

Meeting of the

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Tuesday, 7 May 2013 at 7.00 p.m.

AGENDA

VENUE

Room C1, 1st Floor, Town Hall, Mulberry Place, 5
Clove Crescent, London, E14 2BG

Members:	Deputies (if any):
<p>Chair: Councillor Ann Jackson Vice-Chair: Councillor Rachael Saunders, Scrutiny Lead, Adult, Health & Wellbeing</p>	<p>Councillor Khales Uddin Ahmed, (Designated Deputy representing Councillors Ann Jackson, Rachael Saunders, Sirajul Islam, Amy Whitelock and Helal Uddin)</p>
<p>Councillor Tim Archer, Scrutiny Lead, Chief Executive's</p>	<p>Councillor Marc Francis, (Designated Deputy representing Councillors Ann Jackson, Rachael Saunders, Sirajul Islam, Amy Whitelock and Helal Uddin)</p>
<p>Councillor Stephanie Eaton, Scrutiny Lead, Communities, Localities and Culture</p>	<p>Councillor Peter Golds, (Designated Deputy representing Councillor Tim Archer)</p>
<p>Councillor Sirajul Islam, Scrutiny Lead, Development & Renewal</p>	<p>Councillor Harun Miah, (Designated Deputy representing Councillor Fozol Miah)</p>
<p>Councillor Fozol Miah</p>	<p>Councillor David Snowdon, (Designated Deputy representing Councillor Tim Archer)</p>
<p>Councillor Amy Whitelock, Scrutiny Lead, Children, Schools & Families</p>	<p>Councillor Motin Uz-Zaman, (Designated Deputy representing Councillors Ann Jackson, Rachael Saunders, Sirajul Islam, Amy Whitelock and Helal Uddin)</p>
<p>Councillor Helal Uddin, Scrutiny Lead, Resources</p>	
<p>1 Vacancy</p>	
<p>[Note: The quorum for this body is 3 voting Members].</p>	

Co-opted Members:

Memory Kampiyawo	- (Parent Governor Representative)
Nozrul Mustafa	- (Parent Governor Representative)
Rev James Olanipekun	- (Parent Governor Representative)
Mr Mushfique Uddin	- (Muslim Community Representative)
Dr Phillip Rice	- (Church of England Diocese Representative)
1 Vacancy	- (Roman Catholic Diocese of Westminster Representative)

Committee Services Contact:

Angus Taylor, Democratic Services,

Tel: 020 7364 4333 E-mail: angus.taylor@towerhamlets.gov.uk

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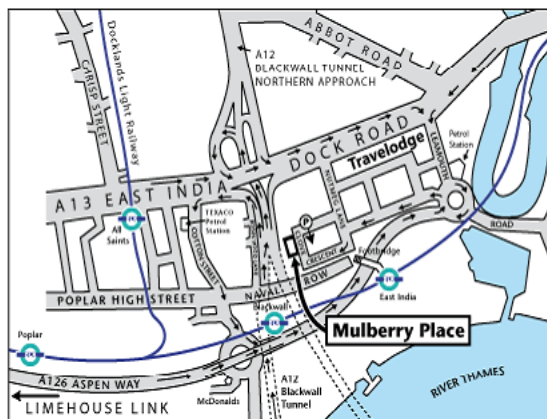
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LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS
OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Tuesday, 7 May 2013

7.00 p.m.

SECTION ONE

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

To receive any apologies for absence.

2. DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTEREST **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. UNRESTRICTED MINUTES **5 - 24**

To confirm as a correct record of the proceedings the unrestricted minutes of the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 9th April 2013.

4. REQUESTS TO SUBMIT PETITIONS

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

5. UNRESTRICTED REPORTS 'CALLED IN'

No decisions of the Mayor in Cabinet (10th April 2013) in respect of unrestricted reports on the agenda were 'called in'.

6. UNRESTRICTED REPORTS FOR CONSIDERATION

6.1 East End Life Budget and future arrangements **25 - 28**

To consider the contents of the report.

6 .2 Advice of the Monitoring Officer & Chief Finance Officer/ Section 151 Officer in relation to Mayoral Decision Log No: 021 - Budget Implementation 2013/14 (No 1) (virements to fund East End Life) - To Follow

To consider the contents of the report.

6 .3 Advice of the Monitoring Officer & Chief Finance Officer/ Section 151 Officer in relation to Mayoral Decision Log No: 022 - Budget Implementation 2013/14 (No2) (virements to fund Mayoral Advisors) - To Follow

To consider the contents of the report.

6 .4 Adult Social Care - Budget Update (Oral Report)

To receive an oral report and consider the contents thereof.

6 .5 Overview and Scrutiny Committee - Annual Review 2012-13 **29 - 42**

Consider and comment on the contents of the report before submission to full Council.

7. VERBAL UPDATES FROM SCRUTINY LEADS

(Time allocated – 5 minutes each)

8. PRE-DECISION SCRUTINY OF UNRESTRICTED CABINET PAPERS

To consider and agree pre-decision scrutiny questions/comments to be presented to Cabinet.

(Time allocated – 30 minutes).

9. ANY OTHER UNRESTRICTED BUSINESS WHICH THE CHAIR CONSIDERS TO BE URGENT

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

10. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

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

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

EXEMPT/CONFIDENTIAL SECTION (Pink Papers)

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

SECTION TWO

11. EXEMPT/ CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES

43 - 48

To confirm as a correct record of the proceedings the restricted minutes of the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 9th April 2013.

12. EXEMPT/ CONFIDENTIAL REPORTS 'CALLED IN'

No decisions of the Mayor in Cabinet (10th April 2013) in respect of exempt/ confidential reports on the agenda were 'called in'.

To consider and adjudicate on the “Call In” relating to the decision of the Mayor outside Cabinet – (Mayoral Executive Decision published on 28th March 2013 and Called In on 10th April 2013) detailed at agenda item 12.1 below. (Time allocated – 45 minutes)

12 .1 Mayoral Executive Decision Call-in: Decision Log No: 020 - "Sutton Street Depot - Successful Bidder Request for Amendments to Terms of Lease"

49 - 62

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

To consider and agree pre-decision scrutiny questions/comments to be presented to Cabinet.

(Time allocated 15 minutes).

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

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

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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:-

Isabella Freeman, Assistant Chief Executive (Legal Services), 020 7364 4801; or
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 OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

HELD AT 7.00 P.M. ON TUESDAY, 9 APRIL 2013

**ROOM C1, 1ST FLOOR, TOWN HALL, MULBERRY PLACE, 5 CLOVE
CRESCENT, LONDON, E14 2BG**

Members Present:

Councillor Ann Jackson (Chair)
Councillor Stephanie Eaton
Councillor Sirajul Islam
Councillor Rachael Saunders (Vice-Chair)
Councillor Helal Uddin
Councillor Amy Whitelock

Councillor Peter Golds

Co-opted Members Present:

Memory Kampiyawo – (Parent Governor Representative)
Nozrul Mustafa – (Parent Governor Representative)
Rev James Olanipekun – (Parent Governor Representative)
Dr Phillip Rice – (Church of England Diocese Representative)

Other Councillors Present:

Councillor Alibor Choudhury – (Cabinet Member for Resources)

Councillor Carlo Gibbs –

Guests Present:

–

Officers Present:

Vicky Allen – (Strategy Policy & Performance Officer, Strategy, Policy & Performance, Chief Executive's)
Anne Canning – (Interim Corporate Director Education Social Care and Wellbeing)
David Courcoux – (Political Adviser to the Labour Group, Chief Executive's)
David Galpin – (Head of Legal Services (Community), Legal Services, Chief Executive's)

Chris Holme	– (Acting Corporate Director - Resources)
Frances Jones	– (Service Manager One Tower Hamlets, Chief Executive's)
Kelly Powell	– (Communications Officer, Communications, Chief Executive's)
Louise Russell	– (Service Head Corporate Strategy and Equalities, Chief Executive's)
John Williams	– (Service Head, Democratic Services, Chief Executive's)
Angus Taylor	– (Principal Committee Officer, Democratic Services, Chief Executive's)

COUNCILLOR ANN JACKSON (CHAIR) IN THE CHAIR

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of:

- Councillor Tim Archer (Scrutiny Lead Chief Executive's), for whom Councillor Peter Golds was deputising.
- Councillor Ohid Ahmed (Deputy Mayor).
- Sarah Barr, Senior SPP Officer, Chief Executive's.
- Apologies for lateness were received on behalf of Councillor Sirajul Islam (Scrutiny Lead Development & Renewal).

Noted

2. DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTEREST

No declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interest or other declarations of interest were made.

3. UNRESTRICTED MINUTES

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

Resolved

That the unrestricted minutes of the ordinary meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, held on 12th March 2013, be agreed as a correct record of the proceedings, and the Chair be authorised to sign them accordingly.

Action by:

Angus Taylor (Principal Committee Officer, Democratic Services, CE's)

4. REQUESTS TO SUBMIT PETITIONS

There were no petitions.

5. UNRESTRICTED REPORTS 'CALLED IN'

Variation to Order of Business

The Chair informed OSC members that Councillor Gibbs, one of seven Councillors who had "Called In" two decisions of the Mayor outside Cabinet on the agenda before the OSC for consideration, had requested that these "Call Ins" be considered in reverse order to that detailed in the agenda. The Chair considered it reasonable to accommodate this request, and therefore appropriate that the Order of Business be varied so that agenda item 5.2 be considered next and subsequently agenda item 5.1. Accordingly the Chair **Moved** and it was: -

Resolved

That the Order of Business be varied as below:

- Agenda Item 5.2 "Budget Implementation 2013/14 (No 2)" be considered next.
- Agenda Item 5.1 "Budget Implementation 2013/14 (No 1)" be considered thereafter.
- Subsequently return to the order of business detailed in the agenda.

However for ease of reference OSC deliberations and subsequent decisions taken, are set out below in the order detailed in the agenda.

Special Circumstances and Reasons for Urgency

Agenda Item 5.2 "Budget Implementation 2013/14 (No 2)".

Agenda Item 5.1 "Budget Implementation 2013/14 (No 1)"

The Chair informed members of the OSC that the special circumstances and reasons for urgency associated with both "Call Ins" were as below.

"The call-in of this decision was requested on 5th April 2013. In accordance with paragraph 16.4 of the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules, once a call-in is made it is to be placed on the agenda of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on a date to be determined by the Assistant Chief Executive (Legal Services). The expectation is that this will be at the next meeting of the Committee. As the call-in concerns budget-related matters, it is appropriate for the Committee to deal with the call-in on an urgent basis."

The Chair subsequently agreed the special circumstances and reasons for urgency, indicating that she was satisfied that the matter was urgent, as defined in the Authority's Constitution (Part 4 Rules of Procedure, Section 4.2 Access to Information Procedure Rules, Rule 6 Items of Business, sub

paragraphs 6.3 and 6.5. The special circumstances justifying urgency being as detailed above.

5.1 Budget Implementation 2013/14 (No 1)

Please note that the order of business was varied by resolution of the OSC earlier in the proceedings in order to allow this item of business to be taken as the second item of substantive business (considered after agenda item 5.2), however for ease of reference OSC deliberations, and subsequent decisions taken, are set out below in the order detailed in the agenda.

Please note that composite “Special Circumstances and Reasons for Urgency” were agreed for this “Call In” at agenda item 5 above.

The Chair welcomed: Councillor Carlo Gibbs, one of seven Councillors who had “Called In” decision of the Mayor outside Cabinet (Decision Log Number 021 “Budget Implementation 2013/14 (No 1)” in accordance with the provisions of Part 4 of the Council’s Constitution. Also Councillor Alibor Choudhury, Cabinet Member for Resources, and Mr Chris Holme Acting Corporate Director Resources, who were in attendance to respond to the “Call-in”.

Councillor Carlo Gibbs presented the “Call-in”: summarising the reasons for “calling in” the Mayoral Decision, outlining the key concerns of the “Call-in” Members, and setting out the action sought from the OSC to address these. He also highlighted the additional point that Councillor Choudhury had indicated in his response to the “Call In” considered at agenda item 5.2 earlier in the proceedings, that Mayor considered the amendment to the Budget at Budget Council to have been politically motivated. To take a decision to change that would have political ramifications, and it must therefore be a ‘key’ decision. By determining otherwise the Mayor had placed the Authority at risk of legal challenge

Councillor Alibor Choudhury, Cabinet Member for Resources, responded to the concerns raised by the “Call-in” Members and subsequently responded to questions from the OSC summarised as follows:

- Referring to the above point on political ramifications of the decision, made by Councillor Gibbs, he had not used the word political in its literal sense in the previous discussion.
- Legal advice made clear that the Authority could not lawfully place an artificial cap on statutory adverts, and it was wrong to suggest this.
- The reduction in the Budget for East End Life (EEL) would lead to redundancy of 12 full time staff, and it was therefore subject to the Authority’s processes requiring consultation on such matters with staff and trades unions. The amendment to the Budget had no regard for this process. Also a high proportion of these staff were women and BME, a matter the Mayor took seriously.

- Due regard must be paid to the equality impacts of the proposals, and a full EQIA would need undertaken. Thought needed given to the people that accessed EEL, their reasons for doing so and the impact of closure.
- Financial and contractual obligations needed consideration eg the Authority had recently joined a London-wide print contract and the implications of breaking the contract needed assessed.
- The Authority had a duty to promote equality and social cohesion and used EEL to reach service users and the wider community and the Budget amendment did not take this into consideration.
- Placing statutory notices elsewhere would increase costs significantly, as the former Chief Finance Officer had previously advised. This needed consideration.
- The Mayor considered it sensible to continue the provision of EEL whilst a review of the options was undertaken.
- The Authority had a continuing need to communicate with the maximum number of residents and EEL reached 80 or 90,000 households each week. The Mayor didn't believe this could be achieved without it.
- Consideration that there was a difference between whether EEL was a priority service and the reasons listed for the Mayor's decision. However there was no merit in duplicating the discussion at full Council as it had reached a decision, passed by two thirds majority. The issue needing addressed was whether it was right to reverse that decision through the virement. Responded that the decision of full Council had been erroneous, as the proposals had not been properly evaluated, with all important issues taken into account. The decision had been taken as the politically motivated Budget amendment, intended to undermine the Mayor, had resulted in collateral damage to vulnerable sections of the community who relied on EEL.
- Why had this decision not been placed on the Authority's Forward Plan for Cabinet decision if there were significant concerns regarding the Budget reduction. Responded that the information was not new and already in the public domain. The criteria for a key decision had been weighed when the decision was made: the political sensitivity of the matter was erroneous, being based on malicious politics. The impact of the virement had not been considered significant in terms of impact on 2 or more wards. The consequent rationale of "Call-in" Members that the decision was Key, was therefore not accepted.
- Council employees had a legitimate expectation of continued employment, and if redundancy was proposed, consultation on such matters with staff and trades unions should take place; it was also reasonable for the Mayor to have time to consider the alternative options to EEL. If a timescale for this review and consultation was proposed and funding provided for that period, the virement decision might appear more reasonable. However the virement proposed a sum identical to the annual EEL budget, withdrawn by Budget Council, be re-included. This was a reversal of the full Council decision and

contravened constitutional process. What was the rationale for a virement of £433k and what was the timescale for the review. Responded that the Mayor was doing what he considered necessary to undertake a review of the options relating to EEL, and allow time for any reprourement; and it had been considered appropriate to provide the staff of EEL with security and stability for a year whilst this took place.

Councillor Gibbs and Councillor Choudhury withdrew from the meeting room at the commencement of OSC deliberations on referral/ non-referral of the "Call In", being 8.15pm.

A discussion followed which focused on the following points:-

- The positive value of EEL for communicating information to residents of the borough and the socially inclusive nature of this outreach. Also the need for cross party co-operation on editorial content if EEL continued. Also, however, that the Budget Council discussion in support of withdrawing funding for EEL, did not focus on the quality of the EEL service, but whether it's £0.5million budget was a priority for the Authority in the context of unprecedented cuts.
- Consideration that the decision was in contravention of the Budget and Policy Framework, agreed by a two thirds majority of full Council, and for the Mayor to attempt to work around this through the virement was unconstitutional and made a mockery of the Budget setting process; accordingly **proposed** that the Monitoring Officer and Chief Finance Officer/ Section 151 Officer should be requested to provide advice on this in a report as set out in the Constitution. Also **proposed** that this report and deliberations of the OSC in relation to this Mayoral decision making be placed on the agenda of the full Council meeting to be held on 17th April 2013 at the request of the Chair of the OSC. Noted that the report may come to OSC for consideration prior to consideration by full Council.
- The OSC was advised by Mr Galpin, Head of Legal Services Community, that the OSC could refer the "Call In" of the Mayoral Decision back for further consideration. However, the OSC could not, at this point in time, refer this matter to full Council under the provisions of Rule 7.3 of the BPF rules in the Constitution, as the advice of the Monitoring Officer and Section 151 Officer that the decision was contrary to the Authority's BPF had not yet been obtained. The Chair responded that she had received senior officer advice, that as OSC Chair she could request a report be placed on the full Council agenda, and if this was not so the report to OSC should have advised otherwise. Also regardless of any referral on the basis that the mayoral decision was contrary to the BPF, as OSC Chair she could place the matter on the full Council agenda as a complaint regarding the way the matter had been handled. The Vice-Chair concurred that a referral to full Council should be made on both counts.

- Consideration that there was a lack of clarity on the decision making on whether the decision was 'key' or 'non-key'. Also Councillor Choudhury's response on the importance of EEL to vulnerable elements of the community indicated a significant impact in all wards. The decision appeared "key", given its significant impact on the borough, given it was politically controversial and given the substantial public interest shown. Accordingly **proposed** that the report requested from Monitoring Officer and Chief Finance Officer/ Section 151 Officer should include advice on the the validity of the determination that the decision was not key.
- Commented that a Bill in the new session of Parliament was likely to include the current guidance on operation of local authority media on a statutory basis, resulting in EEL having to be abolished. OffCom had previously rejected the rationale used for maintaining a Council publication, and therefore examination of that rationale was merited by Officers. Commented also that costs would arise from the enforced closure of EEL
- Consideration also that any referral of the Mayoral Decision should acknowledge the legitimacy of consultation with staff and the trades unions where proposals involved redundancies; and if a virement to continue EEL, linked to a consultation timetable, and therefore of a smaller amount than the EEL annual Budget, the OSC was supportive of that.
- Consideration that full Council had fully weighed the implications of withdrawing funding for EEL. Also that the credibility of EEL had been compromised as it the message it conveyed was not entirely corporate.

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

Resolved

1. To refer the decision of the Mayor outside Cabinet back to the Mayor for further consideration;
2. That the Monitoring Officer and Chief Finance Officer/ Section 151 Officer be requested to provide a report, as set out in Rule 7.2 of the Budget and Policy Frameworks Rules of the Authority's Constitution, containing their advice as to whether the decision of the Mayor outside Cabinet was in contravention of the Authority's Budget and Policy Framework. Also that the report include their advice on the the validity of the Mayor's determination that the decision was not 'key';
3. That the report referred to at Resolution 2 above, and deliberations of the OSC in relation to the Mayoral decision making in this case, be placed on the agenda of the full Council meeting to be held on 17th April 2013 at the request of the Chair of the OSC; and

Action by:

Angus Taylor (Principal Committee Officer, Democratic Services, CE's)
[Resolution 1 & 3]

Isabella Freeman (Assistant Chief Executive – Legal, CE’s) [Resolution 2]
Chris Holme (Acting Corporate Director Resources) [Resolution 2]
John Williams (Service Head Democratic Services and Returning Officer,
CE’s) [Resolution 3]

Councillor Gibbs and Councillor Choudhury did not return to the proceedings following OSC deliberations on referral/ non-referral of the “Call In”.

5.2 Budget Implementation (No 2) 2013/14

Please note that the order of business was varied by resolution of the OSC earlier in the proceedings in order to allow this item of business to be taken as the first item of substantive business, however for ease of reference OSC deliberations, and subsequent decisions taken, are set out below in the order detailed in the agenda.

Please note that composite “Special Circumstances and Reasons for Urgency” were agreed for this “Call In” at agenda item 5 above.

The Chair welcomed: Councillor Carlo Gibbs, one of seven Councillors who had “Called In” decision of the Mayor outside Cabinet (Decision Log Number 022 “Budget Implementation 2013/14 (No 2)” in accordance with the provisions of Part 4 of the Council’s Constitution. Also Councillor Alibor Choudhury, Cabinet Member for Resources, and Mr Chris Holme Acting Corporate Director Resources, who were in attendance to respond to the “Call-in”.

Councillor Carlo Gibbs presented the “Call-in”: summarising the reasons for “calling in” the Mayoral Decision, outlining the key concerns of the “Call-in” Members, and setting out the action sought from the OSC to address these. He also highlighted the additional point that the Head of Paid Service had not signed off this Mayoral Decision in contrast to the Mayoral Decision for virements to fund East End Life.

He subsequently responded to questions from the OSC as follows:

- The rationale for “Call-in” Members considering that the Mayoral Decision outside the Budget Framework set by full Council. Clarified that the full Council had little control over the actions of the executive Mayor, but setting of the Budget and Policy Framework (BPF) was a matter reserved to it. It set the Authority’s Budget every year, and had done so in March 2013. At that meeting an amendment to the Mayor’s proposed Budget, had been passed by a two thirds majority, resulting in the funding for mayoral advisors not being included in the Budget Framework. The Mayor had now vired money from reserves in order to put the resources for these back into the Budget Framework, and this

contravened/ reversed the full Council decision. The OSC should request Officers to advise on this.

- The stage at which the advice of the Chief Officers would be sought in relation to whether the Mayoral Decision was outside the BPF and whether it was key or non-key.
- Had the work undertaken by the mayoral advisors been identified and an assessment made of its value to the Authority. If the work undertaken by them was unknown, how could a judgement be made as to value for money and the impact of cutting the budget for this; had an impact assessment been done. Had the Executive been asked for the expenditure figure for the advisors, had the supporting documentation been requested. Clarified that the work the advisors undertook was unknown, and without seeing the output or it being detailed, it was difficult to assess; it would be helpful to establish this and Councillor Choudhury may be able to provide details. Impact assessments had been increasingly poor over recent years and sometimes not seen for decisions, an OSC IA might be helpful. However "Call-in" Members did not consider that the Mayor required these advisors to carry out his functions (as he had stated in his decision), when there was a 9 strong Cabinet and thousands of Officers to draw on for advice including political advisors and experts in each directorate in most fields. There were no similar advisors in LB Newham or Hackney where the Cabinet and Officers were relied on for this, so why were they and associated costs essential in LBTH. Also the OSC role was to assess whether value for money was being achieved on Authority spend, and in the context of huge savings to be made and current cuts to staffing costs in ESCWB the use of these monies would make a positive impact if used elsewhere.
- Had consideration been given to the case of Doncaster Council, where a court had determined that it had been lawful for the directly elected Mayor to make decisions against the Budget Framework set by two thirds of the Council. The case would go to appeal shortly, but if upheld power to set an authority's Budget would be the sole prerogative of the executive Mayor. Clarified that the Doncaster case would need monitoring, as the final court ruling would provide a steer on what was a legal decision on the Budget. However, currently the full Council was empowered to set the BPF and contravening the Constitutional and the Legal requirements on this could lead to legal challenge and associated costs for the Authority.
- At the outset of the Budget setting process the focus was on a need to make savings, but now unutilised funds were to be used for mayoral advisors; did "Call-in" Members consider the funds could be better used elsewhere. Commented in response that a 5 per cent cut had been made to the staff costs in Education, Social Care & Wellbeing in order to free up resources for Mayoral priorities and this was not right. The monies proposed for mayoral advisors would be better used to fund posts in ESCWB, improve services or support those suffering the impact of Government welfare reform.
- During the Budget setting process Conservative Group Councillors had been advised that virements were only to be used to provide funds in

emergency situations such as the mitigating action required in the Baby P case, so the proposed usage for the vired funds was inappropriate; had Labour Group Councillors been similarly advised. Confirmation that advice had been given that the purpose of virements was to ensure the Authority continued to run financially in a time of crisis, or financial year end when a budget was overspent and it was essential to ensure funding for continued service provision. The proposed virement was instead shifting resources to fund activities not included within the Budget set by full Council in March 2013.

- Clarified that advice had also been received that the decision was key and therefore required 28 days notice on the Authority's Forward Plan, but this had not transpired.
- Noted that advice had been received that it was the pre-rogative of the Mayor to determine what was or was not a key decision. Clarification that this should be in accordance with the criteria set out in the Constitution and that to determine that it was not a key decision, when a reasonable person could see it was, meant there was potential for legal challenge with associated costs for the Authority. The OSC should request Officers to advise on this.

Councillor Alibor Choudhury, Cabinet Member for Resources, responded to the concerns raised by the "Call-in" Members and subsequently responded to questions from the OSC summarised as follows:

- Referencing the point raised by OSC that virements should only be used for emergencies, this rationale, although generally accepted, was not consistent with the recent General Purposed Committee proposal to introduce a virement cap which would make the process to fund emergencies, such as Baby P, with costs above the cap very difficult.
- The Mayor believed that value for money was being achieved from the mayoral advisors through the support they delivered his administration in policy and strategy development, and excellent outcomes delivered for the borough.
- The political sensitivity attributed to this Mayoral decision by "Call-in" Members was subjective in the context of an erroneous full Council decision. The impact of the virement had not been considered significant in terms of impact on 2 or more wards. The consequent rationale of "Call-in" Members that the decision was Key, was therefore not accepted.
- The Mayor considered the amendment to the Budget at Budget Council to be a politically motivated attack intended to fetter his actions, rather than address budget issues such as the future Budget gap the effect on which would be insignificant.
- The advice received by the Mayor was that the virement decision he had made was both lawful and constitutional.
- Clarication was sought as to the reason for the Head of Paid Service (HPS) not having 'signed off' this Mayoral Decision in contrast to the Mayoral Decision for virements to fund East End Life. Officers suggested that this may be because the HPS Role was different to that of the Chief Executive, with some functions of the latter not included,

and the HPS may have exercised a judgement on this in relation to this Mayoral Decision. Councillor Choudhury added that it may be because the mayoral advisors did not report directly to the HPS, in the same way as East End Life Staff, and the HPS may have considered this was not his direct responsibility. **Written response requested from the Mayor.**

- Clarification was sought as to whether Councillor Choudhury considered the mayoral advisors provided the authority with value for money, with a view to OSC forming a judgement as to the impact of withdrawing the budget for this. Responded that there were several advisors including for housing and Older People and they had helped deliver regeneration projects such as Poplar Baths and the Whitechapel Vision and other projects outcomes to support the vulnerable elements of the community. Also provided support for the delivery of Mayor's pledges and the Mayor's Policy Group relied heavily on them. Officers were paid for delivery and provision of advice but the Mayoral advisors supported this. Considering the response to lack clarity, whether the Executive would accept a commission from the OSC to provide a report detailing the number of mayoral advisors, the time they were contracted to provide, and outcomes produced. **Councillor Choudhury confirmed such a request would be accommodated.**
- Commenting that the Mayor was in the third year in this role and substantial advisory capacity, not required by previous Leaders of the Council, existed in the first two years and was now being supplemented, what had the advisors delivered in Year 1&2 and what outcomes would be delivered in return for the additional resource in Year 3. Responded that workload had increased, delivery had increased significantly in the past year, and much more was intended in the coming year. A summary of the job roles and responsibilities in years 1, 2 and 3 was requested. **Councillor Choudhury undertook to relay the request to the Mayor.**
- Clarification was sought and given as to the role of Cabinet members given the number of mayoral advisers and how the roles were complimentary.

Councillor Gibbs and Councillor Choudhury withdrew from the meeting room at the commencement of OSC deliberations on referral/ non-referral of the "Call In", being 7.35pm.

A discussion followed which focused on the following points:-

- Consideration that the responses of Councillor Choudhury lacked clarity with some OSC members considering them uncooperative and disrespectful of the OSC. The advice of Chief Officers would therefore be important.
- Concern expressed that "Call-in" Members had previously been advised that this virement decision was 'key', and therefore required 28 days notice on the Authority's Forward Plan, but such notice was not

given. Concern also in the context that full Council had wanted to change the virement rules at Budget Council, but this had not been permitted, then the 28 days notice was not given for this virement decision allowing this decision to be taken before the full Council could determine new virement arrangements, at its scheduled meeting on 17th April, 2013.

- Consideration that the decision had not been taken in accordance with due process required in the Constitution, and this undermined confidence in the Authority's governance process and the democratic process. Also that the decision was in contravention of the Budget and Policy Framework, agreed by a two thirds majority of full Council, and to amend this without consultation with other stakeholders was unconstitutional; accordingly **proposed** that the Monitoring Officer and Chief Finance Officer/ Section 151 Officer should be requested to provide advice on this in a report as set out in the Constitution. Also **proposed** that this report and deliberations of the OSC in relation to this Mayoral decision making be placed on the agenda of the full Council meeting to be held on 17th April 2013 at the request of the Chair of the OSC. Noted that the report may come to OSC for consideration prior to consideration by full Council.
- Consideration also that any referral of the Mayoral Decision should emphasise the breach of constitutional procedures more than the rights or wrongs of having mayoral advisors.
- Concern expressed that an individual was making a decision which overturned a decision of the full Council, passed by two thirds majority, in the full knowledge that it would be politically controversial.
- Consideration that the outcome of the Doncaster Council court case would have an important bearing on whether full Council, with a two thirds majority, remained empowered to set the Budget for an Authority, or whether an executive Mayor could take lawful decisions outside this. Accordingly **proposed** that the OSC be kept updated on developments with the case.
- Comment that a leaked set of minutes on the blog 'Trial by Jeory' indicated that mayoral advisors were to coordinate the Mayor's re-election campaign and raise funds for it; consideration that this merited investigation by Officers. In contrast another Member expressed confidence that Officers would ensure the advisors would undertake the role they were employed to and not another.
- Consideration that it was important to establish what the mayoral advisors were doing, noting that substantial changes to the housing and benefit system may require the Mayor to acquire more advice to manage change. Also that it was important to know the value of a role before making it and the people redundant. Noted that Councillor Choudhury had undertaken to provide information on the work undertaken by the mayoral advisors, and the "Call In" should not be supported until this was received and the OSC could form a view as to the value of their work.

- Consideration that an impact assessment was needed establishing what the individuals did, the hours they worked, how much they were paid.
- Consideration that in house expertise was available and the resources for mayoral advisors could be better used elsewhere.
- Consideration that there was a lack of clarity on the decision making on whether the decision was 'key' or 'non-key' and the rationale for the virement in general. The decision appeared "key", given its significant impact on the borough, given it was politically controversial and given the substantial public interest already shown. Accordingly **proposed** that the report requested from Monitoring Officer and Chief Finance Officer/ Section 151 Officer should include advice on the the validity of the determination that the decision was not key,
- Commenting that consultation had taken place on the working of the Mayoral system at inception and a review should now take place to identify what was working well and not working well.
- Advice was sought and given as to the constitutional provisions for the OSC to refer decisions of the Mayor, considered to be in contravention of the Authority's BPF, to full Council for determination. Mr Galpin, Head of Legal Services Community, advised that the OSC could refer the "Call In" of the Mayoral Decision back for further consideration. However, the OSC could not, at this point in time, refer this matter to full Council under the provisions of Rule 7.3 of the BPF rules in the Constitution, as the advice of the Monitoring Officer and Section 151 Officer that the decision was contrary to the Authority's BPF had not yet been obtained.

The Chair summarised that the OSC considered that this Mayoral Decision had been cynically taken to circumvent a full Council decision, passed with a two thirds majority, was not in the public interest and was potentially unlawful. She then formally **Moved**, and it was:-

Resolved

1. To refer the decision of the Mayor outside Cabinet back to the Mayor for further consideration;
2. That the Monitoring Officer and Chief Finance Officer/ Section 151 Officer be requested to provide a report, as set out in Rule 7.2 of the Budget and Policy Frameworks Rules of the Authority's Constitution, containing their advice as to whether the decision of the Mayor outside Cabinet was in contravention of the Authority's Budget and Policy Framework. Also that the report include their advice on the the validity of the Mayor's determination that the decision was not 'key';
3. That the report referred to at Resolution 2 above, and deliberations of the OSC in relation to the Mayoral decision making in this case, be placed on the agenda of the full Council meeting to be held on 17th April 2013 at the request of the Chair of the OSC; and

4. That the OSC be kept updated on developments with the Doncaster Council court case.

Action by:

Angus Taylor (Principal Committee Officer, Democratic Services, CE's) [Resolution 1 & 3]

Isabella Freeman (Assistant Chief Executive – Legal, CE's) [Resolution 2 & 4]

Chris Holme (Acting Corporate Director Resources) [Resolution 2]

John Williams (Service Head Democratic Services and Returning Officer, CE's) [Resolution 3]

Murziline Parchment (Head of the Mayor's Office) [action requested during deliberations highlighted in bold]

Councillor Gibbs and Councillor Choudhury re-entered the proceedings following the conclusion of the OSC deliberations in respect of referral/ non-referral of the "Call In", being 7.50pm.

6. UNRESTRICTED REPORTS FOR CONSIDERATION

6.1 Children's Centre Scrutiny Review Update (To Follow)

Councillor Amy Whitelock, Scrutiny Lead Children Schools & Families, introduced and highlighted key points in the report, which:

- Provided a progress update on implementation of the recommendations contained in the Scrutiny Review Working Group report "Reviewing the impact of the Children's Centres (CCs) restructure" of May 2012.
- Requested the OSC to consider whether further scrutiny of CCs should be included in the OSC work programme.

Anne Canning, Interim Corporate Director Education Social Care and Wellbeing (ESCWB) and Vicky Allen, Strategy Policy & Performance Officer, were also in attendance for this item.

Councillor Whitelock, drew the attention of the OSC to supplementary recommendations/ requests that were the outcome of the recent scrutiny review of progress on implementation of each recommendation contained in the original scrutiny report, including:

- *Re: Recommendation 1:*
 - The involvement of Members, including backbenchers, in the current redevelopment of the website and intranet was considered vital, and accordingly requested.
 - With reference to promoting of information by directorate communication advisers through regular meetings with Lead Members, that the following additional recommendation be made "That all Members be informed at the appropriate time."
- *Re: Recommendation 2:*

Welcoming the current review of the Authority's Organisational Change Procedure [by the People Board], an update to OSC on the refreshed procedure was requested, with a view to confirming improvements, and examining how communications and engagement with key stakeholders was covered in it.

- *Re: Recommendation 3 & 5:*
It was welcomed that there were no further funding reductions for CCs in the recent Budget. However, there were concerns about vacancy management savings in ESCWB and close monitoring was needed. Accordingly an update to OSC in 6 months time on service capacity in the context of VMS was requested.
- *Re: Recommendation 4:*
Since the progress review it was understood that the recommendation for higher visibility for the Authority's policy for the allocation of places when there was high demand eg on the Council website, was in hand.
- *Re: Recommendation 6:*
Welcomed that work was underway. However, requested an update to OSC at an appropriate time, on the outcome of the business improvement exercise to reduce the burden of data collection on staff, taking into consideration the needs of the Ofsted Inspection Framework.
- *Re: Recommendation 8:*
 - Welcomed the introduction of a new text messaging service, but consideration that there was more scope to use email and social media. Accordingly requested an update to OSC on the findings of the review being conducted with the Parents Forum on accessibility of information relating to the service.
 - Consideration that the approach to promotion of children's services at venues other than schools could be more robust particularly at Idea Stores. Accordingly that the following additional recommendation be made "That Idea Stores be pro-active in the promotion of Children's Services."
- *Re: Recommendation 9:*
Requested a review and update to OSC on the governance model for CCs after one year of operation, including any analysis of the diversity of parents that actively engage and feedback from parents themselves, to ensure it's not overly burdensome.

A discussion followed which focused on the following points:

- Clarification sought and given on sustainability of the service in the context of vacancy management. Anne Canning, Interim Corporate Director ESCWB, responded that:
 - There had been apprehension before the original scrutiny review. However, the outcome had been constructive, with significant involvement of external bodies and CCs staff in the restructure, and a direct influence on it's outcome.
 - Agency staff were secured if needed, however virements to salary budget heads from other budget heads was no longer common practice in the environment of financial constraint. There was a

- directorate-wide vacancy management exercise intended to deliver significant savings, but there would be no impact on frontline services.
- The recalibration of office assistant staff reflected a recognition of additional duties arising from the CCs restructure. A great deal of effort was being made to train CCs staff, with a view to building resilience in the service, and it appeared to be having profound results. She was confident service sustainability had been addressed provided there were no further budget reductions.
 - There was more scope for communication through social media and this would be taken forward.
 - Consideration that the content and terminology in the report relating to communications needed minor revision in the context of recent Budget setting by full Council, and its impact on the Communications Service Budget.
 - Ms Vicky Allen was formally thanked for her hard work in taking forward the progress review and major contribution in drawing together its findings and recommendations in the report.

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

Resolved

1. The contents of the report be noted; and
2. That Members comments be noted; and that it be agreed that further scrutiny on this issue is not appropriate at this point, but that Officers should continue to monitor progress against the original scrutiny review recommendations.

Action by:

Vicky Allen (Strategy Policy & Performance Officer, Strategy Policy & Performance, CE's)

6.2 Electoral Matters Update

Please note that the greater part of GPC deliberations relating to this item of business took place in Part Two of the proceedings (Exempt/ Confidential Section of the agenda or “closed session”), for the reasons outlined by the Chair below. However, for ease of reference, the deliberations/ decision taken that pertain to the unrestricted report are set out below in the order detailed in the agenda.

The Chair informed the OSC that Appendix B to the report contained exempt/ confidential information, the consideration of which was required in Part Two of the proceedings (Exempt/ Confidential Section of the agenda: agenda Item 13.1). After an initial introduction of the unrestricted report and any discussion thereof in open session, it would therefore be necessary to exclude the public and press during consideration of the exempt/ confidential appendix.

Mr John Williams, Service Head Democratic Services and Returning Officer, in introducing the report, which provided an update on various matters concerning electoral registration and the conduct of elections, and summarising the key points contained therein:

- Informed the OSC that the report of the Electoral Commission: "Allegations of electoral fraud in Tower Hamlets in 2012 – Report on the outcome of investigations" had been appended to the report contained in the agenda pack at item 6.2, for Member's ease of reference.
- However due to an administrative error the pages relating to Section 4 "Recommendations for improving trust and confidence in the integrity of elections in Tower Hamlets" were omitted and these were now **Tabled**, a copy of which would be interleaved with the Unrestricted minutes.

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

Resolved

That the contents of the report be noted.

7. VERBAL UPDATES FROM SCRUTINY LEADS

Scrutiny Review - Post-16 attainment
Cllr Whitelock

A focus group with young people, and a concluding session to distil recommendations were yet to be held.

Scrutiny Review - Co regulation and the Accountability of Registered Housing Providers (RPs) Cllr Islam

All the review meetings and a Members Seminar had been held and the report was now being finalised.

Scrutiny - Chief Executive's
Cllr Archer

Councillor Golds reported that Councillor Archer was in the process of conducting interviews with former Chief Executive's who had worked in local authorities with and without an executive mayor.

Scrutiny Review - Removing the barriers to youth and graduate employment-
Cllr Jackson

A visit to Tower Hamlets College had identified good progress but also issues on the apprenticeship scheme and training. There would be a seminar on making access to employment easier on 2nd May.

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

Resolved

That the verbal updates be noted.

8. PRE-DECISION SCRUTINY OF UNRESTRICTED CABINET PAPERS

No pre-decision questions submitted to the Mayor in Cabinet [10 April 2013].

9. ANY OTHER UNRESTRICTED BUSINESS WHICH THE CHAIR CONSIDERS TO BE URGENT

None.

10. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

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

Resolved:

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

SUMMARY OF EXEMPT PROCEEDINGS

11. EXEMPT/ CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES

Nil items.

12. EXEMPT/ CONFIDENTIAL REPORTS 'CALLED IN'

Nil items.

13. EXEMPT/ CONFIDENTIAL REPORTS FOR CONSIDERATION

13.1 Electoral Matters Update

Appendix B to report tabled and contents noted.

14. PRE-DECISION SCRUTINY OF EXEMPT/ CONFIDENTIAL CABINET PAPERS

Nil items.

15. ANY OTHER EXEMPT/ CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIR CONSIDERS URGENT

Nil items.

The meeting ended at 9.15 p.m.

Chair, Councillor Ann Jackson
Overview & Scrutiny Committee

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Agenda Item 6.1

Committee: Overview & Scrutiny	Date: 7 th May 2013	Classification: Unrestricted or Exempt To be completed by author	Report No:	Agenda Item:
Report of: Takki Sulaiman, Service Head Communications and Marketing		Title: Progress in implementing decisions relating to East End Life. Wards Affected: All		

1. **SUMMARY**

- 1.1 Overview and Scrutiny Committee on March 18th 2013 requested that officers report back on progress in implementing the decision of budget council on March 7th 2013.
- 1.2 The enclosed report summarises the events following budget council and the actions of officers following the Mayor's decision to provide funding for whilst a review is conducted into the future of East End Life. The Mayor's delegated decisions in relation to the budget are deal with elsewhere.

2. **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee is recommended to note the contents of the report.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Budget Council on 7th March 2013 agreed to 'delete funding of £1.214m from the budget used to fund East End Life.' The Budget motion set out a range of ways on which savings of £433k should be delivered.
- 3.2 On 22nd March 2013 the Executive Mayor, in a report entitled 'Report in response to Mayor's request for Advice', requested and considered advice from officers concerning the:-

'validity of the resolution adopted, any action he is required to take in response and his options in relation to the implementation of the Council's decision without interfering with the discharge of his own executive duties and responsibilities.'

- 3.3 Having considered the advice from officers and the options presented the Mayor made the following decision:-

'I have decided to vire £443k from general reserves which have not been allocated for any particular purpose to the Chief Executive's budget heading in order to ensure sufficient resources are available to continue East End Life whilst I consider all options for the service and implications of ceasing production. I have done this as I do not believe the proposals adopted in the budget were properly evaluated and the timescales for alternative sourcing taken into account.'

- 3.4 On Tuesday 9th April 2013 Overview and Scrutiny agreed to 'call-in' the Mayor's decision. The Mayor considered this on the 17th April and reaffirmed his original decision. Officers in the Communications Team are therefore acting on the most recent decision, which is the Mayor's decision to review East End Life and in the meantime to continue to publish the paper.

4. BODY OF REPORT

- 4.1 Overview and Scrutiny on 18th March 2013 requested that an update on implementation of the budget proposals in respect of the effective closure of East End Life and an indication as to the timetable officers were working towards.
- 4.2 As the Mayor has provided funding to continue to publish East End Life pending a review, officers are now working on the terms of reference of the review.

- 4.3 The first steps in carrying out the Mayor's Decision of 22nd March 2013 will be to agree the review terms of reference with the Executive Mayor as the operation of East End Life is an Executive function. Amongst other things this process will set a clear EQIA on the options available, consult with the parties affected, consider the impact of removing East End Life as a communications channel on residents and establish the cost of fulfilling the council's duties.

5. COMMENTS OF THE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

- 5.1 The report sets out the actions taken in relation to East End Life since the Budget Council on 7th March and the Mayor's subsequent decision to continue to fund the paper pending a further review. Concerns raised by Members about the process for the Mayoral Decision are considered in other reports.

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

- 6.1 There are no legal implications in this report back. The key decision is subject to a separate report to the Committee as requested.

7. ONE TOWER HAMLETS CONSIDERATIONS

- 7.1 There will be equalities issues if publication on East End Life were to be restricted or to cease and the Council would need to assess how to replace communication with protected groups who receive information via East End Life. The 2011 survey showed that proportionately more Bengali and the elder white residents read East End Life. To date no equalities impact assessment has been undertaken on the effect of ceasing or restricting publication and what alternatives methods could be used to inform residents of Council proposals.

8. RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 The risks are detailed in section 3.1 of decision log number 0021.

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

Reports considered at

LBTH Website

- 26/03/2013 - Mayor's Executive Decision Making [Budget Implementation 2013/14 \(No](#)

Takki Sulaiman Service Head
Communications and Marketing, LBTH,

[1\)26/03/2013](#)

Mulberry Place, Clove Crescent, London E14
2BG

- **09/04/2013** - Overview & Scrutiny Committee
[Budget Implementation 2013/14 \(No
1\)09/04/2013](#)
- **17/04/2013** - Mayor's Executive Decision
Making [Budget Implementation 2013/14 \(No 21](#)

ext. 4396

Agenda Item 6.5

Committee: Overview and Scrutiny	Date: 7 th May 2013	Classification: Unrestricted	Report No.	Agenda Item No.
Report of: Cllr Ann Jackson, Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Committee		Title: Overview and Scrutiny Committee Annual Review 2012-13		
Originating Officer: Sarah Barr – Senior Strategy Policy and Performance Officer One Tower Hamlets Service Chief Executive’s Directorate		Wards: All		

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report provides a summary and review of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee’s work in 2012-13. It forms the draft of a report which will go to full council early in the new municipal year.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee is recommended to:
- Consider and comment on this draft annual scrutiny review for full council.
 - Authorise the Service Head, Corporate Strategy and Equality, to make any necessary minor amendments to the final report before its submission to full Council, after consultation with the chair and scrutiny leads.

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. Chair's Foreword – Councillor Ann Jackson

- 3.1 The Committee worked exceptionally well this year, gaining a degree of comfort on its position as an apolitical reviewer, and on its ability to debate issues well and thoroughly. We continued to promote the borough's interests at all times during our reviews and call-ins, and strove to not get drawn into the increasingly heated political issues and fights surrounding Tower Hamlets. Members have continued to be constructive despite these difficulties.
- 3.2 The complexity, seriousness and sensitivity of call-ins this year has increased; due to continuing budget constraints and disputed mayoral decisions. 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 and our co-optees have made a great leap forward in their contribution too, bringing their invaluable advice and local insight to the committee. This has been helped by the committee's overall expectation that all will contribute. The reception of OSC's responses by the Mayor and Cabinet have continued to be disappointing and have not been as constructive as could have been hoped for, and expected, given last year's promise to consider our recommendations in more detail.
- 3.3 Our model for scrutinising the budget continued to work well and will continue. We have changed the committee's agenda methods to take account of the changes in how the Cabinet and Mayor consider business. Scrutiny can now respond to executive decisions, reviews, and call-ins, as well as Cabinet. It can also organise spotlight discussions on areas of concern or interest, not just standard and regular presentations, thus offering insight and critical friend observations where needed. In all, this is an efficient and comprehensive scrutiny model. Alongside this, members working party reviews are due to conclude this month and promise to offer excellent recommendations for change in the council, as was the case last year. We have acknowledged that scrutiny finds it hard to work well where there is no measured reception for its conclusions, but nevertheless the work has been done, and must continue to be done.
- 3.4 Finally, I would like to once again give thanks to officers and OSC members for all their hard work and perseverance in continuing to do what was needed this past year; we worked as a team, we again weathered the storms, produced an excellent budget response, both gained and contributed further invaluable expertise in many portfolio areas as well as the council's constitution. My thanks to you all.

4. Introduction to Overview and Scrutiny

- 4.1 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 leadership and other local partners to account. The committee scrutinises key decisions referred by other councillors through the call-in process; reviews all the main strategic documents, and contributes to policy development through the scrutiny review process. 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.
- 4.2 2012-13 was another challenging year for OSC. The council remains under significant pressure to meet its savings targets, with further cuts in Government funding looming. The impact of welfare reforms on the borough and its residents is significant and damaging, as they are for many households in London, squeezing incomes further and making Tower Hamlets completely unaffordable for many. How the council responds to these changes, understanding their impact and working with partners to support residents is crucial. Furthermore, supporting residents to be successful in education and employment is more important than ever. With this in mind, the OSC has overseen two scrutiny reviews into important issues this year – youth unemployment and post-16 attainment.
- 4.3 To help draft this annual review, all OSC members have reflected on those things that have gone well, and those less well, as well as their key challenges and priorities for 2012-13. Their responses have been incorporated in this report.

5. Membership of OSC

- 5.1 Reflecting the changing political balance of the council the committee's membership changed in July 2012. The number of Labour councillors changed from six to five and one position was allocated for an independent councillor. The committee now comprises five Labour councillors, and one councillor each from the Conservative, Respect and Liberal Democrat parties and one independent councillor. The independent councillor role has been vacant since July 2012. Cllr Judith Gardiner served as the sixth Labour councillor from May 2012 to July 2012.
- 5.2 As well as councillors there are six education co-optee positions on the committee including three positions for parent governors, and one each for the Church of England Diocese, the Roman Catholic Diocese and the Muslim community. In 2012-13 two of the parent governor representative positions were renewed: Revered James Olanipekun was re-appointed and one new parent governor representative, NozrulMusafa, was appointed. Also in 2012-13, Canon Michael Ainsworth, who has been the Church of England Diocese representative for some years, stepped down from the Committee. He was replaced immediately by Dr Philip Rice. Therefore all the co-optee

positions were filled with the exception of the Roman Catholic Diocese representative.

5.3 Six committee members were designated scrutiny leads and assigned a portfolio aligned to each directorate. The committee membership for 2011-12 was as follows:

- Cllr Ann Jackson (Labour), Chair
- Cllr Rachael Saunders (Labour), Vice-Chair and scrutiny lead for Adults Health and Wellbeing
- Cllr Amy Whitelock (Labour), scrutiny lead for Children Schools and Families
- Cllr Helal Uddin (Labour), scrutiny lead for Resources
- Cllr Sirajul Islam (Labour), scrutiny lead for Development and Renewal
- Cllr Judith Gardiner (Labour), scrutiny lead for Communities, Localities and Culture (May – July 2012)
- Cllr Tim Archer (Conservative), scrutiny lead for Chief Executive's
- Cllr Stephanie Eaton (Liberal Democrat), scrutiny lead for Communities, Localities and Culture
- Cllr Fozol Miah (Respect)
- Rev James Olanipekun (parent governor)
- Nozrul Mustafa (parent governor)
- Memory Kampiyawo (parent governor)
- Dr Philip Rice (Church of England Diocese)
- Mushfique Uddin (Muslim community representative)
- Vacant (Roman Catholic Diocese)

6. Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme 2012-13

6.1 The committee agreed its work programme following a workshop to discuss a range of options. The committee agreed to undertake three scrutiny reviews, and then to use different, less resource intensive, methods to investigate other issues of concern and interest.

Budget

6.2 Following the success of the budget scrutiny process in 2011-12, OSC was keen to ensure it played a key role in the budget setting process in 2012-13. Rather than meeting with each directorate before the budget proposals were announced, as was the case last year, OSC held two extraordinary meetings in January to consider the budget proposals in detail. This enabled scrutiny members to gain a good understanding of the budget position of each directorate, the cost pressures they faced and the likely impact that savings proposals would have. The Committee's comments were finalised at their meeting in February and fed back to Cabinet. Following amendments to the budget proposals at that Cabinet meeting, OSC held another extraordinary meeting to consider the proposals before the budget was considered by full Council.

- 6.3 In May 2013 the Committee considered the impact of some of the budget decisions on two services – adult social care and communications.
- 6.4 *Youth unemployment*
This year Cllr Jackson is leading an important review into youth unemployment and the barriers that young people face in securing employment. This review spans different directorates and has involved working closely with a range of stakeholders including schools, Tower Hamlets College, and Skillsmatch.
- 6.5 The review started by looking at the two scrutiny reviews which had been undertaken on youth unemployment in previous years, examining the delivery of the recommendations which emerged from these pieces of work and their impact on levels of unemployment. In addition to this review work, the views of young people from the borough were sought and a number of suggestions on how young people themselves, schools and other organisations, and employers could improve preparedness for the world of work, were identified.
- 6.6 An exercise to identify the various providers of post-16 support for young people in order to both map the support they provide and appraise their impact was undertaken. The review paid particular attention to apprenticeships as a key routeway for young people into work, focussing on how the apprenticeship offer can be made clearer and more accessible to young people. The review is due to be completed by May 2013 and will report to Overview and Scrutiny Committee in June.
- Children Schools and Families*
- 6.7 Scrutiny of the Children, Schools and Families Directorate, now part of the Education, Social Care and Wellbeing Directorate, focused this year on post-16 attainment. This has been identified as an issue, and a priority area for action by a number of stakeholders, including the Mayor and the directorate, and it was felt that the focus of a scrutiny review could add value to the efforts to improve attainment at this level. The outstanding progress that has been made with GCSE results in Tower Hamlets has not been seen in post-16 and members were keen to understand more about why this is and what could be done to address it.
- 6.8 The review is being led by Cllr Amy Whitelock and the review group have worked closely with officers from Education, Social Care and Wellbeing. The review began by looking in detail at the data in relation to post-16 attainment, by subject and school, and then considered some of the factors which influence good attainment at this level and progression to a good quality and appropriate higher education course. So far the review group have heard from headteachers, higher education institutions, consultants working in other local area on post-

16 and higher education, and sixth form students themselves. The review aims to report on its recommendations at OSC in June 2013.

- 6.9 In 2011-12 Cllr Whitelock led a review on the impact of the restructure of Children's Centres. The recommendations of that review were agreed at Cabinet in 2012-13 and in April 2013 OSC received a report updating the Committee on progress against those recommendations. It welcomed the fact that almost all recommendations had been implemented, in particular the review of job description and therefore pay scale of the administrative officers in children's centres, who provide a vital role within each centre which should be recognised.

Communities Localities and Culture

- 6.10 Given the change in Committee membership, and the fact that the role of scrutiny lead for CLC was vacant for part of the year, there has been no significant review work focused on CLC services. However, crime and policing has been considered by the Committee a number of times in its monthly meetings. In July 2012 Andy Bamber, Service Head for Community Services gave a presentation to OSC on the changes to the way Police services are commissioned in London. He set out the likely impact of the abolishing of the Metropolitan Police Authority and the introduction of the Police and Crime Commission, on policing in Tower Hamlets. Members raised a range of questions on how this would impact on addressing local priorities such as anti-social behaviour and drug-related crime.
- 6.11 In December 2012 the new Borough Commander spoke to the OSC for the first time, presenting the latest crime statistics and discussing his policing priorities. Discussions focused on tackling anti-social behaviour, and violent crime and violence against women and girls.

Development and Renewal

- 6.12 In 2012-13, scrutiny of the Development and Renewal concentrated on some of the changes to housing regulation introduced in the Localism Act, through a scrutiny review, led by Cllr Sirajul Islam, on co-regulation and tenant scrutiny. The overall aim of the Review was to get a clearer understanding of how Registered Housing Providers (RPs) are held to account and performance managed through co-regulation and how Elected Members can best support this framework. The review will be addressing three key questions:
- § How is co-regulation working across RP's and what are the current strengths, gaps, challenges and opportunities?
 - § How can Elected Members work effectively with tenant scrutiny members in holding housing providers to account?
 - § What is the appropriate role of councillors in the new co-regulation framework particularly in relations to dealing with tenant complaints as set out in the Localism Act?
- 6.13 In working towards addressing these questions, a series of evidence gathering meetings were held, both formal and informal, with a range of

witnesses. These included; senior officers from five local partner RP's and internal RSL Partnerships Officers. It took evidence from the Housing Ombudsman Services and the Tenant Participation Advice Service (TPAS). In addition to this, the lead scrutiny officer went and observed a full tenant scrutiny panel meeting organised by Tower Hamlets Homes.

- 6.14 The review is due to be completed by May 2013 and will report to Overview and Scrutiny Committee in June with a set of recommendations.
- 6.15 Members also chose to undertake a challenge session as part of their work programme, focused on housing and lettings for those with mental health problems. The aim of the challenge session was to investigate the issues that people with mental ill health face in relation to housing, particularly in relation to prioritisation on the grounds of health need. It explored whether the current lettings process discriminates against people with mental health problems by not treating mental health need equally with physical health need in prioritisation decisions. Members highlighted and addressed aspects of the lettings process that have a disproportionate impact on people with mental health issues accessing housing in the borough via the Common Housing Register. Members put forward a number of recommendations for consideration as part of discussions around the future direction of the Housing Service.
- 6.16 In addition to the scrutiny reviews, D&R services were considered in other ways this year by the Committee. In July 2012 the Service Head for Resources in Development and Renewal updated the Committee on progress with both the employment and enterprise strategies. In December 2012, the Lead Member for Housing and relevant officers gave OSC members an update on strategic housing issues. This included the achievements through the 2009-12 Housing Strategy, the new tenancy strategy, efforts to address under-occupation, co-operation with RSLs and activities by the service going forward.
- 6.17 In March 2013, the committee considered progress taken to implement the findings of the Scrutiny review into Asset Management lead by Cllr Islam in 2011. This review made a number of recommendations relating to potential savings, increased transparency and energy efficiency. In response to the review, Cabinet agreed an action plan which addressed the recommendations. In March 2013 the Committee received an update report on progress made in implementing these recommendations. The Committee welcomed actions taken to date especially in relation to the mapping of Council assets to identify those which were surplus to requirements and could be made available to community groups through flexible lease arrangements. Questions were raised by members of the Committee about whether a statement on usage of safe and sustainable materials was needed to ensure that a commitment to environmental sustainability informs all procurement decisions. Officers present highlighted the recent decision by Cabinet

to include a requirement to use sustainably produced timber in its procurement policy.

- 6.18 The Committee received a presentation on the Voluntary and Community Sector Strategy consultation document. The Committee raised questions about the current level of corporate social responsibility activity by businesses in the borough, particularly by Canary Wharf businesses and suggested that these should be further developed to have greater impact. It was also noted that the findings of the 2011 scrutiny review into Asset Management were particularly relevant to the voluntary and community sector and that these issues should be addressed in the final strategy.
- 6.19 Cllr Helal Uddin led on a review of the Mainstream Grants process and a scoping document was agreed by the review group. This review was originally planned to take place in early 2013. However due to delays in the grants allocation process this review was delayed.

Adults Health and Wellbeing

- 6.20 Scrutiny of adult social care and health services was chiefly done through Health Scrutiny Panel (see below). However, scrutiny of the adult social care budget position was an important concern for members this year, and following the budget setting process, the committee had a focused discussion on this part of the Education, Social Care and Wellbeing Directorate, in May 2013.

Chief Executive's

- 6.21 Scrutiny of the Chief Executive's Directorate focused on a range of issues this year. Firstly, the committee was keen to understand more about Election Services, the impact of changes in elections and the efforts to tackle electoral fraud in the borough. This was done through a series of presentations by the Assistant Chief Executive for Legal Services and the Service Manager for Election Services.
- 6.22 Secondly, the committee considered the Financial Inclusion Strategy, a major piece of work which has been led by the Corporate Strategy and Equality Service. This is a partnership strategy and has the aim of making Tower Hamlets a financial inclusive borough.
- 6.23 In October 2012 the committee received an update on the scrutiny review of supporting new communities which was undertaken in 2010-11. The original review was led by Cllr Omer and the update was provided by the One Tower Hamlets team. The update focused mostly on the success of the New Resident and Refugee Forum, run by local organisation Praxis on behalf of the council, to understand and address some of the challenges faced by new communities within the borough.
- 6.24 Finally, the committee was keen to understand the impact and implementation of the full Council budget decision in relation to East

End Life and the Service Head for Communications discussed this with the Committee in May 2013.

6.25 *Resources*

Following on from the 2011-12 budget scrutiny process, the Committee sought to track progress on the implementation of savings in a number of areas, including the strategic partnership for IT service with Agilysis. The Corporate Director for Resources presented a six month update. The Committee welcomed the assurance from officers that all staff who had transferred to Agilysis had had their terms and conditions protected and were benefiting from expanded development opportunities.

Call-ins

6.26 There was a fall in the number of call-ins in 2012/13 with four compared to ten in 2011/12. The following reports were called-in:

- Review of Tower Hamlets Artwork
- Mainstream Grants Programme
- Mayoral Advisors
- Review of East End Life

The Review of Tower Hamlets Artwork, chiefly concerned with the future of the Henry Moore sculpture *Draped Seated Woman* was referred back to Cabinet. The Mainstream Grants Programme was called in twice – once after the first set of grant allocations were published and discussed at Cabinet in October 2012, and again when revised allocations were agreed. An extraordinary meeting of OSC was held in December 2012 to consider this call-in the second time.

Policy Framework

6.27 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 full council. However, the committee considered only one such report this year, the Gambling Policy in March 2013.

Scrutiny 'spotlights' and presentations at meetings

6.28 The committee were able to scrutinise and comment on a range of key policy and service issues through specific presentations and discussions, as well as the regular scrutiny 'spotlights', question and answer sessions with the mayor and lead members, senior officers and partners. In 2011-12 the committee heard from the following:

- The Executive Mayor of Tower Hamlets
- Borough Commander on local crime and policing issues

Other regular items

6.29 The committee receives 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. These reports include:

- Complaints and Information Annual Report and a new Enforcement Report.
- Strategic performance and corporate revenue and capital budget monitoring report, received quarterly;

7. Health Scrutiny Panel 2012-13

- 7.1 Given the scale and pace of on-going changes in the health sector, Health Scrutiny Panel continued to face a significant challenge in understanding what these will mean for local service provision. However they were also keen to take a strong overview of 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. With this in mind, HSP identified three main workstreams for 2012-13:
- Scrutiny of Barts Health NHS Trust
 - Accountability
 - Understanding health promotion across the life course
- 7.2 One of the most significant changes locally was the formation of the new Barts Health NHS Trust in April 2012. Senior managers from Barts Health presented to HSP regularly throughout the year on a range of issues including their Quality Accounts, the vision and strategy for the newly formed trust, their engagement work with patients and the steps they will need to take to become a Foundation Trust. Health Scrutiny Panel members also visited the New Royal London Hospital.
- 7.3 In terms of accountability the panel considered the engagement strategies of different providers and focused in particular on the development of Healthwatch and the commissioning process for that provision by the council. They were also keen to hold the new Health and Wellbeing Board to account, through scrutiny of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy for the borough.
- 7.4 To understand health promotion across the life course, as advocated by Sir Michael Marmot, the panel undertook a range of activities including two scrutiny reviews and by dedicating meetings to a stage in the life course and understanding how partners work together to promote health for that group. The November 2012 HSP meeting focused on children and early years and it is the intention that the first meeting of 2013-14 focuses on young adults.
- 7.5 The Panel undertook two reviews this year: a review of the Healthy Borough Programme which came to an end in 2011 and an investigation into the potential for a Community Assets approach to health promotion to improve health outcomes in the borough. The Panel were keen to understand how the transfer of public health to the local authority could be best managed to benefit local people. The Healthy Borough programme was the single largest health promotion programme ever delivered by the Council and was embedded across

the organisation. The review sought to evaluate the success of its constituent projects as well as the lessons learned from work to embed health promotion across a wide range of Council services to generate recommendations to inform plans to inform the transfer of public health to the Council. The review group heard from a wide range of stakeholders from the voluntary sector as well as Council services and the NHS.

- 7.6 The Community Assets review also offered the potential for the Panel to develop its understanding of effective health promotion in the context of the transfer of public health to the Council. The review looked at the role of 'community assets' in promoting health and wellbeing. Research has shown that working at a neighbourhood level to strengthen community assets and empower local people to be active partners in the development of local health programmes can have a positive impact on health outcomes. The review involved conducting a mapping exercise of community assets in St Paul's Way and holding interviews with key community leaders and organisations. This case study provided the evidence for recommendations about how a community assets approach to health promotion could help strengthen the work of public health following the transition to the Council.

8. Conclusions and looking ahead to 2013-14

- 8.1 Feedback from OSC has indicated a broad agreement that, despite the challenges, 2012/13 has been a productive year with good quality debate on a broad range of issues. Issues and topics were addressed in a number of different ways, including spotlight sessions during OSC meetings, one off Challenge Sessions and Reviews supported by officers from the Corporate Strategy and Equality Service. This flexible approach has proved an effective way to utilise the resources available to support scrutiny.
- 8.2 The Committee welcomed the engagement of the Mayor and Cabinet members with the OSC in early part of the year and noted that the attendance of Lead members and Mayor at OSC meetings had enabled the Committee to play its scrutiny role effectively. Conversely, where issues were discussed without the Lead members present the Committee felt they were less able to fulfil their role. It was noted that the Mayor had not attended the Committee in relation to the Call-Ins of Executive Decisions.
- 8.3 In identifying priorities and challenges for the year ahead, members emphasised how important it will be for OSC to hold the Mayor to account effectively. They hoped to have the opportunity to discuss issues directly with him and his Cabinet members in the new municipal year. They also proposed that the OSC reinstate Directorate spotlight sessions in the forward plan of Committee meetings.

- 8.4 For 2013-14 a variety of issues and topics have already been suggested by members for consideration by OSC and the HSP when developing their work programmes. These include:
- Monitoring the implementation of savings in the Council's medium term financial plan and Budget for 2013-14 and their impact on service delivery and performance
 - Review the Council's approach to Mainstream Grants and how this relates to the Voluntary and Community Sector Strategy
 - On-going monitoring of work to address the findings of the Electoral Commission investigation into the conduct of elections in Tower Hamlets
 - The functioning of the new Education, Social Care and Wellbeing Directorate.
 - The projected shortage of school places
 - The impact of recent and upcoming changes to welfare benefits on local residents
 - Financial management of the council beyond 2014
 - The transfer of public health into the local authority

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

- 9.1 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.

10. COMMENTS OF THE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

- 10.1 This report provides a summary and review of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee's work in 2012-13. It forms the draft of a report which will go to full council early in the new municipal year.
- 10.2 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

11. ONE TOWER HAMLETS CONSIDERATIONS

- 11.1 Reducing inequality, promoting community cohesion and building community leadership are all central to the work of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. A number of pieces of work raised specific equalities issues including scrutiny of the budget, the scrutiny review of children's centres and the work to map consultation and engagement with service users in adult social care.

12. RISK MANAGEMENT

12.1 There are no direct risk management actions arising from this report.

13. SUSTAINABLE ACTION FOR A GREENER ENVIRONMENT

13.1 The content of this report has no implications for a greener environment.

10. CRIME AND DISORDER REDUCTION IMPLICATIONS

10.1 The content of this report has no implications for crime and disorder reduction.

14. EFFICIENCY STATEMENT

14.1 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.

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Agenda Item 11

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Agenda Item 13.1

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