – Action Plan and Monitoring Systems

As a result of these conclusions and recommendations what actions (if any) **will** be included in your business planning and wider review processes (team plan)? Please consider any gaps or areas needing further attention.

Recommendation	Key activity	Progress milestones including target dates for either completion or progress	Officer responsible	Progress
Example 1. Better collection of feedback, consultation and data sources 2. Non-discriminatory behaviour	1. Create and use feedback forms. Consult other providers and experts 2. Regular awareness at staff meetings. Train staff in specialist courses	1. Forms ready for January 2010 Start consultations Jan 2010 2. Raise awareness at one staff meeting a month. At least 2 specialist courses to be run per year for staff.	1. NR&PB 2. NR	

Recommendation	Key activity	Progress milestones including target dates for either completion or progress	Officer responsible	Progress
Further consideration of equalities impacts on protected groups are recommended in situations where licensing decisions are due to be taken that could result in removal of that license.	Undertake EA's to accompany applications for SEV licences as and when these are presented to the Licensing Committee	Target dates are dependent upon license expiry and application dates.	David Tolley	
Appropriate training and support should be	Service Plan and PDR process actions	Service Plan and PDR cycle	David Tolley	

provided to protect staff engaged in these areas from any adverse impacts.				
Maintain ongoing review of SEV related research	Continue to monitor research to further inform analysis of equalities impacts	Ongoing	David Tolley	

Have monitoring systems been put in place to check the implementation of the policy/function and recommendations?

Yes

How will the monitoring systems further assess the impact on the equality target groups?

A set of operating conditions form an intrinsic part of the Policy and associated licensing controls. These include controls that have been specifically designed to improve protection of the public in external areas and performers inside the establishments. Breaches of these conditions (and therefore likely to have a negative impact on protected groups) will result in the implementation of enforcement controls and any breaches will form part of the material considerations for the Licensing Committee at the point at which applications for licence renewals are considered and determined.

Page 6

Section 6 – Completed Equality Analysis

The draft Equality Analysis will be peer assessed and recommendations made (if needed)

Once any recommendations have been made to the equality analysis – it will be sent back to the author to be signed off by the relevant service head/manager. The equality analysis will then be sent to the One Tower Hamlets Team to be published on the council website.

Name: (signed off by)	
Position:	

Date signed off: (approved)	

Section 7 Appendix – FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

This section to be completed by the One Tower Hamlets team

Policy Hyperlink:

Equality Strand	Evidence
R Race	
D Disability	
G Gender	
S Sexual Orientation	
Religion and Belief	
Age	
Socio-Economic	
Other	

Link to original EQIA	Link to original EQIA
EQIAID (Team/Service/Year)	

LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

COUNCIL MEETING

WEDNESDAY 26th MARCH 2014

**FREE SCHOOL MEALS FOR PRIMARY AGE PUPILS:
VIREMENT PROPOSAL**

REPORT OF THE ACTING CORPORATE DIRECTOR, RESOURCES

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 The Mayor has given notice in accordance with the Access to Information Procedure Rules that he will take an Executive Key Decision to introduce a local scheme for free school meals for primary age pupils (Year 3 – Year 6) who are not otherwise eligible for statutory free school meals with effect from September 2014.
- 1.2 The Mayor has proposed a policy commitment for a two-year scheme. This report identifies funding decisions that are required in the first year of the scheme. Work is underway as described at section 4 of the report to review the Public Health Grant with a view to that grant supporting the local scheme in the second year, subject to the annual budget process.
- 1.3 The total estimated cost of this decision in a full academic year is £2.675m. In order to meet this cost, general reserves will be used initially and compensating additional savings to the Medium Term Financial Plan will be included from 2015/16. This represents a virement in excess of £1m which, in accordance with the Financial Procedure Rules, requires the approval of the Council.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 Council is recommended to agree the virements from general reserves to the Public Health Team in Education Social Care and Wellbeing Directorate for £2.675m over two financial years as set out in Table 2 overleaf, to allow the local scheme for free school meals for primary age pupils to proceed.

3. REASONS FOR THE DECISIONS

- 3.1 To allow the Executive Mayor's decision to be funded.
- 3.2 To ensure that all primary age pupils have access to a healthy, nutritional meal at lunchtime.

3.3 To complement the DfE’s Universal Infant Free School Meals initiative, by extending it to include all junior age pupils.

4. COMMENTS OF THE CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER

4.1 The direct costs of this initiative are estimated to be up to £2.675m in a full academic year. This is higher than the estimated additional cost reported to full council in February and the reasons for this are detailed in section 4.3 below.

4.2 The financial implication of the proposal will span three financial years and the impact on each year is detailed in Table 2:

Table 2: Profile of costs for this initiative and the savings required to balance the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP)

Year	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	Total
Cost of Initiative	£1.783m	£0.892m	Nil	£2.675m
Savings Required to maintain MTFP.		-£1.338m	-£1.338m	-£2.675m

4.3 So, for the 2014/15 financial year (ie from September 2014 to March 2015), the estimated cost would be £1.783m (ie 2/3rds of the full-year cost – based on the number of school days). In 2015/16 financial year, the last term of the scheme would cost £0.892m for the period April 2015 – July 2015. The actual costs will be dependent on actual pupil numbers, the number of school days and the level of take-up. These figures are marginally higher than ones provided to Members in the budget setting process for two reasons:

- These revised figures are using the latest available pupils census (January 2014), rather than the October 2013 census which was used for forecasting costs in earlier proposals for Members; and
- The publication of the details of the DfE’s Universal Infant Free School Meals guidance, allowed the adoption of their planning assumption of 87% take-up, whereas previously around 80% had been used.

4.4 The cost of this proposal will need to be funded through the use of general reserves. However, this will require additional savings beyond that already flagged within the current MTFP, to be identified to ensure reserve balances are reinstated back to agreed levels by 2016/17. Additional savings of £1.338m would be required in each of the following years, 2015/16 and 2016/17 (see Table 2 above).

4.5 This initiative would qualify as one that could be funded from the Public Health grant. Services funded by grant are currently undergoing a review process designed to realign existing council services and deliver efficiencies that would contribute towards existing savings targets. This review will identify whether the Public Health Grant can support free school meals in year 2 of the initiative.

- 4.6 There are likely to be costs on schools associated with what might be a stepped change in the number of pupils accessing a meal at lunchtime, but these will vary from school to school and no estimates are readily available. Food, catering staff, management, supervision, and light equipment (eg crockery, kitchenware) costs would be expected to be met from within the £2.30 per meal price. Lunchtime supervision would not be covered by these costs and will vary from school to school, but would have to be met from schools' own budgets.
- 4.7 There may need to be some capital investment if school facilities are insufficient to meet the requirements and the DfE has allocated £0.748m school meals capital grants for Tower Hamlets (including £0.157m for VA schools) for 2014/15, which might be used to deliver this.
- 4.8 The virement arising from the recommendation in this report would allocate funding to vote A51 Public Health

5. LEGAL COMMENTS

- 5.1 Under the Financial Procedure Rules in the Council's Constitution rule 3.3.1 of the Financial Procedure Rules in Part 4 of the Constitution "All individual virement proposals that exceed £1 million require the approval of full Council"
- 5.2 The LA or governing body of every maintained school must not charge for anything unless they have drawn up a statement of general policy on charging. The policy will cover optional extras, such as after school clubs and holiday play schemes. Neither the governing body nor the LA may make a charge unless they have decided upon a charging and remissions policy, which should be kept under regular review.
- 5.3 Section 512 of the Education Act 1996 (as amended) states that LAs may provide registered pupils at their schools with milk, meals or other refreshment. On request they are to provide school lunches. Where school meals are provided the LA must charge for what is provided, and this is to be the same for all, save for exempted pupils. School lunches (and milk if provided) are to be free of charge for pupils whose parents (or who themselves) receive income support, or an income-based jobseeker's allowance or qualify under some other exemption.

6. ONE TOWER HAMLETS CONSIDERATIONS

- 6.1 This initiative aims to ensure that all primary age pupils have equal access to a nutritional meal at lunchtime, in order to promote a healthy lifestyle.

7. SUSTAINABLE ACTION FOR A GREENER ENVIRONMENT

- 7.1 Contract Services, Tower Hamlets' in-house catering provider, continually seek improve the impact that their services offered have on the environment. Some examples of this work is illustrated below:

- Wherever possible food is prepared on site within the school environment utilising the latest most efficient catering equipment. Where there are unsuitable, inappropriate or inefficient facilities available on site the meals are prepared at the Toby Lane Central Production Unit (CPU) and transported hot utilising a small fleet of vehicles. The use of the CPU and the careful planning of a generic menu allows approximately 1800 meals to be prepared together reducing energy costs.
- An electric delivery vehicle has been trialled with very positive results and with the added advantage of zero emissions. Working with colleagues in the Transport Department Contract Services are currently tendering to replace some of the diesel fleet with electric vehicles.
- Through the involvement with the London Contract Supply Group procurement model food is sourced wherever possible as locally as possible. All meat except some lamb is UK sourced and of Red Tractor standard and in the past six months there has been an increased use of organic, local sourced, Fair Trade and seasonal fruit and vegetables – this has permitted Contract Services to obtain the Soil Association’s Food for Life Silver Catering Mark (this is becoming the standard for excellent school catering). In addition to this all eggs used in all sectors of the business are free range.
- The cleaning materials used with the catering (and cleaning) sectors of the business are continually monitored by the management team to ensure new materials are sourced when available which have a reduced impact on the environment.

8. RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 There are risks associated with demographic changes and take-up, which mean that precise numbers and, therefore, costs of this initiative can only be estimated.
- 8.2 There is a risk that practical difficulties, particularly with the physical capacity and adaptability of dining spaces and kitchen facilities, could require investment to overcome.
- 8.3 The Department for Education use statutory free school meal data as a deprivation index in funding schools, including for the Pupil Premium. There is a danger that parents (and schools) see no incentive to register for the statutory scheme if free meals are provided without registering. Officers and schools have had to address these issues with the current local scheme and will continue to do so.

9. CRIME AND DISORDER REDUCTION IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 None

10. EFFICIENCY STATEMENT

- 10.1 This proposal will result in a stepped change in the number of meals provided each day in Tower Hamlets schools. Nonetheless, the framework for delivering meals in all primary schools is already in place and systems of operation have developed over many years, with the recent experience of a local scheme for free school meals for Reception and Year 1 pupils assisting further. Contract Services are able to use their spending power to procure good deals for food prices.

Background Papers: Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972

NONE

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LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

COUNCIL MEETING

26TH MARCH 2014

LOCALISM ACT 2011 – PAY POLICY STATEMENT 2014/15

**REFERENCE FROM THE HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE
MEETING ON 12TH MARCH 2014**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Under Section 38(1) of the Localism Act 2011, the Council is required to adopt a pay policy statement for each financial year.

The Human Resources Committee meeting on 12th March 2014 agreed the proposed pay policy and it is now presented to Council for final approval.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1 To adopt the authority's Pay Policy Statement for the year 1 April 2014 to 31 March 2015 as recommended by the Human Resources Committee and presented at Appendix 1 to the Human Resources Committee report attached.
- 2 To agree that if any minor changes to the 2014/15 policy statement are required as a result of future government guidance, these amendments be delegated to the Head of Paid Service after consultation with the Service Head (HR and WD), the Chair of the Human Resources Committee and the Monitoring Officer. Should any fundamental changes be required, then the Pay Policy Statement be referred back to the Human Resources Committee for consideration.

1. DETAILS OF REPORT

- 1.1 The Council's first pay policy statement was adopted for 2012/13 and the Pay Statement for 2013/14 (Appendix 2) was agreed at the HR Committee on 27th March 2013. The statement for 2014/15 (Appendix 1) should be approved and adopted by 31st March 2014 to enable it to be published as soon as is practical in the new financial year.
- 1.2 The Department for Communities and Local Government has produced supplementary guidance to be read alongside existing accountability guidance, which governs pay policy statements, for the past two years. The

2013 guidance, published on 20th February 2013, was taken into consideration in the production of the 2013/14 pay policy statement.

- 1.3 To date, no supplementary guidance has been published in relation to the 2014/15 pay policy statement. Should guidance be published after the 2014/15 pay policy has been considered by Full Council, which requires minor amendments to be made to the pay policy statement, it is proposed that authority be delegated to make such amendments to the Head of Paid Service after consultation with the Service Head (HR and WD), the Chair of the Committee and the Monitoring Officer. Should any fundamental changes be required, the pay policy statement will be sent back to the Human Resources Committee for consideration.
- 1.5 Appendix 1 to the report to Human Resources Committee (attached) sets out the draft policy statement for consideration by Council.
- 1.6 Further details are set out in the report presented to the Human Resources Committee and attached to this cover report.

2. COMMENTS OF THE CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER

- 2.1. Relevant finance comments are presented in the report to the Human Resources Committee (attached).

3. LEGAL COMMENTS

- 3.1. Relevant legal comments are presented in the report to the Human Resources Committee (attached).

4. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 Any other implications are presented in the report to the Human Resources Committee (attached).

5. APPENDICES

Annex 1 – Report to the Human Resources Committee on 12th March 2014.
Appendix 1 to that report – Pay Policy Statement 2014/15
Appendix 2 to that report – Pay Policy Statement 2013/14

Background Papers: Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972

NONE

Committee/Meeting: HR Committee	Date: 12 th March 2014	Classification: Unrestricted	Report No: 4.1
Report of: Corporate Director (Resources) Originating officer(s) Simon Kilbey, Service Head (Human Resources & Workforce Development)		Title: Localism Act 2011 – Pay Policy Statement 2014/15 Wards Affected: All	

Lead Member	Cabinet Member for Resources
Community Plan Theme	All
Strategic Priority	Work efficiently and effectively as one Council

1. **SUMMARY**

- 1.1 Under Section 38(1) of the Localism Act 2011, the Council is required to adopt a pay policy statement for each financial year.
- 1.2 The Council's first pay policy statement was adopted for 2012/13 and the Pay Statement for 2013/14 (Appendix 2) was agreed at the HR Committee on 27th March 2013. The statement for 2014/15 (Appendix 1) should be approved and adopted by 31st March 2014 to enable it to be published as soon as is practical in the new financial year.
- 1.3 The Department for Communities and Local Government has produced supplementary guidance to be read alongside existing accountability guidance, which governs pay policy statements, for the past two years. The 2013 guidance, published on 20th February 2013, was taken into consideration in the production of the 2013/14 pay policy statement.
- 1.4 To date, no supplementary guidance has been published in relation to the 2014/15 pay policy statement. Should guidance be published after the 2014/15 pay policy has been considered by the HR Committee and/or Full Council, which requires minor amendments to be made to the pay policy statement, it is proposed that the HR Committee delegate the authority to make such amendments to the Head of Paid Service after consultation with the Service Head (HR and WD), the Chair of the Committee and the Monitoring Officer. Should any fundamental changes be required, the pay policy statement will be sent back to the HR Committee for consideration.

- 1.5 Appendix 1 to this report sets out the draft policy statement for consideration by the HR Committee. The proposed statement has to be published by the end of March 2014. The next meeting of Full Council, during which the statement may be adopted, will be held on 26th March 2014.
- 1.6 The pay policy statement sets out the Council's current policies and practice in relation to pay for all parts of the workforce, with the exception of school based employees. Any changes to the way in which staff are remunerated would need to be dealt with as outlined in section 8 – Legal comments.

2. DECISIONS REQUIRED

HR Committee is recommended to:-

- 2.1 Consider the draft pay policy statement and propose any changes to be made prior to publication and prior to recommending its submission to Full Council.
- 2.2 Agree that if any changes to the 2014/15 pay policy statement are proposed by HR Committee prior to publication of the statement, the final version is delegated to the Head of Paid Service after consultation with the Service Head (HR and WD), the Chair of the Committee and the Monitoring Officer.
- 2.3 Agree that if any minor changes to the 2014/15 pay policy statement are required as a result of future government guidance, these amendments be delegated to the Head of Paid Service after consultation with the Service Head (HR and WD), the Chair of the Committee and the Monitoring Officer. Should any fundamental changes be required, the pay policy statement will be sent back to the HR Committee for consideration.

3. REASONS FOR THE DECISIONS

- 3.1 The Localism Act 2011 received Royal Assent on 15 November 2011. In addition to the Act, the 'Code of Recommended Practice for Local Authorities on Data Transparency' was published in September 2011 under Section 2 of the Local Government, Planning and Land Act 1980. The Code sets out key principles for local authorities in creating greater transparency through the publication of data. Supplementary guidance to 'Openness and Accountability in Local Pay: Guidance under Section 40 of the Localism Act' was published on 20 February 2013.
- 3.2 The provisions of the legislation required Local Authorities to adopt and publish a pay policy statement for 2011/12 and for each subsequent financial year. Statements have to be approved by Full Council and have regard to the guidance published by the Secretary of State. Authorities will be constrained by their policy statement when making determination on senior officer pay, although the statement may be amended at any time by further resolution of Full Council.

4. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 4.1 As the publication of a pay policy statement is a legislative requirement, there are no alternative options.

5. BACKGROUND

- 5.1 The pay policy statement must set out the Authority's policies for the financial year relating to the remuneration of its officers. This must include:
- A policy on the level and elements of remuneration for each chief officer
 - A policy on the remuneration of lowest paid employees (together with a definition of 'lowest paid employees' and reasons for adopting that definition)
 - A policy on the relationship between the remuneration of chief officers and the remainder of the workforce
 - A policy on other specific aspects of chief officers' remuneration (remuneration on recruitment, increases and additions to remuneration, use of PRP and bonuses, and the approach to termination payments).
- 5.2 Additionally, the Council must have regard to other statutory guidance or recommendations e.g. relating to pay multiples, but it should be noted that the statutory guidance emphasises that each LA has the autonomy to take its own decisions on pay and pay policies.

6. BODY OF REPORT

- 6.1 The draft pay policy statement takes into account the LGA/ALACE guidance issued to Local Authority Chief Executives, and the statement details the Council's current arrangements, using the definitions contained in the Act and associated guidance. The Act also requires the Council to have regard to statutory guidance entitled 'Openness and accountability in local pay' under the Transparency Agenda. The original guidance was published in 2012, with updated guidance published in February 2013, which stated that the pay policy statement should set out the Council's position in relation to appointments to posts with salary packages over £100,000 and redundancy packages over the same amount. Any guidance for 2014 has yet to be published.
- 6.2 The guidance defines 'senior executive' which for the purpose of the Council's statement are the posts of Head of Paid Service and Corporate Directors.
- 6.3 The draft statement refers to information already published by the Council in relation to senior salary data to meet with the requirements of the Government's transparency agenda.
- 6.4 There is a requirement to publish a ratio, or pay multiple. There are a variety of ways to approach this, but the Hutton Review of Fair Pay in the Public Sector (2011) supported the publication of the ratio of the Council's highest paid employee (the Head of Paid Service) to that of its median earner (i.e. the

mid-point between the highest and lowest salaries). This multiple is quoted in the draft statement. The ratio last year was 1:6.1 and this year is 1:5.9.

- 6.5 For the 2014/15 pay policy statement, an additional ratio demonstrating the relationship between the Council's highest paid employee (total salary package) and the lowest salary of the non-schools workforce is included. This ratio is 1.9.92. This allows greater comparison with other boroughs that provide this ratio.
- 6.6 The information on the lowest paid staff in the council has been updated to confirm that as the London Living Wage rises in future years, the Council will continue to increase pay levels for the lowest paid staff to ensure that they are paid the nearest scale point above the London Living Wage.
- 6.7 Under the section on additional payments, a paragraph has been added regarding market supplements for recruitment purposes. Such payments are commonly used by other local authorities. In recent times there has been a need to increase the salary level for the Corporate Director of Education, Social Care and Wellbeing in order to secure an appointment. Also currently, in relation to the Director of Law, Probity and Governance, feedback has been received that we may not be able to recruit a suitable candidate at the current grade. In these and such other circumstances, an additional payment can be made, where there is a strong business case. If the payment is for a Service Head or Corporate Director, this would be agreed by the Head of Paid Service after consultation with the Chair of the HR Committee and Service Head Human Resources and Workforce Development (HR and WD). For any posts below Service Head, this would be agreed by the Head of Paid Service after consultation with the Service Head HR and WD.
- 6.8 The use of market supplements will be regularly reviewed and monitored to ensure that the council's pay policy complies with equal pay requirements.

7. COMMENTS OF THE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

- 7.1 There are no financial implications of publishing a pay policy statement, which describes current practice. Should any changes to pay policy be proposed (that result in an amended statement being published in future), the financial implications will be assessed at the point that changes are proposed.

8. CONCURRENT REPORT OF LEGAL SERVICES

- 8.1 Guidance on Section 40 of the Localism Act was published in February 2012. Relevant authorities (which includes a London Borough Council) are required by section 38(1) of the Act to prepare pay policy statements which set out a range of issues relating to the Authority's policy towards a range of issues including that of its highest and lowest paid workers. The policy must be prepared for each financial year, approved by full Council and published for transparency.

- 8.2 Under Section 40 (1) of the Act the Authority must have regard to the guidance which sets out key policy principles which underpin the accountability provisions of the Act. The Council is still bound by relevant employment (and other) legislation as the employer and any changes which may be proposed by the policy must bear in mind the requirements of such legislation.
- 8.3 The Act and the guidance requires that Councillors take a greater role in ensuring that the remuneration, particularly that of the most senior staff, is appropriate and commensurate with their responsibility and within the wider context of the pay of the workforce as a whole. This requires the publication of data in respect of the remuneration of chief officers.
- 8.4 The Council can amend the pay policy on an annual basis as required by the Act but may also amend the policy as needed to take into account changing legislative requirements.
- 8.5 Given the requirement that the policy be approved by full Council, care must be exercised when seeking to delegate any authority to approve changes which are made to the policy subsequent to its approval by full Council.

9. ONE TOWER HAMLETS CONSIDERATIONS

- 9.1 An equality analysis will be carried out on the draft policy statement, but it should be noted that the statement describes existing policies and practice rather than proposing new ones. Should there be amendments, further advice on the impact will be given.

10. SUSTAINABLE ACTION FOR A GREENER ENVIRONMENT

- 10.1 There are no implications.

11. RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

- 11.1 The draft statement describes existing policies and practice. Any risks, e.g. from proposing changes in the future to pay and benefits, would be assessed at the time.

12. CRIME AND DISORDER REDUCTION IMPLICATIONS

- 12.1 There are no implications.

13. EFFICIENCY STATEMENT

- 13.1 No changes to service delivery or the use of resources are proposed.

14. APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Draft Pay Policy Statement 2014/15

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.

Localism Act 2011

**Simon Kilbey, Service Head
(HR/WD) 020 7364 4922**

**LGA / ALACE - ‘Localism Act: Pay
Policy Statement Guidance for
Local Authority Chief Executives’**

**DCLG - Openness and
Accountability in Local Pay:
guidance under section 40 of the
Localism Act**

**DCLG - ‘Openness and
accountability in local pay:
Guidance under section 40 of the
Localism Act 2011’ Supplementary
Guidance**

**Communities and Local
Government - The Code of
Recommended Practice for Local
Authorities on Data Transparency**

London Borough of Tower Hamlets
Pay policy statement 1 April 2014 – 31 March 2015

1 Introduction

The Localism Act 2011 requires Local Authorities to produce a pay policy statement every financial year. This requirement is part of the Government's drive towards public sector transparency.

The Pay Policy Statement sets out the Council's current policies and practice in relation to pay for all parts of the workforce. The statement excludes school based employees. The Statement is made available on the Council's website, which also includes separately published salary information for senior managers as part of the Government's Transparency Code.

2 Scope

The policy addresses the requirements of the Localism Act and addresses key areas of pay and remuneration.

The Localism Act defines senior executives, and in this statement they are the Chief Executive/Head of Paid Service, Corporate Directors, the Monitoring Officer (Corporate Management Team).

3 Pay and grading structure

The majority of employees' pay and conditions of service are agreed nationally either via the National Joint Council (NJC) for Local Government Services, or the Joint National Council (JNC) for Chief Officers, with regional or local variations.

The Council also employs some staff on Soulbury conditions of service, some on conditions determined by the Joint National Council for Youth & Community Workers, some staff covered by the School Teachers Pay and Conditions Document and some staff on locally agreed terms and conditions for Lecturers and Tutors.

It is the practice of the Council to seek the views of local trade unions on pay related matters, recognising that elements are settled within a national framework.

The Council uses national pay scales up to grade LPO8, and determines the appropriate grade for each job in accordance with the Greater London Provincial Council (GLPC) job evaluation scheme.

Above LPO8, local grades are in place for senior staff as follows:

- LP09 - evaluated under a local variation to the GLPC job evaluation Scheme

- Chief Officers, Deputy Chief Officers (Service Heads and senior executives) and Key Chief Officers -evaluated under the Joint Negotiating Committee for Chief Officers job evaluation scheme

The Council signed a Single Status agreement in April 2008 with trade unions.

This brought former manual grades into the GLPC job evaluation scheme, and replaced spot points with narrow grade bands. One of the key aims of the agreement was to eliminate potential pay inequality from previous pay structures and ensure that new pay structures are free from discrimination.

New and changed jobs are evaluated using the relevant job evaluation scheme, with the appropriate grade being determined using a range of factors.

The scale point on which an individual is appointed to the post is normally the lowest of the grade but will depend on skills and experience.

4 How the Council's management team is structured

The Council's Corporate Management Team is led by the Chief Executive/Head of Paid Service, supported by a number of Chief Officers reporting to the Chief Executive/Head of Paid Service. All statutory roles are at this level of the organisation.

Service Heads (Deputy Chief Officers) in each Directorate report to a member of the Corporate Management Team.

5 Senior Executive remuneration

Pay for senior executives who are members of the Corporate Management Team is made up of three elements:

- Basic pay (defined by a locally agreed grade)
- London weighting allowance
- Travel allowance payment

Service Heads (Deputy Chief Officers) receive basic pay (defined by a locally agreed grade).

Senior salary data is published on the Council's website as part of the Government's transparency agenda. For details, please see http://www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/lgsi/800001-800100/800043_transparency.aspx

6 Senior appointments

All salary packages for posts at Chief Officer, Key Chief Officer or Deputy Chief Officer level are in line with locally agreed pay scales

7 Lowest paid employees

The Council's lowest paid staff are those who are paid on the Council's lowest scale point.

The Council has resolved that its lowest paid staff should not be paid less than the level of the London Living Wage. As a consequence, in 2011 and 2012 the pay levels for the lowest paid employees was moved up to Scale 1, (spinal column point 5 in 2011 and then 6 in 2012), to ensure the rate was above the London Living Wage.

When the London Living Wage was increased in November 2013, further work was done to ensure the lowest paid employees had the pay increase reflected in their pay. As a consequence, the pay levels for the lowest paid employees, was moved up to Scale 1 (spinal column point 7), which is above the rate of the 2013 London Living Wage. The Council's Apprentices are paid at the London Living Wage rate.

As the London Living Wage rises in future years, the Council will continue to increase pay levels for the lowest paid staff to ensure that they are paid the nearest scale point above the London Living Wage.

8 National pay bargaining

Annual pay increases across the Council's grades are set through the process of national pay bargaining which the Council subscribes to.

The Council contributes to the negotiation process by providing an employer view through the annual Local Government Employers' regional pay briefings. The employers' side then negotiate with trade unions at a national level.

National pay rates are set using a number of factors, including:

- The sector's ability to pay
- Movement in market rates
- Inflation levels
- Other pay awards
- The Government's policy position regarding public sector pay

9 Incremental progression

Incremental progression is on an annual basis for those staff who are not at the top of their grade. As per national conditions of service, progression is automatic for all staff (subject to general satisfactory performance) except Service Heads and Chief Officers who have to demonstrate satisfactory performance through a formal annual appraisal before being awarded incremental progression.

10 Additional payments and allowances

A range of allowances and payments are paid as appropriate to the nature and requirement of specific posts, groups of posts and working patterns. These include car and travel allowances, overtime, standby, weekend and night work, shift and call-out payments.

Acting up and honoraria payments are made to individual staff as appropriate using clear criteria, and where a clear business need is identified.

The Council has a staff relocation package, available to new entrants to the Council's employment, but subject to tight eligibility criteria.

The Council also has the ability to pay market supplements for recruitment purposes, where there is a strong business case and appropriate criteria are met.

The Council does not operate a performance related pay scheme or bonus scheme.

11 Pensions

All employees (with the exceptions set out below) of the Council up to 75 years of age and who have a contract of more than 3 months' duration are entitled to join the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS). Decisions on delegated provisions are agreed by the Pensions Committee. The LGPS is a contributory scheme, whereby the employee contributes from their salary. The level of contribution is determined by whole time salary and contribution levels are set by Government who then advise the employer.

All employees of the Council from 18 to 75 years of age and who are employed on Teacher, Youth Work or Tutor/Lecturer terms and conditions are entitled to join the Teachers' Pension Scheme. The Teachers' Pension Scheme is a contributory scheme, whereby the employee contributes from their salary and contribution levels are set by Government.

12 Compensation for loss of office

12.1 Financial terms for redundancy

The Council has a policy linked to its policy for Handling Organisational Change which sets out the terms for redundancy and early termination of staff (subject to qualifying criteria), which apply to Chief Officers and to all staff. In certain circumstances, individuals may also qualify for early release of their pension.

12.2 Redundancy packages

When it is proposed to delete a post at Chief Officer, Key Chief Officer or Deputy Chief Officer level, a report is submitted to the Council's HR Committee for consideration. If the proposal will result in a postholder

receiving a severance package, the costs of such a package are included in the report.

12.3 Ill health

Where termination of employment arises from ill health, payments will be made in accordance with the contract of employment. In certain circumstances, individuals may also qualify for early release of their pension.

12.4 Negotiated exits – settlements

If it is determined that a negotiated settlement is appropriate for a senior executive in circumstances which do not amount to a dismissal, the Service Head (Human Resources & Workforce Development) will deal with the detail, and the Council's Chief Executive/Head of Paid Service after consultation with the Monitoring Officer (or in circumstances where it is not appropriate for one or other to be involved, the Chief Financial Officer) will consider whether the terms of the offer constitute value for money and are appropriate, fair and reasonable in the circumstances, and the proposed settlement shall then be subject to the agreement of the Human Resources Committee.

12.5 Re-employment following redundancy/early retirement

Any member of staff who has left the Council by reason of redundancy (compulsory or voluntary) or early retirement and received a severance payment is required to have a gap of at least 1 year after the date of termination before they can return either as a directly employed member of staff, an agency worker or a consultant.

To allow for exceptional circumstances, when it might be necessary to reemploy someone sooner than after a year's gap, a Corporate Director, in conjunction with the Service Head HR and WD, and after consultation with the Chair of the Human Resources Committee, has authority to waive the 1 year requirement, provided there is justification.

13 Pay multiples / comparisons

The Council's pay and grading structures reflect a wide range of job requirements and levels of responsibility across the organisation, with pay and grading being determined by the Council's job evaluation schemes.

The pay ratio demonstrating the relationship between the Council's highest paid employee (total salary package) and the median (mid-point between the highest and lowest) salary position of the non-schools workforce is 1 : 5.9.

The pay ratio demonstrating the relationship between the Council's highest paid employee (total salary package) and the lowest salary of the non-schools workforce is 1 : 9.92.

The Council will have regard to its pay ratios and keep them under review, seeking to balance the following:

- Ensuring appropriate reward mechanisms which value knowledge, skills

and experience at a senior level, and ensure that the Council can recruit and retain the best talent

- Addressing its commitment to matching the London Living Wage for our lowest paid staff, and encouraging the developmental progression for staff in the lowest graded roles.

14 Equality issues

The policy elements described in this report derive from national terms & conditions and bargaining, or local discretion. The Council has a keen regard for equality issues and should any changes be made to the pay policy in the future, proposals would go through an Equality Analysis. One of the key aims of Single Status agreement was to eliminate potential pay inequality from previous pay structures and ensure that new pay structures are free from discrimination.

15 Review

The Localism Act 2011 requires relevant authorities to prepare a Pay Policy Statement for each subsequent financial year. The Council's next Statement is scheduled to be for 2015/16 and will be submitted to Full Council for approval by 31 March 2015.

Should changes to pay policy be contemplated that would result in an amended statement being published in the year that it applies, these would be subject to a detailed consultation process before an appropriate recommendation was made to Full Council.

London Borough of Tower Hamlets
Pay policy statement 1 April 2013 – 31 March 2014

1 Introduction

The Localism Act 2011 requires Local Authorities to produce a pay policy statement every financial year. This requirement is part of the Government's drive towards public sector transparency.

The Pay Policy Statement sets out the Council's current policies and practice in relation to pay for all parts of the workforce. The statement excludes school based employees. The Statement is made available on the Council's website, which also includes separately published salary information for senior managers as part of the Government's Transparency Code.

2 Scope

The policy addresses the requirements of the Localism Act and addresses key areas of pay and remuneration.

The Localism Act defines senior executives, and in this statement they are the Chief Executive, Corporate Directors, the Assistant Chief Executive (Corporate Management Team)

3 Pay and grading structure

The majority of employees' pay and conditions of service are agreed nationally either via the National Joint Council (NJC) for Local Government Services, or the Joint National Council (JNC) for Chief Officers, with regional or local variations.

The Council also employs some staff on Soulbury conditions of service, some on conditions determined by the Joint National Council for Youth & Community Workers, some staff covered by the School Teachers Pay and Conditions Document and some staff on locally agreed terms and conditions for Lecturers and Tutors.

It is the practice of the Council to seek the views of local trade unions on pay related matters, recognising that elements are settled within a national framework.

The Council uses national pay scales up to grade LPO8, and determines the appropriate grade for each job in accordance with the Greater London Provincial Council (GLPC) job evaluation scheme.

Above LPO8, local grades are in place for senior staff as follows:

- LP09 - evaluated under a local variation to the GLPC job evaluation Scheme
- Chief Officers, Deputy Chief Officers (Service Heads and senior executives) and Key Chief Officers - evaluated under the Joint Negotiating Committee for Chief Officers job evaluation scheme

The Council signed a Single Status agreement in April 2008 with trade unions.

This brought former manual grades into the GLPC job evaluation scheme, and replaced spot points with narrow grade bands. One of the key aims of the agreement was to eliminate potential pay inequality from previous pay structures and ensure that new pay structures are free from discrimination.

New and changed jobs are evaluated using the relevant job evaluation scheme, with the appropriate grade being determined using a range of factors.

The scale point on which an individual is appointed to the post is normally the lowest of the grade but will depend on skills and experience.

4 How the Council's management team is structured

The Council's Corporate Management Team is led by the Chief Executive/Head of Paid Service, supported by a number of Chief Officers reporting to the Chief Executive/Head of Paid Service. All statutory roles are at this level of the organisation.

Service Heads (Deputy Chief Officers) in each Directorate report to a member of the Corporate Management Team.

5 Senior Executive remuneration

Pay for senior executives who are members of the Corporate Management Team is made up of three elements:

- Basic pay (defined by a locally agreed grade)
- London weighting allowance
- Travel allowance payment

Service Heads (Deputy Chief Officers) receive basic pay (defined by a locally agreed grade).

Senior salary data is published on the Council's website as part of the Government's transparency agenda. For details, please see http://www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/lqsl/800001-800100/800043_transparency.aspx

6 Senior appointments

All salary packages for posts at Chief Officer, Key Chief Officer or Deputy Chief Officer level are in line with locally agreed pay scales

7 Lowest paid employees

The Council's lowest paid staff are those who are paid on the Council's lowest scale point.

The Council has resolved that its lowest paid staff should not be paid less than the level of the London Living Wage. As a consequence in 2011 the pay levels for

the lowest paid employees, (including the Council's Apprentices) was moved up to Scale 1, (spinal column point 5), which is above the rate of the 2011 London Living Wage.

When the London Living Wage was increased in November 2012, further work was done to ensure the lowest paid employees had the pay increase reflected in their pay. As a consequence, the pay levels for the lowest paid employees, (including the Council's Apprentices) was moved up to Scale 1 (spinal column point 6), which is above the rate of the 2012 London Living Wage.

8 National pay bargaining

Annual pay increases across the Council's grades are set through the process of national pay bargaining which the Council subscribes to.

The Council contributes to the negotiation process by providing an employer view through the annual Local Government Employers' regional pay briefings. The employers' side then negotiate with trade unions at a national level.

National pay rates are set using a number of factors, including:

- The sector's ability to pay
- Movement in market rates
- Inflation levels
- Other pay awards
- The Government's policy position regarding public sector pay

9 Incremental progression

Incremental progression is on an annual basis for those staff who are not at the top of their grade. As per national conditions of service, progression is automatic for all staff (subject to general satisfactory performance) except Service Heads and Chief Officers who have to demonstrate satisfactory performance through a formal annual appraisal before being awarded incremental progression.

10 Additional payments and allowances

A range of allowances and payments are paid as appropriate to the nature and requirement of specific posts, groups of posts and working patterns. These include car and travel allowances, overtime, standby, weekend and night work, shift and call-out payments.

Acting up and honoraria payments are made to individual staff as appropriate using clear criteria, and where a clear business need is identified.

The Council has a staff relocation package, available to new entrants to the Council's employment, but subject to tight eligibility criteria. The Council does not operate a performance related pay scheme or bonus scheme.

11 Pensions

All employees (with the exceptions set out below) of the Council up to 75 years of age and who have a contract of more than 3 months' duration are entitled to join the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS). Decisions on delegated provisions are agreed by the Pensions Committee. The LGPS is a contributory scheme, whereby the employee contributes from their salary. The level of contribution is determined by whole time salary and contribution levels are set by Government who then advise the employer.

All employees of the Council from 18 to 75 years of age and who are employed on Teacher, Youth Work or Tutor/Lecturer terms and conditions are entitled to join the Teachers' Pension Scheme. The Teachers' Pension Scheme is a contributory scheme, whereby the employee contributes from their salary and contribution levels are set by Government.

12 Compensation for loss of office

12.1 Financial terms for redundancy

The Council has a policy linked to its policy for Handling Organisational Change which sets out the terms for redundancy and early termination of staff (subject to qualifying criteria), which apply to Chief Officers and to all staff. In certain circumstances, individuals may also qualify for early release of their pension.

12.2 Redundancy packages

When it is proposed to delete a post at Chief Officer, Key Chief Officer or Deputy Chief Officer level, a report is submitted to the Council's HR Committee for consideration. If the proposal will result in a postholder receiving a severance package, the costs of such a package are included in the report.

12.3 Ill health

Where termination of employment arises from ill health, payments will be made in accordance with the contract of employment. In certain circumstances, individuals may also qualify for early release of their pension.

12.4 Negotiated exits – settlements

If it is determined that a negotiated settlement is appropriate for a senior executive in circumstances which do not amount to a dismissal, the Service Head (Human Resources & Workforce Development) will deal with the detail, and the Council's Chief Executive/Head of Paid Service after consultation with the Monitoring Officer (or in circumstances where it is not appropriate for one or other to be involved, the Chief Financial Officer) will consider whether the terms of the offer constitute value for money and are appropriate, fair and reasonable in the circumstances, and the proposed settlement shall then be subject to the agreement of the Human Resources Committee.

12.5 Re-employment following redundancy/early retirement

Any member of staff who has left the Council by reason of redundancy (compulsory or voluntary) or early retirement and received a severance payment is required to have a gap of at least 1 year after the date of termination before they can return either as a directly employed member of staff, an agency worker or a consultant.

To allow for exceptional circumstances, when it might be necessary to reemploy someone sooner than after a year's gap, a Corporate Director, in conjunction with the Service Head HR and WD and the Chair of the Human Resources Committee, have authority to waive the 1 year requirement, provided there is justification.

13 Pay multiples / comparisons

The Council's pay and grading structures reflect a wide range of job requirements and levels of responsibility across the organisation, with pay and grading being determined by the Council's job evaluation schemes.

The pay ratio demonstrating the relationship between the Council's highest paid employee (total salary package) and the median (mid point between the highest and lowest) salary position of the non schools workforce is **1 : 6.1**.

The Council will have regard to its pay ratio and keep it under review, seeking to balance the following:

- Ensuring appropriate reward mechanisms which value knowledge, skills and experience at a senior level, and ensure that the Council can recruit and retain the best talent
- Addressing its commitment to matching the London Living Wage for our lowest paid staff, and encouraging the developmental progression for staff in the lowest graded roles.

14 Equality issues

The policy elements described in this report derive from national terms & conditions and bargaining, or local discretion. The Council has a keen regard for equality issues and should any changes be made to the pay policy in the future, proposals would go through an Equality Analysis. One of the key aims of Single Status agreement was to eliminate potential pay inequality from previous pay structures and ensure that new pay structures are free from discrimination.

15 Review

The Localism Act 2011 requires relevant authorities to prepare a Pay Policy Statement for each subsequent financial year. The Council's next Statement is scheduled to be for 2014/15 and will be submitted to Full Council for approval by 31 March 2014.

Should changes to pay policy be contemplated that would result in an amended statement being published in the year that it applies, these would be subject to a detailed consultation process before an appropriate recommendation was made to Full Council.

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LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS
COUNCIL MEETING
26th MARCH 2014
ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
REPORT OF CHAIR OF OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY
COMMITTEE

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Under the council's constitution, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (OSC) must report annually to Council documenting the committee's activities during the past year.
- 1.2 The OSC considered and approved its annual report for the year 2013-14 at its meeting on 4th March 2014. The annual report is attached for members' information.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That the Council notes the annual report of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for 2013-14 as attached.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT, 1972 (AS AMENDED) SECTION 100D

LIST OF "BACKGROUND PAPERS" USED IN THE PREPARATION OF THIS REPORT

Background paper	Name and telephone number of and address where open to inspection
None	n/a

3. THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Chair's Foreword – Motin Uz-Zaman

- 3.1 It has been interesting and challenging for the Overview & Scrutiny Committee (OSC) this year. The committee is independent of the council's executive and its statutory role is clearly defined in the council's constitution. The committee's role is to review existing policy, develop new options for improving services, hold the council's executive (the Mayor and Cabinet) and partner agencies to account for their decisions, and check the delivery and performance of council services against agreed aims and targets. Our role has been to provide a constructive challenge to the executive, allowing members of all political groups to investigate issues from a non-political viewpoint. It is an evidence-based process which engages non-executive frontline members and community representatives more closely in the council's decision-making process.
- 3.2 However, I am very disappointed that Mayor Lutfur Rahman has failed to attend a single OSC meeting or to answer a single question this year. He has been invited eight times and let the committee down on each occasion.
- 3.3 Rule 14.1 of the Overview & Scrutiny Procedure Rules provides that the Overview & Scrutiny Committee "may require the Mayor, any other Member of the Executive, a Councillor, the Head of Paid Service and/or any senior officer to attend before it to explain in relation to matters within their remit" any decisions, actions, performance and functions. Unfortunately, the Mayor's total lack of transparency and accountability for his decisions has made the work of the OSC difficult. The committee has, however, managed to work exceptionally well and continued to be constructive despite these difficulties.
- 3.4 The complexity, seriousness and sensitivity of call-ins and referrals from council this year has increased, due to the number of decisions the Mayor has taken outside of Cabinet, and to continuing budget restraints. The committee has been exemplary in its attempts to respond positively, thoughtfully and in depth, offering alternatives where at all possible. All members have been strenuously careful to consider all business on its merits, including our co-optees, who have contributed to debate and discussions and brought their invaluable advice and local insight to the committee. The reception given by the Mayor and Cabinet to OSC responses continues to be disappointing.
- 3.5 We have organised a series of spotlight discussions on areas of concern or interest, along with regular presentations. Alongside this, excellent work has been undertaken by our scrutiny leads in

challenging and reviewing services. Some of our findings and recommendations have been incorporated into the body of this report.

- 3.6 We have also taken a particular interest in the measures being undertaken by the council, police, and political parties to prevent electoral fraud in the borough. It is of the utmost importance that the integrity of elections is secured, and that voters can have full confidence that the legitimacy of the democratic process. For this reason, the committee strongly encourages all partners to send out a strong, consistent message against electoral fraud.
- 3.7 Finally, I would like to give thanks to OSC members, directorate and scrutiny officers for all their hard work and perseverance in continuing to do what was needed to hold the executive accountable for their decisions. I would like to thank in particular Cllr Choudhury for his continued engagement with the committee.

Introduction to Overview and Scrutiny

- 3.8 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee (OSC) has a range of functions which enable it to be a key part of local democratic accountability by holding the executive and other local partners to account. The committee scrutinises key decisions referred by other councillors, reviews all the main strategic documents, and contributes to policy development through scrutiny reviews and one-off “challenge sessions”. One of its most important roles is in reviewing the budget put forward by the executive, ensuring value for money and equality of opportunity for all residents.
- 3.9 To help draft this annual review, all OSC members have reflected on their work over the last year, as well as the main priorities and challenges for 2014-15. Their responses have been incorporated in this report.

Membership of OSC

- 3.10 There were only two changes to the committee’s membership this year, with Cllr Motin Uz-Zaman taking the chair and Cllr Abdal Ullah also joining. The roles have been as follows:
- 3.11 Councillor Motin Uz-Zaman (Chair)
Councillor Rachael Saunders (Vice-chair and Scrutiny Lead for Adults, Health & Wellbeing)
Councillor Stephanie Eaton (Scrutiny Lead for Resources)
Councillor Fozol Miah
Councillor Amy Whitelock Gibbs (Scrutiny Lead for Children, Schools & Families)

Councillor Helal Uddin (Scrutiny Lead for Communities, Localities & Culture)
Councillor Abdal Ullah (Scrutiny Lead for Development & Renewal)
Councillor David Snowdon (Scrutiny Lead for Chief Executive's).

In addition, the committee's co-opted members are:

Memory Kampiyawo (Parent Governor Representative)
Nozrul Mustafa (Parent Governor Representative)
Rev James Olanipekun (Parent Governor Representative)
Mr Mushfique Uddin (Muslim Community Representative) and
Dr Phillip Rice (Church of England Diocese Representative).

There remains a vacancy for a representative of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Westminster.

Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme 2013-14

- 3.12 At the beginning of the year, the committee undertook a session, supported by a consultant from the Centre for Public Scrutiny, to set its work programme for 2013-14. In spite of this being an election year, the committee was determined to carry out a significant programme of policy review work, with the Health Scrutiny Panel recently completing an insightful review of accident and emergency services, and OSC lead members holding challenge sessions on important issues including the growing pressure on school places, the transfer of youth services back into the council, the involvement of residents in the budget-setting process, and support for council staff with specific learning difficulties. The reports and recommendations resulting from these pieces of work will be presented to OSC for agreement by its April meeting, and then to Cabinet in due course.

Resources

- 3.13 The committee took the opportunity to review the regular quarterly monitoring reports of the council's budget and performance during the year, with members taking a particular interest in the sale of capital assets and how receipts are managed and utilised, as well as expressing concern where certain crime indicators had not met targets.
- 3.14 The committee held an extraordinary meeting in January dedicated to considering the budget proposals, and questioned the Cabinet Member for Resources, as well as the Acting Corporate Director, in relation to the council's strategy on delivering the required savings targets, the use of reserves, asset management (mirroring discussions on the quarterly monitoring reports), and other specific areas of spending. Following amendments made at the February Cabinet meeting, OSC

held an additional extraordinary meeting to consider the revised budget proposals before the budget was considered by Council.

- 3.15 Engagement of local people with the council's budgeting process has formed the basis of a recent challenge session, as members have been concerned that this could be improved. Residents were invited to contribute to a discussion, where the approaches of other councils and the input of public participation specialists were also considered. The report from this session will be presented to the committee at its April meeting. This will be joined by a report from another recent challenge session on the council's approach to identifying and supporting staff with specific learning difficulties such as dyslexia, as low numbers tend to declare that they have such difficulties and are therefore unable to access support.

Children Schools and Families

- 3.16 The OSC as a whole focused on this area in October, with a spotlight session with the Cabinet Member and the then-Acting Corporate Director, where the three key challenges facing the Directorate over the coming years were set out as pupil place planning; integrated care for children with disabilities; and managing the Troubled Families programme to meet targets and release more funding. The challenges of working with free schools and academies were also highlighted, particularly the interaction with future pupil place planning and with the existing admissions process.
- 3.17 The committee was concerned to learn that the council was unlikely to be able to meet the Government target to provide 15 hours of provision for all eligible two year olds by the beginning of next academic year, as well as to hear of the shortage of suitably qualified childcare staff in the borough. Members gave constructive suggestions to help address these issues, including investigating the suitability of council assets as childcare venues, linking more proactively with existing children's centres, and prioritising collaboration with training providers to fill this gap in quality provision.
- 3.18 Given the challenge of pupil place planning, the committee decided to use one of its challenge sessions this year to investigate the effectiveness of the council's arrangements and what more can be done to fill the school places gap. This is a key issue for Tower Hamlets, given the borough's large and growing young population which is outstripping government funding, with available options for the council to meet demand further complicated by new free schools and academies. Members' recommendations seek to help families better understand and negotiate the system; as well as enable the council to seize opportunities for school expansion and procurement of new sites, and proactively engage with new schools that are approved in the borough.

- 3.19 OSC also heard an update from officers on progress in implementing the recommendations made in the 2011-12 review into Children's Centres. The committee was pleased to hear that many recommendations had been progressed, particularly on staff remuneration, training and support, but sought further reassurances about improvements in communications with parents about the provision on offer, and parental engagement opportunities. Both members and officers also reflected on how constructive the process of this review had been, leading to concrete outcomes. The scrutiny lead, Councillor Whitelock Gibbs, also presented the 2012-13 review of post-16 attainment formally to Cabinet, which was welcomed by the Mayor and Lead Member.

Communities Localities and Culture

- 3.20 During his annual scrutiny spotlight appearance, the police Borough Commander provided a very helpful overview of crime in the borough, including comparative analysis with our neighbouring areas and performance on victim satisfaction and overall public confidence in the police. He also outlined a number of areas of development including the establishment of an Integrated Offender Management Team in the borough.
- 3.21 At the same meeting, the Deputy Mayor presented the Community Safety Partnership Plan and highlighted the work of a wide range of partners which contribute to the Plan. The committee explored the implications of restructuring Safer Neighbourhoods Teams, the role and approaches of housing associations in addressing anti-social behaviour, and domestic violence.
- 3.22 Members also welcomed the opportunity to scrutinise both the Cumulative Impact Policy (for managing the negative impact of the night time economy in the Brick Lane area), and the Licensing Policy. Whilst members were keen to ensure that the council maintained its commitment to reduce harassment by touts, it was also careful to ensure that the employment opportunities and tourism value offered by licenced premises in the area were protected.
- 3.23 Later in the year, Cllr Helal Uddin chaired a scrutiny challenge session examining the decision to move the Youth Service in-house, critically appraising the delivery of this change and seeking areas of improvement, with input from external experts from the National Youth Agency and the New Economics Foundation. The committee will consider the recommendations from this session at its April meeting.

Development and Renewal

- 3.24 The committee had a useful discussion which looked at the Community Events and Community Chest funds, including how their geographical allocation matched need in the borough, the need for support for some organisations in submitting bids, and the impact of transferring Community Chest money to the Community Events fund. There was also a housing spotlight session, where the cabinet member presented the key challenges in delivering a sufficient supply of affordable housing, and committee members explored the delivery and costs of the Decent Homes programme, and ways of addressing problems in the private rented sector.
- 3.25 In addition, many of the items considered by the committee through call-ins and references from council also fell into this area, and are mentioned below.

Chief Executive's Directorate (now Directorate of Law, Probity and Governance)

- 3.26 The work of the council with its partners in securing the integrity of elections has naturally been a primary focus of the committee as the election approaches later this year, and so it considered reports on this topic on two occasions. Members were specifically keen to hear about the work of the service in mitigating any fraudulent activity, especially with regard to postal votes, through registration checks, a voluntary local protocol (the robustness of which the committee examined), and a communications strategy including a publicity campaign in the run-up to the election period. The committee wishes to see a strong, consistent message from all parties to residents to discourage attempts at electoral fraud, utilising all relevant communications tools, in relevant languages. It is also keen that police have a leading role in preventing fraud on election day.
- 3.27 The committee additionally received the Regulation of Investigative Powers Act report setting out the covert surveillance authorised by the council. While members welcomed the significant drop in applications for surveillance, they noted that the report did not include the numbers of authorisations sought by registered social landlords and the police in the borough, which was a concern.

Call-ins

- 3.28 So far there have been three call-ins this year, each pertaining to Mayoral Executive Decisions on the various rounds of the Mayor's Community Chest and Community Events funds. On each occasion, the decisions were referred back to the Mayor.

- 3.29 Additionally, Council has passed motions referring three matters to the OSC to consider. One was the Mayor's decision to abandon the Watts Grove Depot redevelopment in January, where the committee found that, amongst other things, the reasons for disparity between officer advice and the Mayor's decision remained unclear; and that using a registered provider to deliver the development would have avoided the risks which caused the programme to be stopped. The full report with findings is attached as Appendix A.
- 3.30 A second reference in respect of the use of the Mayor's car is on the agenda for this meeting; and the committee's views on an officer investigation into the marketing and sale of Poplar Town Hall will also be reported at a future meeting.

Policy Framework

- 3.31 The committee plays an important role in scrutinising policy framework items, making comments and recommendations in relation to such items before they go to Cabinet and then Council. This year the committee considered the Licensing Policy and the Community Safety Plan.

Scrutiny 'spotlights' and presentations at meetings

- 3.32 The committee has been able to scrutinise and comment on a range of key policy and service issues through the regular scrutiny 'spotlights'. So far this year the committee has heard from the police borough commander on local crime and policing issues, and the cabinet members for Health and Wellbeing, Children's Services, and Housing.

Other regular items

- 3.33 The committee received a series of regular reports which support its performance management function and provide an overview of council activities. These are an important source of information for the committee which inform future work planning, and included the Complaints and Information Governance Annual Report, and the quarterly strategic performance and corporate revenue and capital budget monitoring reports.

Health Scrutiny Panel 2013-14

- 3.34 Since 1st April 2013 the NHS has undergone a major reorganisation. This has required the Health Scrutiny Panel to be more attentive to trending issues, and the concerns of health service providers. However, the panel was also keen to continue scrutinising the

responsiveness of local providers to the views of residents, and their overall contribution to addressing health inequalities and increasing the wellbeing of local people.

- 3.35 Given the scale and pace of ongoing changes in the health sector, the Health Scrutiny Panel continued to face a significant challenge in understanding what these will mean for local service provision. Two of the main issues (which were also topics suggested by last year's committee) were the integration of the public health team into the council, and the development of Tower Hamlets HealthWatch.
- 3.36 With this in mind and in consideration of other key areas, as well as continuing some of the work from the previous year, the Health Scrutiny Panel has retained its three main workstreams for 2013-14:
- Scrutiny of Barts Health NHS Trust,
 - Accountability, and
 - Understanding health promotion across the life course.
- 3.37 In consideration of these broad areas, during the past year some of the key issues that were covered through the Health Scrutiny Panel meetings are outlined below.

Life Cycle- Young Adults and Middle Age

- 3.38 There was a continuation of looking at the "life course approach" to health. This was in order to focus on partnership working across a broad range of providers for the "young adults" and "middle age" part of the life course, sharing priorities, challenges, issues, and good practice; and gauging if providers are working together sufficiently. Sexual health, alcohol and substance misuse and general health priorities in the borough amongst young adults were given emphasis, along with workplace health, mental health, gendered health issues and prevention for both groups.

Barts Health – Financial Turnaround

- 3.39 In 2012 Barts Health experienced significant financial difficulties and in August 2013 the trust announced a financial turnaround programme, bringing in extra expertise and support to work with clinicians and managers. The Health Scrutiny Panel, both through the Inner North East London Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (INEL JHOSC) and its own individual work, monitored Barts Health's financial position throughout the year, which has now stabilised.

CQC inspection of Barts Health

- 3.40 The INEL JHOSC reviewed the Care Quality Commission's deep dive inspection reports on Barts Health (including areas of good practice and in need of improvement), and the trust's response (including plans for improvement). Barts Health will provide regular feedback on its improvement plan.

Public Health

- 3.41 The panel received a presentation from the public health team on the integration of its services into the council. The Director of Public Health presented on the new structure of the team, its various functions and how it would contribute to the council's wider remit around health. The panel hopes to receive a follow up update mid-2014.

HealthWatch

- 3.42 The panel received a presentation from the new director of Tower Hamlets HealthWatch on the development of this new statutory service, discussing its structure, workplan and objectives for the coming year. The service's strategy for engaging with local residents and patients was also discussed, and HealthWatch will keep the HSP updated on any issues and escalate any concerns that need to be addressed by the panel, as well as provide regular feedback on its work.

New Education, Social Care and Wellbeing Directorate

- 3.43 The Panel received presentation on the merger of the council's Adults, Health and Wellbeing Directorate and the Children, Schools and Families Directorate, detailing the process, benefits, timescales, risks and activity to mitigate these.

Strategies

- 3.44 The Mental Health Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) was updated in 2013, and a joint presentation was received from internal and external stakeholders on the development of the priorities outlined in the new assessment.

Accident & Emergency Scrutiny Review

- 3.45 The Panel undertook this review due to the new NHS arrangements and the significant concerns being raised about A&E services. The panel was keen to understand how Barts Health and the Clinical Commissioning Group were planning to tackle issues around A&E services, especially leading up to winter. The review group heard from

a wide range of stakeholders including the public health team, the Clinical Commissioning Group and Urgent Care Board, HealthWatch and the Royal London Hospital A&E department. The review group has made recommendations which will be presented to the OSC in April 2014.

Conclusions and looking ahead to 2014-15

- 3.46 Over the last year, the committee has been able to address through its work programme many of the priorities and challenges previously identified for this year. It was able to monitor plans for savings in the council's medium term financial plan and Budget for 2014-15 and their impact on service delivery and performance. It took an ongoing interest over multiple meetings in the work to address the findings of the Electoral Commission's investigation, and has tried to secure a joint effort across all relevant parties and participants to prevent electoral fraud. It further used a spotlight to look closely at the functioning of the new Education, Social Care and Wellbeing Directorate, and used a challenge session to focus in particular on pressure on school places.
- 3.47 In addition, the committee was able to examine the council's approach to grants, through call-ins of the Mayor's Community Events and Community Chest funds; an item on the administration of these funds; and further supplementary information provided outside of the committee's meetings. The Health Scrutiny Panel also looked at the transfer of public health into the local authority, and intends to examine this again at a later stage.
- 3.48 The committee has also been keen to monitor implementation of the recommendations from previous scrutiny reviews, including those on children's centres (considered earlier in the year), barriers to youth employment (on the March agenda) and housing co-regulation (scheduled for April).
- 3.49 Members have, however, lacked opportunities to hold the Mayor to account directly, as he has not appeared before the OSC so far in the 2013-14 year. The committee hopes that it will be provided with greater opportunities to carry out this role in the coming year.

4. LEGAL COMMENTS

- 4.1 Article 6.03 (d) of the council's constitution provides that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee must report annually to full council on its work. The report submitted to council following this consideration will fulfil that obligation.
- 4.2 There are no immediate legal implications arising from this report.

5. COMMENTS OF THE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

- 5.1 This report provides a summary and review of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee's work in 2013-14. It forms the draft of a report which will go to full council early in the new municipal year.
- 5.2 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

6. ONE TOWER HAMLETS CONSIDERATIONS

- 6.1 Reducing inequality, promoting community cohesion and building community leadership are all central to the work of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. Scrutiny of the budget raised a number of equality issues, as did several challenge sessions. One session focused specifically on Tower Hamlets staff with learning difficulties, with a view to enabling them to be better-supported at work. Additionally, the session on budget consultation considered how better to engage hard-to-reach groups in one of the council's most important decision-making processes; and the session on the move of youth services in-house encompassed services for young people with protected characteristics, such as LGBT.

7. RISK MANAGEMENT

- 7.1 There are no direct risk management actions arising from this report.

8. SUSTAINABLE ACTION FOR A GREENER ENVIRONMENT

- 8.1 The content of this report has no implications for a greener environment.

9. CRIME AND DISORDER REDUCTION IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 The content of this report has no implications for crime and disorder reduction.

10. EFFICIENCY STATEMENT

- 10.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee contributes to the efficiency of the council, particularly through its scrutiny of the budget process where the committee ensures services are achieving value for money.

APPENDICES

Appendix A – Report to 20 January OSC meeting on the Watts Grove Depot Project

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Committee: Overview and Scrutiny Committee	Date: 20 January 2014	Classification: Unrestricted	Agenda Item:
Draft Report of: Overview & Scrutiny Committee		Title: Reference from Council - Watts Grove Depot Project and financial mechanisms for Dame Colet House and Poplar Baths projects – Draft OSC report to Council Wards Affected: All	

1. **SUMMARY/ BACKGROUND**

- 1.1 Full Council (18 September 2013), passed a motion expressing concern at the Mayor’s decision on 29 July 2013 not to proceed with the Watts Grove Depot redevelopment project and also questioning the suitability of the financial mechanisms used to fund Dame Colet House and Poplar Baths.
- 1.2 Full Council referred the issues to the OSC and asked it to investigate in detail and to report back to full Council on 27 November 2013.
- 1.3 OSC (01 October 2013) considered this request and agreed that, to enable it to undertake full/ appropriate scrutiny of the issues and reach an informed decision/ conclusion, The Corporate Director Development and Renewal be instructed to prepare a comprehensive report, containing all relevant information on the matter for OSC consideration.
- 1.4 OSC (05 November 2013) considered the report of the Corporate Director Development and Renewal and exempt appendices thereto, and had requested further information, the presentation of the relevant information in a more transparent way, and different access arrangements to exempt information. Accordingly the OSC agreed that further consideration of the matter be deferred to the next meeting of the OSC.
- 1.5 OSC (03 December 2013) had considered a further report on the matter which included additional information requested by the OSC and further information was provided by Officers when introducing the report. However the Mayor/Cabinet Members with portfolio for this matter were not in attendance. The OSC agreed that the Chair should prepare a full report on OSC consideration of this matter, including any recommendations arising,

and that this be submitted to the next OSC for agreement before onward reporting to full Council.

- 1.6 OSC (07 January 2014) received the proposed recommendations of the Chair of the Committee and commented on them prior to submission of a report for the Committee to consider at its meeting on 20 January 2014.
- 1.7 A comprehensive discussion took place at the OSC meetings held on 05 November and 03 December and the key findings are summarised below:-
- 1.8 Cabinet members pointed to two key reasons for the decision by the Mayor not to progress with procurement of the Watts Grove Depot redevelopment. These were the implications for the council's Housing Revenue Account (HRA) and overall debt cap of:
 - the Comprehensive Spending Review; and
 - a change in the terms of one of the most attractive bids between the competitive dialogue and competitive tender stages, which transferred much of the cost and risk of the redevelopment back to the council.

However, the advice to the Mayor from the relevant Corporate Director (signed in mid-June), and the Chief Finance Officer (in mid-July) was to proceed with the procurement, as it had been assessed as being affordable. In spite of this, on the same day as the Chief Finance Officer's signoff, these recommendations were rejected. The reason for the disparity between officer advice and the Mayor's decision remains unclear.

- 1.9 The reasons the Committee was given for not delivering the Watts Grove Depot redevelopment through a partnership with a registered provider (RP) were:
 - When the procurement process began for Watts Grove, the future costs of flexible tenancies and affordable rent models inherent in using an RP partner were felt to outweigh the likely costs to the HRA and debt cap of the council retaining the stock itself;
 - The Mayor had decided that the council should retain ownership of the housing stock to ensure more secure tenancies; and
 - An RP would likely have charged 80% of the market rent for the homes in order to meet the needs of its business plan, which would not have been sufficiently affordable for residents.

However, this route would have had no effect on the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) and the council's statutory debt cap. Furthermore, any RP

partner would, as a member of the Common Housing Register, be required to allocate homes in accordance with the council's policy and procedures. Indeed, this option was used for the procurement for Dame Colet House and Poplar Baths.

2.0 In addition to the above findings, Overview & Scrutiny Committee concludes that:

- The decision to use the model selected for the Watts Grove Depot redevelopment was flawed, and vulnerable to potentially foreseeable changes. The consequence of these decisions has seen the council incur costs of approximately £308,000 (as of 5th November), and lose out on the opportunity to provide 149 affordable homes. A partnership with an RP, or another more economically viable model such as council housing, would have been a better option. However, to pursue this now would involve starting the full and costly process again from the beginning.
- Whilst the Mayor is entitled to make certain decisions in private, doing so makes it difficult to ascertain the full rationale for these, and for the Committee to discharge its functions (as was the case here). The Committee therefore believes that decisions such as these should be made in public unless absolutely necessary. Equally importantly, where decisions are made in private, the basis and rationale for these should be clear and available for scrutiny just as for decisions made in public, and the Mayor should make himself available in person to justify them when requested by the Committee.
- Related to the above, the Mayor and Cabinet members should adhere to the council constitution and attend the Overview and Scrutiny Committee when they are required, rather than leaving officers to defend their decisions. The absence of the political leadership of the council from meetings has obstructed the Committee from fully carrying out its role in scrutinising their decisions.
- Where the Mayor rules out working with RSL partners on a project which is otherwise financially unviable he should justify his reasons for doing so.
- The cabinet member responsible for housing should provide accurate figures when commenting on the number of homes built by the council, so that members and residents can be confident that these are reliable.
- Cabinet members should be fully briefed and should have all the information they need before they attend meetings of the Committee, so that the Committee's discussions, findings and recommendations are based upon the fullest and most accurate information possible.
- Reports should be unrestricted in the interests of transparency, with exceptions for restricted papers only where absolutely necessary (such as

commercially sensitive information). In this case, the Committee believes that more of the reports should have been unrestricted.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 The Overview & Scrutiny Committee recommends that the Council endorses the above findings, and that the Mayor and Cabinet members act accordingly.

3. COMMENTS OF THE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

- 3.1 This report updates Members on the results of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee's consideration of the Watts Grove Depot Project following its referral from Council in September 2013.
- 3.2 The comments of the Chief Finance Officer were included within the various reports previously considered by the Overview and Scrutiny committee.

4. COMMENTS OF LEGAL SERVICES

- 4.1 The Council is required by section 9F of the Local Government Act 2000 to have an Overview and Scrutiny Committee and to have executive arrangements that ensure the committee has specified powers. Consistent with this obligation, Article 6 of the Council's Constitution provides that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee may consider any matter affecting the area or its inhabitants and may make reports and recommendations to the Full Council or the Executive in connection with the discharge of any functions. In this instance, the Committee has asked Full Council to endorse its recommendations in relation to the carrying out of executive functions. It will be for the Executive to determine how it responds to such recommendations.

5. ONE TOWER HAMLETS CONSIDERATIONS

- 5.1 Any relevant matters are set out in the previous reports.

6. SUSTAINABLE ACTION FOR A GREENER ENVIRONMENT

- 6.1 Any relevant matters are set out in the previous reports.

7. RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

7.1 Any relevant matters are set out in the previous reports.

8. CRIME AND DISORDER REDUCTION IMPLICATIONS

8.1 Any relevant matters are set out in the previous reports.

9. EFFICIENCY STATEMENT

9.1 Any relevant matters are set out in the previous reports..

10. APPENDICES

None

**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	N/A

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LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS
COUNCIL MEETING
26th MARCH 2014
EXECUTIVE MAYOR'S CAR
REFERENCE FROM THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MEETING
ON 4TH MARCH 2014

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

At its meeting on 18 September 2013, Council considered a report on the business case and value for money discerned from the retention of the Mayor's private car, and resolved to request that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (OSC) review the report and the issues involved. OSC agreed, and the report was considered at its meeting on 3rd December. The committee deferred further consideration pending the provision of additional information, and the item was considered again at the meeting on 20th January 2014. Following this, OSC agreed a report with its findings and recommendations at its meeting on 4th March 2014.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1 That the Council consider the reference back from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and its recommendations.

1. DETAILS OF REPORT

- 1.1 The report considered at Council on 18th September 2013 requesting the review is attached as Appendix A.
- 1.2 The report of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee agreed at its meeting of 4th March 2014 is attached as Appendix B.

2. COMMENTS OF THE CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER

- 2.1. The reference report from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee contains all relevant financial comments.

3. LEGAL COMMENTS

3.1. Legal comments are set out in the report in appendix 2.

4. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Other relevant considerations and implications are set out in the attached draft report of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

5. APPENDICES

Appendix A – Report to Council on 18th September 2013

Appendix B – Report to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee of 4th March 2014.

Background Papers: Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972

NONE

LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

COUNCIL MEETING

WEDNESDAY 18th SEPTEMBER 2013

**REPORT IN RELATION TO THE
EXECUTIVE MAYOR'S CAR**

**REPORT OF THE ACTING CORPORATE DIRECTOR,
RESOURCES**

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Full Council, on 26th June 2013, requested that the Council's Section 151 Officer review the business case and public value for money discerned from the retention of the Mayor's private car and provide a report back to the next full Council meeting.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That the Council note the report in relation to the Executive Mayor's car.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT, 1972 (AS AMENDED) SECTION 100D

LIST OF "BACKGROUND PAPERS" USED IN THE PREPARATION OF THIS REPORT

Background paper	Name and telephone number of and address where open to inspection
None	n/a

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 This report is presented to Council in response to a series of resolutions tabled at the 26th June 2013 full Council, whereby it was resolved that the Council's S151 Officer be required "to review the business case and public value for money discerned from the retention of the Mayor's private car and report back to the next full Council meeting".
- 3.2 The decision to provide suitable transport facilities for the Executive Mayor, and separate arrangement for the Chair of the Council was made in 2011 following a detailed options appraisal. That decision was taken after it was deemed existing arrangements were unsuitable to enable the Mayor to carry out his increasing range of meetings in venues around the Borough, and following a decision of full Council in October 2010 that precluded the Executive Mayor from having access to the former Mayoral car and chauffeur.
- 3.3 The options appraisal incorporated the following considerations;
- Council owned/leased vehicle and employment of a driver
 - Car hire and chauffeur on a contract basis as required
 - Hire of taxis as required,
- It concluded that the two posts of Executive Mayor and Chair of the Council had distinct transport requirements and sharing a single vehicle between the two posts would not be suitable for operational reasons. Given this conclusion and taking account both the options appraisal presented to him, and being mindful of what Council had resolved, the Mayor, in his executive capacity, determined the current transport arrangements. That determination took account of the number of engagements, use of mayor's time, and existing staffing arrangements
- 3.4 The executive decision was made for the Council to lease a vehicle and retain employment of the existing driver.

4. CONSIDERATION

- 4.1 The costs of the Executive Mayor's car have been analysed to identify both fixed and variable costs. Fixed costs are deemed to be employee costs, vehicle lease and insurance, with the variable costs fuel. The car was leased in accordance with the Council's financial regulations.
- 4.2 The total cost of the Executive Mayor's car is approximately £42,300 per annum, although this may vary based on usage. Over 90% of the costs are fixed.
- 4.3 Determination of the Mayor's transport arrangements is an executive function and this decision was based on a detailed options appraisal as outlined above.

4.4 This review has concluded that the rationale for the original 2011 decision has not changed, and furthermore there would be costs associated with changing the existing arrangements if the Mayor felt that was appropriate.

4.5 This review has also identified that these transport arrangements for the Executive Mayor are not unique, and based on information available from elsewhere that annual costs, as outlined in paragraph 4.2 above are deemed comparable.

5. LEGAL COMMENTS

5.1 The Council may put in place arrangements to support delivery of the Executive Mayor's functions under Part 1A of the Local Government Act 2000 and related legislation. The making of such arrangements is an executive function.

5.2 The Council is subject to a best value duty 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".

5.3 The present report is provided on a noting basis and offers an opportunity for the council to scrutinise the arrangements in place in relation to the Executive Mayor's car.

6 COMMENTS OF THE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

6.1 This report describes the finance review of the costs of the Executive's Mayor's car and the financial implications are included in the report.

7. ONE TOWER HAMLETS CONSIDERATIONS

7.1 There are no One Tower Hamlets implications arising from the recommendation.

8. RISK MANAGEMENT

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

9. SUSTAINABLE ACTION FOR A GREENER ENVIRONMENT

9.1 There are no specific implications arising from the recommendation.

10. CRIME AND DISORDER REDUCTION IMPLICATIONS

10.1 The content of this report has no implications for crime and disorder reduction.

11. EFFICIENCY STATEMENT

- 11.1 The report sets out how the current transport arrangements contribute to the efficient use of time for the Executive Mayor in fulfilling his duties.

Committee: Overview and Scrutiny Committee	Date: 4 th March 2014	Classification: Unrestricted	Report No:	Agenda Item:
Draft Report of: Overview & Scrutiny Committee		Title: Reference from Council – Executive Mayor’s Car – Draft OSC report to Council Wards Affected: All		

1. **SUMMARY/BACKGROUND**

- 1.1 At its meeting on 18 September 2013, Council considered a report on the business case and value for money discerned from the retention of the Mayor’s private car, and resolved to request that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (OSC) review the report and the issues involved. OSC agreed, and the report was considered at its meeting on 3rd December. The Committee deferred further consideration pending the provision of additional information, and the item was considered again at the meeting on 20th January 2014. The officer report is attached as an appendix to this report.
- 1.2 From the information provided by officers, the Committee acknowledges that an options appraisal was carried out before the decision to implement the current arrangements. We also note that the costs of these are largely fixed.
- 1.3 However in considering the options appraisal, we noted that it did not include the use of public transport, use of the Mayor’s own car, or walking as options, which we consider an oversight.
- 1.4 Furthermore, as an element of the business case for the Mayor’s car was the number of his engagements and use of his time, the Committee thought it pertinent to examine the nature of those engagements for which the car was used, and the details of the journeys involved. Members were concerned to ensure a proper separation of the Executive and ceremonial functions of the Council, and that civic engagements were not forming a disproportionate part of the car’s use. We therefore requested and received the record sheets of the Mayor’s driver, which recorded only times of journeys and the mileage travelled. We also requested information on the Mayor’s past diary commitments, but this which was not provided.

2. **RECOMMENDATIONS**

2.1 The Overview & Scrutiny Committee recommends that the Council endorses the following findings, and that the Mayor and Cabinet members act accordingly.

2.2 The Mayor's non-cooperation with the Overview and Scrutiny Committee has meant that we have not been able to access the relevant evidence and information on the way the Executive Mayor's car and driver has been used. We are therefore unable to dismiss the concerns which have been raised about these.

2.3 In particular:

- driver records provided to the Committee of the actual use of the car did not detail the actual journeys undertaken, but merely the number of miles travelled;
- we were not provided with information regarding the Mayor's engagements over the relevant period; and
- the Mayor did not make himself available to discuss his use of the car.
- For these reasons, the Committee is unable to confirm that the car was not used for personal or political engagements.
- We also remain unclear that the car was not used to discharge civic duties which should be undertaken by the Speaker.
- The Committee acknowledges that the Executive Mayor of the council needs access to appropriate transport in order to carry out his duties. Where a car and driver is used, engagements should be recorded, and details of these journeys made available to the Committee if required, rather than simple mileage as is currently the case.
- Furthermore, a new, thorough and robust options analysis should be carried out to assess all of the possible options for the Mayor's transport needs. This should include the option of sharing a car and driver with the Speaker, as well as the use of public transport.

3. COMMENTS OF THE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

- 3.1 The report recommends that further options analysis, beyond that already carried out as referred to in the report above, is carried out to assess all of the possible options for the Mayor's transport need. It is anticipated this appraisal would be carried by officers of the council, and as such the financial implications will be the opportunity cost of officer time, which will be contained within existing budgets.

4. LEGAL COMMENTS

- 4.1 Under Section 3 of the Local Government Act 1999 the Council, as best value authority, is under a duty to secure continuous improvement in the way its functions are exercised having regard to a combination of economy, efficiency and effectiveness.

- 4.2 The chauffeur is a Council employee and the car is contracted under a lease agreement which terminates in October 2014. If the current arrangements are terminated there will be significant redundancy costs and a termination cost of approximately £5,000 for the lease which tapers off as the agreement nears expiry.

- 4.3 There are no other immediate legal implications arising from this report.

5. ONE TOWER HAMLETS CONSIDERATIONS

- 5.1 Any relevant matters are set out in the previous reports.

6. SUSTAINABLE ACTION FOR A GREENER ENVIRONMENT

- 6.1 Any relevant matters are set out in the previous reports.

7. RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 Any relevant matters are set out in the previous reports.

8. CRIME AND DISORDER REDUCTION IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 Any relevant matters are set out in the previous reports.

9. EFFICIENCY STATEMENT

- 9.1 Any relevant matters are set out in the previous reports.

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.
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None	N/A
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Report authors should refer to the section of the report writing guide which relates to Background Papers when completing this section. Please note that any documents listed in this section may be disclosed for public inspection. Report authors must check with Legal Services before listing any document as ‘background papers’.

12. APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Report to Full Council on Executive Mayor’s Car, 18th September 2013

LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

COUNCIL MEETING

WEDNESDAY 26th MARCH 2014

REVIEW OF PROPORTIONALITY AND ALLOCATION OF PLACES ON COMMITTEES AND PANELS OF THE COUNCIL

REPORT OF THE SERVICE HEAD, DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 A change in the political composition of the Council occurred on 6th March 2014 when Councillor Anwar Khan gave notice to the proper officer that for the purposes of the Local Government & Housing Act 1989 ('the 1989 Act') he was no longer a member of the Labour Group on the Council but instead would serve as a 'Labour Independent' Councillor.
- 1.2 Consequent on this change the Council must review the allocation of places on Committees and other bodies covered by the proportionality requirements in the 1989 Act.
- 1.3 The allocations are set out overleaf. Although the change above has reduced the percentage of Council seats held by the Labour Group, this has no effect on the allocation of places on committees etc, because the allocation of seats to the Labour Group is already at the minimum level to satisfy principle (ii) of the proportionality rules set out at paragraph 3.1 overleaf ('that the majority of seats on each body must go to the political group with the majority on the Council'). Similarly the Conservative and Respect Group allocations are unaffected.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That the review of proportionality at paragraph 3 overleaf be noted and the Council agree the unchanged allocation of seats on committees and panels established for the remainder of the Municipal Year 2013/14 as set out at paragraph 4.2.
- 2.2 That Members and deputies be appointed to serve on those committees and panels in accordance with nominations from the political groups to be notified to the Service Head, Democratic Services.

2.3 That the Service Head, Democratic Services be authorised to approve the appointment of ungrouped Councillors to any committee places not allocated by the Council to a political group, after consultation with those Councillors and the Speaker of the Council.

3. REVIEW OF PROPORTIONALITY

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

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

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

3.3 Neither the Cabinet nor any executive sub-groups are covered by the requirement for proportionality.

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

Group	seats	%
Labour	26	50.98
Conservative	7	13.73
Respect	2	3.92
(Ungrouped*)	16	
Total	51	

* NB: For the purposes of the 1989 Act an individual Councillor cannot constitute a political group. The 'ungrouped' category above therefore

includes Councillor Stephanie Eaton (Liberal Democrat), Councillor Anwar Khan (Labour Independent) as well as the fourteen 'independent' Councillors.

4. ALLOCATION OF PLACES ON COMMITTEES

4.1 The committees and panels established by the Council for the municipal year 2013/14 are listed below. There are a total of 91 places on these committees and panels. Seats will continue to be allocated to the political groups in proportion to their numbers on the full Council as follows:-

Labour: 51 places
 Conservative: 13 places
 Respect: 4 places

4.2 The remaining 23 places are available for ungrouped members. Applying the principles in the Act as closely as is reasonably practicable the proposed allocation of places on the committees and panels covered by the requirement for proportionality for the remainder of the municipal year is as follows:-

	Total	Labour	Conser- vative	Respect	Un- grouped
Overview & Scrutiny Committee (plus 6 co-optees)	9	5	1	1	2
Health Scrutiny Panel	7	4	1		2
Appeals Committee	9	5	1		3
Audit Committee	7	4	1		2
Development Committee	7	4	1	1	1
Strategic Development Committee	9	5	2		2
General Purposes Committee	7	4	1		2
Human Resources Committee	7	4	1		2
Licensing Committee	15	8	2	1	4
Pensions Committee	7	4	1		2
Standards Advisory Committee (plus 7 co-optees)	7	4	1	1	1

4.3 Each political group is invited to submit nominations to the positions allocated to that group and the Constitution provides for the Service Head, Democratic Services then to agree appointments to committees/panels in accordance with the nomination of the political group to which a position has been allocated by the Council.

5. LEGAL COMMENTS

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

6. COMMENTS OF THE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

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

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

COUNCIL MEETING

WEDNESDAY 26th MARCH 2014

CALENDAR OF MEETINGS 2014/15

REPORT OF THE SERVICE HEAD, DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

1. Summary

- 1.1 This report requests the Council to agree the programme of Council, committee and other meetings for the forthcoming municipal year.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 That the Council approve the proposed calendar of meetings for the municipal year 2014/15 as set out at Appendix A.

3. Background

- 3.1 The Council Procedure Rules provide for the Council to agree a programme of meetings for each municipal year. A draft schedule of Council, committee and panel meetings is proposed for adoption at Appendix A.
- 3.2 The draft calendar follows the pattern set in previous years in respect of frequency of meetings/meeting days for the various committees, adapted to address any issues that have arisen during the year and taking into account service requirements.
- 3.3 The Council Procedure Rules provide that in a local election year such as 2014, the Council may revisit the calendar of meetings at the Annual Council Meeting immediately following the elections if necessary.

4. Points to note

- 4.1 Local Government Elections are due to be held on Thursday 22nd May 2014. The Annual Meeting of Council is therefore later than usual, to be held on Wednesday 11th June. The first Cabinet meeting will be held on Wednesday 25 June.
- 4.2 As in previous years, efforts have been made to avoid holding meetings during school holiday periods, with particular reference to August. However, it is necessary for a small number of meetings to be

held, particularly regulatory committees where time limits apply for the determination of applications.

4.3 Other key points to note in relation to the proposed calendar are:

- Full Council Meetings have been scheduled taking into account the reporting timetable for Budget and Policy Framework items.
- The Budget Council meeting is programmed for 25th February 2015. This will allow time for a second Budget Council meeting to be arranged on 5th March if necessary. Additional Overview and Scrutiny Committee meetings have been scheduled for Monday 19th January and Tuesday 10th February specifically to scrutinise the budget proposals.
- As far as possible meetings have been minimised during other school holidays, major religious festivals and major political party national conferences. Where it is necessary to programme meetings during Ramadan, these are generally scheduled to begin at 5.30 p.m. to avoid continuing beyond Iftar.
- Requests have been received from some Members to avoid holding Committee meetings on Thursdays due to their other commitments. The Pensions Committee and the Health and Wellbeing Board meetings have been moved to Tuesdays. However, due to the number of meetings it is not possible to entirely avoid Thursdays.
- The Tower Hamlets Health and Wellbeing Board dates are now set by Council and are included in this report for approval.
- There are ongoing discussions regarding altering the start time of the King George's Field Charity Board, but in the absence of a final decision the meetings times are still listed at 6:30pm in this report.
- Appeals Committee has been programmed to meet on a monthly basis.
- Reflecting the continuing high number of hearings, the Licensing Sub-Committee will continue to be scheduled fortnightly.
- The Appointments Sub-Committee will be convened on an ad hoc basis.

6. Start times of meetings

- 6.1 In accordance with Members' wishes, Cabinet meetings continue to be programmed for a 5.30 p.m. start. Full Council Meetings are scheduled for 7.30 p.m.

6.2 In relation to other committees and sub-committees, a range of different arrangements have developed over recent years (for example Licensing Sub-Committees and Health Scrutiny Panel start at 6.30 p.m.; Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Strategic Development and Development at 7.00 p.m.; and Standards Advisory and General Purposes Committees amongst others at 7.30 p.m.). Although this does not promote consistency, the arrangements do reflect the differing requirements of particular meetings and are therefore included unchanged in the draft calendar.

6.3 Investment Panel meetings are scheduled to take place on the same day as the Pensions Committee to facilitate Member attendance.

7. Observations of the Chief Financial Officer

7.1 There are no specific financial comments arising from this report.

8. Legal Comments

8.1 There are no immediate legal implications arising from this report.

9. Implications for One Tower Hamlets

9.1 In drawing up this schedule of meetings, consideration has been given where possible to avoiding school holidays, known religious holidays and other dates which could inhibit attendance or participation by one or more section(s) of the borough's community.

10. Anti-Poverty Implications

10.1 There are no anti-poverty implications arising from the proposals in this report.

11. Risk Management Implications

11.1 The Council needs to have in place a programme of meetings to ensure effective and efficient decision-making arrangements.

12. Strategic Action for a Greener Environment

12.1 No implications arising from this report.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 (SECTION 100D)

LIST OF "BACKGROUND PAPERS" USED IN THE PREPARATION OF THIS REPORT

Brief description of "background paper"	Name and telephone number of holder and address where open to inspection
None.	

CALENDAR OF MEETINGS FOR THE 2014/2015 MUNICIPAL YEAR

Committee	Usual Meeting Day	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
Audit Committee	7.00 pm Tuesday	30 (Mon)			16			16			17			
Cabinet	5.30 pm Wednesday	25	23		3	1	5	3	7	4	4	8	13	3*
Council	7.30 pm Wednesday	11	30		10		26		21	25	5 (Thu)%	15	20	
Development Committee	7.00 pm Wednesday	25	24 (Thu)	20	15 (Mon)	15	19	17	14	11	11	9 (Thu)	14 (Thu)	4 (Thu)*
Appeals / Appeals Sub Committee	6.30 pm Monday	30	14	11	15	13	17	15	12	16	16	13	11	
General Purposes Committee	7.00 pm Wednesday		2		9 (Tue)			10			25			
Health Scrutiny Panel	6.30 pm Tuesday		15		16		18		27		24			
Human Resources Committee	7.30 pm Wednesday		9			22			28		25			
King George's Field Charity Board	6.30 pm Wednesday		16			15			14		18			
Licensing Committee	7.00 pm Tuesday		15			14		9			10			

Committee	Usual Meeting Day	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
Licensing Sub Committee	6.30 pm Tuesday	26 (Thu)	8 22	5 19	2 16 30	7 21	4 18	2 16	8 (Thu) 20	3 17	3 17 31	14 28	12 26*	9*
Overview & Scrutiny Committee	7.30 pm Tuesday	24	22		2 30		4	2	6 19 (Mon)^	3 10^	3	7	12	2*
Pensions Committee	7.30 pm Tuesday		16 (Wed)		17 (Wed)		19 (Wed)			24				
Standards (Advisory) Committee	7.30 pm Tuesday		15			21			13			14		
Strategic Development Committee	7.00 pm Thursday		3	14	25		6	18	29		12	23		4*
Tower Hamlets Health and Wellbeing Board	5.00 pm Tuesday		8		9		25		13		10			

Key to Symbols

* These dates are provisional after the 2015 Annual Meeting

^ Additional Overview and Scrutiny Meeting specifically to consider the draft budget proposals

% Provisional second budget Council date if budget not agreed at first meeting

NOTES:

- OTHER MEETINGS including Appointments Sub-Committee arranged on an ad hoc basis as required. Investment Panel meetings will be scheduled on the same day as Pensions Committee (after Pensions Committee on 16 July and before it on the other dates)
- BUDGET & COUNCIL TAX SETTING: Statutory deadline 10th March. Date of meeting set to enable receipt of GLA precept information.
- ELECTIONS: Local Government Elections – 22nd May 2014. General Election 7th May 2015.
- RAMADAN provisional dates: 29th June – 28th July 2014 (to be confirmed) and 18th June – 17th July 2015 (to be confirmed)
- ROSH HASHANAH - 18th&19th September 2013; YOM KIPPUR – 26th September 2013
- EID-UL-ADHA provisional date: 4th October 2012, ASHURA: 3th November 2012
- EASTER 2015: Good Friday 3rd April 2015, Easter Monday 6th April 2015.

LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

COUNCIL MEETING

WEDNESDAY 26th MARCH 2014

MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES SCHEME 2014/15

REPORT OF THE SERVICE HEAD, DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 Part 6 of the Council's Constitution sets out the Scheme of Members' Allowances. This provides for a Mayor's Allowance to be paid to the Mayor; a Basic Allowance to all Councillors; Special Responsibility Allowances for specified member roles; Dependants' Carers' and Travel/Subsistence Allowances; and an attendance allowance for co-opted members of the Standards Advisory Committee and the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
- 1.2 By law the Council must agree the Scheme of Members' Allowances annually, before the start of the year to which it applies. The proposed Scheme of Members Allowances for 2014/15 is attached at Appendix 'A' to this report and is unchanged from the 2013/14 Scheme.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That the London Borough of Tower Hamlets Members' Allowances Scheme 2014 be adopted as set out at Appendix 'A' to this report.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 In accordance with Statutory Instrument (SI 1021/2003) the Council is required to agree a Scheme of Members' Allowances on an annual basis. The Scheme may include an annual index-linked adjustment of allowances, but it must be subject to a full review at least every four years, taking into account the recommendations of an Independent Remuneration Panel.
- 3.2 The current scheme is included at Part 6 of the Council's Constitution and it is proposed that this should be re-adopted unchanged for 2014/15 as set out at Appendix 'A' to this report.
- 3.3 The London Councils Independent Remuneration Panel last reported in 2010 and is expected to do so again later in 2014. The Council's scheme will then be reviewed in the light of the Panel's further report.

4. COMMENTS OF THE CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER

4.1 The scheme includes provision for indexing Members' Allowances in line with the local government pay settlement. Any costs arising from the indexing of allowances will be met from within existing budgets.

5. LEGAL COMMENTS

5.1 Section 18 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 permits the Secretary of State, by regulations, to make a scheme providing for the payment of a basic allowance, an attendance allowance and a special responsibility allowance to members of a local authority. Section 100 of the Local Government Act 2000 permits the Secretary of State, by regulations, to provide for travelling and subsistence allowances for members of local authorities, allowances for attending conferences and meetings and reimbursement of expenses. In exercise of these powers the Secretary of State has made the Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003.

5.2 The Regulations require the council to make a scheme before the beginning of each year for the payment of basic allowance. The scheme must also make provision for the authority's approach to special responsibility allowance, dependants' carers' allowance, travelling and subsistence allowance and co-optees' allowance. The scheme may also provide for other matters of the kind dealt with in the proposed scheme.

6. IMPLICATIONS FOR ONE TOWER HAMLETS

6.1 The payment of Members' Allowances helps to ensure that people from all parts of the community within the borough are able to serve as elected members. This promotes effective community leadership and accountability, to the benefit of the whole borough and all its communities.

7. SUSTAINABLE ACTION FOR A GREENER ENVIRONMENT (SAGE)

7.1 There are no direct SAGE implications arising from the recommendations in this report.

8. RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

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

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972, SECTION 100D
LIST OF "BACKGROUND PAPERS" USED IN THE PREPARATION OF THIS REPORT**

Brief description of "background paper" Name/telephone number of holder

None.

APPENDIX 'A'

London Borough of Tower Hamlets: Members' Allowances Scheme

(Part 6 of the Council's Constitution)

This Scheme is made by the London Borough of Tower Hamlets in accordance with the provisions of the Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 as amended.

1. This Scheme shall be called The London Borough of Tower Hamlets Members' Allowances Scheme 2014 and it shall come into effect on 1 April 2014. The Scheme shall apply to the Mayor, Councillors and Co-opted Members of the London Borough of Tower Hamlets.

Basic Allowance

2. Subject to paragraph 8, a basic allowance of £10,065* shall be paid to each Councillor for each year. The Basic Allowance shall not be payable to the elected Mayor.
3. The basic allowance of £10,166* shall be payable with effect from 1 April 2014.

*[*Note: Paragraph 11 of this scheme provides for the amounts marked * to be adjusted with effect from 1st April 2014 to reflect the annual pay settlement for local government staff when this is agreed.]*

Special Responsibility Allowance

4. Subject to paragraphs 5-8, a special responsibility allowance shall be paid for each year to those Members who hold a position of special responsibility as specified in Schedule 1.
5. The amount of each such allowance shall be the amount specified against the respective special responsibility in Schedule 1 and it shall be payable with effect from 1 April 2014.
6. Any special responsibility allowance payable under paragraphs 4 and 5 shall be in addition to the basic allowance payable under paragraph 2 above.
7. Any Member who holds more than one position of special responsibility shall receive only one special responsibility allowance which shall be at the higher level.

Part-Year Entitlement

8. If, in the course of the year, this scheme is amended or a Member's entitlement changes, the relevant basic and/or special responsibility

allowance shall be calculated and paid pro-rata during the particular month in which the scheme amendment or entitlement change occurs.

Dependants' Carers' Allowance

9. A maximum of £7.33* per hour shall be paid to those Members who necessarily incur expense in arranging for the care of their children or other dependants to enable them to undertake any of the activities specified in Schedule 2 to this Scheme.
10. The following conditions shall apply:
 - payments shall be claimable for children aged 15 or under or for other dependants where there is medical or social work evidence that care is required;
 - only one weekly payment shall be claimable for the household of each Member, unless the Council's Standards Advisory Committee considers there are special circumstances;
 - the allowance shall be paid as a re-imbusement of incurred expenditure against receipts;
 - the allowance shall not be payable to a member of the claimant's own household;
 - any dispute as to entitlement and any allegation of abuse shall be referred to the Council's Standards Advisory Committee for adjudication.

Indexation

11. The Basic, Special Responsibility, Mayor's and Dependants' Carers' Allowances shall be adjusted annually to reflect the annual pay settlement for local government staff. The adjustment shall take effect on 1 April in each year, or the date on which the settlement takes effect, if later.

Travel and Subsistence Allowance

12. An allowance shall be paid to any Member for travelling and subsistence undertaken outside the Borough in connection with any of the duties specified in Schedule 2.
13. An allowance shall be paid to a co-opted member of a Committee, Sub-Committee or Panel of the Council for travelling and subsistence in connection with any of the duties specified in Schedule 2, irrespective of whether the meeting or duty is inside or outside the Borough.

14. The amounts payable shall be the amounts which are for the time being payable to officers of the Council for travelling and subsistence undertaken in the course of their duties.

Co-optees' Allowance

15. Subject to paragraph 16, a co-opted member of the Standards Advisory Committee, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee or the Health Scrutiny Panel may claim a co-optees' allowance of £118* and a co-opted member who is appointed as Chair of the Standards Advisory Committee may claim a co-optee's allowance of £242*, for attendance at any meeting of the Committee or the Panel or attendance at any conference or training event, where attendance is on behalf of and authorised by the Council.
16. A claim for co-optees' allowance shall be made in writing within two months from the date of attendance at the meeting, conference or training event.
17. Where a member is suspended or partially suspended from his or her responsibilities or duties as a co-opted member under Part III of the Local Government Act 2000, any co-optee's allowance payable to him or her for the period for which he or she is suspended or partially suspended, may be withheld by the Council.

Recovery of Allowances Paid

18. Any allowance that has been paid to a Member after he or she has ceased to be a member of the Council, or is for some other reason not entitled to receive the allowance for a specified period, may be recovered.

Claims and Payments

19. Subject to paragraph 21, payments shall be made for basic and special responsibility allowances in instalments of one-twelfth of the amounts respectively specified in this Scheme, paid on the last working day of each month.
20. Where a payment of one-twelfth of the amount specified in this Scheme for a basic or special responsibility allowance will result in the Member receiving more than the amount to which he or she is entitled, the payment shall be restricted to such amount as will ensure that no more is paid than the amount to which he or she is entitled.
21. A claim for travelling and subsistence or dependants' carers' allowance;
 - shall be made in writing within two months from the date of the performance of the duty for which the claim is made;

- shall be accompanied by receipts and/or any relevant evidence of the costs incurred.
 - shall be subject to such validation and accounting procedures as the Council's Corporate Director, Resources may from time to time prescribe.
22. Travelling and subsistence and dependants' carers' allowance shall be paid on the last working day of each month for any claim received not less than 14 days before that date.

Pensions

23. Any Member under the age of 75 shall be entitled to join the London Borough of Tower Hamlets Local Government Pension Scheme. Both basic and special responsibility allowances shall be treated as pensionable pay for the purposes of the scheme.

Records of Allowances and Publications

24. The Council shall keep a record of payments made by it under this Scheme, including the name of the recipients of the payment and the amount and nature of each payment.
25. The record of the payments made by the Council under this Scheme shall be available at all reasonable times for inspection at no charge. A copy shall also be supplied to any person who requests it on payment of a reasonable fee.
26. As soon as reasonably practicable after the end of the year to which this Scheme relates, the Council shall make arrangements to publish the total sums paid by it to each recipient for each different allowance.
27. A copy of the Scheme shall be supplied to any person who requests it on payment of a reasonable fee.

Renunciation

28. A member may at any time and for any period, by notice in writing given to the Chief Executive, elect to forego any part of his/her entitlement to an allowance under this Scheme.

Interpretation

29. In this scheme:
- "Councillor" means an elected member of the London Borough of Tower Hamlets who is a councillor;

- “Mayor” means the elected Mayor of Tower Hamlets Council
- “Member” means any person who is either the Mayor, a councillor or a co-opted member of Tower Hamlets Council;
- “Co-opted member” means any person who is not a Councillor but who sits on a Committee, Sub-Committee or Panel of the Council.
- “Year” means the 12 months ending on 31 March in any year;

Revocation

- 30.** The London Borough of Tower Hamlets Members’ Allowance Scheme 2013 is hereby revoked.

SCHEDULE 1

Special Responsibility Allowance

The following are specified as the special responsibilities for which special responsibility allowances are payable and the amounts of those allowances:

	£
Mayor	65,650 *
Deputy Mayor	14,889 *
Leader of the Majority Group on the Council	12,784 *
Leader of any other Group with over 6 Councillors	10,276 *
Leader of any Group with up to 6 Councillors (subject to having at least 10% of the Council)	5,586 *
Cabinet Members	12,784 *
Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Committee	10,276 *
Chair of Health Scrutiny Panel	7,633 *
Lead Members for Scrutiny	7,633 *
Chair of Development Committee	10,276 *
Chairs of Licensing, Appeals and General Purposes Committees	7,633 *
Chairs of Audit, Human Resources and Pensions Committees	5,586 *
Speaker of Council	7,633 *
Deputy Speaker of Council	3,815 *

*[*Note: Paragraph 11 of this scheme provides for the amounts marked * to be adjusted with effect from 1st April 2014 to reflect the annual pay settlement for local government staff when this is agreed.]*

SCHEDULE 2

Dependants' Carers' and Travelling and Subsistence Allowances

The duties for which these allowances are payable include:

- the attendance at a meeting of the Council or of any committee or sub-committee of the Council or of any other body to which the Council makes appointments or nominations, or of any committee or sub-committee of such a body;
- the attendance at any other meeting, the holding of which is authorised by the Council, or a committee or sub-committee of the Council, or a joint committee of 270(1) of the Local Government Act 1972, or a sub-committee of such a joint committee, provided that –
 - where the Council is divided into two or more political groups it is a meeting to which members of at least two such groups have been invited; or
 - if the Council is not so divided, it is a meeting to which at least two members of the Council have been invited
- the attendance at a meeting of any association of authorities of which the Council is a member;
- the attendance at a meeting of the Cabinet or a meeting of any of its committees, where the Council is operating executive arrangements;
- the performance of any duty in pursuance of any standing order under section 135 of the Local Government Act 1972 requiring a member or members to be present while tender documents are opened;
- the performance of any duty in connection with the discharge of any function of the Council conferred by or under any enactment and empowering or requiring the Council to inspect or authorise the inspection of premises.
- the performance of any duty in connection with arrangements made by the Council for the attendance of pupils at any school approved for the purposes of section 342 of the Education Act 1996 (approval of non-maintained special schools); and
- the carrying out of any other duty approved by the Council, or any duty of a class so approved, for the purpose of, or in connection with, the discharge of the functions of the Council or any of its committees or sub-committees.

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LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

COUNCIL MEETING

WEDNESDAY 26th MARCH 2014

**MOTIONS SUBMITTED BY
MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL**

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

SUMMARY

1. Eleven motions have been submitted by Members of the Council under Council Procedure Rule 13 for debate at the Council meeting on Wednesday 26th March 2014.
2. The motions submitted are listed overleaf. In accordance with the protocol agreed by the Council on 21st May 2008, the motions are listed by turns, one from each group, continuing in rotation until all motions submitted are included. The rotation starts with any group(s) whose motion(s) were 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 Motion regarding Lutfur Rahman's legacy of failure

Proposer: Councillor Sirajul Islam

Seconded: Councillor Rachael Saunders

This Council notes:

- That under Lutfur Rahman's leadership:

Jobs

- The number of people long-term unemployed in the borough has risen 23%
- The number of young people aged 18-24 who are long-term unemployed in the borough has more than doubled. (Up 111%)
- During the Olympics there was little discernable impact in terms of the number of young people employed in the borough.

Cleaner Streets

- Residents have reported 24,000 bins as uncollected.
- The introduction of charges for bulk waste collections led to 7,000 fewer bulk collections.
- Street cleaning was cut to only two days a week

Crime and ASB

- Crime is up 1.4% since Lutfur Rahman came to power.
- Over the same period crime in neighbouring in Newham is down 8% and in Barking and Dagenham it is down 10%.
- 20,000 reports of Anti-Social behaviour last year
- Tower Hamlets has the second highest levels of anti-social behaviour in London.
- Between October 2009 and September 2012 robberies were up 50%, knife crime was up 49%
- In the 2013 Annual Residents Survey 41% of people said crime was one of their top three concerns, this was the biggest overall concern from residents.

Housing

- Lutfur Rahman has actually SOLD more Council homes than he has built
 - o 15 built since Lutfur Rahman came to power
 - o 46 homes sold off under right to buy
 - o 14 homes sold off through Lutfur Rahman's asset stripping
- There are over 20,000 families on the borough's housing waiting list
- Plans were drawn up to ship up to 500 families out of London this year.
- 94 vulnerable families have unlawfully been placed in 'temporary' accommodation for more than 6 weeks.
- Only 27 of almost 700 homes on the Olympic Park were allocated to Tower Hamlets families

Cost of Living

- 14,000 families have been hit by the Government's Benefit Cap.

- Lutfur Rahman cut the borough's stretched advice centres to the bone with cuts in their grants of up to 50%
- The cost of privately renting in Tower Hamlets now takes up 60% of the average household income.

Schools

- 30% of secondary school children missed out on their first preference school last year. 157 children didn't get any of their 6 preferences.
- The provision of school places varies significantly between areas. For example in Limehouse, last year only 54% of students got a first preference Secondary School place.
- The school place crisis has been ignored.

Council Finance

- The Council has made no progress on invest to save strategies.
- The Council has developed a budget gap of £80m in coming years.
- Over £18m has been spent on redundancy payments with countless more on out of court 'settlements'

Waste

- £42,000 a year wasted on a vanity chauffeur driven Mercedes
- £296,000 a year wasted on 'mayoral advisors'
- Hundreds of thousands wasted on unnecessary publicity

Contempt

- Residents have had their questions, petitions and expectations ignored.
- Councillors were removed from community organisations with their seats left vacant.
- A Commonwealth minister was banned from visiting the Town Hall during the Olympics

This Council Believes:

- Tower Hamlets is a great place to live and can do so much better than this.
- People feel totally let down by Lutfur Rahman's out of touch, divisive and secretive administration and that a change is needed.
- That the current Mayor is too weak to face up to the real challenges facing this council and the people who live in our borough.
- That John Biggs is the man to make that change.

This Council resolves:

- To condemn Lutfur Rahman for his four years of failure.

12.2 Motion regarding enforcement against spitting

Proposer: Councillor Gloria Thienel

Seconded: Councillor Dr Emma Jones

This Council notes:

- That Enfield Council has led the way in dealing with spitting by introducing a by-law against it
- That Waltham Forest Council has avoided the cumbersome bureaucracy of introducing a by-law by classifying spit as a form of “waste”
- That magistrates have upheld the view of Waltham Forest that spit can be classified along with litter; and that therefore those who spit can be issued fixed penalty notices for littering
- The increasing number of complaints received by local councillors in Tower Hamlets that spitting and urinating in public are an issue in our borough
- That Weaver’s ward councillors and our local assembly member have launched a petition for pop-up toilets in Brick Lane, due to people urinating on doorsteps

This Council believes:

- That there are no circumstances under which unsanitary and antisocial behaviour such as spitting or urinating in public is acceptable
- That the majority of the public living, working and visiting Tower Hamlets would support banning such disgusting actions
- That the council should follow Waltham Forest’s lead by dealing with this issue immediately

This Council resolves:

- To classify spit and urine as “waste” for the purposes of being able to treat them like litter
- To ask the council’s enforcement officers to take action against people for this behaviour going forward

12.3 Motion regarding supporting building of the Columbia Market War Memorial

Proposer: Councillor John Pierce

Secunder: Councillor M.A. Mukit M.B.E.

This Council Notes:

On the first night of the Blitz, 7th September 1940 a German bomb entered the ventilation shaft of the air raid shelter situated under the Great Hall of Columbia Market which had a glass roof which caused mass devastation and killed at least 51 people.

This Council believes:

This tragedy should be commemorated and a fitting memorial should be erected near the site of the Great Hall to remember the 51 people who lost their lives in this tragedy.

This Council Resolves:

Calls on the Council to commemorate the air raid on Columbia Market, Columbia Road, and to support the Columbia Market War Memorial Group with building of the Columbia Market War Memorial.

12.4 Motion regarding the economy

Proposer: Councillor David Snowdon

Seconder: Councillor Tim Archer

This Council notes:

- The 1.5 million new apprenticeships created since 2010
- The introduction of a benefits cap, which ensures that work always pays for the residents of Tower Hamlets
- That there are 1.3 million people in work than in 2010, in over 1 million new full-time jobs
- That thanks to cuts in income tax rates, low-earners take-home pay is up over £500 per year
- That Help to Buy is helping Tower Hamlets families to take their first step onto the Housing ladder
- That the Conservatives are the only party who can deliver an EU referendum

This Council believes:

- That residents in Tower Hamlets would prefer politicians who were prepared to Share the Facts with them, rather than scaremongering and mud slinging
- That the economy will continue to grow over the coming months and years

This Council resolves:

- To write to David Cameron and George Osborne, thanking them for their good stewardships of the nation
- To encourage all candidates in the forthcoming elections to Share the Facts

12.5 Motion regarding Standing Up for Tower Hamlets

Proposer: Councillor Rania Khan

Seconder: Councillor Rabina Khan

This Council Notes:

That on 14 March a local magazine published an interview with the Mayor of Newham, Robin Wales, in which he criticised this council's policy on events funding, claimed it favoured particular religious groups and compared the results to Apartheid South Africa.

That the events funded by this council have in fact been for the elderly and the disabled and not for religious groups.

This Council Believes:

That Wales's remarks are a disgraceful slur on this multicultural borough and that he should be ashamed of himself for stirring up community tensions.

That Wales's remarks are deeply insensitive to those who suffered under South African apartheid.

That Tower Hamlets' strengths lie in our diverse yet cohesive community spirit, and that we all benefit from shared experiences from those with different backgrounds.

That Wales has enough work to be getting on with in Newham, with poor families being shipped out of London as far as Birmingham and Hastings because he has failed to deliver sufficient social housing provision, and educational attainment levels below national average and in decline.

This Council Resolves:

To instruct the Head of Paid Service to write to Newham Council, expressing in the strongest terms this Council's displeasure at the Newham mayor's repeated attacks on and insults to our borough.

12.6 Motion regarding Celebration Events

Proposer: Councillor Alibor Choudhury

Seconder: Councillor Abdul Asad

The Council notes:

That the Mayor and Council have hosted the following successful events:

- the Tea Dance for older residents, at which over 500 residents attended;
- the Carers' Party, at which over 350 residents attended;
- and the Disability event, at which over 200 residents confirmed attendance;

Each of these events was designed to celebrate the achievements and contributions made to Tower Hamlets, by these groups of residents.

The older residents' event was designed to thank older residents for their contribution to the borough.

The Carers' event celebrated the dedication and high levels of care provided by friends and relatives in the borough. Tower Hamlets 21, 000 carers who deliver unpaid care to people. The care provided is usually over 50 hours a week, more than anywhere else in the Country.

The Disability event celebrated the wider range of achievements made by disabled residents in the borough.

In the budget meeting in February 2013, the Labour Group passed an amendment which reduced the funding for these events by £111,000.

The Mayor chose to reinstate the budget for these events to ensure that they could be delivered.

The Council believes:

That these events are an important way of showing our appreciation to different groups in the borough.

That these events helped to build social capital, enabled residents to access more support and were highly enjoyable.

That these events were a great success, which was reflected in the praise and thanks given by attendees.

The Council resolves:

To commend the Mayor for hosting these successful events.

To support the Mayor and partners involved in the events to continue to work with these groups to provide support, celebrate achievements and commemorate contributions made.

12.7 Motion regarding supporting women into work

Proposer: Councillor Rabina Khan

Secunder: Councillor Lutfa Begum

The Council notes:

- The Conservative-led government has made millions of cuts to core services. Between 2010 and 2012 they made almost £15 billion worth of cuts; according to Fawcett Society/House of Commons Library, 74% of these cuts were made to services women use.
- In Tower Hamlets, there are 45,000 women who are not working in the borough and 3,750 of the women are claiming job seekers allowance.
- The Council's Women and Worklessness research highlighted that one of the barriers to women working is a lack of flexible employment opportunities which can fit around caring responsibilities.
- The Mayor has created two innovative specialist projects to help women into work:-
 - The £1.2 million Women into Health Jobs Programme will create more than 100 part time training and employment opportunities for women from the borough in the health sector.
 - The Work 100 project was a targeted intervention to help women, particularly Bangladeshi and Somalian women, who find it difficult to enter the job market. Skillsmatch and Skills for Life worked with these women to develop a supported work plan to enable them to access training or employment.
- There were four recruitment events held between 3rd Feb and 11th March 2014, attended by over 115 women.
- Women in the community and women's groups worked together to recruit the attendees and encourage participation.
- In the budget meeting on 26th Feb 2014 the Labour Group proposed to remove funding for the Women into Health Jobs programme.

The Council believes

- That Conservative-led government have no targeted strategy to help women get back into work.
- The Mayor's projects provide paid training and employment for women who face difficulties entering the job market because they have been out of work for a long time, possibly due to caring responsibilities.
- The local Labour Party's proposed amendment to scrap the Women into Work Project illustrates that they are not addressing the issues that affect women and families the most.

The Council resolves:

- To support the Mayor's innovative projects to help more women into employment.
- To lobby Central Government to increase provision to help women into work.

12.8 Motion regarding a Public Inquiry into police spying abuses

Proposer: Councillor Oliur Rahman

Seconder: Councillor Ohid Ahmed

1. This Council Notes:

The decision of the Home Secretary to hold a public inquiry into the use of police spies.

The claims of Doreen Lawrence that police failings go to the 'highest levels' and that these failings are indicative of what Lord Macpherson described as 'institutional racism'.

2. This Council Believes

The revelations that police officers who were supposedly investigating the murder of Stephen Lawrence were actually spying on his grieving family are deeply concerning.

3. This Council Resolves

To congratulate Doreen Lawrence for her bravery and determination in challenging and rooting out racism in our public bodies.

12.9 Motion regarding Brick Lane Improvements

Proposer: Councillor Gulam Robbani

Seconder: Councillor Shafiqul Haque

This Council notes:

That despite the cuts and hostile economic climate, Mayor Lutfur Rahman has put forward a range of proposals to boost local businesses including:

A curry competition on 23rd March judged by celebrity chef Ainsley Harriot to promote Brick Lane as London's Curry Capital.

A £355,000 investment in high streets and markets to help traders and small businesses.

An investment of £2.5m to regenerate Whitechapel Market

The Start Small, Think Big programme launched at the Whitechapel Ideas Store on 26th Feb to help local entrepreneurs develop business and social media strategies.

This Council further notes:

That claims by the Labour Party and GLA member John Biggs that a curfew has been imposed on Brick Lane restaurants have been proven false, but not before causing lasting damage to the reputation of Brick Lane and its world-class restaurants.

This Council believes:

That investment in our town centres is vital to the borough's economic recovery.

That playing politics with the livelihoods of Brick Lane restaurateurs by spreading false rumours is irresponsible and damages the reputation of the area and the prospects for local businesses

This Council resolves:

To review existing plans for Brick Lane and other commercial hubs to ensure that local business are getting the maximum support in these tough times.

12.10 Motion on Tony Benn

Proposer: Councillor Ohid Ahmed

Secunder: Councillor Shahed Ali

This Council Notes:

The death of Tony Benn on Friday 14 March.

That Tony Benn first entered Parliament in 1950 and finally retired from the House of Commons in 2001, 'to devote more time to politics'.

That less than a year ago, Tony visited Wapping in Tower Hamlets to join Councillor Rania Khan, Cabinet Member for Culture in unveiling a plaque to Thomas Rainsborough.

This Council Believes:

That Tony Benn was a lifelong campaigner for the voiceless, who stood for justice, equality and peace.

That Tony Benn was right in his belief that the best path to social justice, and to socialism, was through parliamentary democracy - and it is incumbent on those inspired him to take on this mantle.

That he spoke out on colonialism in the 1950s, and after his ministerial career was long behind him became the figure head of the anti-war movement, most notably campaigning against the illegal invasion of Iraq in 2003.

That his belief in international solidarity reflected, as elsewhere, in his trenchant support for the Palestinian struggle, was unstinting.

That in his passing, the poor, the vulnerable, the working class, ethnic minorities, and all oppressed groups have lost a valiant champion.

This Council Resolves:

To call on the Executive to swiftly put in place arrangements for a fitting local tribute to his memory.

12.11 Motion regarding Recorded Votes

Proposer: Councillor Kabir Ahmed

Secunder: Councillor Alibor Choudhury

This Council notes:

1. That Council's constitution includes a provision for 'Recorded Votes'.
2. That this provision is designed to allow for maximum accountability.
3. That until 25 January 2012 the threshold of members required to trigger a Recorded Vote in Full Council was 10.
4. That on 25 January 2012 a motion was carried by a majority in Full Council increasing the threshold from 10 members to 20.
5. That this threshold is unreasonably high without precedent in Tower Hamlets and elsewhere.
6. That in Camden, the threshold is 7 members, in Barnet it is 10 members, in Newham it is 6 members, in Westminster it is 10 members, and in Greenwich it is 5 members.

This Council further notes:

1. The recent report by the electoral commission on voter fraud in Tower Hamlets that found no evidence of widespread fraud as alleged by some in the opposition.
2. That the report cited a "breakdown of trust" between politicians in this chamber and that this heightens the need for public accountability.

This Council believes:

1. That the 'Recorded Vote' thresholds are generally low so that a minority can make their views known when votes go against them, to communicate to the public that whilst something they did not support may be Council policy, it is not unanimous and the minority opposed it.
2. That having a threshold of 20 members defeats the object of this provision, since (assuming whipping) recorded votes can only go ahead if the majority group is in favour.
3. That raising the threshold from 10 to 20 members was a backward step as regards the health of local democracy, and a grave mistake.
4. That having the highest threshold in the land, particularly when compared to the other aforementioned London boroughs, is deeply embarrassing for this authority.

This Council resolves:

1. To lower the threshold of support required to trigger a recorded vote from 20 members to 7 members.

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