

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Monday, 1 February 2016 at 7.15 p.m., Mile End Ecology Pavilion,
Haverfield Road, off Grove Road, London E3 5TW

This meeting is open to the public to attend.

Members:

Chair: Councillor John Pierce

Vice Chair: Councillor Danny Hassell

Councillor Mahbub Alam

Councillor Amina Ali

Councillor Peter Golds

Councillor Denise Jones

Councillor Md. Maium Miah

Councillor Oliur Rahman

Councillor Helal Uddin

Scrutiny Lead for Adult Health and Wellbeing

Scrutiny Lead for Law Probity and Governance

Scrutiny Lead for Communities, Localities &
Culture

Scrutiny Lead for Resources

Scrutiny Lead for Development and Renewal

Co-opted Members:

1 Vacancy

Nozrul Mustafa

Victoria Ekubia

Dr Phillip Rice

Rev James Olanipekun

(Parent Governor Representative)

(Parent Governor Representative)

(Roman Catholic Church Representative)

(Church of England Representative)

(Parent Governor Representative)

Deputies:

Councillor Muhammad Ansar Mustaqim, Councillor Khales Uddin Ahmed, Councillor Shah Alam, Councillor Dave Chesterton, Councillor Candida Ronald and 1 Vacancy.

[The quorum for this body is 3 voting Members]

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SECTION ONE

WARD

PAGE NUMBER(S)

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 Interim Monitoring Officer.

3. MILE END ECOLOGY PAVILION - VENUE DETAILS

5 - 6

4. UNRESTRICTED MINUTES

To confirm as a correct record of the proceedings the unrestricted minutes of the meetings of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 4th and 18th January, 2016 – To Follow

5. REQUESTS TO SUBMIT PETITIONS

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

6. UNRESTRICTED REPORTS 'CALLED IN'

No decisions of the Mayor in Cabinet 5th January, 2016 in respect of unrestricted reports on the agenda were 'called in'.

7. SCRUTINY SPOTLIGHT

Nil items

8. UNRESTRICTED REPORTS FOR CONSIDERATION

8 .1	New Local Plan: First Steps	All Wards	7 - 110
8 .2	Community Safety Plan Extension	All Wards	111 - 204
8 .3	Recruiting more diverse school governors	All Wards	205 - 220
8 .4	Progress update: review on improving post-16 educational attainment	All Wards	221 - 268
8 .5	Reporting use of covert surveillance	All Wards	269 - 280

9. VERBAL UPDATES FROM SCRUTINY LEADS

(Time allocated – 5 minutes each)

10. 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).

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

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

12. 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

WARD

**PAGE
NUMBER(S)**

13. EXEMPT/ CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES

Nil items

14. EXEMPT/ CONFIDENTIAL REPORTS 'CALLED IN'

Nil items

15. 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).

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

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

Next Meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Monday, 8 February 2016 at 7.15 p.m. to be held in Mile End Ecology Pavilion,
Haverfield Road, off Grove Road, London E3 5TW

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Agenda Item 2

DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS - NOTE FROM THE INTERIM 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 Interim 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 Interim 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 Interim Monitoring Officer of the interest for inclusion in the Register.

Further advice

For further advice please contact:-

Melanie Clay, Director, Law, Probity and Governance 020 7364 4800

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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Agenda Item 3 Mile End Park




- | | | | | | |
|---|--|---|---|---|---|
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Toilets | Disabled Toilets | Children's Playground | Fitness Area | Ecology Park | Walk a Mile Route |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Arts Centre | Café | Adventure Park | Athletics Track | Football | Skate Park |
|  |  |  |  | | |
| Sports Area | Climbing Wall | Go-kart Track | Children's Centre | | |

-  **Wennington Green**
-  **Ecology Park and Pavilion**
-  **Arts Park and Pavilion**
-  **Terrace Garden**
-  **The South Park**
-  **The Adventure and Sports Park**
-  **Children's Park and Pavilion**

- | | | | | |
|---|--|---|---|---|
|  |  |  |  |  |
| No Unauthorised Motor Vehicles | Do Not Litter | Please Clean Up After Your Dog | No Camping | No Unauthorised Barbeques |

Tel: 020 7364 5000
www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/mileendpark

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<p>Non-Executive Report of the:</p> <p>Overview and Scrutiny Committee</p> <p>1 February 2016</p>	
<p>Report of: Aman Dalvi, Corporate Director Development and Renewal</p>	<p>Classification: Unrestricted</p>
<p>A New Local Plan for Tower Hamlets</p>	

Originating Officer(s)	Adele Maher, Strategic Planning Manager
Wards affected	All wards

Summary

The Local Plan is the Borough’s most important planning document. It sets out a vision, strategic priorities and planning policy framework for development in the Borough. Its purpose is to direct the determination of planning applications and also positively plan for the development and infrastructure requirements to meet the needs of existing and future communities.

Following approval by the Mayor at Cabinet on 1 December, public consultation started on 14 December 2015, on an early stage public engagement document titled “Our Borough, Our Plan: A New Local Plan First Steps” (Appendix 1). The consultation will end on 8 February 2016. This first round of engagement will focus on establishing the vision, challenges, direction and focus of the new Local Plan. It aims to begin engagement with the public and key partners at an early stage of the plan making process although not a statutory requirement. Feedback obtained through the consultation will inform the next stage of the drafting of the new Local Plan.

Recommendations:

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee is recommended to:

1. Note the scope, process and timescales for the new Local Plan

1. REASONS FOR THE DECISIONS

- 1.1 Item is for information and discussion, no decision is required.

2. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

ALTERNATIVE OPTION A: NO CHANGE TO EXISTING LOCAL PLAN

- 2.1 The Council could decide not to prepare a new Local Plan. However, for the reasons outlined below this option is not advisable. Should the Council delay its process of updating the current Local Plan documents there is a high risk that the Borough may not be able to fully plan properly for the additional new homes, jobs and infrastructure such as schools, parks, health facilities and transport needed to meet the extra demand from a rapidly growing population.
- 2.2 Furthermore, if the Council's existing Local Plan policies contained in the Core Strategy and Managing Development Document, as well as the evidence base that underpins these policies, are not reviewed, there is a risk that they might not be working as effectively as they could or best respond to updates and changes to national and regional guidance and legislation. As a result the Council may not be able to maximise social, economic and environmental benefits for Tower Hamlets communities from development. Furthermore, an up-to-date Local Plan is viewed as being more effective in influencing the outcome of appeals against the refusal of planning permission.

ALTERNATIVE OPTION B: PARTIAL REVIEW OF EXISTING LOCAL PLAN

- 2.3 This option would involve the review of only those policies in the current Local Plan documents that are considered to be in need of updating as a result of changes to population growth and national and regional legislation and guidance.
- 2.4 This option is not recommended for a number of reasons. The policies in the Local Plan should be read as a whole and therefore would need to be considered together, as part of any review. It will be difficult to separate the policies out and argue that they are disconnected and have not, in some way, been affected by changes to population and new government legislation and guidance. In addition, the Core Strategy was adopted more than five years ago and much of the evidence base to support its policies was prepared before 2010. The Borough and national planning legislation has changed considerably since then and it is advisable to do a whole review, to ensure the Local Plan policies function effectively, individually and together.

3. DETAILS OF REPORT

- 3.1 The Council has an existing Local Plan, consisting of a Core Strategy adopted in 2010, and a Managing Development Document adopted in 2013. These documents translate national and regional policy requirements into a local planning framework to guide the design, planning and building in Tower Hamlets.
- 3.2 The Council is required by the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) to keep its Local Plan up-to-date, to ensure that it responds to changes in projections of population growth and infrastructure requirements and national and regional legislation and guidance. The Local Plan also provides the context for neighbourhood planning by establishing up-to-date and relevant policies that Neighbourhood Plans need to be in conformity with.
- 3.3 Tower Hamlets is anticipated to experience high levels of population growth and the London Plan annual housing target has been revised upwards from 2,885 units per year to 3,931 units per year in 2015. As outlined above, this will have a significant impact on the levels of new infrastructure that will need to be planned for and secured through development decisions and an up-to-date Local Plan will form the basis for these decisions. In addition, a number of Neighbourhood Planning Forums and Areas have been designated, and it would be helpful that these are supported by the most up-to-date strategic policies in a new Local Plan.

Local Plan evidence base

- 3.4 The new Local Plan policies will be developed through engagement with the Mayor, the Cabinet Lead for Strategic Development, Councillors, the public and key partners and colleagues from across the Council. The policies will be supported by an updated and relevant evidence base to ensure that they are sound and justified, and able to be robustly defended at Examination in Public.
- 3.5 Officers have started the process of commissioning the evidence base to support the new Local Plan policies. Invitations to tender for seven separate evidence base pieces of work have been published. This included an Integrated Impact Assessment (including Sustainability Appraisal, Equalities Impact Assessment and Health Impact Assessment) and a Habitat Regulation Assessment, Strategic Flood Risk Assessment, Employment Land Review, Town Centre Study and Strategic Transport Study, a Waste Management Strategy and Gypsy Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessment. It is expected that there will be further evidence base studies commissioned including areas such as playing pitches, children's play, early years learning, sustainable place making, affordable work space, a conservation strategy, conservation areas reviews and the Local List.

Public Consultation

- 3.6 The public consultation on "Our Borough, Our Plan: A New Local Plan First Steps" started on 14 December 2015, following approval by the Mayor at Cabinet on 1 December. It will end on 8 February 2016. "Our Borough, Our

Plan: A New Local Plan First Steps” has been published on the Council’s website. The public and stakeholders will be able to make comments online, by email or by post. The website contains details of all the consultation activities which have also been publicised in East End Life in advance of the events.

- 3.7 During this eight week consultation period, a series of public drop-in events were held to encourage public participation in the new Local Plan preparation process. Details of these events are given below:

Date	Location	Time	Address
Thursday, January 14, 2016	Idea Store, Chrisp Street	11.30am-2.30pm	15 Market Square London E14 6AQ
Saturday, January 16, 2016	V&A Museum of Childhood, Bethnal Green	10am-1pm	Cambridge Heath Road, London E2 9PA
Thursday, January 21, 2016	Alpha Grove Community Centre	6.30-8.30pm	Alpha Grove, London E14 8LH
Thursday, January 28, 2016	Idea Store, Whitechapel	5.30-8.30pm	321 Whitechapel Road, London E1 1BU
Saturday, January 30, 2016	Idea Store, Bow	10am-1pm	1 Gladstone Place, Roman Road, London E3 5ES

- 3.8 Officers have also utilised existing Council meetings where possible to raise awareness of the consultation and held bespoke events for colleagues, elected Members, external stakeholders and local community groups during the consultation period.

Timetable and next steps

- 3.9 After the first public consultation, officers will analyse the consultation responses, which together with evidence base findings will inform the next stage of the plan making process. A summary of the indicative Local Plan preparation timetable is set out below:

Milestone	Indicative Date
First engagement and consultation	Winter 2015/2016
Preparing the Draft Local Plan	Spring - Summer 2016
Draft Local Plan formal consultation	Autumn 2016
Amending the Draft Local Plan for Submission	Winter 2016
Publication of the Local Plan for Submission	Winter 2016 - Spring 2017

Milestone	Indicative Date
Preparing the Local Plan for Submission	Spring 2017
Submission to the Secretary of State	Spring 2017
Examination by a Planning Inspector	Spring/Summer 2017
Adoption by Full Council	Autumn 2017

3.10 Officers consider that the approach of undertaking an early stage consultation represents good practice by enabling the public and stakeholders to become involved as early as possible in the development of a new Local Plan, through the identification of “issues” affecting planning in the Borough that will need to be addressed in the Local Plan. Feedback obtained through this early stage of consultation will assist the formulation of policies that will be included in the Draft Local Plan. The next stage of consultation on the Draft Local Plan will take place in autumn 2016.

4. COMMENTS OF THE CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER

4.1 The ‘Our Borough, Our Plan: A New Local Plan First Steps’ consultation process was approved by the Mayor in Cabinet on 1 December 2015 as the initial stage in the proposed review of the Council’s Local Plan. This report provides an update for the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the scope, process and timescales involved.

4.2 Whilst there are no specific financial consequences arising directly from the recommendations in the report, ultimately the new Local Plan will underpin key decisions in relation to the allocation of the limited resources available within the Borough, and will influence the shaping of the Council’s Capital Strategy.

4.3 The compilation of the various studies and evidence required to support the plan will set out some of the challenges that the Authority and its partners may face over coming years as a result of demographic and economic growth. Individual infrastructure developments will need to be subject to detailed planning at the appropriate time, including consideration of the financial impact on both partner organisations and on the Council. The new Local Plan and supporting data will also provide evidence to determine the charging schedules in relation to Section 106 obligations and the newly introduced Community Infrastructure Levy, and to inform decisions concerning the appropriate use of the resources secured.

4.4 The main costs associated with the development of the new Local Plan are staffing related and are financed from within existing resources. The consultation process will incur expenditure on items such as advertising,

printing, hiring venues and facilitating public meetings. There is existing budgetary provision to fund this expenditure.

5. LEGAL COMMENTS

- 5.1 Following approval on 1 December 2015, by the Mayor in Cabinet of the proposed early stage public consultation document “Our Borough, Our Plan – A New Local Plan First Steps”, this report to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee identifies the scope, process and timescales for making the new Local Plan. Although this early stage consultation is not a mandatory statutory requirement it is considered in the interests of good plan making that it will help to identify the key issues and objectives that the eventual Local Plan will seek to address.
- 5.2 The Government guidance on plan making urges early and meaningful engagement and collaboration with neighbourhoods, local organisations and businesses which would have the opportunity to respond to the public consultation document “Our Borough, Our Plan – A new Local Plan First Steps” which sets out the strategic priorities at an early stage of the New Local Plan making process.
- 5.3 The Courts have ruled that where a public body decides to embark upon a consultation exercise when it is not obliged to do so, it must nonetheless comply with the minimum standards of a lawful consultation procedure. It is confirmed that the proposed public consultation for the “Our Borough, Our Plan – A New Local Plan First Steps” shall comply with the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) Regulations 2012, on the basis that it will exceed the six week consultation period required by the Council’s Statement of Community Involvement (SCI).
- 5.4 In carrying out the function of preparing and adopting a Local Plan, the Council must have due regard to the need to eliminate unlawful conduct under the Equality Act 2010, the need to advance equality of opportunity and the need to foster good relations between persons who share a protected characteristic and those who do not. An Equality Analysis Quality Assurance Checklist has been completed (see Appendix 3 item 5.1 (i) to the Cabinet Report 1.12.15).

6. ONE TOWER HAMLETS CONSIDERATIONS

- 6.1 A full equalities screening and if required Equalities Assessment will be prepared alongside the Draft Local Plan in autumn 2016. Officers will work with the Equalities team to make sure that actions will be undertaken to mitigate the likely impacts on the equality profile of those affected by the Draft Local Plan. This will form part of the Integrated Impact Assessment, which will also include a Health Impact Assessment.

7. BEST VALUE (BV) IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 A new Local Plan will enable the Council to continue to ensure that the delivery of housing and infrastructure is optimised, and that benefits continue to be secured for the wider community. The development of sites following the policies and guidance of the new Local Plan will generate section 106 and Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) contributions where relevant. This may include the delivery of new affordable housing, local enterprise and employment opportunities, public realm enhancements and infrastructure.
- 7.2 Undertaking a range of consultations with council services and partners, as well as residents, will ensure the new Local Plan incorporates a full range of local priorities and is underpinned by a full and thorough evidence base. This will improve the likelihood of the plan being found sound when examined.

8. SUSTAINABLE ACTION FOR A GREENER ENVIRONMENT

- 8.1 A Sustainability Appraisal (SA) is a legal requirement for the preparation and development of the Local Plan. Under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, a Sustainability Appraisal must comply with the requirements of a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA). A SEA ensures that environmental issues are incorporated and assessed in decision-making throughout the entire plan making process. The SA report is prepared alongside the draft of the new Local Plan and submitted to the Secretary of State alongside the new Local Plan.

9. RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 Progress on the new Local Plan is being regularly reported through a number of internal groups that consider risk management issues and mitigation measures. These include:
- Local Plan Internal Stakeholders Group
 - Development and Renewal Directorate Management Team
 - Corporate Management Team
- 9.2 A Project Initiation Document (PID) was approved by Corporate Management Team in May 2015. Officers are working collaboratively across the relevant Services on the development of the new Local Plan and its evidence base through Corporate Management Team and the Local Plan Internal Stakeholder Group. There are on-going discussions between the Strategic Planning Manager and service heads on resourcing. Furthermore, the Mayor of Tower Hamlets and Lead Member for Strategic Development have been briefed on the new Local Plan on a regular basis and have provided significant input into the development of "Our Borough, Our Plan: A New Local Plan First Steps".

10. CRIME AND DISORDER REDUCTION IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 “Our Borough, Our Plan: A New Local Plan First Steps” is not considered to have any implications for crime and disorder reduction at this stage. However the next draft of the new Local Plan will contain policies that will seek to ensure that the design of developments minimise opportunities for crime and create a safer and more secure environment.
-

Linked Reports, Appendices and Background Documents

Linked Report

NONE

Appendices

1. “Our Borough, Our Plan: A New Local Plan First Steps” document

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

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

List any background documents not already in the public domain including officer contact information.

NONE

Officer contact details for documents:

- Adele Maher, Strategic Planning Manager – x5375
- Hong Chen, Plan Making Team Leader – x4778
- Gemma Hotchkiss, Planner – x3104

Our Borough, Our Plan

December 2015



A New Local Plan First Steps

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Foreword

The development of our new Local Plan is taking place at an important moment. As the centre of London continues to move East, Tower Hamlets is now one of the fastest growing boroughs in the UK. This is reflected in our growing population, the increasing level of development interest and the rising value of our local economy. While this growth brings great opportunities by increasing local investment, new jobs and improvements to facilities, it also creates an increasing demand for housing, and business space and places pressure on local services. National Policy changes, to welfare, housing and planning, as well as global economic trends, are also adding further stresses which are being felt in the borough.

All this is within the context of a borough which still faces huge challenges. Our employment rate is rising but still below London's, we have the highest rate of child poverty in the country and high levels of health inequality. The affordability of housing continues to present a significant challenge, reducing the ability of residents with a range of incomes to remain in the borough. Many residents are concerned about

the pace of change and the scale of recent developments. I believe it is crucial that we ensure new developments are accompanied by the additional infrastructure and services required to maintain a good quality of life. It is also vital that we protect and enhance the elements of our borough which contribute to its unique identity, be that heritage buildings, local pubs, community facilities and faith buildings, local business spaces or markets.

I am committed to ensuring that more residents benefit from the growth in the borough, such as through improved services or access to housing that is actually affordable and meets local needs. The borough's physical regeneration however can only be one part of the picture; we need to ensure that residents receive access to training and job opportunities, so we can reduce poverty and inequality.

It is a very important that we meet existing and historic needs. But we are welcoming many thousands of new residents every year and so we need both to support existing communities and to welcome the new East Enders and to plan for and provide for their needs too. This includes public

infrastructure – schools, health services and so on - but also making sure that our new developments work well, include leisure opportunities and open space, handle waste effectively, are supported by transport systems, are served by well-planned shops and other services and are planned and designed in ways that are efficient and sustainable. Our Borough can manage high density development in quite a few places, but it must be development that ‘works’, and doesn’t store up problems in the future from poor design or inadequate services. And so, to re-emphasise this crucial point, getting growth right is vital for our future.

An up to date Local Plan with policies which reflect the real needs of local residents and businesses, and which addresses the latest national and regional context, is crucial for the borough to make the most of the opportunities available, help tackle our enduring challenges, manage the

pressures we face and deliver our aspirations.

The “Our Borough, Our Plan: A New Local Plan First Steps” consultation is the starting point for the development of the new Local Plan, which will be adopted by autumn 2017. This document and consultation are designed to help shape the direction of policy, so I would urge everyone with an interest in Tower Hamlets to voice your views. In doing so, we will meet the needs of the borough going forward, with a shared vision that we can all be proud of.



John Biggs
Mayor of Tower Hamlets

About this document

What is this document about?

In this document we have started to consider what the spatial vision, planning strategy and policies for Tower Hamlets should be over the next 15 years. These will be set out in a new Local Plan, which will guide development, identify how land is used and shape our neighbourhoods by determining what will be built and where.

This is the first consultation stage for the preparation of a new Local Plan. It aims to identify the challenges for the borough and how we can best approach these through our planning policies.

Your input is an invaluable part of the preparation process for the new Local Plan and will inform the development of a vision, objectives and policies to help create a better Tower Hamlets.

The document asks questions to help capture your views. Please feel free to comment on any other issues you feel are important or relevant to planning policy and whether we should include any other policy areas in the next stage. This document should begin to address the following questions, which will be taken forward in more detail in the development of policies in the new Local Plan:

What does planning policy need to address as a priority?

What is the most important thing about your local area?

Our growing neighbourhood really needs a new park and a new school. Will the policies plan for this?

How should we approach our policies to ensure positive outcomes for those living, working and visiting the borough?

What can a Local Plan do to help me and my children continue to afford to live in the Borough?

We keep getting more and more new development but don't appear to be getting major infrastructure investment to support it. What is the Local Plan going to do about it?

I'm worried about the pace of growth, it seems out of control to me. What will a Local Plan do to manage this?

What are the challenges for your local area?

How to give us your comments and feedback

London Borough of Tower Hamlets is undertaking public consultation on this document and its supporting information from:

14 December 2015 to 8 February 2016

You will be able to find all information on this consultation on the council's website:
www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/localplan

Please contact the Plan Making team for further details via:

E: planmaking@towerhamlets.gov.uk (please enter "Our Borough, Our Plan consultation" in the subject)

T: 020 7364 5009

Twitter: @TowerHamletsNow

The council would like to encourage the use of our **e-form** for electronic responses. The form will be published on the council's website (as shown above).

Any written comments should be sent to the following freepost address:

FREEPOST
Our Borough, Our Plan Consultation
D&R Strategic Planning
London Borough of Tower Hamlets
PO BOX 55739
London
E14 1BY

Hard copies are also available in Tower Hamlets libraries and Idea Stores listed below:

- **Idea Store Bow**, 1 Gladstone Place, Roman Road, Bow, E3 5ES
- **Idea Store Canary Wharf**, Churchill Place, E14 5RB
- **Idea Store Chrisp Street**, 1 Vesey Path East India Dock Road, E14 6BT
- **Idea Store Whitechapel**, 321 Whitechapel Road, E1 1BU
- **Idea Store Watney Market**, Watney Market, E1 2FB
- **Cubitt Town Library**, Strattondale Street, E14 3HG
- **Local History & Archives Library**, 277 Bancroft Road, E1 4DQ
- **Bethnal Green Library Cambridge Heath Rd**, London E2 0HL

Consultation Event Calendar

This consultation will be supported by a series of public drop-in sessions taking place at various locations around the borough. Please refer to the calendar below for the date and time of an event taking place near you.

Date	Location	Time	Address
Thursday 14 th January 2016	Idea Store, Crisp Street	11:30-14:30	15 Market Square, London, E14 6AQ
Saturday 16 th January 2016	V & A Museum of Childhood, Bethnal Green	10:00-13:00	Cambridge Heath Road, London E2 9PA
Thursday 21 st January 2016	Alpha Grove Community Centre	17:30-20:30	Alpha Grove, London, E14 8LH
Thursday 28 th January 2016	Idea Store, Whitechapel	17:30-20:30	321 Whitechapel Road, London, E1 1BU
Saturday 30 th January 2016	Idea Store, Bow	10:00-13:00	1 Gladstone Place, Roman Road, London, E3 5ES

Section One: Setting the Scene

1.1 What is the Local Plan?

The new Local Plan will set out a vision, strategic priorities and a planning policy framework to guide and manage development in the borough for the next 10 to 15 years, in line with the planning policy requirements set out by national and regional government.

1.2 Why is it important to have a Local Plan?

It is important for the borough to have an up to date plan in place with a clear vision, objectives and planning policies to guide development decisions. Together with the London Plan, the Local Plan is a critical tool for a planning authority to plan proactively and positively for development by focusing on the community needs and opportunities in relation to places, housing, economy, infrastructure, local services and other areas. It also seeks to safeguard the environment, adapt to climate change and enhance the natural and historic environment.

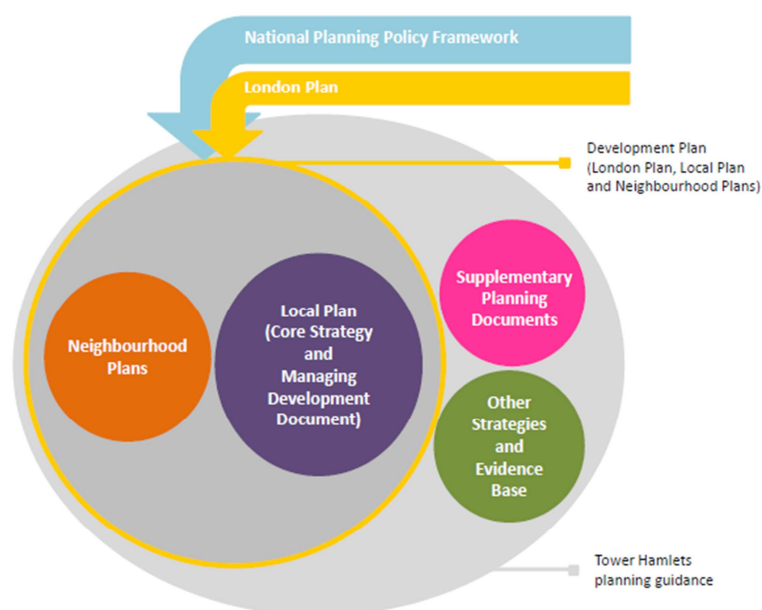


Figure 1 Framework of the Tower Hamlets Local Plan

1.3 Why do we need a new Local Plan for Tower Hamlets?

There are a number of main reasons for the council to prepare a new Local Plan, including:

- Since the adoption of the Core Strategy (2010) and Managing Development Plan Document (2013), Tower Hamlets has experienced

significant changes, in particular, continued population growth and increasing demand for homes, jobs and infrastructure. Information from the Greater London Authority (GLA) showed that the population of Tower Hamlets was 280,474 in June 2014, and expected to increase by 23 per cent to reach 364,804 by 2024¹. The borough has a relatively young working age population, with almost half of all residents of the Borough (49 per cent) aged between 20 and 39. Tower Hamlets is the fourth largest employment location in London with 240,000 jobs based in the Borough in 2012. The Greater London Authority (GLA) estimates that the number of jobs in the borough will increase by 169,000 between 2010 and 2031.

- Significant planning changes have also taken place in recent years at both a national and regional level. Amongst others, this includes the National Planning Policy Framework (2012) and Planning Practice Guidance, the Localism Act and the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) from the Government. The London Plan has also been further altered to provide new policy directions for London boroughs to follow. The Further Alterations to the London Plan was adopted in March 2015 (FALP)². The Mayor of London has increased Tower Hamlets minimum ten year housing target from 28,850 to 39,314. The new housing target means that the borough will potentially accommodate 10 per cent of London's population growth in just 1.3 per cent of its land area³. There will also be a 41 per cent increase in jobs⁴.
- These combined changes will have significant implications for the council's planning policies, in particular the need to plan for sufficient additional infrastructure to support the increasing population. The council is proactively responding to these changes by preparing a new Local Plan that, when adopted by autumn 2017 will replace the current Core Strategy (2010) and Managing Development Document (2013). This will help ensure that the needs of the borough residents can continue to be met through the provision of affordable housing, jobs, community facilities and infrastructure.

1.4 How will we prepare this new Local Plan?

The preparation of the London Borough of Tower Hamlets new Local Plan is regarded as a priority for the council and the Mayor, as set out in the Community Plan 2015.

¹ 2014 Round of Demographic Projections; Local authority population projections - SHLAA-based ethnic group projections, Capped Household Size, short-term migration scenario; October 2015

² <https://www.london.gov.uk/priorities/planning/london-plan/further-alterations-to-the-london-plan>

³ The estimated figures were represented on behalf of the Council during the Examination in Public of the Further Alterations to the London Plan in 2014.

⁴ The estimated figures were presented on behalf of the Council during the Examination in Public of the Further Alterations to the London Plan in 2014.

The council is working hard to make the best use of resources to produce the new Local Plan for adoption by autumn 2017. A summary of the indicative Local Plan preparation timetable is set out below (Table 1).

Milestone	Indicative Date
First engagement and consultation	Winter 2015/2016
Preparing the Draft Local Plan	Spring - Summer 2016
Draft Local Plan formal consultation	Autumn 2016
Amending the Draft Local Plan for Submission	Winter 2016
Publication of the Local Plan for Submission	Winter 2016 - Spring 2017
Preparing the Local Plan for Submission	Spring 2017
Submission to the Secretary of State	Spring 2017
Examination by a Planning Inspector	Spring/Summer 2017
Adoption by Full Council	Autumn 2017

Table 1 Local Plan Production Indicative Timetable

Following the preparation of the Local Plan, the council must submit it to the Government for examination. As part of this examination, an independent planning inspector will assess the Local Plan and consider:

- Whether the plan has been prepared in accordance with the Duty to Cooperate⁵;
- Legal and procedural requirements; and
- Whether it is sound – positively prepared, justified, effective and consistent with national policy.

A number of key factors contributing to preparation of a Local Plan are included in the diagram below (figure 2).

⁵ A legal duty on planning authorities in England and public bodies to engage constructively and actively and on an on-going basis to maximise the effectiveness of preparation in the context of strategic cross boundary matters.



Figure 2 The components that are the most relevant to the preparation of a Local Plan

Section Two: New Plan, New Vision

2.0 Introduction

A core part of a Local Plan is its “Vision”. Good practice suggests that a “Vision” should be both aspirational and realistic. It should provide a strong impression of what the borough will spatially be like in the next 10 to 15 years. In developing this vision, we need to establish a better understanding of the current context of the borough in terms of social, economic and environmental aspects, as well as the challenges and opportunities Tower Hamlets faces.

This section helps us to think ahead - what Tower Hamlets will be like in 10 to 15 years. It also provides an overview of the borough profile in respect of its place, people and economy through highlighting the challenges that the borough faces, opportunities for development, and how best we can achieve shared objectives amongst our community. These challenges and opportunities largely reflect the content in the Tower Hamlets Partnership’s Community Plan (2015), which is part of the evidence base for developing a new vision for the Local Plan.

2.1 Our borough – place, people and economy

Place

Tower Hamlets is an inner city borough which shares boundaries with the City of London and the London Boroughs of Newham and Hackney. The east side of Tower Hamlets is bordered by River Lea, and part of the borough is now in the planning authority remit of the London Legacy Development Corporation (LLDC). The River Thames flows along the south of the borough separating it from the Royal Borough of Greenwich and the London Borough of Southwark (See figure 3 below).

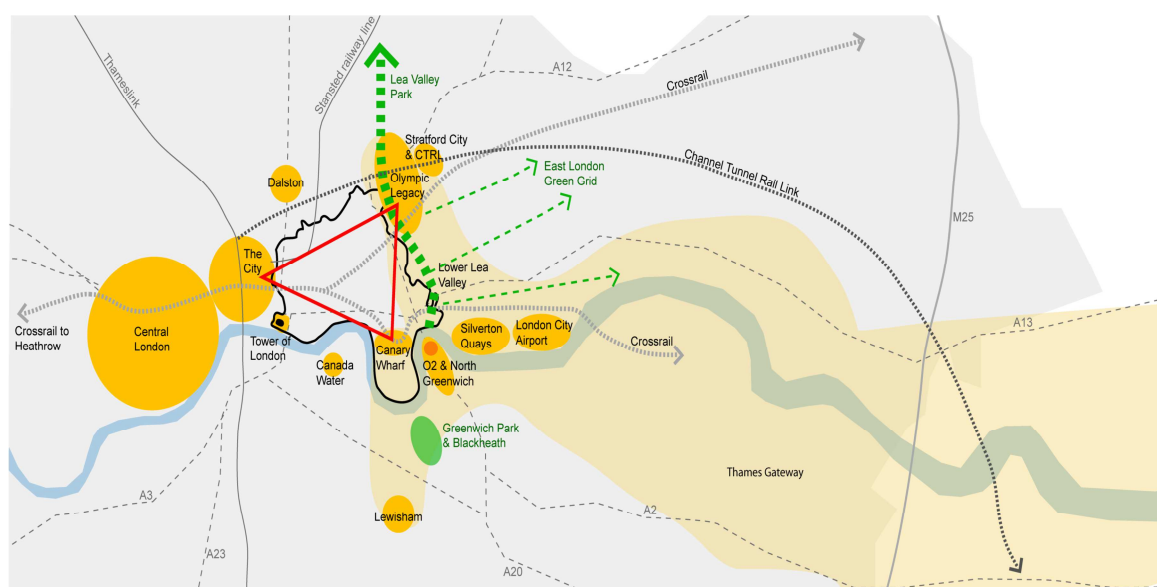


Figure 3 Tower Hamlets Regional Role

Figure 4 (below) illustrates that Tower Hamlets is made up of places with distinct and unique characteristics, from the major international business centres of Canary Wharf and parts of the City Fringe, to residential areas with traditional East End character such as Bow and Stepney, historic Whitechapel, and vibrant Shoreditch. Alongside these places are major leisure attractions and landmarks such as Brick Lane, Spitalfields Market, the Tower of London and Victoria Park.

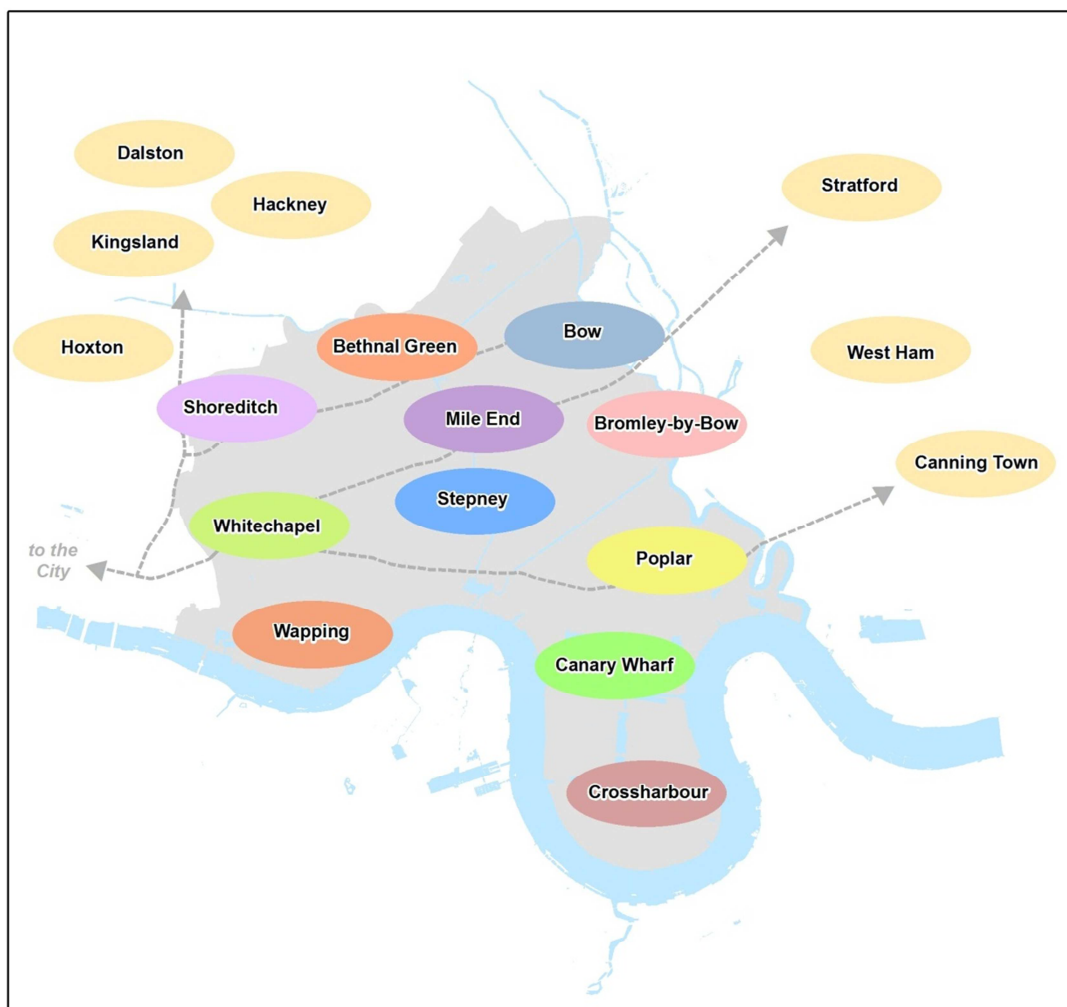


Figure 4 Some of Tower Hamlets Distinct Places

People

The population of Tower Hamlets was estimated to be 284,000 as at June 2014. Tower Hamlets has a relatively young working age population, with almost half of all residents in the borough (49 per cent) aged between 20 and 39⁶.

According to the 2011 Census, 69 per cent of the borough's population are from a minority ethnic community. In the last decade international migration has shaped the profile of the borough's communities – 43 per cent of the borough's population were born outside of the UK.

⁶ The Office for National Statistics published its mid-2014 population estimates on 25 June 2015. The mid-year estimates are the 'official' estimates of population for local authority areas.

Economy

Tower Hamlets has one of the most dynamic economies in the country. 11,440 local businesses provide approximately 251,000 jobs in the borough. Our economy is being driven by the continued growth in financial and business services and by 2030 there are expected to be a further 75,000 jobs in that sector.⁷ The City Fringe/ Whitechapel and Canary Wharf/Isle of Dogs area accounted for the majority of all employment in Tower Hamlets⁸. According to VAT registrations, there are 11,445 VAT based enterprises in Tower Hamlets in 2013. Of these, the majority of businesses (10,145) are micro businesses employing less than 10 people.

Furthermore, the borough also attracts hundreds of visitors to key attractions such as the Tower of London and Whitechapel Gallery and the hotel industry is responding to increased demand for visitor accommodation.

2.2 What are we planning for?

Table 2 below provides a summary of the emerging trends, pressure and likely outcomes in terms of social, economic and environmental aspects in the next 10 -15 years. This is based on information available at this stage although some areas will be difficult to predict and will require further evidence to be produced as the Local Plan evolves.

Our Population will be...	Our Economy will be...
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The borough's population is projected to increase from 280,474 in 2014 to 364,804 in 2024, an increase of 23 per cent(ONS).⁹ • The greatest increases will be amongst the older working age population, the 'White' population and the 'hyper diversity'¹⁰ of the borough. • The borough's employment rate has been rising rapidly. However higher than average levels of unemployment remain amongst some groups of residents and in-work poverty remains. In light of the changing housing market and welfare provision, this trend is likely to continue in certain places within the borough. • The last ten years has seen a reduction in the percentage of residents living in social rented accommodation, a small level of growth in owner occupation and large growth in the private rented sector. This trend is likely to continue. • The borough is likely to become more polarised between an increasingly wealthy home owning or renting group and a reducing group of residents in affordable housing or subsidised. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employment projections published by the GLA estimate the number of jobs in the borough will almost double, increasing by 169,000, between 2010 and 2031 to 379,000. • The changing global economy, emerging employment sectors and working trends, including the rise of remote working and self-employment, will have an impact on the type of employment spaces and facilities required in the borough. • Population and retail trends, including growing online shopping and smaller chain convenience stores are changing the use and role of Town Centres. • Town centres are increasingly moving away from only providing retail spaces to delivering spaces for leisure and cultural activities as well as service provision. • The changing shape of development in the borough will also influence the nature and location of our Town Centres, for example, creating opportunities for new Town Centres in

⁷ Tower Hamlets Borough Profile (draft, 2015)

⁸ Business registration and employment survey (BRES) data published by the Office for National Statistics (ONS).

⁹ 2014 Round of Demographic Projections; Local authority population projections - SHLAA-based ethnic group projections, Capped Household Size, short-term migration scenario; October 2015

¹⁰ the borough will be home to more residents from many more different countries, than is currently the case

	emerging growth areas.
<p>Our Infrastructure will be...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The borough’s transport infrastructure will be boosted by the arrival of Crossrail in 2018. However population growth and development will place further pressure on the borough’s other transport network, including buses, DLR, walking and cycling. • There will be an increasing need for leisure, social, education infrastructure and reducing space to provide it. New delivery models and locations will be required. • Many public sector services are seeking to merge services and reduce the number of buildings they operate from. This means even less available publicly owned sites for infrastructure provision. • The education system has also changed following the introduction of Free Schools and Academies, which follows a different system for their establishment. • Neighbourhood Planning has been introduced under Government legislation. This has enabled more detailed planning at neighbourhood level led by designated Neighbourhood Forums. An adopted Neighbourhood Plan will become part of the local planning system to determine planning applications within the designated Neighbourhood Areas. 	<p>Our Environment will be...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The borough has seen a consistently high level of development interest since the production of the last Local Plan. This is likely to continue as the population and economy grow in Tower Hamlets and London. • The current high values of residential development mean that other land uses, including employment space, community facilities and open space, will become even more difficult to secure and deliver and come under increasing pressure for conversion to housing. • More development will come forward on smaller and and/or constrained sites, leading to a denser borough. • There will be increasing pressure to regenerate and intensify developments. • The location of development and borough orientation will change. The new Housing Zone and Opportunity Area means that development space is being opened up on the eastern boundary of the borough, an area which is currently poorly connected. • The borough already has the third highest carbon emission levels, due to vehicular emissions. This is likely to worsen unless mitigating action is taken. • Increasing development will also impact on the quality of the borough’s built and natural environment.

Table 2 A summary of the Future Population, Economy, Infrastructure and Environment Trends

2.3 The challenges we face

Story so far...

Infrastructure provision

Population growth will demand more homes and jobs and will significantly impact on existing social and physical infrastructure, including schools, healthcare and open spaces and leisure facilities as well as less visible but very important infrastructure such as utilities and telecommunications. It is important that the council establishes a better understanding of infrastructure needs and prioritise them where required. The existing mechanism is struggling to fill the infrastructure funding gap, given the increasing needs. It has become more challenging for the council to deliver infrastructure through other innovative approaches.

Quality of the environment

Higher density developments have come forward in less accessible locations outside of town centres, creating a landscape which does not reflect the historic and prevailing pattern of buildings and spaces. While high density developments offer the opportunity to optimise the use of a site, their siting and design needs to be carefully managed to ensure that it has regard to the surrounding context, in particular the historic and environmental assets which make Tower Hamlets unique.

Streets and public realm in parts of the borough are sometimes disconnected and of poor quality. The lack of consistency contributes to a poor visual appearance of the streetscape in general.

Supply and cost of housing

Tower Hamlets continues to be a place where people want to live but there is a limited supply of homes and prices are high. The cost of housing is increasing and the borough is likely to become more polarised between those on higher and lower incomes, further increasing inequalities in our local communities. We want to make sure that the new homes are built in the right locations are of a high design quality and are affordable for local people.

Economy and improving job opportunities

The local economy is getting stronger but there is a need to ensure we have the right skills within the working population to enable residents to access the range of job opportunities in the borough and beyond.

Transport capacity and connectivity

The borough's transport network will come under greater pressure with the projected rise in people living, working and visiting the borough. As a result of its strategic location, Tower Hamlets is developing more characteristics of a central London borough. However, there is a need to ensure we better connect with neighbouring boroughs, especially to the east, as well as ensure internal connections are improved.

Health and well-being

Tower Hamlets has one of the largest health inequality gaps in the country and has one of the highest rates in London of people suffering bad or very bad health.

Social cohesion

The changing nature of the borough through the scale and type development taking place requires positive and proactive management to ensure we create diverse and balanced neighbourhoods which bring communities together.

2.4 The opportunities we have

Story so far...

Opportunity areas

The London Plan (2015) identifies a number of opportunity areas within Tower Hamlets - namely City Fringe/Tech City (including Whitechapel), Isle of Dogs and South Poplar, and Lower Lea Valley (including part of the Olympic Legacy area and the Poplar Riverside Housing Zone). These areas present an opportunity to optimise the supply of available land to enable the development of homes, jobs and required infrastructure for all Tower Hamlets communities. Details are set out in 2.5 below.

Infrastructure delivery

The anticipated level of development coming forward in the borough will be supported by developer contributions in the form of planning obligations and Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL). These are mechanisms which will enable the delivery of required infrastructure in the areas of need in a timely manner. The facilities and services needed to support Tower Hamlets' communities includes, but is not limited to, transport, education, health, open space and telecommunications.

Thriving economy and town centres

Tower Hamlets has a strong economy and is home to a number of international and national companies, who continue to invest in the borough. There is also an established and growing small and medium sized enterprise (SME)/microbusiness sector, and new tech industries attracted to the City Fringe/Whitechapel area in particular. This is also supported by a hierarchy of interconnected, vibrant and inclusive town centres of local economic activity with good transport accessibility and a mix of uses.

To ensure local residents have access to job opportunities, it is a priority to equip local residents with the skills and qualifications to benefit from this growth through setting policy requirements for training and identifying sites for potential training and education facilities. There is also an opportunity to ensure our town centres continue to be vibrant and diverse to meet the needs of the growing population.

Crossrail

Public transport accessibility in the borough will be further enhanced by the new Crossrail Stations at Whitechapel and Canary Wharf, which are scheduled to open in 2018. Crossrail will shorten journey times between these stations and a number of other major growth areas including Bond Street, Stratford City, City Airport, and Heathrow. This has significant implications for both national and international business, and will attract inward investment, more jobs, and development opportunities in the Whitechapel and Canary Wharf areas.

Cross boundary opportunities

Tower Hamlets interfaces with the London Legacy Development Corporation (LLDC) (the planning authority for Fish Island and Bromley-by-Bow), the London Borough of Hackney, London Borough of Newham and the City of London. These boroughs have development opportunities, such as Stratford International, and London City Airport, the benefits of which Tower Hamlets can harness for its communities, by way of improving connectivity and accessibility to these areas.

2.5 Designated Opportunity Areas

Figure 5 shows the proximity of these designated Opportunity Areas and how they link with Tower Hamlets town centres and other neighbouring boroughs. The locations of designated Opportunity Areas (Number 1-3) are indicative for illustration purposes. Details of these Opportunity Areas are set out in the separate plans and guidance by GLA. The potential connections (in purple) such as new footbridges and tunnels illustrated in the map are aspirational at this stage. It aims to provide a strategic overview of how Tower Hamlets should consider maximising the growth opportunities by linking better with its surroundings.

Area 1: City Fringe/Tech City

The City Fringe area of Tower Hamlets, including Tech City, is emerging as one of London's most significant areas for economic growth, containing considerable opportunities for new and emerging sectors of the economy with particular requirements for clustering and accommodation. The council's Whitechapel Vision Masterplan Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) (2013) is driving forward regeneration in Whitechapel including new homes and job opportunities, public realm improvements, a new civic hub for Tower Hamlets and potential Med City focused on the Royal London Hospital and Queen Mary University London.

Area 2: Isle of Dogs and South Poplar

The Isle of Dogs and South Poplar has been identified as an Opportunity Area by the Mayor of London in the London Plan to potentially accommodate a minimum of 10,000 new homes and 110,000 jobs. The Greater London Authority (GLA) is producing an Opportunity Area Planning Framework (OAPF) Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) to provide more detailed planning policies for the area. This will help manage growth coming forward in advance of the new Local Plan being adopted in 2017. The OAPF will also be a material consideration that the new Local Plan will need to take into account.

The first draft of the OAPF SPG is scheduled for public consultation in spring 2016 and the GLA is working with the council, partners and key stakeholders in the production of this document. The council has asked the GLA to prioritise work on the Development Infrastructure Funding (DIF). The DIF is a key piece of evidence that supports the OAPF and the GLA's plans for growth, and demonstrates how the GLA and partners will manage growth in the area through this strategic infrastructure plan and committed investment. Normally a final DIF is published when the OAPF is complete, which is anticipated to be late 2016. However because of the importance of infrastructure and the scale of potential growth in this area, the council has asked the GLA to prioritise this work and publish the complete DIF in spring 2016. The council is working proactively with the GLA, TfL and other key stakeholders in the production of the OAPF and the new Local Plan.

The council adopted the South Quay Masterplan SPD in October 2015 that provides additional design guidance to help coordinate new developments in the South Quay

area. This will be part of the evidence to inform the development of the OAPF and the new Local Plan.

Area 3: Lower Lea Valley/Poplar Riverside Housing Zone

The Lower Lea Valley Opportunity Area covers three London Boroughs: Hackney, Newham and Tower Hamlets. Within Tower Hamlets, it comprises the areas of Hackney Wick/Fish Island, Bromley-by-Bow and Poplar Riverside Housing Zone. The LLDC is the planning authority to determine planning applications within Hackney Wick/Fish Island and the Olympic Legacy Area.

The Olympic Legacy has been a catalyst attracting development opportunities and investment. Through the Local Plan and other supporting documents such as the adopted the Bromley-by-Bow Masterplan SPD (2012), the council has identified a vision and planning guidance to promote affordable housing, jobs and social infrastructure for local communities in the area.

More recently, the Poplar Riverside Housing Zone is an initiative of the GLA to drive forward growth located on the redevelopment of former industrial land and existing social housing estates. It is estimated that the Housing Zone could deliver more than 9,000 new homes over the next 10 years. This will require the council to work collaboratively with the GLA and other key stakeholders to ensure that additional schools, community centres and spaces are planned at an early stage of development proposals in order to meet the needs of all communities.

London Borough of Tower Hamlets Aspirations



Document Path: W:\Development & Renewal\Planning\2 - Projects\Strategy, Regeneration & Sustainability\Opportunities & Aspirations\2 - Production\Opportunities & Aspirations v3.mxd

Date: 04/12/2015




Figure 5 Map of Aspirational Opportunities for Tower Hamlets

2.6 Suggestions

With your input, we propose to create a new vision for the Local Plan by applying the following principles:

1. The vision should be concise and easy to understand
2. The vision should reflect council and community priorities
3. The vision should acknowledge the challenges and opportunities Tower Hamlets faces
4. The vision should describe places in Tower Hamlets, and provide a clear sense of what the place will be like in 10-15 years' time
5. The vision should be underpinned by a number of objectives which are measurable

2.7 Let us know what you think

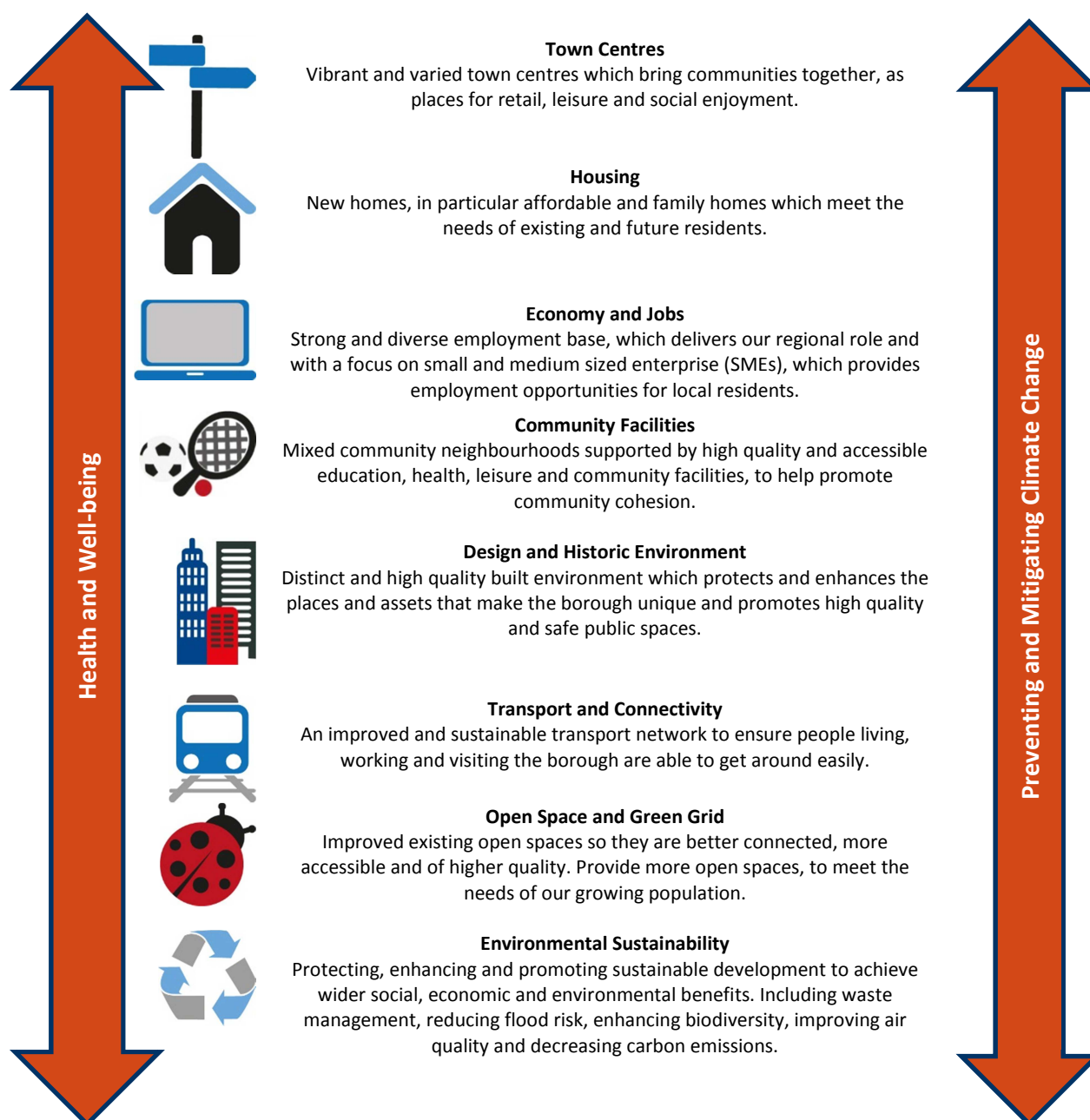
-  **Do you agree with the key challenges and opportunities for the area you live, work or visit in Tower Hamlets?**
-  **Do you agree with the principles stated in 2.6 above?**
-  **What are the most important things that the Local Plan vision needs to include?**

Section Three: Topics

3.0 Introduction

The production of a Local Plan should be undertaken in a way in which promotes fairness, community cohesion, empowerment and resilience in line with the principles set out in the Community Plan 2015. To deliver this, a series of key topics have been identified in this section.

Our Policy Aims:



We considered that there are two cross cutting themes running through all eight topics and they are set out below. These will need to be taken into account when we are developing all Local Plan policies.

- **Improving residents health and well-being**

This topic goes beyond improving access to health facilities and includes a range of measures to improve the wider determinants of health, including employment, high quality housing, and access to open space and leisure facilities.

- **Preventing and mitigating climate change**

This topic requires policy interventions across all topics, from promoting low carbon transport, to improving the energy efficiency of homes to incorporating flood reducing design.

Town Centres



3.1 Town Centres

Story so far...

The Council's strategic policy approach towards "refocusing" on the borough's town centres has been reinforced more recently by London Plan policies directing appropriate higher density development, including residential development, to town centres and transport nodes. While such development helps to ensure town centres remain as focal points, facilitating residential uses can also compromise active retail, leisure and commercial uses including provision of appropriately sized units.

The borough has an excellent range of shopping areas containing a selection of local businesses and national and international chains. These not only meet the everyday convenience needs of the borough's residents and workers, but also provide a unique experience for local people, Londoners and tourists alike. The vibrancy of traditional street markets, the internationally renowned Brick Lane, the specialist independent shops of Columbia Road and its flower market and the multi-national chains of Canary Wharf attract many people to the borough.

However, in addition to managing pressure for residential development and densification of our town centres, there is a need to respond to changing consumer behaviour and emerging demands. Overall vacancy levels across our town centres have improved in recent years but there is a disparity in the performance between individual centres. Current planning policies underpin Council initiatives to support town centres, but new legislation, including a relaxation of permitted development rights, has impacted on their effectiveness. Furthermore, the protection of small local shops serving immediate convenience needs outside of our town centres has become more difficult.

We need to ensure our policies are more responsive to changes at all levels and reflect future needs and demands including responding to areas of the borough where growth is most intense.

What we know

- Uses within our town centres
Tower Hamlets town centres form part of the borough's distinct identity and character. These places act as anchors for local areas, with a mix of uses and activities that draw our borough's diverse communities together. Increasingly, town centres are being used for leisure purposes (such as for eating, drinking and socialising) and as hubs for essential social and community facilities such as Idea

Stores and health centres. This is a move away from the traditional role as destinations offering predominantly shopping facilities.

The London Plan (GLA, 2015) encourages such non-retail uses within town centres, citing arts, culture, leisure and the night-time economy in particular. With high need and demand for housing across London the Mayor of London also considers some of our town centres as a potential source of accommodating new homes. The London Plan suggests “there is scope to redevelop or convert redundant offices or under-used space above shops into more active uses, especially housing.”

The borough has a number of successful street markets but future development and upgrading of transport infrastructure, including enhancing cycle routes, could negatively impact on them. Evidence shows that markets enhance the vitality of town centres and can support the development of new enterprises. It may be necessary to review current policies to ensure that markets are supported and protected where necessary. There may also be opportunities to encourage new markets in the borough.

It is important to promote town centres as places of employment, supporting the retention and upgrading of existing space and encouraging additional floorspace for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and low threshold enterprise space¹¹ (LTES) through redevelopment.

In contrast, some uses can have negative impacts on the vitality and attractiveness of town centres, especially where clusters of similar businesses have emerged. These include hot-food takeaways, betting shops and payday loan shops. New legislative changes make it easier to control betting shops and payday loan shops than was previously the case. The council’s Community Plan (2015) also seeks to limit the impact of what are deemed ‘unhealthy uses’ in the borough.

Therefore, we must consider how our policies accommodate a wide range of uses to support our town centres to ensure they are future-proofed for continued vitality and viability. In addition, we will also need to consider how good design will contribute to town centre vitality in terms of providing high quality public space which does not attract anti-social behaviour or crime.

- Changing nature of retail in our town centres

The borough’s population is growing and the nature of residents, workers and visitors is evolving. Changes within the retail industry and the convenience of online shopping have altered the role and function of town centres in the borough, resulting in some centres under-performing.

¹¹ This is the lower value non-residential space found in and around town centres (GLA, 2014). You will be able to view the relevant document via the link:

<https://www.london.gov.uk/sites/default/files/Accommodating%20Growth%20in%20Town%20Centres.pdf>

The most recent retail vacancy rates according to our Town Centre Survey show a borough average vacancy rate of 9.1 per cent, which is better than the national average but worse than the London average. Some town centres such as Brick Lane and Roman Road East have vacancy rates above the borough average but have shown improvement in recent years following the implementation of targeted strategies. Future policies will need to provide a basis for continuing recent improvements by supporting such interventions.

Emerging areas of population growth within the borough, such as within Opportunity Areas, also present a chance to create or re-designate town centres to meet the needs of local people.

- General Permitted Development Order (GPDO)¹²
New legislative changes through the General Permitted Development Order (GPDO) make it possible for shops to be converted to other uses such as estate agencies, restaurants and offices without the need to apply for planning permission. These changes potentially undermine the council's existing policies on retail and town centre uses and its ability to control the diversity of uses. The conversion of B1 office space to residential use through permitted development may further impact on the vitality and vibrancy of the borough's town centres in non-exemption areas¹³.
- Changing development pressures
Large supermarket chains have scaled back expansion of superstores and instead now favour smaller local-format convenience supermarkets. Although the Council has successfully defended refusals of planning applications for new out-of-town-centre convenience supermarkets at appeal, the borough's policies directing 'anchor' uses to designated town centres are likely to come under increasing pressure.

¹² <http://planningguidance.planningportal.gov.uk/blog/guidance/when-is-permission-required/what-are-permitted-development-rights/>

¹³ The government has designated exemption areas from office to residential permitted development rights so that supply of employment space for office use will be protected in key locations, including the Central Activity Zone CAZ/Tech City and north Isle of Dogs. Details can be seen via the link:
<http://www.london.gov.uk/priorities/planning/permitted-development-rights-for-change-of-use-from-commercial>

Suggestions

1. Update the existing local evidence base for town centres, which could include:
 - A revised Tower Hamlets Town Centre Health Check survey (based on the 2013 London Town Centre Health Check) to provide a ‘snapshot’ of health of our town centres in terms of occupied retail and leisure floorspace, vacancy levels etc.
 - A new Town Centre Retail and Leisure Capacity Assessment (based on the existing study produced in 2009) to ascertain needs for new floorspace, or identify existing overcapacity.
 - Further investigation into the impact of the GPDO on Tower Hamlets town centres.
 - Further investigation into optimum unit sizes in town centres

2. Work with other teams within the Council and our partners to create individual visions and strategies for our town centres to:
 - Consider introducing more stringent policies to restrict uses such as betting shops, payday loan shops and hot food takeaways, especially where there are existing concentrations.
 - Consider revising the current position on protecting ‘A1’ retail uses as a priority to give greater flexibility where ‘non-A1’ uses are proposed that will positively increase the diversity of uses within town centres and/or support the reinvigoration of under-performing town centres.
 - Consider protecting successful centres and support diversification of uses or alternative policy approaches where there is excess capacity, in order to manage vacancy rates.
 - Consider designating new town centres or re-designate existing town centres higher or lower in our hierarchy. This will also be underpinned by reviewing existing town centre boundaries and ensuring the type and mix of uses are appropriate to support the needs of existing and future communities.
 - Consider identifying and designating ‘Local Parades’ as a new layer of our town centre hierarchy to enhance the existing policy to prevent the loss of local shops.
 - Seek to ensure that units are of adequate size and quality to support the needs of a range of town centre uses
 - Review existing policy position for street markets based on an updated Street Market Strategy.

Let us know what you think

 **Do you agree with our proposed approaches?**

 **Is there anything not discussed that we should be considering?**

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Housing



3.2 Housing

Story so far...

Over the last 10 years, Tower Hamlets has experienced the fastest population growth in London and the borough has continued to transition from its industrial heritage to become a more attractive place for living. The delivery of housing in the borough is required, not only to respond to local need, but also to fulfil the borough's statutory duty to co-operate with neighbouring boroughs and meet the housing need, policies and targets established by the Greater London Authority (GLA) in the London Plan.

Tower Hamlets is expected to contribute a minimum of 39,310 new homes, approximately 10 per cent of the London housing target, by 2025. The borough's ability to supply land for housing in these quantities is becoming increasingly limited as a significant proportion of our available sites have already been developed. Land also needs to be secured to support the delivery of new infrastructure, such as schools, open spaces, health centres and transport links to create sustainable communities.

The delivery of housing is one of the biggest challenges for the Local Plan, not only in terms of land availability and meeting London Plan targets, but also in terms of meeting local need for different tenures and unit types. The appropriate design and form of housing also needs to be addressed to ensure appropriate densities and the quality of housing. (Density and housing quality are discussed in section 3.5 Design and the Historic Environment). Like most of the other inner London and central London boroughs, Tower Hamlets' land values continued to rise over the last ten years. This has in part been driven by high levels of property investment, particularly by foreign investors. This has led to concern that some of this new housing is either empty or infrequently used, leading to increased prices and demand. This has made delivery of affordable housing even more challenging. At national level, the challenge of delivering housing to meet local need is exacerbated by a constantly evolving legislative framework.

The draft Welfare Reform and Work Bill and the draft Housing and Planning Bill will impact on our ability to meet housing need through limiting access to affordable housing and the delivery of affordable housing within the borough. It is also the case that the definition of affordable housing, which is set nationally as a percentage of local market rent, results in rental levels which are not considered 'affordable' to many of those in need of housing. This is a particular concern for families and is one of the main reasons for people moving out of the borough (Community Plan, 2015).

As well as affordable housing, we are also required to consider provision for older people, key workers, students, vulnerable people and gypsies and travellers. We also have high levels of overcrowding which results in above average demand for larger homes in comparison with other boroughs in London.

The new Local Plan will need to respond to these challenges and make sure our policies can help deliver a wide variety of high quality homes suitable for the borough's existing and future households in terms of their size, income and the particular support needs of diverse individual households.

What we know

- London Plan housing targets

The London Plan (2015) establishes a minimum housing delivery target for all London boroughs. The target for Tower Hamlets has increased by more than 35 per cent for 2015 – 2025 (3,931 units per annum) compared to the previous London Plan (2011) target (2,885 units per annum). The 2015 target represents a minimum and boroughs are expected to exceed the target in their Local Plans.

The council has raised strong concerns with the Mayor of London that the higher housing target was set without giving adequate consideration to the borough's infrastructure capacity and constraints. The sustainable delivery of housing requirements of the London Plan (2015) is a major challenge for the borough and we will continue to voice these concerns with the Mayor of London. The council also has a statutory duty to cooperate and engage with neighbouring authorities on cross boundary or strategic matters such as housing in the production of the Local Plan.

- Infrastructure planning to support housing for communities

Linked to the concern expressed above, the council acknowledges the existing infrastructure shortfalls and the need for a more comprehensive understanding of the borough's social and physical infrastructure demands to support current and future communities. The council needs to undertake exercises to establish how much development will take place in the borough over the next 10-15 years. This can help match estimated housing numbers and population growth across the borough with the services and infrastructure provision required to support sustainable growth.

- Location of housing

It is anticipated that the majority of housing delivery will be taking place in the designated Opportunity Areas in the Housing Zone and the Isle of Dogs and South Poplar; and in the City Fringe and Whitechapel. The delivery of housing in these locations is informed and supported by the collaborative work between the council and other key stakeholders, in particular the GLA.

- Loss of affordable housing contribution from development

The borough has a significant need for affordable housing. The existing planning policy requires 35 per cent to 50 per cent of all new development for 10 units and above. However, legislation enables applicants to negotiate their affordable housing contributions during the planning application stage. The development industry has utilised viability tools to demonstrate that development proposals presented cannot deliver the planning policy requirements, and still remain viable and deliverable. This often results in planning applications with lower affordable housing rates that our policy requirements.

- Meeting diverse housing needs within the borough

National legislation places a responsibility on our new Local Plan to meet the market and affordable housing needs of our local residents and to support London's need for more homes through new development. Our overall housing target is set out in the London Plan (2015). This target is supported by a piece of evidence called the London Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA). To support new Local Plans, local planning authorities are expected to build on this evidence with their own local level SHMA, which provides a more detailed picture of the particular housing needs in the local areas. Together this local SHMA and the council's Housing Strategy can consider the needs of specific groups in the borough such as students, people with disabilities, older and vulnerable people, key workers, and gypsies and travellers. The council is also aware that key workers including nurses and teachers find it difficult to live in the borough, given the increasing property prices.
- Housing affordability

Currently, local indicators show that 38 per cent of affordable housing stock in the borough is owned and managed by the council and Housing Associations. There is a shortfall in affordable homes provision, with over 19,000 households on the housing waiting lists, over half of which require family sized accommodation (three bed and above). Local evidence suggests the need for a much higher percentage of the borough's housing stock to be affordable, than is currently delivered.

This need is expected to be exacerbated by an expected extension of the 'Right to Buy' to housing association tenants as set out in the draft Housing and Planning Bill which will result in the loss of affordable housing stock. This loss will come about as a result of sales of Housing Association homes and the associated proposal that councils sell high value council homes that become empty to pay for the scheme. Although provision will be made for one for one replacement of Housing Association homes sold under the scheme, it is indicated that they do not necessarily have to be of the same tenure or in the same area.

In addition, the recent publication of the draft Housing and Planning Bill indicates that a proportion of homes on new schemes will be 'Starter Homes' for sale at 80 per cent of market to first time buyers under 40 years of age. These homes will be counted as affordable homes but the council considers that such provision will further limit the council's ability to deliver 'real affordable housing' to meet our community's needs.

The delivery of intermediate housing (including shared ownership) continues to pose challenges, particularly on larger properties in high value areas within the borough. Residents in Tower Hamlets would need to be earning the top end of the permitted intermediate income level (£71,000 for one or two-bed; £85,000 for three-bed and above) in order to be able to afford shared ownership properties, unless the public subsidy is increased substantially. Under the current market conditions, the objective that the council should seek to ensure that the intermediate housing product is provided for households within the full range of incomes below the upper limit is increasingly difficult to achieve. The Local Plan should be realistic about intermediate

housing in relation to affordability, and think further about the definition of affordable housing relating to local circumstances alongside development viability.

The council will work with relevant stakeholders as part of the Local Plan process to address these issues. Tower Hamlets is committed to maximising the delivery of housing that is affordable to local people and will continue to secure funding for this purpose.

- Diversifying housing stock: Private Rented Sector (PRS) and self-build

Local indicators already suggest that the borough requires a lot more social rented housing than market housing or intermediate affordable housing. It also suggests that the market for 'intermediate' housing is being met through the growth in the Private Rented Sector (PRS). The borough is experiencing an increase in the proportion of units in the PRS with around 40 per cent of all homes now let out privately.

This coincides with a new policy requirement within the London Plan (2015) to support the contribution of new purpose-built PRS, or redeveloped for rent, normally by an institution or management company within the private sector to individuals. The benefits of this form of PRS include a financing mechanism which can incentivise building of new units and give tenants a greater degree of security in their tenancy, a professional accountable management service and consistent quality. The borough has granted planning permission for such provision to support housing options for residents to remain in the borough for the longer term, contributing to community cohesion.

The draft Housing and Planning Bill introduces new duties on Local Authorities to promote custom and self-build homes. The Local Plan will need to be informed by an understanding of what role these forms of housing play in helping to address housing needs and housing delivery in the borough.

Suggestions

1. Update the Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) in light of the latest legislation and guidance e.g. the role of self-build and custom build, starter homes and brownfield land.
2. Identify the need for a new evidence base, where appropriate, to consider:
 - Housing affordability
 - Affordable housing viability
 - Housing typologies: this could consider appropriate building types for:
 - mixed uses within developments
 - low cost home ownership
 - self-build and community land trusts
 - family housing
 - housing for older people
 - high density housing
 - special needs housing including for vulnerable homeless persons
 - The need for further gypsy and traveller accommodation.
 - The impact of foreign investment in new housing and empty homes
3. Review the existing Local Plan policies for the delivery of market and affordable housing based on evidence base.

Let us know what you think

 **Do you agree with our proposed approaches?**

 **Is there anything not discussed that we should be considering?**

Economy and Jobs



3.3 Economy and Jobs

Story so far...

Tower Hamlets has a thriving economy with increasing employment rates and a diverse employment sector. Our employment rate is below the London average but our economy is ranked as one of the most dynamic in the country. Some of the biggest international financial and business services companies are concentrated in Canary Wharf and the City Fringe. There are emerging new employment opportunities in Whitechapel, as part of the Whitechapel Vision regeneration project, and as part of the expansion of knowledge-based digital companies around 'Tech City' in Shoreditch. The majority of businesses registered in Tower Hamlets are microbusinesses employing less than 10 staff.

However, the borough faces challenges in dealing with high and persistent levels of unemployment in certain groups, particularly amongst women. And there are indications that local people are not necessarily benefitting from the high concentration of jobs in the borough due to a mismatch in skills.

The Council's policies aim to protect employment land against loss to competing land uses, in particular housing, as these are areas that can accommodate future jobs and provide training opportunities for residents. Nevertheless, our policy position might be threatened by government policy interventions, in particular the change of rules allowing the conversion of offices into new homes without planning permission under permitted development rights. The results of increasing rental values in certain locations have made it more difficult to accommodate the need for affordable workspace.

A key part of the new Local Plan must be to respond to these challenges by identifying what employment areas we want to continue to protect in light of the changing legislation, and also consider how we can ensure that SMEs are able to find suitable and affordable premises to enable them to stay in the borough.

What we know

- Protecting our employment land - Offices
There has been pressure to allow residential developments in our Preferred Office Locations (POL), including Aldgate and Canary Wharf. The evidence base that we commission will need to consider what the demand for large floorplate offices is likely to be in the future, and how we might need to respond to a growing demand for different types of office space that reflects changing work patterns.

- General Permitted Development Order (GPDO)

In May 2013 the Government introduced permitted development rights allowing the change of use of buildings currently or most recently in office use, to residential use, without the need to apply for planning permission, for a period of three years. The City Fringe, Whitechapel and Canary Wharf areas are currently exempted from these permitted development rights, but they apply to the rest of the borough. Since the introduction of the new permitted development rights the council has received a total of 10 proposals for converting office use (B1) into new homes (C3) through the prior approval process. Amongst these proposals, the largest application would involve the creation of over 400 new dwelling units in an occupied office building in a locally designated office location (LOL).

The government has recently announced that these permitted development rights will be made permanent after May 2016. The exemption areas are only expected to remain in place until May 2019. We need to fully understand the possible implications of this on the future availability of employment land in the borough, and whether there may be a need to consider alternative means of protection of employment areas such as Article 4 directions (that remove specified permitted development rights in certain areas).

- Protecting our employment land - Industrial

A significant amount of industrial land has been released for other uses since 2010; much of this is now within the boundary of the London Legacy Development Corporation (LLDC) in Hackney Wick/Fish Island. The London Plan requires us to keep safeguarding the Strategic Industrial Locations (SIL) in the borough to make sure we protect the supply of land for so-called “dirty uses” in inner London areas, including for the management of waste. However, we know that there may be a falling demand for land for industrial uses in inner London, and that there are businesses occupying premises the Tower Hamlets SILs that do not reflect the original intention of these designations. This means that sites in these areas have become under-used and may not fulfil their potential, in terms of providing affordable workspaces and jobs for local people.

- Supporting affordable workspaces

Microbusinesses employing less than 10 people represent the vast majority of businesses in Tower Hamlets (88.6 per cent)¹⁴. It is the SME sector that is most likely to continue to provide employment for local people. We need to ensure there are adequate workspaces available to accommodate SMEs, including start-up and scale-up businesses, and that they are flexible, adaptable and affordable, to encourage these businesses remain in the borough.

As prices rise and there is pressure to convert land and buildings to other uses such as housing, it can become difficult for existing and new businesses and entrepreneurs to find the right premises that they can afford. The borough is particularly keen to explore opportunities to support the provision of shared space

¹⁴ Borough Profile Research Briefing 2013-11 – Tower Hamlets Business Structure, December 2013

to support SMEs through planning policies, to enable them to operate in the borough on an affordable and flexible basis.

In addition to floorspace, there are other elements contributing to the delivery of affordable workspace. This includes specifications for the units and broadband connection. The Mayor of London has considered digital connectivity as one of most important infrastructure elements for London. It plays an important role in productivity of business. According to research from Broadband Hotspots¹⁵, a large part of Tower Hamlets is falling into the no or poor connectivity zone.

Suggestions

1. Update the existing local evidence base for employment and jobs, which could include:

- An updated Employment Land Review (ELR) to understand how much employment space has been gained and lost in the borough since the last Local Plan was produced, as well as anticipated future supply and demand. This will inform the strategic direction of our employment policies in the new Local Plan, including how we take forward our employment designations (POL, SIL, LIL and LOL). The evidence base that we commission will need to consider what the demand for large floorplate offices is likely to be in the future, and how we might need to respond to a growing demand for different types of office space that reflects changing work patterns.

2. Review our existing policies in light of the evidence base findings to:

- Consider strengthening our existing employment policies to ensure that we protect existing office floorspace, and that the right kind of new floorspace is being delivered in the suitable and appropriate locations to meet current and emerging market demand.
- Consider introducing a new policy to support the provision of affordable workspace for local businesses and entrepreneurs.
- Consider updating policies to carefully manage the remaining industrial land in the Borough in line with the London Plan, and to ensure that job opportunities in these areas are intensified and that we identify adequate land for industrial uses, including for waste management.

¹⁵ Source: broadband-notspot.org.uk (self-reported distribution of slow broadband connections)

Let us know what you think

 **Do you agree with our proposed approaches?**

 **Is there anything not discussed that we should be considering?**

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Community Facilities



3.4 Community Facilities

This section covers:

- Education and Life Long Skills
- Health facilities
- Idea Stores and libraries
- Sports and leisure centres
- Other community and social facilities such as community halls, places of worship, pubs and youth centres

Story so far...

Tower Hamlets has a range of valued health, leisure, social and community facilities.

Our schools are amongst the best performing inner-city schools in London and we are home to universities that attract students from around the world. Our Idea Stores have received wide national and international acclaim. Our sports and leisure centres are well-used, capitalising on the legacy of the London Olympics in 2012. The borough's hospitals such as The Royal London play an essential role in providing care for those across London and beyond, and on a local scale improved medical centres have been delivered in recent years such as the 'XXPlace' Health Centre in Mile End. The borough is home to a number of historic and significant faith buildings representing a range of denominations. The borough's pubs not only serve their local communities, but attract custom from across a wide area because of their character and heritage.

However, the borough's increasing population and housing targets place a strain on the capacity of existing community infrastructure. While the current Local Plan has successfully delivered new facilities such as a secondary school at Bow Locks and an Idea Store at Watney Market, more new facilities are required. At the same time, with the high value of land in the borough and demand for housing in particular, existing facilities have come under increasing pressure from development.

Tower Hamlets has a vibrant arts scene, with a host of festivals, family and community events, and activities for young and old, and cultural events for all. There is an opportunity to further enhance the boroughs arts and culture facilities through new development.

3.4.1 Education and Life Long Skills

What we know

- Demand for new school facilities to meet population growth

In order to meet the London Plan housing targets, there will be increased pressure on the borough to deliver enough new school places to meet demand. Schools have already been delivered in some areas such as Bromley-by-Bow and Stepney. New areas of intense population growth have emerged (such as Poplar Riverside, the Isle of Dogs and South Poplar and Whitechapel) and it is the council's intention to identify possible new sites for schools, as part of its strategic planning.

However, this process has been made more challenging because there is less and less land available to develop and it is increasingly difficult to secure new sites for schools because of the increasing value of land, particular for residential development.

The demand for new schools can also be met through Free Schools, which are delivered outside of the council's remit. National legislation allows new Free Schools to operate in more restricted sites and buildings, with less play space, than is allowed for Local Authority schools. Free Schools often use public open space and leisure facilities to ensure pupils have access to leisure and play facilities. The new Local Plan provides an opportunity to consider whether new policies could help this need for play and leisure space to be met, in addition to residents' needs.

The allocation of sites for new schools is considered as part of the Local Plan preparation. The proposed methodology for this exercise will be explained in section 'Infrastructure, Delivery and Monitoring'.

- Supporting Early Years through childcare facilities

The current Local Plan makes reference only to the provision of Children's Centres, to support the under-fives. It does not consider the borough's need for additional types of Early Years provision, such as childcare facilities. While national planning policy does not require the council to plan for these facilities, the authority has a statutory duty to provide disadvantaged two year olds with fifteen hours of free childcare per week for thirty-eight weeks per year and this will be expanded to thirty hours of free childcare for three and four year olds in September 2017. The council is currently not meeting its target for places, in part due to difficulties in securing locations for new childcare facilities. The new Local Plan provides an opportunity to consider how our planning policies can help to support the need for different forms of Early Years provision.

- Enhancing the skills of residents

Although Tower Hamlets is one of the largest employment locations in London, only about one fifth of jobs in the borough are filled by residents, and around 20 per cent of all employment in the borough is based in the 'low pay' sector (LBTH, 2014). There

is a need to diversify employment, particularly to match the skills of existing residents with highly skilled jobs created within the borough. This could be achieved by supporting small to medium firms and local entrepreneurs. The Community Plan 2015 seeks to generate more apprenticeships, traineeships and other opportunities for young people, develop skills provision for adults and increase the number of employment opportunities for disabled residents. Funding for such opportunities might be facilitated through planning obligations linked to new development.

- Protection and creation of further, higher and adult education facilities
Increasing development pressure for residential schemes is likely to put pressure on existing accredited further, higher and adult educational facilities. Currently, applicants for development proposals are not required to submit supporting information to justify the loss of educational facilities other than schools. We will review this policy position to ensure that facilities for the development of the education and skills of residents are retained.

The council's current policy position supports the creation of further, higher and adult education facilities. With competition for available land, it is important that the borough continues to attract accredited facilities that help to address the borough specific education and skills needs. The new Local Plan provides an opportunity to review existing evidence to make sure our policy is working as well as effectively as possible.

Suggestions

1. Update the existing local evidence base for educational facilities, utilising new and existing evidence through an Infrastructure Delivery Plan. The Plan should incorporate findings from professionals within the relevant specialisms.
2. Review our existing policies in light of the above supported by new evidence, to:
 - Establish the current and future requirements for school places and identify new areas of search for new or expanded schools. This in turn will inform revised policy and requirements of new and existing Site Allocations.
 - Consider introducing new policies to encourage and manage a range of early years provision (ages 0-4) to ensure that the needs of all young people and their guardians are met throughout the Borough and existing facilities are protected.
 - Consider introducing new policies to protect existing non-school educational facilities (such as colleges, universities and adult training centres) from unnecessary loss to ensure that a range of opportunities for learning and skills are available.
 - Consider developing a stronger policy for skills and training by linking it with other policy areas such as town centres, employment and delivery policies in order to enhance the available evidence base to secure planning contributions.

Let us know what you think

 **Do you agree with our proposed approaches?**

 **Is there anything not discussed that we should be considering?**

3.4.2 Health, Leisure and Social Facilities

What we know

- New community facilities to meet population growth
The increase in the borough's housing target (GLA, 2015) means that provision of new community infrastructure, which includes health centres, Idea Stores, sports and leisure centres, places of worship and other community and social facilities serving the needs of the community are going to be further stressed by the increasing needs of the borough's future population. Although some facilities identified previously have been delivered or are under construction, such as Idea Store Watney Market and a swimming facility and sports hall at Poplar Baths, there is a need to ensure we provide community infrastructure to meet the needs of existing and future residents.

As part of the new Local Plan preparation, the council will aim to identify possible new sites for community facilities (in particular for health, Idea Stores and leisure facilities) as part of strategic planning. The allocation of sites for community facilities is considered as part of the site allocation process in the section on: 'Infrastructure, Delivery and Monitoring'.

- Health facilities
A growing population means that there is a need for new facilities or additional capacity within existing facilities. Tower Hamlets Vanguard programme is developing new models of care, its vision is that partners will work together to deliver innovative, integrated and seamless care to patients, carers and families. The Programme is being led by the Tower Hamlets Integrated Provider Partnership (which includes the council), in partnership with NHS Tower Hamlets Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG). As an integral part of this, an extensive exercise is underway to assess both the health needs from different groups in the borough together with potential impact of new methods of service delivery, to determine the number, size and type of facilities required to deliver care in Tower Hamlets.

The council is also aware that the NHS is under pressure to make efficient use of their estates which could result in merged facilities and land being sold for alternative use, as has happened with the London Chest Hospital site.

- Idea Stores/Libraries
There are areas of the borough with a lack of provision of Idea Stores or libraries within walking distance. Additional demand for Idea Stores will also be created by a

growing population. Therefore, the new Local Plan will need to consider potential locations for new or enhanced Idea Stores or libraries.

- Sports & leisure centres

Such facilities are currently directed to town centres as these are generally the most accessible and contribute towards the vitality and viability of town centres. However, due to size requirements town centres may not be able to accommodate these uses. In order to provide new facilities to meet communities' needs, the council may need to consider allowing these facilities to locate out-of-town-centre in exceptional circumstances.

- Decline of the borough's pubs

There has been concern at the decline in public houses (pubs) in the borough. Research has found that 134 pubs have closed in the borough since 2000, a net loss of 52 per cent. Pubs are classed as community facilities in our current Local Plan. The GLA (2015) require boroughs to bring forward policies to protect pubs. This gives Tower Hamlets an opportunity to strengthen its policies and evidence requirements in order to protect these facilities from unnecessary loss.

- Protection and creation of existing community and social facilities, including places of worship

The London Plan encourages boroughs to optimise the use of land and promotes redevelopment of brownfield land. In doing so, redevelopment may include the loss of existing community and social facilities for other financially higher value uses, such as housing. Policies on these facilities will need to be carefully managed to ensure they are effective in preventing unnecessary loss.

In addition, a growing population means that there is a need to improve the existing facilities and create new ones. The Local Plan needs to respond to the population change and identify possible sites to allocate these uses as part of the plan making process.

Suggestions

1. Work with partners within and outside of the council to update the existing local evidence base for community facilities, or align future Local Plan policies to recent existing evidence.
2. Review our existing policies in light of the above, and supported by new evidence, to:
 - Incorporate findings from a new Council Leisure Strategy and needs assessment and an updated Joint Needs Assessment
 - Establish the current and future requirements for community facilities (in particular, Idea Stores, health and leisure facilities) and identify new areas of search for new or expanded facilities. This in turn will inform revised policy and requirements.
 - Consider whether we can strengthen our policy protection of pubs.
 - Consider allowing new community facilities to locate out-of-town-centre in exceptional circumstances and where the role of town centres would not be undermined.

Let us know what you think

 **Do you agree with our proposed approaches?**

 **Is there anything not discussed that we should be considering?**

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Design and Historic Environment



3.5 Design and Historic Environment

Story so far...

The borough has a unique history and a rich character that has evolved over many years. It is also growing rapidly; the skyline is changing and new forms of development are transforming the ways in which we live and work. The current Local Plan has positively influenced these changes, helping to deliver attractive new development and preserve and enhance our built heritage. However, continued growth is placing unprecedented demands on our built environment. Tower Hamlets is now the second most densely populated borough in London, and a population that continues to grow will further increase population densities.

There are concerns that the types of development coming forward in response to these demands will not produce the best outcomes for the future of the borough, and are not representing the most sustainable way for the residents of Tower Hamlets to live and work. Some development proposals have far exceeded the optimum density ranges set by the London Plan. While this is allowed in exceptional circumstances there is concern that these exceptions may become the norm, particularly in the London Plan's identified Opportunity Areas. In addition, many of these exceptions have been built outside the borough's areas for intensification such as town centres, which has a negative impact on the distinct character and identity of Tower Hamlets. With the rising land values and continuing pressure on delivering housing, there is concern that the amount and pace of change will irreparably damage the borough's distinct character, identity and heritage assets and settings.

In developing the new Local Plan it will be important to ask if the ways that planning policy has helped shape the design of new development in the past, will continue to deliver the best outcomes in such a rapidly changing and growing borough. The plan will also need to ensure that new forms of development not only serve the housing and development needs of current and future Tower Hamlets communities, but do so in a sustainable way that also respects the very things that make Tower Hamlets so unique and that is our distinct character, identity and heritage.

3.5.1 Design

What we know

- Level of development and density

The borough is experiencing increasing demand for growth and rising land values, particularly in relation to residential land uses. This is resulting in increasingly intensive levels of development coming forward. The London Plan requires our Local Plan to identify opportunities for development. In particular, it promotes optimising

land in designated Opportunity Areas (the Isle of Dogs, City Fringe and Lower Lea Valley), town centres and areas with good public transport accessibility. However, these areas cover a large proportion of the borough and there is concern that Tower Hamlets could become overdeveloped with a sea of high-rises, and lacking variety of built form and loss of its distinctive characteristics.

In addition to the level of development coming forward, national and regional policies allow higher development densities in exceptional circumstances, which are sometimes beyond what is recognised to be the most suitable density ranges. However, the council is concerned that these exceptions are becoming increasingly common and could have unsustainable and unacceptable negative effects on Tower Hamlets' communities and distinct character, identity and heritage. In many cases, the current intensive level of development in the borough has resulted in tall buildings in excess of 15 storeys coming forward outside our preferred town centre hierarchy locations, together with residential densities that are far in excess of the upper range of the London Plan density ranges.

With this in mind, the Local Plan will need to carefully manage and promote densities in a proactive and positive manner to create sustainable communities which have regard to their surrounding context and character whilst optimising development potential in accordance with the requirements set at a national and regional level.

- Comprehensive and co-ordinated development

The borough's Opportunity Areas feature significant areas of brownfield land that can make an important contribution to the regeneration of Tower Hamlets and the delivery of much needed housing. However, these areas often have a fragmented and complex pattern of land ownership and there is a danger that the piecemeal development of individual sites can compromise the opportunity to achieve the best development and design outcomes.

Ensuring that development is brought forward in a comprehensive and co-ordinated way can help to ensure a higher standard of design is achieved. In particular, it can help to ensure the efficient use of land, promote a more coherent, legible and attractive townscape, create high quality living and working environments and help deliver appropriate public realm and infrastructure. It is therefore important that the Local Plan encourages a co-ordinated approach to regeneration, ensuring that development sites are consolidated or brought forward in a complementary way that achieves the optimum form of development.

- Liveable streets and public realm

Streets and public realm includes all the spaces between buildings that can be publically accessed, comprising roads, parks, squares, pedestrian routes and cycleways. The condition and quality of streets and public realm significantly impact on residents' quality of life and contributes towards successful placemaking and public health and well-being. Given the level of development and densities coming forward in the borough, there is a need to ensure that streets and public realm are attractive, functional and safe, and can accommodate the various needs of different

users. In doing so, new development will need to help create successful places by ensuring that urban spaces are appropriately defined by buildings, achieving a human scale of built form and a comfortable microclimate. Successful design should also help reduce crime and anti-social behaviour through the creation of defensible space and provision of lighting and CCTV. Streets and public realm will also need to be designed to cope with the increasing demands placed on them; allowing ease of movement, as well as creating places for entertainment and interaction.

- Housing quality

The borough is expected to deliver significant numbers of new homes, and it will be important to ensure that these are designed to the highest standards. This will include ensuring that new homes are of a sufficient size to accommodate the needs of a range of potential residents. The Government introduced national housing standards in March 2015, which set out requirements such as minimum internal floor areas and minimum floor-to-ceiling heights. Whilst some of these standards align with those in the current Local Plan, some are less onerous and will not create the same standard of amenity.

Housing quality is also about ensuring that new homes positively contribute to our health and wellbeing by ensuring adequate levels of daylight, sunlight, privacy and ventilation, as well as providing a good outlook and protection from unacceptable levels of noise. Design can influence these factors in a variety of ways, from the strategic layout of development of sites to detailed design elements. However, given the increasing pressure to increase housing densities there is a danger that some aspects of housing quality will be compromised. The new Local Plan must help to ensure that the appropriate standards are met, whilst delivering sufficient numbers of new homes.

Suggestions

1. Update to the local evidence base, which could include:
 - A Study on Sustainable Place Making for Tower Hamlets - to understand the impacts on sustainability of intensive levels of development and in particular of developments with densities above London Plan optimum ranges.
2. Review our existing policies in light of the above, supported by new evidence where necessary to:
 - Review and identify appropriate locations where concentrated clusters of more intensive levels of development are suitable and set out where they will be resisted.
 - Consider a policy which sets out the circumstances where levels in excess of the London Plan's upper density range will be acceptable on an exceptional basis.
 - Consider ways that new development can be brought forward in a comprehensive and co-ordinated way, avoiding piecemeal development and achieving the best development outcomes for the borough and its residents.
 - Review policies to reinforce that development should create and reinforce a liveable, safe, sociable and self-sustaining street and public realm network, particularly in light of increasingly intensive patterns of development.
 - Review policies to ensure that new housing is designed to the highest standards that meet the needs of a wide range of residents and reflects housing design requirements of different building densities.

Let us know what you think

 **Do you agree with our proposed approaches?**

 **Is there anything not discussed that we should be considering?**

3.5.2 Historic Environment

What we know

- Protecting and enhancing the historic environment
Protecting and enhancing the historic environment is a key component of the NPPF and an important element of achieving sustainable development. Tower Hamlets' historic environment comprises heritage assets (buildings, features and spaces of local and national significance), which contribute to its unique and distinctive character. There is a need to ensure that new development preserves and enhances the identity of the heritage assets in the borough and where necessary bring them back into active use. As well as protecting and enhancing our heritage assets, it is

also important to consider how best we can protect their setting (the surroundings in which they are experienced). This is particularly important in light of the significant amount of change taking place in the borough and the anticipated levels of development coming forward. The Local Plan will therefore need to find ways to effectively balance these competing demands.

- Identifying non-designated heritage assets

Tower Hamlets has many heritage assets of local significance which contribute to the unique character of the borough. This includes public houses with heritage value that are highly valued by Tower Hamlets' communities and form part of local distinctiveness. However, these assets are not formally designated and are therefore at risk of being redeveloped without measures to preserve and enhance their heritage value. The Local Plan will therefore need to ensure that these important assets are sufficiently protected through Local List and Conservation Area Strategies.

- Strategic and local views

Tower Hamlets has a number of cross borough strategic views which require management in accordance with the London Plan. With the changing nature of the borough's skyline there will be a need to carefully manage development to ensure these views are not unacceptably harmed. There is also an opportunity, through the Local Plan, to identify and manage locally important views that contribute to the interest and character of the borough.

Suggestions

1. Review our existing policies in light of the above, supported by new evidence where necessary, to:
 - Ensure development has regard to the significance, character, scale and amenities of surrounding heritage assets and their settings.
 - Strengthen our existing approach which seeks to ensure development preserves and complement the boroughs heritage assets to also include non-designated heritage.
 - Identify some of the borough's non-designated heritage assets through the Tower Hamlets Local List. This could include protecting buildings of cultural interest such as public houses and preserving their community use.
2. Update the existing local evidence base, which could include:
 - Updating the borough's Conservation Strategy
 - Consider the best way to review our Local Views Assessment to ensure we continue to protect and enhance views for specific areas in the borough.

Let us know what you think

 **Do you agree with our proposed approaches?**

 **Is there anything not discussed that we should be considering?**

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Transport and Connectivity



3.6 Transport and Connectivity

Story so far...

Tower Hamlets is a well-connected borough, supported by a comprehensive public transport network. This includes the Overground, Network Rail, four Underground lines and the DLR. Public transport accessibility will be further improved by the new Crossrail stations at Whitechapel and Canary Wharf. There are approximately 30 bus routes that pass through the borough. Riverboat services are also accessible at St. Katherine's Pier and Canary Wharf Pier.

Although the borough's population has increased, car ownership remains static and there are a growing number of residents walking and cycling to work.

Nevertheless, the borough has a number of challenges in relation to the capacity of the existing transport network. This includes traffic congestion during peak hours on the borough's major roads (A11, A12 and A13), public transport and on-street car parking.

Despite being relatively well served by public transport, parts of the borough are isolated and disconnected due to physical barriers created by roads, railways, rivers and canals. This creates poor connectivity within the borough, particularly movement north-south and to the east into neighbouring authorities.

Pollution from road traffic congestion is identified as the main source of emissions in the borough, which in turn has significant impacts on air quality, climate change and the health and well-being of our neighbourhoods.

Given the existing challenges the borough faces, the scale of growth projected cannot be accommodated by the borough's existing transport infrastructure. Therefore, new development needs to demonstrate it can be sustainably accommodated with adequate transport and highway infrastructure and interventions to ensure the borough delivers sustainable communities.

What we know

- Congestion and Capacity

The borough's major transport routes suffer from congestion and over capacity, particularly during peak hours, on main roads and public transport. There is also more demand than capacity for on-street car parking. This is likely to remain a challenge for Tower Hamlets, given the projected growth which cannot be accommodated on the existing transport network.

There is an opportunity to better utilise and manage the borough's existing transport network to:

- Increase capacity on buses and trains by improving frequency and capacity.
- Reduce car trips and car ownership to alleviate on-street parking and road congestion by promoting sustainable transport, securing car-free development in appropriate locations, and managing of on-site and on-street parking.
- Encourage and promote cycling as a principal mode of transport for residents, by redesigning roads to accommodate appropriate and safe cycle lanes and cycle parking.
- Promote the use of river transport and taxis.

To further alleviate congestion and increase capacity, there are opportunities to reduce the need to travel via public transport and car by encouraging mixed used developments so people can access work and shops within walking distance. In turn, this will create more sustainable communities comprising homes, jobs, leisure and education facilities.

- Growth Areas
The borough's Opportunity Areas will deliver a significant number of new homes and jobs. However developments will increase demand on the existing congested and over capacity transport network. The delivery of these areas is dependent on the provision of adequate transport and highway infrastructure and interventions to ensure growth is matched with an improved and enhanced transport network will be necessary.

Working with the GLA, TFL and neighbouring authorities to ensure these areas are managed in a proactive and positive manner is crucial to the successful delivery of development in these areas.

- Connectivity and Accessibility
The borough's well connected road, railway, river and canal network also creates physical barriers and poor connectivity. This is a particular issue in the east of the borough where poor connectivity across the A12 and River Lea isolates and disconnects many communities. There is also poor connectivity between the Isle of Dogs and South Poplar because of Aspen Way.

Overcoming the physical barriers arising from the road, railway, river and canal network and enhancing connectivity within the borough and into neighbouring boroughs, will make joined up sustainable communities. In doing so, the new Local Plan provides an opportunity to coordinate development and focus investment to maximise opportunities to improve existing links and create new ones to improve connectivity, as well as ensuring sites increase movement through new developments.

- Strategic cross boundary connections

North of the River Thames, the borough shares its boundaries with the neighbouring authorities of Hackney, Newham and the City of London, and the LLDC planning authority. These areas include major, and growing, transport hubs, such as Stratford International and London City Airport, which offer benefits to Tower Hamlets businesses, through international links, and to residents, through employment opportunities. Many local residents travel out of the borough for work, which presents an opportunity to work with neighbouring boroughs and GLA to improve connectivity and accessibility to these areas.

Much of the traffic congestion on the borough's major roads (A11, A12 and A13) originates from trips which start outside the borough. A large proportion of users of these roads are travelling through the borough. Therefore any strategy to alleviate this congestion will need to be addressed strategically. This presents an opportunity to work with neighbouring boroughs, GLA and TfL to manage and mitigate the impacts of trips through the borough.

Strategic objectives have been identified by TfL for the east and south east sub-region to address overarching traffic congestion. A proposed East and South East London Transport Options Study is under way to look at further potential for improving connectivity and capacity to central London boroughs, particularly focused on the Isle of Dogs and South Poplar.

- Air quality

Road traffic congestion results in poor air quality and high levels of road noise, which impacts upon the health and well-being of residents' lives. The high levels of emissions and poor air quality has contributed to Tower Hamlets failing to meet the Government's air quality objectives. This is addressed in further detail in section 3.8.3.

- Public realm and street quality

In areas of the borough, streets and the public realm lack a coherent structure and are poorly laid out. The lack of consistency contributes to a poor visual appearance of the streetscape and public realm. To ensure the borough has liveable streets there is an opportunity to provide cohesive principles to ensure development improves and enhances public realm and streetscape. There is also an opportunity to reinforce the principle for the public realm to be 'green' as far as possible through the Green Grid, for improving general health and well-being, mitigating local flooding, and reducing the impacts of climate change.

- Safety and security

High levels of vehicle movements and congestion in the borough has a significant impact on collisions and conflicts between cyclists, pedestrians and vehicles. There is a need to ensure the growth of the transport network balances the needs and safety and security of all users.

Suggestions

1. Update the existing local evidence base for transport, which could include:
 - A Transport Impact Assessment for the borough to ascertain what levels of growth the borough can accommodate within the existing transport network and identify the required infrastructure and interventions to meet future growth.

2. Review our existing policies in light of the above, supported by new evidence, to:
 - Work with GLA, TfL and neighbouring boroughs to identify where additional transport infrastructure and interventions are required at a local and strategic level, to meet the demand generated by residential and employment growth.

 - Promote sustainable transport by prioritising walking, cycling and public transport to relieve congestion, improve air quality, and reduce noise pollution and carbon emissions.

 - Manage the growth in road traffic congestion by reducing car ownership/use and limit the level of car parking in new developments and on-street parking.

 - Reallocate and redesign road space to provide a safe environment that is accessible for walking and cycling, in accordance with the Road Safety Strategy and Cycling Strategy, and in line with the Roads Taskforce recommended strategies.

 - Promote active and healthy lifestyles by encouraging walking and cycling.

Let us know what you think

 **Do you agree with our proposed approaches?**

 **Is there anything not discussed that we should be considering?**

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Open Space and Green Grid



3.7 Open Space and Green Grid

Story so far...

Tower Hamlets has a relatively wide range of open spaces that contribute to the wider landscape character and structure, including parks, city farms, natural greenspaces, historic burial grounds, playgrounds, housing amenity land and allotments. Victoria Park is considered one of the Country's best parks. Together with our waterways and recreational facilities of the Lee Valley Regional Park, they offer many benefits for people and communities, the environment, wildlife and the local economy. For instance, high quality parks, places for play, walking routes and canal paths will contribute towards improving health and well-being as well as providing environmental benefits such as reducing flood risk, supporting wildlife, creating areas of beauty and enhancing the character and identity of the borough.

The overall provision of publicly accessible open space in the borough is still low compared to some other London boroughs and national standards, and some parts of the borough are acutely deficient. The previous Local Plan has done a good job in developing a Green Grid Strategy which helped identify the important open space and waterways within the borough and make recommendations for potential investment in projects which helped to deliver a strategic network for our open space. With the expected population growth, the Local Plan needs to continue to ensure that adequate supply of high quality public and private open spaces, including gardens and balconies are provided for all to access and enjoy.

What we know

- Open space policies

The council's Local Plan has a clear position on protecting and safeguarding all existing open space, as well as maximising opportunities for new publicly accessible open space. It only allows development on open space in exceptional circumstances: where it provides facilities to ensure the function, use and enjoyment of the open space or where there will be an increase of open space and a better outcome is achieved.

New development has provided financial contributions to help improvements to the existing public open space including our parks with children's play areas, pocket parks, new event infrastructure at Victoria Park, resurfacing at Stepney Green and a landscaping improvement plan at Bartlett Park. This investment in public open space will continue and can be supported through the implementation of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL), which came into force on 1st April 2015. In addition, it is expected that accessible on-site provision will still be sought through the planning process, where it is considered appropriate, due to the size or nature of the development.

- Multi-functional spaces

With open space in the borough at such a premium, it is important that existing and new open spaces fulfil as many roles as possible for the public. These include providing sport, play and active and passive recreation, enhancing health and wellbeing, supporting wildlife, and providing functional benefits such as reducing flood risk, reducing noise and air pollution, and ameliorating extremes of climate. These latter functions will become increasingly important with climate change and this is covered in more detail in section 3.8 below. The Green Grid Strategy considers all these benefits of open space, and will provide the mechanism for prioritising investment in open space projects.

- The accessibility of open spaces

The current Local Plan policies have been very successful in protecting our existing open space. However, since the last Local Plan and due to the borough's rapid population growth, there has been a decrease in the amount of public open space per 1,000 people. As a densely populated borough with large numbers of residents without access to a private garden and a rapidly increasing daytime workforce, existing publicly accessible open spaces need to be of the highest quality and should support an increasing range of demands from a diverse range of users. There is also a need to ensure that future publicly accessible open space needs are planned for in areas with the potential for substantial change such as Isle of Dogs and South Poplar Opportunity Area and Poplar Riverside Housing Zone.

A large proportion of the green space in the borough is housing amenity land. Much of this is currently not as well used nor as well valued as it could be. Often these spaces have little variety in the types of plants used, which limits the habitats they can provide to a range of wildlife. There are clear opportunities to realise the potential of this land to provide attractive and interesting open spaces, accessible to and used by residents and, where appropriate, the public. There are a number of good examples of recent schemes implemented by Tower Hamlets Homes, who have created 17 wildflower meadows across their estates, and housing associations, such as East End Homes who have made improvements to the Manchester Estate, where previously underused and spaces have been transformed to attractive, wildlife-rich places.

The need for open space has been and could continue to be met through a wide range of types of open space, including pocket parks, linear open spaces and growing spaces. These spaces have been delivered and enhanced through the green grid strategy, using section106 funding.

- Play Spaces

Tower Hamlets has a young population. The majority of the housing stock in the borough is flats, with very little private open space available for play. Creating safe, well designed play spaces for a range of ages, near to where young people live is crucial for improving health and wellbeing in the borough. The current Local Plan requires play space to be retained and provided in new residential development, in line with national

and regional standards and requirements. The new Local Plan will be expected to carry this policy forward.

- Waterways

The London Plan (2015) identifies waterways, such as those by rivers, canals, lakes and reservoirs, as Linear Open Spaces, and as such considers the opportunities provided by waterspaces as being important for sport, recreation and visual amenity, all of which contribute to health and wellbeing. Together these waterspaces constitute the Blue Ribbon Network - London's strategic network of waterspaces. In Tower Hamlets, the Blue Grid Strategy addresses the issues relating to the borough's waterspaces and flood risk. The waterways include the borough's historic docks, which form an important part of the distinct character, identity and heritage of the Tower Hamlets. In recent years, development has led to the loss of some open waterway at our historic docks in exceptional circumstances. Given the importance of waterways to the borough, it will be important to continue to protect and enhance these spaces through the policies in the new Local Plan.

- Green Grid

The delivery of the Green Grid responds to the borough's significant deficiency in open space. It aims to deliver 'green infrastructure' in the borough by enhancing the quality of existing open spaces and creating new public open space, as well as strengthening connections between them for the enjoyment of local communities.

It promotes a viable, convenient, safe and enjoyable alternative to private transport and promotes increased physical activity, and the corresponding health benefits. The Green Grid also promotes high quality, accessible green infrastructure that encourages ecological networks and links between habitats and responds to climate change, whilst improving access to habitats, greenspace and fostering community well-being.

The Green Grid, together with the Open Space Strategy provides an opportunity to ensure that green infrastructure is planned, delivered and managed in a co-ordinated and integrated manner.

Suggestions

1. Review the current Local Plan policies based on updated evidence. The new evidence could include:
 - An updated Open Space Strategy (including waterspaces) assessing the quantity and quality of all existing open space, children's playspace, sports and recreation facilities, and exploring opportunities for new provision based on needs and quantitative or qualitative deficits or surpluses of open space, sports and recreational facilities.
 - An updated Green Grid Strategy (considered in conjunction with transport networks such as cycling and walking; and with a health impact assessment).
 - Updated evidence from the Canal and River Trust to assess the quality of the borough's waterways and opportunities to enhance waterway use and access.

2. With land uses due to intensify and the associated residential and working populations set to increase, due consideration for planning for public open space needs must be considered as part of Site Allocations and all planning frameworks such as the Isle of Dogs Opportunity Area Planning Framework and Poplar Riverside Housing Zone.

Let us know what you think

 **Do you agree with our proposed approaches?**

 **Is there anything not discussed that we should be considering?**

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Environmental Sustainability



3.8 Environmental Sustainability

This section covers:

- Waste Management and Contaminated Land
- Reducing Carbon Emissions
- Reducing Flood Risk
- Biodiversity

Story so far...

With significant growth projected for Tower Hamlets and London as a whole, the need to manage waste efficiently, safely and sustainably is a pressing issue. The Council has a responsibility to meet the London Plan waste apportionment targets and to fulfil this we have safeguarded waste sites for protection for this use. These sites have historically been used for operational waste management purposes. As the borough transitions away from its industrial heritage and with pressure for development and rising land values, safeguarded waste sites that were previously unviable for development are now being considered for redevelopment. The new Local Plan will need to review the Council's existing safeguarded sites and may need to safeguard other sites to continue to meet our responsibilities under the London Plan.

Tower Hamlets produces the third highest level of total carbon dioxide emissions of the 33 boroughs in London. Carbon dioxide is the key greenhouse gas causing climate change, and impacting on air quality. The borough has been suffering from poor air quality, mainly due to emissions from combusting engine vehicles and plant equipment. Given the significant levels of development and growth in the borough the council needs progressive CO₂ emission reduction policies to guide future development proposals. The borough also contains areas identified as at the greatest risk of flooding (near the River Thames and River Lea). The Local Plan plays a vital role in mitigating and adapting to the challenges of climate change through minimising carbon emissions, air pollution and flooding risks, which can have huge impacts on health and well-being and the local economy.

The borough has a diverse range of sites of biodiversity value, including areas of open space, waterways and formally designated Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs). Developments that include 'living building' techniques (green roofs, walls, terraces) are increasing, but given the size and nature of development, biodiversity will need to be carefully managed to ensure new development protects and enhances these areas and also provide new opportunities for biodiversity.

3.8.1 Waste Management

What we know

- Waste apportionment
The London Plan (2015) apportions or allocates a target for each London Borough to manage a number of tonnes of waste (household and commercial and industrial). Each borough must then safeguard land to manage this waste. The London Plan (2015) downwardly revised the previous London Plan target for the number of tonnes of waste the council needs to manage. The Local Plan will therefore reflect these changes.
- Safeguarding sites
The borough has a number of safeguarded waste sites, which have been allocated to meet our waste apportionment target set out in the London Plan. These safeguarded sites are becoming more attractive for development as land values rise and the character of the borough transitions away from its industrial heritage. Development pressure is also being exerted on these sites by the regional and local need for housing and infrastructure. In addition, many of the borough's safeguarded waste sites are in designated areas for future housing growth in the London Plan, including the Fish Island area of the London Legacy Development Corporation (LLDC) and in the identified Poplar Riverside Housing Zone.

The new Local Plan will need to take account of these competing pressures and responsibilities. The Local Plan will consider the most sustainable and feasible options for meeting London Plan waste apportionment. Options include looking to secure alternative sites, areas or arrangements for meeting London targets and the continued safeguarding of existing sites safeguarded sites. In preparing the new Local Plan, the borough will consider the options available in partnership with other waste and planning authorities, the GLA and landowners to ensure that collectively we meet the ambitions of the London Plan in the most sustainable way.

- Waste facilities and reducing waste
The borough has a number of operational waste management facilities. However, these facilities do not manage all the waste created in Tower Hamlets. As such, part of the waste generated is managed outside of the borough. Waste management operations at a facility in the Poplar Housing Zone, have stopped operation and there are no new, or planned, waste management facilities in the borough.

The new Local Plan offers an opportunity to consider how the design of new developments can better encourage waste management, in line with the waste management hierarchy (prevention, preparing for re-use, recycling, other recovery, and disposal). Higher density developments and strategic site allocations provide an opportunity to consider whether innovative waste management solutions can be integrated into the design, construction and operational stages of development from the outset.

- Designing for waste storage, collection and movement

Poor design can result in an untidy, unhealthy, unsafe and unsightly public realm, for example, where insufficient storage space for waste leads to the disposal of waste on the street. Design of new developments needs to consider adequate internal and external storage, separation of waste types such as recyclable waste or organic waste and the location of and accessibility to storage containers for people and waste disposal vehicles. There is an opportunity for the new Local Plan to review how well our design policies have been working and introduce improvements to address this where possible.

The borough's new developments will generate increased movements by the authority's waste disposal vehicles. The new Local Plan also provides an opportunity to encourage new development to minimise the resulting trips generated.

Suggestions

1. Develop an evidence base that seeks to identify strategic and innovative options to minimise highways based implications of an increased volume of waste being created in the borough. This piece of work could consider the feasibility of:
 - Managing waste onsite
 - Installing new suction based technologies in new and existing developments
2. Update the existing waste evidence base in light of new national and regional policy to consider the best methods for the borough to meet London Plan targets for waste apportionment and safeguarding of land, as well as the ability of the borough to practically manage waste generated in the borough. This piece of work could consider the feasibility of:
 - Continuing to safeguard existing waste sites
 - Safeguarding new sites or areas (including in the London Legacy Development Corporation area) that could meet waste apportionment targets, as well as the practical need to manage the borough's waste as close to source as possible.
 - Pooling waste apportionment targets to the satisfaction of the GLA and the relevant boroughs.
3. Revise our existing policies in light of the new evidence base, policy and good practice standards.

Let us know what you think

 **Do you agree with our proposed approaches?**

 **Are there matters not discussed that we should be considering?**

3.8.2 Reducing Carbon Emissions

What we know

- Policy drivers

Carbon dioxide is the key greenhouse gas causing climate change. Whilst the Government has delayed the delivery of zero carbon homes, there remain significant drivers to reduce carbon emissions including the Mayor of London's objective of delivering a 60 per cent reduction in CO₂ by 2025; and the 80 per cent cut required under the 2008 Climate Change Act.

Growth in population and employment is likely to make it more challenging to reduce emissions, as will the increasing number of smaller households which tend to have higher per capita emissions. However, growth also provides a number of opportunities for securing reduced CO₂ emissions. These include, through the construction of highly energy efficient homes and offices, the development of decentralised energy networks, securing of finances for carbon offsetting and retrofitting of existing buildings and homes to reduce their energy use and fuel bills.

All development must be considered in respect of the EU directive on energy performance of buildings, which requires member states to ensure that all new buildings are nearly zero energy buildings by 2020, and that public authority new buildings are nearly zero energy after 31st December 2018.

Suggestions

1. Review our current policies to continue to reduce carbon emissions through:
 - the delivery of energy efficient buildings;
 - the requirement for developments to be designed to connect to existing or proposed decentralised heat and energy networks;
 - the requirement for the integration of renewable energy technologies into developments to meet the UK and EU targets for electricity from renewable sources by 2020
2. Continue to request the highest standards of sustainable design and construction in new developments and ensure they are designed for future climate scenarios.
3. Consider a move towards a zero-carbon borough in line with European carbon emission targets.

Let us know what you think

 Do you agree with our proposed approaches?

 Is there anything not discussed that we should be considering?

3.8.3 Reducing Air Pollution

What we know

- Air Quality

Parts of Tower Hamlets, particularly around major roads, have some of the poorest air quality levels in London. Since 2000 the borough has been declared an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) for both NO₂ (Nitrogen Dioxide) and PM10 (particulate matter). This means that the air quality in Tower Hamlets is constantly monitored to identify the levels of harmful pollutants, which have adverse effects on residents' health and well-being. Since monitoring began, Tower Hamlets continues to exceed Air Quality Objectives.

As development pressures increase and more constrained sites are brought forward, either for new development or change of use, it is likely that residential development will increase near major roads. A key challenge for the new Local Plan therefore is to actively support the reduction of poor air quality in the borough by identifying actions to reduce air pollution and where this is not possible, mitigating measures, including design and off-setting actions should be encouraged.

Suggestions

1. Review the current policy position and consider focusing on enhancing our monitoring network framework to improve understanding of air quality in development areas to minimise exposure and health risks of residents.
2. Review our current policy position to consider how plant, vehicle, construction and operational emissions from new developments can be appropriately assessed, and reduced where possible, and all remaining significant impacts are adequately mitigated.

Let us know what you think

 **Do you agree with our proposed approaches?**

 **Is there anything not discussed that we should be considering?**

3.8.4 Reducing Flood Risk

What we know

- Flood Zones

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) states that “inappropriate development in areas at risk of flooding should be avoided by directing development away from areas at highest risk”. It is also well recognised that climate change is a major contributor to flood risk.

The Isle of Dogs and eastern areas of the borough are located in Flood Zone 2 and 3 (Medium and High Probability), whereas the western and northern areas away from the River Thames and River Lea are in Flood Zone 1 (Low Probability). The borough’s flood risk zones also fall within the opportunity areas which will experience high growth in the next 10-15 years. Therefore it’s important to ensure that developments do not increase flood risk and reduce flood risk where possible through design.

- Surface Water Flooding

In addition to risk from flooding from the borough’s rivers, surface water flooding is thought to pose the greatest risk of flooding within the borough. Through urbanisation, most of the borough is paved and surface water rainfall is drained away via piped systems and into the combined sewer system. The sewer system was built in the Victorian period and its capacity for rainwater is limited. The Isle of Dogs is most vulnerable as a low lying area and the lowest part of the catchment.

The new Local Plan provides an opportunity to work with stakeholders to consider how new development can further reduce the risk of surface water flooding through incorporating design features including rain water harvesting and installing Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS).

Suggestions

1. Update our Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) to take account of new modelling and mapping requirements as well as national policy.
2. Update our policies in light of updated flood risk assessments, the Council’s new (SuDS) guidance document and to consider further design options to reduce local flood risk.
3. Continue to engage with Thames Water to ensure that sewer capacity able to support future development.

Let us know what you think

 Do you agree with our proposed approaches?

 Is there anything not discussed that we should be considering?

3.8.5 Biodiversity

What we know

- Protecting important habitats and species:
Tower Hamlets supports a variety of wildlife. This includes rare and protected species such as bats, peregrine falcons, great crested newts and black redstarts. Our Local Biodiversity Action Plan, published in 2014, sets objectives and targets for conservation of our priority species and habitats, and suggests what the council and other stakeholders can do to achieve these objectives.

In recent years a variety of excellent projects to enhance local biodiversity have been delivered, both in council managed open spaces and in schools and housing estates. Mile End Park is widely acknowledged as an exemplar of how to integrate wildlife habitat within a heavily-used urban park. Through the planning system, and existing Local Plan policies, the council has secured biodiversity improvements, such as the provision of green roofs and living walls, bat boxes, bumblebee boxes and nest boxes for important bird species.
- Sites most important for wildlife:
The borough currently has 35 Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs) which have been identified using criteria adopted by the Mayor of London, and they were most recently reviewed in 2009. Guidance published by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) recommends review of SINCs every 5-10 years.

Suggestions

- Undertake a Habitat Regulation Assessment Screening to inform the draft of Local Plan policies in the next stage, including a review of Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation to ensure all important sites are protected.
- Retain our current planning policies which seek to protect important wildlife sites and ensure that new development provides enhancements for biodiversity, including green roofs.
- Review Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation in 2016 to ensure all important sites are protected.

Let us know what you think

 Do you agree with our proposed approaches?

 Is there anything not discussed that we should be considering?

Section Four: Infrastructure, Delivery and Monitoring

4.1 Introduction

This section will discuss the general principles underpinning delivery and monitoring of a Local Plan in line with current Government guidance. The main focuses are set out as follows:

1. Development opportunities in Tower Hamlets
 - Opportunity Areas
 - Site Allocations
2. Supporting development with adequate infrastructure
3. Viability
4. Monitoring the Plan

Story so far...

The Mayor of London has identified the Isle of Dogs and South Poplar, Lower Lea Valley and City Fringe/Tech City as Opportunity Areas where significant additional homes and jobs are expected to be accommodated. The Poplar Riverside Housing Zone is also regarded as a great opportunity to drive forward housing growth. At a local level the council has allocated sites to support the borough's population growth with new homes and key infrastructure, such as schools and open space.

The new Local Plan provides an opportunity to ensure that growth in these areas comes forward in the most sustainable way. It will be important to prepare new Local Plan policies that manage and coordinate growth in different development sites and allocations, to ensure they support the delivery of necessary infrastructure, which meets the needs of the borough's growing population. Therefore, to facilitate the delivery of infrastructure for the borough both now and in the future, the development of the new Local Plan will require a proactive and positive joint working with infrastructure providers, the development industry and the public to identify, prioritise, fund and deliver infrastructure in a timely manner, alongside viability considerations.

The consideration of viability is a key factor in preparing a Local Plan. The NPPF states that plans should be deliverable, and understanding Local Plan viability is critical to the overall assessment of deliverability. Therefore, the Local Plans will be aspirational but realistic, and will ensure that the impact of the policies when read as a whole should be such that the plan is deliverable.

The Annual Monitoring report (AMR) provides an assessment of policy performance and plays a crucial role in understanding policy implications and formulating robust policies. The Council has published an Annual Monitoring report since 2005, and will continue to monitor the effectiveness of the Local Plan through the AMR.

4.2 Opportunity Areas

The London Plan (2015) identifies a number of Opportunity Areas within Tower Hamlets - namely City Fringe/Tech City, Isle of Dogs and South Poplar, and the Lower Lea Valley (including part of the Olympic Legacy area and the Poplar Riverside Housing Zone). These areas have emerging planning frameworks and/or development strategies, which will inform the development of the Local Plan, and provide further guidance to manage and coordinate development.

Delivering the full development potential in these areas is critical to helping manage the borough's continued growth, through the provision of homes, jobs and infrastructure. These areas will also contribute to delivering the vision for Tower Hamlets. These areas are further detailed in section 2. 'New Plan, New Vision'. Therefore, it is important that the council responds proactively by working collaboratively with the GLA, TfL, landowners, developers and other key stakeholders to make sure sustainability is built into the strategic planning framework for these areas, as well as locally specific policies which are supported by Tower Hamlets communities.

The council has been working in partnership with the key stakeholders (e.g. developers, Government agencies, local communities, neighbourhood forums) in these identified Opportunity Areas to make sure that their plans and strategies contribute positively to the vision and strategic objectives of the emerging Local Plan.

The London Plan requires Local Plans to integrate policies that bring together regeneration, development and transport proposals with improvements in learning and skills, health, safety, access, employment, environment and housing. The council considers that these requirements align with the principle of sustainable development set out in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). The principle of sustainable development underpins all aspects of plan making, including the preparation of our new Local Plan and its policies.

The regeneration of areas in the borough including the identified Opportunity Areas, Housing Zone and site allocations provides an excellent opportunity to deliver models of exceptional place making, which embody the true principles of sustainable development. In order to support this, the new Local Plan can define those elements we consider most important to the delivery of these places. The delivery is also dependant on a commitment from landowners and developers to meaningfully engage and collaborate with the community and stakeholders. We can encourage applicants to go the extra mile and exceed the requirements for community involvement set out in national regulations and in the Statement of Community Involvement (SCI).

4.3 Site Allocations

One of the key parts of deliverability is identifying potential development sites within the borough. In doing so, the council can influence the type of development built in the certain locations and ensure that the community will benefit from large scale development through securing infrastructure and affordable housing. There are currently twenty Site Allocations in the Managing Development Document (2013). These sites have been allocated to plan for strategic housing developments (i.e. sites that can provide over 500 new net-additional homes).

Given the anticipated population growth, there is also a need to review existing site allocations and identify additional sites to support the delivery of new homes and key infrastructure, such as schools and publically accessible open space. If sites are not identified and safeguarded for specific uses, the borough would be at risk of not being able to meet its identified housing target, and the provision of infrastructure for its communities.

The new Local Plan will consider whether it is necessary to allocate sites to include the following uses:

- Large scale housing development
- Health facilities
- Leisure facilities
- Open space
- Idea Stores
- Primary school
- Secondary school
- District heating facility
- Waste management facility
- Gypsies and Travellers accommodation
- Multi-faith burial ground
- Employment uses

The new Local Plan will not identify all sites that will be developed in the borough over the plan period, but only sites with strategic and regeneration importance. Other sites, including smaller infill sites, can be appropriately managed using the emerging policies in the Local Plan.

Suggestions

1. Continue to gather information on potential sites within the borough for allocation of strategic uses through the 'Call for Sites' exercise.
2. Review the existing site selection method as suggested below:

Stage 1	Development of a sites database using sites from the SHLAA (Strategic Housing and Land Availability Assessment), and sites submitted as part of the 'Call for Sites' information gathering and Site Allocations in the existing Local Plan (Managing Development Document).
Stage 2	Development of selection site criteria selection
Stage 3	Undertake site assessment to identify sites of strategic and regeneration importance
Stage 4	Final list of suggested site and allocated uses

Table 3 Proposed process for site selection

Let us know what you think

 **Do you agree with our proposed approaches?**

 **Is there anything not discussed that we should be considering?**

4.4 Infrastructure provision

Planning for infrastructure is at the heart of this Local Plan. The facilities and services needed to support our communities and to enable the local economy to thrive, includes but is not limited to, the following:

- **transportation:** roads, bus routes, train network;
- **education facilities:** schools, colleges, universities, adult learning centres;
- **community facilities:** Idea Stores, libraries, sports and leisure facilities, community centres;
- **health care:** hospitals, local GP surgeries and other facilities;
- **open spaces:** parks, playing fields and sports pitches
- **telecommunication:** Super-fast broadband connection, wireless hotspot

How is infrastructure funded?

The infrastructure required for Tower Hamlets will be funded from a range of sources, including the following:

- **Section 106 Planning Obligations (s106):** are obligations on the developer which are: necessary to make the development acceptable in planning terms; directly related to the development; and fairly and reasonably related in scale and kind to the development.
- **Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL):** is a standard levy on new development. The funding is collected by the council and is then reinvested in infrastructure necessary to support growth in the borough.
- **Others:** contributions from developments will not be able to fund all of the costs of new infrastructure, particularly where there are existing deficits. We will need to identify other sources of funding for projects where necessary.

Evidence to support the council's Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) shows that the cost of meeting our infrastructure need is far greater than the available funding. In 2013/14, the council estimated that the aggregate infrastructure cost to be over approximately £530 million. It is likely the Community Infrastructure Levy will make a modest contribution (approximately 40 per cent) towards filling the likely gap to fund local infrastructure. Therefore it will be important that we work with government, GLA, key infrastructure partners including TFL and the development industry to bridge the gap in funding.

The 2013 Infrastructure Delivery Schedule has indicated that transport and connectivity, education, training facilities and area based enhancement projects are amongst the highest costing infrastructure categories. This schedule will be updated to reflect current infrastructure priorities, based on the anticipated level of growth and the most relevant information from different service areas across the Council.

Tower Hamlets will experience considerable residential and commercial growth in years to come and this will bring with it a greater demand for infrastructure to support more residents, workers and visitors. The council has implemented a local Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) which will secure a considerable amount of funding from residential and commercial developments towards delivering infrastructure. The CIL will also be reviewed alongside the production of the new Local Plan to ensure it is set at the most appropriate level when the plan is adopted. However, funding from CIL is not designed to pay for the full cost of providing infrastructure. The council will secure funding from other sources, such as Government grants and match funding in order to ensure the delivery of the necessary infrastructure to support the development of the borough.

In order to understand what additional infrastructure will be necessary over the life of the plan, an evidence base will be produced to assess infrastructure needs and provide a delivery plan that will detail what infrastructure is required and when and how it will be delivered. This plan will be regularly monitored and updated to reflect



current infrastructure priorities, based on anticipated levels of growth and the most relevant information from all service areas across the council.

Projections of growth on which infrastructure needs and priorities will be based comes from the council's Growth Model which provides an up to date and realistic assessment of growth expected through development in the borough. This model will be updated at least annually to ensure that the council constantly monitors the pattern of growth and can adapt its infrastructure needs analysis and delivery plan as necessary. This will help the council better plan for infrastructure.

Suggestions

1. Undertake the scoping of a new Tower Hamlets Infrastructure Study to identify specific infrastructure requirements necessary to enable growth over the new Local Plan period. This could include a live infrastructure schedule where the information is reviewed and updated regularly. This schedule could cover for at least the first five years of the plan period and include:
 - Needs and costs
 - Funding sources
 - How it relates to the developer/rate of development; and
 - Responsibilities for delivery

Let us know what you think

-  **Do you agree with our proposed approaches?**
-  **Is there anything not discussed that we should be considering?**

4.5 Viability

Since the council's last Local Plan, the national planning policy focus on facilitating the delivery of the Local Plan policies and its development targets has placed even more emphasis on the importance of viability.

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) states that *"the sites and the scale of development identified in the plan should not be subject to such a scale of obligations and policy burdens that their ability to be developed viably is threatened"*. It calls for all policy requirements being considered together in assessing viability. This means a Local Planning authority will need to:

- test the whole plan and all its policies together to assess whether the plan can be delivered in relation to viability, show its impact on viability in terms of the local economic conditions and market realities; and

- carry out separate viability assessment on strategic sites if they are the most important supply to meet growth targets.

The current Tower Hamlets Local Plan is supported by a number of separate viability assessment, including:

- Tower Hamlets Viability Appraisal of Proposed Development Site Allocation (Central Area) (April 2008)
- Tower Hamlets Affordable Housing Viability Study: 2011 Update(December 2011)
- Tower Hamlets Sites Viability Testing (February 2012) & Neptune Wharf scenario viability test (Revised July 2012)
- Community Infrastructure Levy viability Assessment (2014)

The above viability evidence will need to be updated to support a new Local Plan.

Suggestions

1. Undertake an integrated Viability Assessment across the whole Local Plan (including policies and sites), alongside the review of CIL Charging rates.

Let us know what you think

 **Do you agree with our proposed approaches?**

 **Is there anything not discussed that we should be considering?**

4.6 Monitoring the plan

Monitoring is a key component of an effective planning system. Under the plan-monitor-manage approach, monitoring plays a crucial role in evaluating policy performance, understanding policy implications and formulating robust policies. Prepared by the council, an annual Monitoring Report provides a means of assessing the performance and effectiveness of key policies in the Local Plan.

Importantly, an annual Monitoring Report is the primary tool for identifying policies which are performing effectively, as well as those that are not, and therefore need to be reviewed. Policies are assessed using a series of indicators covering a wide range of spatial planning matters.



The monitoring indicators can be amended in order to reflect changes at national, regional and local levels. The Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report (2015) can help shape the monitoring indicators for the Local Plan in terms of monitoring environmental and sustainability effects. Some good practice has suggested that

provision should also be made to monitor the impacts of the plan and its sustainability effect.

Suggestions

1. Review all monitoring indicators to make sure they reflect both the Council's and local communities' priorities, alongside the indicators set out in the Sustainability Appraisal Framework

Let us know what you think

-  Do you agree with our proposed approaches?
-  Is there anything not discussed that we should be considering?

APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Evidence Pipeline

The list of evidence base documents below is not exhaustive at this stage and is likely to be updated during the drafting of the Local Plan. They have been identified based on the national planning policy requirements in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework (2012).

Project	Status
Sustainability Appraisal	Scoping commenced summer 2015
Tower Hamlets Growth Model	To be finalised autumn 2015
Employment Land Review	To be commenced autumn 2015
Town Centre Study	To be commenced autumn 2015
Waste Management Evidence	To be commenced autumn 2015
Open Space Strategy	To be commenced autumn 2015
Strategic Housing Market Assessment	Finalised autumn 2015. Further needs may be identified to meet Local Plan evidence requirements.
Habitat Regulation Assessment	To be commenced spring 2016
Strategic Flood Risk Assessment	To be commenced spring 2016
Viability Assessment	To be commenced spring 2016
Infrastructure Delivery Plan	To be commenced spring 2016
Transport Impact Assessment	To be commenced spring 2016
Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessment	To be commenced spring 2016

Appendix 2 – Acronyms & Glossary

Glossary	Definition
Affordable Housing	Social rented, affordable rented and intermediate housing (definitions below) provided to eligible households whose needs are not met by the market. Eligibility is determined with regard to local incomes and the council's housing allocation policy.
Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)	A charge on larger planning applications to help fund new infrastructure required to support the development.
Development Plan	The borough's Development Plan is comprised of the London Plan (produced by the Mayor of London), the Local Plan and any Neighbourhood Plans that may come forward. This set of documents is used to manage development by helping to assess planning applications. It is guided by national guidance and supported by other supplementary guidance.
Defensible Space	An environment whose building layout, design features and site plan discourages crime and anti-social behavior through increasing visibility and positive activity in the space.
Duty to cooperate	The duties on the council and other public bodies to proactively engage with each other on an on-going basis to ensure any strategic cross boundary issues are addressed through the plan making process.
Early years settings (EYS)	Facilities and services for children of pre-school age (0-4), which include childcare providers, Children's Centres and nurseries.
Evidence base	Policies contained in the Local Plan must be supported and justified by appropriate, up-to-date and relevant evidence in terms of the economic, social and environmental characteristics and prospects of the area and must meet


Glossary	Definition
	identified needs. This makes up the evidence base for the Local Plan. A wide range of evidence base studies is listed in Appendix 1 of the document.
Housing Zone	An initiative of the Mayor of London to accelerate new housing development in specific areas of London, including Poplar Riverside in Tower Hamlets.
Infill development	Development that takes place on vacant or undeveloped site between other developments and/or built form.
Intermediate Housing	Homes for sale and rent provided at a cost above social rent, but below market levels subject to the criteria in the Affordable Housing definition. These can include shared equity (shared ownership and equity loans), other low cost homes for sale and intermediate rent
London Legacy Development Corporation (LLDC)	The LLDC became the planning authority for the Olympic Legacy area following the Olympic Games in 2012. The north-east area of Tower Hamlets (Hackney Wick/Fish Island and Bromley-by-Bow) was transferred to LLDC in terms of planning responsibilities. Nevertheless, Tower Hamlets continues to provide other services and responsibilities such as the allocation of affordable housing and provision of school places.
London Plan	The London Plan is the spatial development strategy for all of London. It is written by the Mayor of London and the Greater London Authority. London boroughs' Local Plans need to be in general conformity with the London Plan, and its policies guide decisions on planning applications by councils and the London Mayor.
Low threshold enterprise space	Lower value non-residential space often found at the edge of town centres or in areas of lower footfall. It may also consist of lower-quality premises than other properties in the area.
National Planning Policy Framework	The National Planning Policy Framework

Glossary	Definition
(NPPF)	sets out the national Government's economic, environmental and social planning policies for England.
National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG)	Online resource giving up-to-date Government planning guidance and requirements.
Neighbourhood Planning	<p>Neighbourhood Planning gives communities the ability to create planning documents and development orders: Neighbourhood Development Plans and Neighbourhood Development Orders. A Plan must be in 'general conformity' with the strategic policies of the council's Local Plan and should not promote less development than set out in the Local Plan or undermine its strategic policies. An adopted plan will form a part of the statutory development plan and will be used to inform planning application decision making for the relevant area.</p> <p>Neighbourhood Planning is undertaken by Neighbourhood Forums within designated Neighbourhood Areas. Since the introduction of the regulations, Tower Hamlets has two designated neighbourhood areas and one designated neighbourhood forum – the East Shoreditch Neighbourhood Planning Forum and Area; and Wapping Neighbourhood Planning Area.</p>
Opportunity Area	The London Plan identifies Opportunity Areas in the City Fringe/Tech City, Isle of Dogs and South Poplar and Lower Lea Valley as having the ability to accommodate high levels of growth, focusing on housing.
Planning obligation (Section 106 agreement)	A legal agreement between the developer, local authority and other interested parties primarily intended to make acceptable those developments that would otherwise be unacceptable in planning terms.
Private Rented Sector (PRS)	All non-owner occupied self-contained

Glossary	Definition
	dwellings that are being rented out as housing (not including forms of affordable housing).
Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA)	An assessment which identifies a future supply of land that is suitable, available and achievable for housing and economic development uses over the plan period.
Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA)	An assessment of objectively assessed needs for market and affordable housing.
Site allocation	Site allocations have been identified to plan for strategic housing developments (i.e. sites that can provide over 500 new net-additional homes in the current Local Plan) and key infrastructure which will help the borough meet its housing targets and for key regeneration sites.
Sites of Interest for Nation Conservation (SINC)	Local landscape features, both in built up areas and on open land that are affected by development and will promote conservation and enhancement.
Small and medium-sized enterprise (SME)	A category of businesses that employs overall a total of no more than 250 people.
Starter Homes	Included in the draft Housing and Planning Bill, this is a new dwelling which is only available for purchase by qualifying first time buyers and which is made available at a price which is at least 20 per cent less than the market value. The maximum price a starter home may be sold to a first time buyer in London is £450,000.
Sustainability Appraisal (SA)	The SA appraises the policies in the Local Plan, to identify the potential social, economic and environmental policy impacts and identify alternatives. This is used alongside the Strategic Environmental Assessment, Health Impact Assessment, Habitats Regulations Assessment and Equalities Impact Assessment, which also appraise impacts on specific groups or characteristics. The SA Scoping Report and the other impact

Glossary	Definition
	assessments Screening Reports which required at this stage are published alongside this document for consultation.
Tower Hamlets Community Plan (2015)	The Community Plan provides the Tower Hamlets Partnership's long-term vision for the borough, articulating local aspirations, needs and priorities. It informs all other strategies and delivery plans of the partnership, including the council's Strategic Plan.
Tower Hamlets Growth Model	A dynamic model used to project development in the borough over the next 20 years.
Town centre	An area of commercial uses within a boundary defined by an adopted Local Plan, often serving as a focal point for a community/communities. Not all areas of predominantly retail/commercial activity will therefore be officially defined as town centres.
Town centre hierarchy	Sets out what role and function different town centres in the borough perform in relation to each other and across London. It includes the borough's Central Activities Zone (CAZ), activity areas, major centre, district centres and neighbourhood centres.
Waste apportionment	The amount of London's waste that each borough is required to manage to ensure London is self-sufficient in managing its municipal, commercial and industrial waste that it produces. This requires an amount of land to be safeguarded within the borough.

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<p>Cabinet Decision</p> <p>1st February 2016</p>	 <p>TOWER HAMLETS</p>
<p>Report of: Stephen Halsey, Corporate Director Communities, Localities and Culture</p>	<p>Classification: [Unrestricted]</p>
<p>Community Safety Partnership Plan Review and Extension</p>	

Lead Member	Councillor Shiria Khatun, Cabinet Member for Community Safety
Originating Officer(s)	Colin Hewitt, Community Safety Partnership Officer
Wards affected	All wards
Key Decision?	Yes
Community Plan Theme	Safe and Cohesive Community

Executive Summary

There is a legal requirement for each Community Safety Partnership (Safe & Cohesive CPDG in Tower Hamlets) to have a Community Safety Partnership Plan, historically known as a Crime and Disorder Reduction Strategy. From a statutory perspective the responsibility to develop a CSP Plan lies with the Community Safety Partnership. However under the Council Constitution the CSP Plan must be approved by Full Council. This would include changes to the plan term.

In order to fulfil our other statutory duties, the CSP produces an annual Strategic Assessment. This was last undertaken in 2014/15 to enable it to review the current 3 year Plan at the end of year 2. The Community Safety Partnership Plan 2013-16 revised for Year 3 has been reviewed by the CSP Subgroup Chairs and agency leads from the responsible authorities (statutory partners), prior to discussion and subsequent approval by the CSP on 22nd July 2015.

The current CSP Plan has a 3 year term, is due to expire on 31st March 2016 and was originally aligned to the Mayor’s Office for Policing and Crime’s (MOPAC) Police and Crime Plan (PCP) 2013-16. However, it has been confirmed that the PCP is running for an additional year to 31st March 2017 which is seen by MOPAC as a ‘transitional year’, to allow the new Mayor of London to develop and consult on a new MOPAC PCP to replace the previous Mayor’s PCP.

The Tower Hamlets CSP recognises the importance of remaining aligned to the MOPAC priorities within the PCP for funding and policing purposes. The CSP have reviewed their current CSP Plan and have agreed as a partnership that they will extend the current CSP Plan by a year. This extension of the Plan’s term will ensure it remains aligned to MOPAC’s PCP and expires on 31st March 2017. It will also

enable it to conduct a public consultation on local community safety priorities in Summer 2016, so that it can produce a new CSP Plan which is aligned to the new MOPAC Police and Crime Plan (September 2016 onwards).

Recommendations:

The Mayor in Cabinet is recommended to:

1. Note the content of the Community Safety Partnership Plan 2013-16 Revised for Year 3 (appendix 1)
2. Note the content of this report and the decision made under the relevant legislation by the CSP to extend its current CSP Plan by 1 year, so that it remains aligned with MOPAC's Police and Crime Plan 2013-16 and expires on 31.03.17
3. Agree that this report, the Revised CSP Plan 2013-16 and CSP decision to extend goes before progresses to Full Council as per Council Constitution for formal consideration

1. REASONS FOR THE DECISIONS

- 1.1 Full Council must adopt a Community Safety Partnership Plan in order to meet statutory requirements set by the Crime and Disorder Act (1998). The priorities and governance structure outlined in the Plan are based on the statutory strategic assessment exercise that was carried out by statutory partners to consider data on safety in the Borough. They have been agreed by the Community Safety Partnership in July 2015 to be the best model to deliver a safer and more cohesive community in Tower Hamlets. The Cabinet are asked to consider the reviewed Plan, along with the CSP decision to extend it by one year in order to remain aligned with MOPAC's Police and Crime Plan 2013-16 and satisfy itself that it can proceed to Full Council.

2. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 2.1 It is a statutory responsibility for Community Safety Partnerships to produce a Community Safety Plan and the decision to set the term length including extending existing Plans lies with the Community Safety Partnership under the relevant legislation. There are therefore no alternative options to doing so without risking government censure, damaging key partner relationships and undermining community safety. It is the role of Full Council to ratify that partnership plan.

3. DETAILS OF REPORT

Review of CSP Plan

- 3.1 Appendix 1 of this briefing note is the Community Safety Partnership Plan 2013 – 16 Reviewed for Year 3.

- 3.2 The Community Safety Partnership reviewed the CSP Plan 2013-16 and agreed to include:
- Prostitution as a standalone priority, having separated it out from both Violence Against Women and Girls under Violence as well as some elements of it being previously addressed under Anti-Social Behaviour.
 - MOPAC 7 crimes are now a standalone priority, with particular crimes within this group previously been split across ASB, Violence and Property/Serious Acquisitive Crime CSP Plan Priorities.
- 3.3 The CSP also discussed the Preventing Violent Extremism agenda which currently sits under the Community Cohesion and Hate Crime Priority and whether it warranted being a standalone priority theme in the current CSP Plan. The decision was made by the CSP Co-chairs and the CSP that Prevent would remain within the existing Hate Crime and Community Cohesion CSP Priority Theme at this time. This would be reviewed based on the findings of the 2015 CSP Strategic Assessment, along with all other community safety issues in the borough.
- 3.4 The Prevent Board is a CSP Subgroup which is currently being restructured, so that it has a more strategic approach and appropriate level membership from across relevant partner agencies including the Home Office and SO15 and other key local partners. It has a Home Office approved annual Action Plan which identifies key priorities and actions for the borough to deliver with the Home Office Funding. The Board restructure is due to be completed by 31st December 2015 following a director level workshop (scheduled for 10th December) to develop the board strategically.
- 3.5 Full list of CSP Plan Priorities for 2015/16 are:
- Gangs and Serious Youth Violence
 - Anti-Social Behaviour and Arson
 - Drugs and Alcohol
 - Violence (inc. Domestic Violence & Violence Against Women and Girls)
 - Prostitution
 - Hate Crime and Cohesion(including Prevent)
 - Killed or Seriously Injured
 - Property/Serious Acquisitive Crime
- 3.6 Cross-cutting Priorities:
- Public Confidence and Victim Satisfaction
 - Reducing Re-offending
 - MOPAC 7

Extension to Term of CSP Plan 2013-16

- 3.7 The CSP Plan is a partnership document, written and owned by the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) of which the Council is part. It is aligned to national government priorities and regional / local ones, particularly those within the Mayor of London's Office of Police and Crime (MOPAC) Police and Crime Plan (PCP) 2013-16 and those of the Executive Mayor of Tower Hamlets.

- 3.8 The current CSP Plan is specifically aligned to the MOPAC PCP as it contains and directs Police targets, partnership priorities and funding and partnership oversight by MOPAC, under the legislation relating to Police and Crime Commissioners.
- 3.9 Following a CSP request for clarification on the expiry date, MOPAC's Strategy Team confirmed that their current PCP will now expire on 31st March 2017.
- 3.10 The reason for it expiring in March 2017 and not 2016 is due to there being London Mayoral Elections scheduled for 5th May 2016 and MOPAC is treating 2016/17 financial year as a 'transitional year'. After the London Mayoral Election, the new Mayor is likely to consult on their revised vision for the Police and Crime Plan for their term in office and this will take place between June and September 2016. MOPAC's Strategy Team envisage having a new Police and Crime Plan in place around September, which Tower Hamlets CSP Plan would then need to be aligned to.
- 3.11 Under the Crime and Disorder (Formulation and Implementation of Strategy) Regulations 2011, the Community Safety Partnership (Safe & Cohesive CPDG in Tower Hamlets) is required to have a Community Safety Partnership Plan, historically known as a Crime and Disorder Reduction Strategy. Under the legislation, the power to set the term of the CSP Plan lies with the Community Safety Partnership. However under the Council Constitution, the CSP Plan and its term must be approved by Full Council.
- 3.12 The Tower Hamlets CSP recognises the importance of remaining aligned to the MOPAC priorities within the PCP for funding and policing purposes. The CSP have reviewed their current CSP Plan as per their statutory duty to do so annually.
- 3.13 On 8th September 2015 the CSP agreed as a partnership that they will extend their current CSP Plan, so that it remains aligned to MOPAC's PCP and expires on 31st March 2017.
- 3.14 The CSP were reminded that the power remained with the CSP to make this decision however, only Full Council could agree on behalf of the Council. A report on this decision to extend would need to be taken by the Council to Full Council.
- 3.15 The CSP agreed to support this report regarding its decision to extend the CSP's Plan by one year, and requests that Full Council endorses their extension to the term by one year.]

4. COMMENTS OF THE CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER

- 4.1 The report seeks the Mayor in Cabinet to note the content of the revised Community Safety Partnership Plan 2013-16; to note the decision made by the Community Safety Partnership to extend its current CSP Plan by a year to align it with MOPAC's Police and Crime Plan 2013-16; and to agree the revised CSP Plan 2013-16 and CSP decision to extend the CSP Plan, will progress to Cabinet and Full Council for formal consideration.
- 4.2 There are no specific financial implications emanating from this report regarding Council funding. However, the report recognises the importance of the CSP Plan remaining aligned to MOPAC's Police and Crime Plan 2013-16 for funding and policing purposes. The Council's has been allocated £811k from MOPAC in the financial year 2015/16, which is received in arrears. Any unused allocation of the grant cannot be carried forward.

5. LEGAL COMMENTS

- 5.1 Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs), formerly called Crime & Disorder Reduction Partnerships (CDRPs), were set up to coordinate action on crime and disorder at a local level. CSPs are under a duty to assess local community safety issues and draw up a partnership plan setting out their priorities and planned responses. The Council is a "responsible authority" of the Community Safety Partnership by virtue of section 5(1) (a) of the 1998 Act.
- 5.2 Section 6 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 places a statutory duty on responsible authorities to work together in formulating and implementing strategies to tackle local crime and disorder in their area.
- 5.3 Under section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, the Council has a statutory duty to; do all that it reasonably can to reduce crime and disorder; produce (with the other responsible authorities) an annual Strategic Assessment which identifies crime and disorder priorities and implications in its area.
- 5.4 The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 sets out the requirement for a framework for partnership working which includes duties for partners to cooperate with each other to take each other's priorities into account:
1. Section 10(1) of the 2011 Act requires Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) and the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC) (collectively referred to as elected local policing bodies in the 2011 Act) to have regard to the priorities of the responsible authorities making up the CSPs in the police area.
 2. Section 6(1A) of the 1998 Act, inserted by the 2011 Act, requires the responsible authorities to have regard to the police and crime objectives set out in the elected local policing body's police and crime plan.

3. Section 10(2) of the 2011 Act requires the elected local policing body and the responsible authorities to act in co-operation with each other in exercising their respective functions.

5.5 Therefore the recommendations in this report recognise the importance of continuous engagement with the partner organisations comprising the Community Safety Partnership and also provide evidence of the importance of coordinated and collaborative working. However, failure to adhere to published targets in the CSP Plan could lead to legal challenge which could also lead to reputational damage or environmental or economic risks. It is advantageous for the Tower Hamlets CSP to continue align with MOPAC priorities within the PCP for funding and policing purposes.

6. ONE TOWER HAMLETS CONSIDERATIONS

6.1 The Community Safety Partnership (Safe and Cohesion Community Plan Delivery Group) aims through its plan, to make Tower Hamlets a more cohesive place to live, work, study and visit. The work of the No Place For Hate Forum; Community Cohesion, Contingency Planning Tension Monitoring Group and the Preventing Violent Extremism Programme Board, all subgroups of the CSP aim to carry-out this important part of work for the Partnership. Hate Crime and Cohesion remain an important priority for the Partnership.

6.2 An initial Equalities Screening and full Equalities Analysis was produced as part of the original CSP Plan 2013-16 Report, which went through the Full Council approval process, culminating at Full Council on 26th March 2014. Recommendations were made for further considerations when supporting action plans are developed.

7. BEST VALUE (BV) IMPLICATIONS

7.1 Whilst difficult to quantify there are potentially significant efficiency gains from working in partnership to reduce crime and disorder in the borough. The decision to extend by one year the Community Safety Plan 2013-16 which is a partnership document and brings together key crime and disorder reduction agencies, will ensure that we continue to work together as a partnership and share resources.

8. SUSTAINABLE ACTION FOR A GREENER ENVIRONMENT

8.1 Extension of the Community Safety Plan 2013-16 so that the partnership remains aligned to MOPAC's Police and Crime Plan and the implementation of the CSP Plan is expected to have a positive effect on the environment by helping to reduce anti-social behaviour. This will then reduce the amount of criminal damage, graffiti, fly-tipping and fly-posting and other environmental crimes in the borough.

9. RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 The Community Safety Plan sets out an overarching structure and framework of priorities within which management of risks will take place.

10. CRIME AND DISORDER REDUCTION IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 The decision to extend the current Community Safety Partnership Plan 2013-16 by one year to 31st March 2017 will ensure that we continue to work in partnership to reduce crime, anti-social behaviour, substance misuse and re-offending. It will also support the Mayors priorities helping to reduce fear of crime and contributing to relevant 'safer' related community plan commitments.

11. SAFEGUARDING IMPLICATIONS

- 11.1 The Community Safety Partnership includes amongst its members the independent chairs of both the Safeguarding Adults and Safeguarding Children Boards. The current Chair of the Prevent Board along with both Co-Chairs of the Safeguarding Adults Board are also members of the CSP Board. These boards are seen as 'linked boards' to the CSP and have been included in the development process of the reviewed CSP Plan along with the decision by the CSP Members to extend it by a further year to remain aligned to MOPAC's Police and Crime Plan. There are no safeguarding risks identified in the report, only benefits for partner agencies across the CSP and both Safeguarding Boards by working together at strategic and operational levels in the borough, to ensure community safety in all its forms.

Linked Reports, Appendices and Background Documents

Linked Report

- NONE.

Appendices

- Appendix 1: CSP Plan 2013-16 reviewed for Year 3 (2015/16)
- Appendix 2 & 3: Equalities Considerations & Equalities Analysis: Initial Screening Document

Background Documents – Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements)(Access to Information)(England) Regulations 2012

- NONE.

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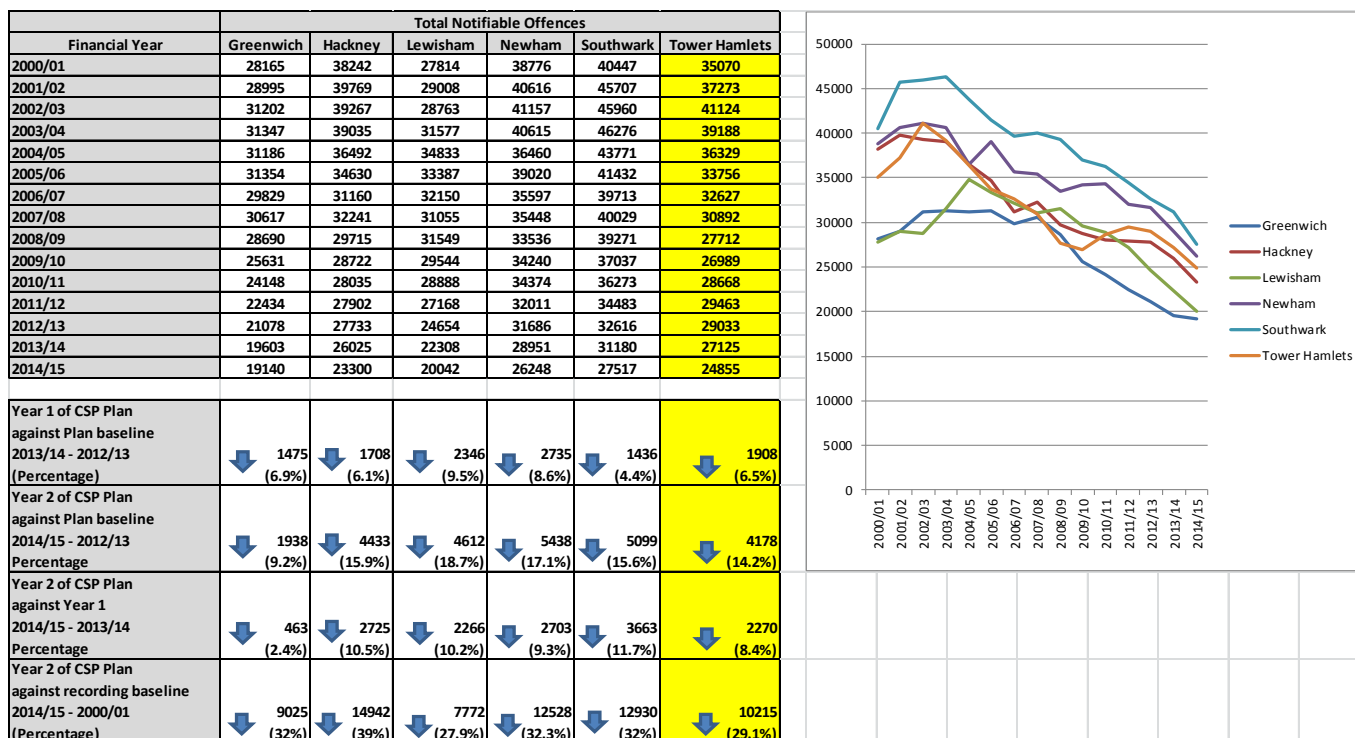
Tower Hamlets
Community Safety Partnership Plan
2013 – 2016
Year 3 (2015/16)

Signed off by CSP on 22nd July 2015

Total Crime in Tower Hamlets and Neighbouring Boroughs

Annual Total Notifiable Offences (TNOs) recorded by the Metropolitan Police in Tower Hamlets and surrounding boroughs over the 15 financial years (2000/01 – 2014/15).

Total Notifiable Offences (TNO) is a count of all offences which are statutorily notifiable to the Home Office and for the purposes of this Plan is what the Community Safety Partnership refers to as 'Total Crime'.



As of 2014/15 Tower Hamlets has the lowest annual total crime level for the past 15 years (24,855). There are now 16,269 (38.6%) fewer crimes per year than there were in 2002/03, when the borough recorded its highest annual crime total of 42,124.

When comparing Year 2 of the Plan's total crime with the Metropolitan Police's first year of recording overall crime in this way (2000/01), there has been a 29.1% reduction over the past 15 years, or 10,215 less crimes in 2014/15 (24,855) compared to 35,070 in 2000/01.

Over the first 2 years of this 3 year Community Safety Partnership Plan, the borough has seen a 14.2% reduction in total crime (TNO), when compared to its baseline financial year of 2012/13.

Over the same period, neighbouring boroughs have experienced similar reductions in Total Notifiable Offences as Tower Hamlets.

Figures obtained from the Metropolitan Police Service Crime Mapping: Data Tables section of MPS website on 16.04.15.

Foreword by Co-Chairs of Community Safety Partnership

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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Introduction

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

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

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

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

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

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

About The Partnership

The Tower Hamlets Community Safety Partnership (CSP) is a multi-agency strategic group set up following the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. The CSP is also the delivery group responsible for partnership work in relation to the Tower Hamlets Community Plan priority 'A safe and cohesive community', with the priorities within both the Community Plan 2015 and this Community Safety Plan aligned. The partnership approach is built on the premise that no single agency can deal with, or be responsible for dealing with, complex community safety issues and that these issues can be addressed more effectively and efficiently through working in partnership. It does this by overseeing the following:

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

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

- Tower Hamlets Police
- London Borough of Tower Hamlets
- National Probation Service
- Hackney, City of London and Tower Hamlets Community Rehabilitation Company (CRC)
- London Fire Brigade
- NHS Tower Hamlets Clinical Commissioning Group

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

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

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

Partners bring different skills and responsibilities to the CSP. Some agencies are responsible for crime prevention while others are responsible for intervention or enforcement. Some have a responsibility to support the victim and others have a

responsibility to deal with the perpetrator. Ultimately the CSP has a duty to make Tower Hamlets a safer place for everyone.

Governance

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

Partnership Executive

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

Community Plan

The overall vision for the community plan is to improve the lives of all those living and working in the borough. The Community Plan includes 4 main priorities of which 'A Safe and Cohesive Community' and Tower Hamlets will be a safer place where people feel safer, get on better together and difference is not seen as threat but a core strength of the borough. To make Tower Hamlets a Safe and Cohesive Community the Partnership will focus on the following commitments:

- Reduce acquisitive crime and anti-social behaviour by tackling problem drinking and drug use
- Limit local gangs and the impact they have on youth violence and fear of crime
- Strengthen partnership work to reduce domestic violence and violence against women and girls
- Promote community cohesion
- Find solutions to increase cycling safety on busy roads

Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC)

The Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC) was created by the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011. Its core function is to secure the maintenance of an efficient and effective Metropolitan Police Service (MPS), and to hold the Commissioner of Police to account for the exercise of his functions in London. MOPAC oversees the police and criminal justice system performance, the

budget environment, and the implementation of policies set out in MOPAC's Police and Crime Plan.

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

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

The priorities within MOPAC's Police and Crime Plan 2013-16 are:

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

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

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

It sets a total 20% reduction target over the four financial years for the following group of 'key crimes' across the whole of London by 2016/17:

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

In addition, it also sets the following individual targets to achieve by 2016/17:

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

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

Community Safety Partnership Sub-Groups

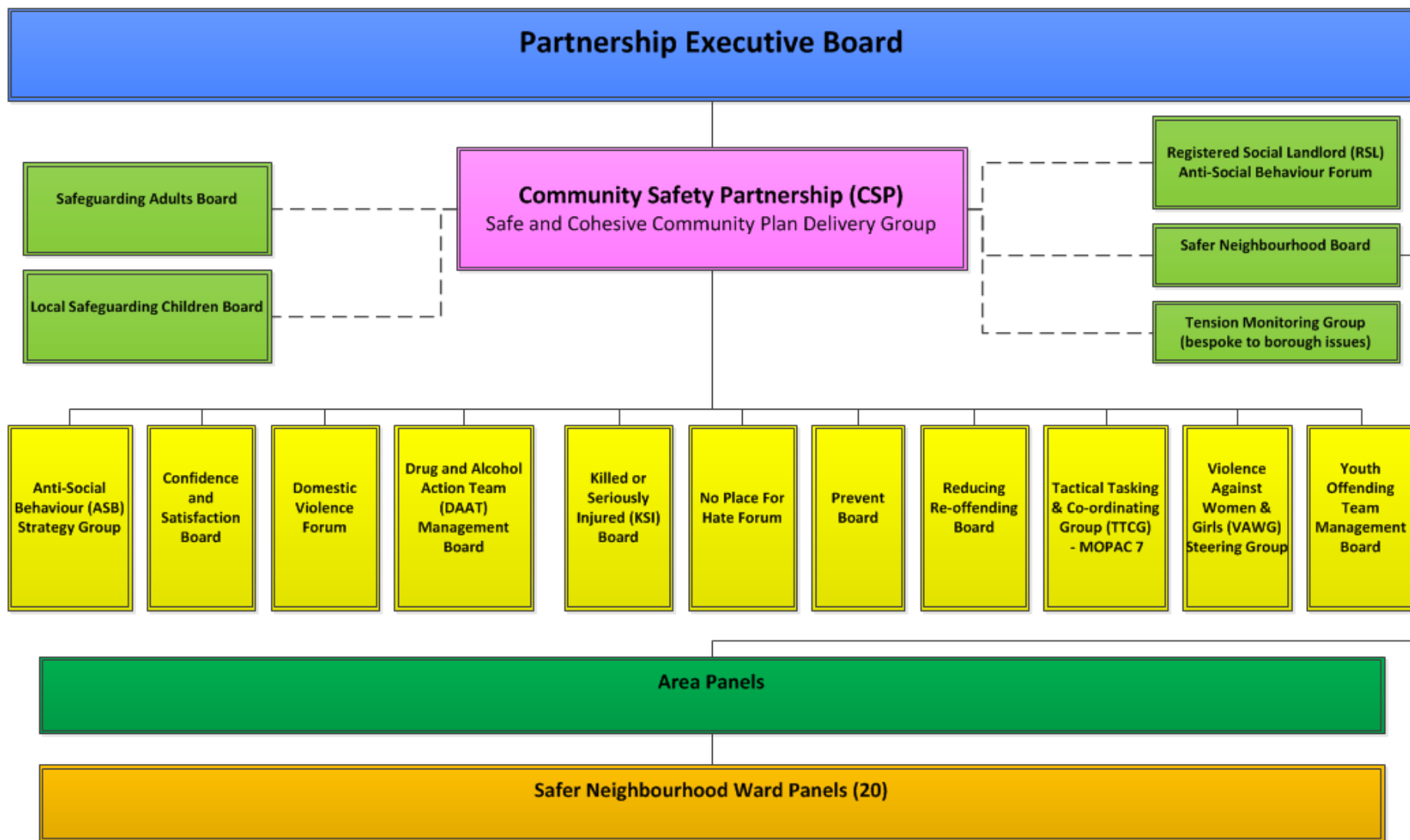
In order to co-ordinate and deliver activity in the various areas of crime, disorder, anti-social behaviour, substance misuse and reducing re-offending, the CSP has a sub-structure of groups and boards. Each sub-group/board is responsible for producing a delivery plan which aims to address the overarching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

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

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

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

Community Safety Partnership Governance 2015



Community Safety Partnership, Subgroups and Linked Boards

Community Safety Partnership

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

Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) Strategy Group

The ASB Strategy Group is chaired by the London Fire Brigade Tower Hamlets Borough Commander. The Strategy Group is made up of partner agencies with a strategic responsibility to address anti-social behaviour including arson (deliberate fire setting) in the borough, and includes representation from the Police, Council, Victim Support, London Fire Brigade, Youth Offending Service, Probation and the following ASB Partnership Boards/Groups: Registered Social Landlords ASB Forum, ASB Operations Group, ASB Partnership Action Group, ASB Legal Consultation and Certification Group, Neighbourhood Panels and Community Trigger Panel. Like all CSP Subgroups, the ASB Strategy Group is responsible for producing an annual action/delivery plan which aims to address the priorities identified in the Community Safety Partnership Plan.

Confidence & Satisfaction Board

The confidence and satisfaction of the community in our shared approach to crime and cohesion are key success measures. The Confidence and Satisfaction Board is chaired by the Police Borough Commander, with representatives from the Council, Victim Support and Safer Neighbourhood Board. It has an overview of activity to ensure that community views and concerns are understood and addressed both efficiently and effectively. It also ensures that residents have access to relevant information, including feedback on action taken. The joint board will meet on a monthly basis.

Drug and Alcohol Action Team Management Board

This board is chaired by the Corporate Director of Communities, Localities and Culture, with membership representing the CLC DAAT team, Public Health, Education, Social Care and Wellbeing, health services, the Metropolitan Police Service, National Probation Service and Community Rehabilitation Company,. It is a

statutory board with responsibilities for co-ordinating and commissioning services relating to drug / alcohol issues in the borough including; drug / alcohol treatment for adults and young people, prevention and behaviour change, licensing and regulation / enforcement.

Domestic Violence Forum

The Domestic Violence Forum is chaired by the Head of Community Safety and oversees the borough's multi-agency approach to addressing domestic violence and abuse against men, women and young people. Membership comprises approximately 100 organisations representing both statutory and voluntary service providers in the borough. The forum takes place quarterly and has oversight of key domestic violence activities including the Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (The MARAC), the Specialist Domestic Violence Court, The DV One Stop Shop, The Housing & Health DV drop-in services, The LBTH Domestic Violence duty line, training and safeguarding matters related to domestic abuse. The Forum is ultimately responsible for coordinating services within the borough for both domestic violence victims and those perpetrating violence against them.

No Place For Hate Forum

The forum brings key agencies together to work in partnership to develop and promote a co-ordinated response to hate crime in Tower Hamlets. It aims to protect and support victims, deter perpetrators, and challenge prejudice and hate. The Forum meets on a quarterly basis, and is chaired by the Chair of the borough's Interfaith Forum, with members from both statutory and voluntary organisations, including those representing specific areas or communities concerning hate crime.

Prevent Board

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

Reducing Re-offending Board

This Board is responsible for the management of offenders in the community. The board is co-chaired by a Police Superintendent and the Community Rehabilitation Company's Assistant Chief Officer and brings together a range of activity including the Priority and Prolific Offender Scheme, the Youth Offending Team, Probation and the Drugs Intervention Programme. It aims to provide a clear link from strategy to delivery between all existing offender management arrangements, to include Youth Offending Service,

MAPPA, IOM and Gangs. It is not just a liaison group but a Management Group with power to make decisions, commission reviews and allocate resources.

Safeguarding Adults Board (Linked Board)

The Safeguarding Adults Board is a statutory local partnership board in its own right under the Care Act 2014, with shared interests and a close relationship with the CSP. The multi-agency board comprises lead people from all the NHS organisations in the borough, various Council services, Police, Probation, Fire, Ambulance, Housing providers and voluntary, community and advocacy organisations. The Safeguarding Adults Board has a similar close working relationship with the Health and Wellbeing Board and the Local Safeguarding Children Board as with the Community Safety Partnership Board. It has an Independent Chair not employed by any of the member organisations. The board oversees and seeks assurance about the quality of service responses to people who are vulnerable and in need, or potentially in need, of safeguarding. It also supports and scrutinises the quality of partnership working between organisations in line with statutory and Pan-London requirements.

Local Safeguarding Children Board – (Linked Board)

This is a statutory multi-agency Partnership Board under The Children Act 2004, which has an Independent chair and comprises of lead officers from various Council services, Police, National Probation Services and Community Rehabilitation Companies, Clinical Commissioning Groups, NHS Trusts, CAFCASS and the local voluntary sector. It also includes two lay members.

The LSCB's objectives are to co-ordinate what is done by each person or body represented on the Board for the purposes of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in the borough; and to ensure the effectiveness of what is done by each person or body for those purposes. The LSCB works in partnership with the CSP to ensure that in delivering its agenda the CSP ensures that the safeguarding of children and young people remains paramount. The Independent Chair of the LSCB also has a seat on the Health and Wellbeing Board.

Tactical Tasking and Co-ordinating Group

The Group was established as part of the programme to join together partnership service delivery in the localities. It meets on a fortnightly basis and uses an analytical product/profile on current/emerging crime and anti-social behaviour issues to task police resources to respond. The overarching principle behind the Group is to ensure that local operational activity is prioritised against MPS Control Strategy priorities, which also include community concerns as determined through ward panels.

The group is chaired by the Police Borough Commander and the membership includes various ranking police officers. The London Fire Brigade and Tower Hamlets Homes are represented on group in addition to the following officers from the council;

Head of Community Safety, Head of Enforcement & Markets, ASB Analyst and Surveillance & Intelligence Officer.

Tension Monitoring Group (TMG)

This group is chaired by the Service Head of Safer Communities and acts as an operational group to monitor community tensions. The group is made up of representatives from organisations including the Interfaith Forum, the London Muslim Centre, the Council of Mosques, Rainbow Hamlets, Youth Services, Tower Hamlets Police, the Council's Safer Communities Service, Corporate Safety and Civil Protection, Communications and One Tower Hamlets.

Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) Steering Group

The VAWG Steering Group is chaired by the Head of Community Safety and oversees the borough's multi-agency approach to addressing all forms of Violence Against Women and Girls. Whilst it has an oversight of domestic violence and Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE), the detail of these are dealt with separately via the Domestic Violence Forum and LSCB CSE subgroup respectively. The other main types of violence covered include rape and sexual violence, trafficking, prostitution, female genital mutilation, forced marriage, so called 'honour' based violence, stalking and harassment. These are the Borough's strands within its Violence against Women and Girls Plan.

Membership comprises approximately a dozen individuals with responsibility for statutory services in the borough. The forum takes place quarterly and has oversight of key initiatives in this area including the Tower Hamlets Prostitution Partnership (Prostitution Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC)), the Prostitution Support Programme, and the VAWG Training and Awareness Officer. The Forum is ultimately responsible for coordination of services within the borough for both violence victims/survivors and those perpetrating violence against them.

Youth Offending Team Management Board

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

Highlights from 2014/15

The Community Safety Partnership faced a challenging year in 2013/14, with cuts to resources (both financial and human), organisational restructures and their associated added pressure on service delivery. However, partners still managed to reduce crime and disorder in the borough.

The Partnership held its third Annual CSP Conference in November 2013, with over 100 representatives from across the partnership and its many subgroups. A series of presentations were given on the new local policing model, 6 months performance against the CSP priorities, anti-social behaviour, reducing re-offending and gangs, which were then followed up with 3 workshops on the latter, to improve partnership working against these priorities. The conference was well received by all who attended.

Domestic Violence:

The last 12 months has seen numerous successes in the activities overseen by the Domestic Violence Forum. The last year has seen a successful White Ribbon week campaign, including awareness and publicity activities and members of the public signing a pledge. We have enabled 41 victims of domestic violence to get security in their homes through the Sanctuary scheme. We have provided training to a range of organisations and supported agencies to develop their own DV policies and procedures. We received a positive result from the inspection of our MARAC by CADAA.

Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG):

Over a thousand professionals, residents and young people have received training in VAWG through our VAWG Training and Awareness Officer and schools programmes. A prostitution support programme, to support women to exit sex working, has been fully established within the Council's Drugs Intervention Programme and is up and running. A prostitution coordinator post in the DIP coordinates and co-Chairs the prostitution MARAC alongside the Police. Two members of Victim Support are now in post, focusing on providing specialist support to victims of violence and sexual violence (as well as hate crime). We held a successful conference focusing on young people with over 120 attendees and developed a dedicated leaflet for young people, led by young people from the Pupil Referral Unit. We have also recruited and trained over 90 professional, school and community champions from across the borough. We have also secured funding and are beginning to deliver a programme of activity on harmful practices, mainstreamed within existing Childrens' Social Care and health settings.

Child Sexual Exploitation strand of VAWG: In 2014 the Pan-London Child Sexual Exploitation Operating Protocol was launched, to provide a unilateral multi-agency approach and principles to safeguarding children.

March 2015 saw the national launch of Operation 'Makesafe' - a campaign to bring awareness of Child Sexual Exploitation. This operation was directed at Hotels, taxi firms and licensed premises; Arming employees with knowledge to identify CSE and how to report it. Tower Hamlets Police activity on the day was to circulate promotional material to these businesses as well as local doctors' surgeries and sexual health clinics.

March 2015 also witnessed the publication of the revised Pan London CSE protocol providing best practice and advice around new tactics, such as:

- Clarity on MASE agenda, tactical options for the MASE
- New Sexual Prevention Orders
- National Referral Mechanism
- More guidance on line abuse.

In 2015 Tower Hamlets Police intend to launch a local Op Makesafe tri-borough operation, in conjunction with Hackney Police and the City of London. The iconic Guild Hall has been secured as a venue, and invitations to local business leaders within each of the 3 police areas have been delivered.

Drugs and Alcohol:

We have continued to attract drug users into treatment via a number of pathways and have widened the cohort accessing treatment with many more treatment starts amongst those using Cocaine, high strength Cannabis and a range of club / party drugs. We continue to utilise pathways through the criminal justice system with a very high pick-up rate of prison leavers.

We continue to attract risky drinkers into treatment and screened over 30,000 individuals for alcohol drinking patterns in general practice. Dedicated resource within the Royal London Hospital has been used to support drug / alcohol users into community treatment services. The number of alcohol treatment requirement orders have increased as a result of renewed focus and enhanced resources.

During the course of 2014/15, a plan for restructuring treatment services across the borough has been developed and approved to maximise opportunities for individuals to recover from their addiction(s).

We have exceeded the target for the number of successfully completed Drug Rehabilitation Requirement orders (DRRs).

Anti-Social Behaviour:

Anti-social behaviour on the Borough has reduced by 10% in the last year and those that phone police on 2 or more occasions have reduced by 4%. This has been achieved by partnership working and targeted tasking. The Borough now also has a clear multi-agency approach to vulnerable victims of ASB which is supporting those most at risk in our community.

Overall arson across the borough has fallen in the last year, with particular success in reduction of vehicle fires. However, arson in rubbish bins has risen over the past 12 months and is continuing to rise, this is despite over 1600 visual audits being carried out, which help to ensure rubbish hotspots were cleared before arson could be committed. New technology and ease of reporting rubbish will help to reduce potential arson targets caused by rubbish in the following year.

Gangs and Serious Youth Violence:

The Early Intervention and Prevention service within the Youth Offending Service has successfully engaged with young people on the Police gangs matrix, using a peer outreach youth work model. The deployment of youth workers in Royal London Hospital's paediatric A&E on weekend evenings has been fruitful, with 16 referrals in the first four weeks. As a result the small team will be bolstered by staff from the YOT, Troubled Families and Docklands Outreach service; clinical group supervision will be provided by the hospital's Safeguarding team. The use of gang "Call in's" is being planned with the Police, YOT and the hospital. An innovative and successful call in for the parents of those involved in 'Jubilee Street Massive' was held in the London Muslim Centre in April, attended by eight families and produced some very useful intelligence for the Partnership, particularly the Police (Drug dealers mobile numbers, names and addresses where the young people were harboured at night) The parents were keen to work with the Authorities as they were very concerned for the young men.

Youth Offending:

We have continued to reduce and prevent the number of young people entering the criminal justice system for the first time (FTE) through our partnership working between Police and YOTs Pre-court/Triage Team. We have reduced re-offending and Custodial Sentences in line with National targets.

Our Final Quarterly Review from the Youth Justice Board showed the following annual performance:

First Time Entrants – Our performance shows a 10.1% reduction, this is a greater reduction compared to the London and England averages, which were 7.2% and 8.7% respectively.

Frequency of re-offending - We achieved a reduction of 18.2%. The London and England averages have declined by 15.2% and 7.8% respectively.

Custody - We achieved a reduction of eight young people, equating to a 36.8% reduction. The London and England averages have both seen a reduction of 31.6% and 19.2% respectively. We can therefore claim to be the fastest improving service in the country.

The YOS Early Intervention/Prevention Team was voted Team of the Year for the Education, Social Care and Wellbeing Directorate

The latest available custody data shows a slight increase in the number of custodial episodes in the borough from 24 for the period January to December 2013 compared to 20 in the previous calendar year, our analysis reveals this to be the result of serious youth violence and Class A possession with intent to supply which means those sentences were inevitable.

The service was subject to a 'Short Quality Screening' Inspection by HMIP in late summer 2014 where our work was found to be 'satisfactory' (the only other category was 'unsatisfactory').

Reducing Re-offending:

The youth re-offending rate has been decreased by the Youth Offending Service per offender in the cohort for Apr 11 - Mar 12 (1.02), compared to the figure (1.05) for the same period of the previous year. The 1.02 rate is in line with National Performance, also at 1.02 and lower than the London performance 1.06 comparator. Caseloads in the service have gradually reduced due to our success in preventing more young people from entering the youth justice system, this has enabled an increased focus on quality and intensity in our work with the most serious offenders, although the incidence of serious and grave offences is a matter for concern which is under investigation by an independent consultant in an attempt to identify any lessons to be learnt and service improvement issues.

Public Confidence and Victim Satisfaction:

Both confidence and satisfaction measures continue to be a challenge despite previous activity. Although it should be noted that there has been a rise in satisfaction in the last quarter of 2014/15 to 76%; confidence currently stands at 60%. Action plans are being revised to better reflect activity that will enhance performance, with activity being undertaken to improve specific drivers, police action and follow up for satisfaction, and we will continue to develop public engagement opportunities to explain partnership activity to improve confidence. An overarching communication plan will be developed and we will work more closely with Victim Support

Hate Crime:

The Hate Crime Third Party Reporting Centres have been reviewed, re-trained and re-launched, to ensure they are providing a good standard of service to victims. Victim Support have 2 posts, whose remit specifically includes support for victims of hate crime and these posts are actively working on a number of hate crime cases, based in the borough. LBTH have funding for an officer in the hate crime team to engage with community organisations and the public. The No Place for Hate Campaign materials have been refreshed and continue to be publicised.

Presentations and training and awareness sessions have been provided for a number of organisations.

Tension Monitoring Group (TMG):

The TMG has strengthened its response to tackling and reducing tensions, successfully managing a number of high profile and potentially disruptive incidents.

The Group has been involved in reducing tensions that have come about from international issues but have had an impact locally, in particular the political issues in Syria.

Our success is evidenced through the boroughs annual residents' survey where the majority of residents (78%) feel that the local area is a place where people from different backgrounds get on well together. This is a positive result that has been maintained at this level for the past 8 years.

Prevent Programme Board:

We secured funding from the Home Office for projects working with a wide range of local partners, including schools, young people and parents.

We delivered and have begun to independently evaluate our 'Building Community Resilience' project (which is delivered by London Tigers). We have also undertaken training and development with youth workers to develop our work with young people relating to prevent. The success of these projects has been recognised by the Home Office and we have secured funding for these projects as well as to extend our portfolio of projects into 2014/15.

We have tackled recruitment by extremist organisations during the course of the year and have seen an increase in community venues signing up to the No Place for Hate pledge, helping to prevent such groups hiring venues in the borough. We have also delivered Prevent training to more than 100 professionals over the year.

Property Crime:

In 2014/15, over the rolling 12 month period there has been a 8.2% reduction in all burglaries (both residential and non-residential). Individually non-residential burglary has reduced by 2.2%, however residential burglary reduced by 13.4%.

Robbery in the borough has reduced by 6.7%, while theft from person has also reduced by 15%.

Theft from motor vehicle reduced by 12.7% and theft of motor vehicle has increased by 4.8%.

Killed or Seriously Injured:

During 2014/15 regular ANPR operations have been conducted by the Borough's CT Engagement Team at peak travel times using the borough's mobile ANPR vehicle and the Council's network of ANPR cameras. These operations have taken place on the main roads in the borough which have been highlighted as an issue, typically commuter routes in/out of central London.

Since January 2015, regular joint work has been conducted with Metropolitan Police colleagues from Safer Transport and Roads Policing Command (based at Bow). Every Thursday a Safer Transport Command officer works alongside borough police officers in an enforcement capacity.

Monthly Operation Safeway event with colleagues from Safer Transport and Roads Policing Command, with education and engagement activities including lorry drivers and cyclists swapping places to highlight the dangers to each from lack of awareness of the other.

Emergency Police Response Teams allocate one car every early turn shift on a daily basis to patrol the A11 corridor, paying particular attention to junctions highlighted to be at risk for road traffic incidents.

Partnership Task Force:

The Council funded Partnership Task Force police officers work to address the community's priority concerns around drugs, anti-social behaviour, prostitution and gangs. The Team are tasked along with other partnership resources to hotspots of concern based on analytical profiles through the ASB Operations Group and Tactical Tasking and Co-ordinating Group.

The PTF have worked with officers from across the partnership on a daily basis and in a highly visible way to both address community concerns and increase community presence which in turn leads to greater community confidence and a reduced fear of crime.

In 2014/15 the Partnership Task Force have made the following:

- 572 Arrests
- 31 Vehicle Seizures
- 249 Weapons Sweeps
- 109 Cannabis Warnings
- 148 Drugs Warrants Executed, which resulted in 135 arrests
- 1,028 Wraps of Class A Drugs Seized
- 395 Cannabis Plants Seized
- 3 Kilos, 196 bags and 70 Wraps of Cannabis Seized
- £295,290 Seized under the Proceeds of Crime Act

Strategic Assessment 2014

The Tower Hamlets Community Safety Partnership is required to produce an annual Strategic Assessment by the Crime & Disorder (Formulation & Implementation of Strategy) Regulations 2007. The regulations state that a strategic assessment needs to include:

- An analysis of the current community safety issues
- An analysis of the changes in those levels and patterns, and;
- The Partnership's priorities to tackle the local issues.

The Strategic Assessment 2014 has allowed the Partnership to fulfil its statutory duty to review this Community Safety Partnership Plan in 2014 and refresh it for the final year (2015/16) of its 3 year term.

The Strategic Assessment production process is reviewed on an annual basis by the CSP's Strategy Group, which is made up of senior representatives of the borough's 6 Responsible Authorities as well as the CSP Subgroup Chairs. This review enables the Partnership to ensure that the Strategic Assessment contains and analyses all the key information required for the CSP to be able to effectively review its Community Safety Partnership Plan annually.

The partnership examined the context of current themes within community safety and took into account key national, regional and local priorities.

The Strategic Assessment was developed based on close analysis of data against the CSP's 30 priority performance indicators across its 8 priority themes (see below). Performance is monitored as part of the CSP's Priority Performance Dashboard at CSP meetings on a bi-monthly basis and at the relevant CSP Subgroup meetings.

The Partnership believed that these Priority Themes are the most efficient way to monitor data, and take into account the national, regional and local priorities. The eight themes are:

- Youth Crime (Gangs and Serious Youth Violence) (3 indicators)
- Anti-Social Behaviour (inc. Arson) (3 indicators)
- Drugs and Alcohol (5 indicators)
- Violence (including Domestic Violence and Violence against Women and Girls) (3 indicators)
- Hate Crime and Cohesion (3 indicators)
- Public Confidence & Victim Satisfaction (3 indicators)
- Reducing Re-offending (3 indicators)
- Killed or Seriously Injured (1 indicator)
- Property Crime (5 indicators)
- MOPAC (1 Indicator)

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

- Data and Analysis: 1st October 2013 – 30th September 2014
- Trends over the last 3 years (October 2011 – September 2014)

In addition to the information supplied by the statutory partners, additional information was provided by Victim Support, Registered Social Landlords and Voluntary and Community Organisations in the borough, including Victims equalities data, Killed or Seriously Injured equalities data as well as Stop & Search data from MOPAC.

Please note:

Due to the time scales and production schedule for the Community Safety Plan, we are unable to use full financial year figures to base the plan on.

Performance from Strategic Assessment 2014

1st October 2011 – 30th September 2014

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

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

Priority A: Gangs and Serious Youth Violence						
Performance Indicator	Lead Agency for performance indicator & CSP Subgroup	Performance 2011/12 (Oct – Sept)	Performance 2012/13 (Oct – Sept)	Performance 2013/14 (Oct – Sept)	Difference (+/-%) 2013/14 - 2012/13	Direction of Travel Oct 2011 – Sept 2014
Number of young people engaged with from the Police Gang Matrix	Police / YOS (YOT MB)	-	5 from top 10 25 associates	12 from top 10 Up to 5 associates per individual	+140%	-
Number of young people entering the Youth Justice System for the first time	LBTH (YOT MB)	195 (12 months to June 2012)	133 (12 months to June 2013)	102 (12 months to June 2014)	-23.3%	-47.7%
% of custodial sentences compared to all court disposals	LBTH – YOT (YOT MB)	24 (5.8%) 24/413	20 (5.3%) 20/379	16 (7%) 16/230	-4 (+1.7%)	-8 (+1.2%)

Priority B: Anti-Social Behaviour (including Arson)						
Performance Indicator	Lead Agency for performance indicator	Performance 2011/12 (Oct – Sept)	Performance 2012/13 (Oct – Sept)	Performance 2013/14 (Oct – Sept)	Difference (+/-%) 2013/14 – 2012/13	Direction of Travel Oct 2011 – Sept 2014
Number of Police CAD calls for ASB	Police (ASB OG)	17,784	17,452	16,052	-1400 (-8%)	-1,732 (-9.7%)
Number of Arson incidents (all deliberate fires)	London Fire Brigade (ASB OG)	481	390	345	-45 (-11.5%)	-135 (-28.3%)
Number of Repeat Victims of ASB		736	749	735	-14 (-2%)	-1 (-0.1%)

Priority C: Drugs and Alcohol						
Performance Indicator	Lead Agency for performance indicator	Performance 2011/12 (Oct – Sept)	Performance 2012/13 (Oct – Sept)	Performance 2013/14 (Oct – Sept)	Difference (+/-%) 2013/14 – 2012/13	Direction of Travel Oct 2011 – Sept 2014
Number of alcohol users engaging in structured treatment Restricted NDTMS Data – Not for Public*	LBTH (DAAT)					
Percentage of successful completions (drug treatment) who do not re-present within 6 months: A) Opiates Restricted NDTMS Data – Not for Public*	LBTH (DAAT)					
Percentage of successful completions (drug treatment) who do not re-present within 6 months: B) Non-opiates Restricted NDTMS Data – Not for Public*	LBTH (DAAT)					
Number of clients on IARP caseload also in structured treatment for A) Opiates	LBTH (DAAT)	Q3 375 (23%) Q4 367 (22%) Q1 No Data Q2 360 (23%)	Q3 364 (23%) Q4 334 (23%) Q1 385 (26%) Q2 382 (26%)	Q3 373 (25%) Q4 374 (26%) Q1 375(26%) Q2 367(25.7%)	+9 (+2%) +40 (+3%) -10 (0%) -15 (-0.3%)	-2 (+2%) +7 (+4%) NA +7 (+2.7%)
Number of clients on IARP caseload also in structured treatment for B) Non-opiates	LBTH (DAAT)	Q3 41 (20%) Q4 35 (16%) Q1 No Data Q2 22 (10%)	Q3 14 (7%) Q4 16 (8%) Q1 27 (14%) Q2 27 (13%)	Q3 28 (13%) Q4 38 (17%) Q1 27 (18.8%) Q2 25 (17.1%)	+14 (+6%) +22 (+9%) (+4.8%) -2 (+4.1%)	-13 (-7%) +3 (+1%) NA +3 (+7.1%)
Number of clients on IARP caseload also in structured treatment for C) Alcohol	LBTH (DAAT)			Q1 58 (11.7%) Q2 46 (9.6%)	-	-
Number of arrests made under 'Dealer a Day'	Police (TTCG)	415	313	340	+27 (+8.6%)	-75 (-18%)

*NTDMS (National Drug Treatment Monitoring System) data is restricted to the Community Safety Partnership for monitoring purposes only, it is not suitable for publishing in public documents and for this reason has been removed from this document prior to publishing.

Priority D: Violence (inc. Domestic Violence and Violence Against Women and Girls)

** Please note: Due to historic under reporting of violence against women and girls, significant work is being undertaken to increase both confidence in reporting and early reporting of these offences/crimes, to ensure that the actual levels are established. More importantly, so that the victim/survivors receive partnership support at the earliest possible opportunity. Due to this work, we hope that this will have an impact (increase) on the number of reports of violence against women and girls, particularly the Number of Domestic Violence Offences, Rapes and Other Serious Sexual Offences as seen below.

Performance Indicator	Lead Agency for performance indicator	Performance 2011/12 (Oct – Sept)	Performance 2012/13 (Oct – Sept)	Performance 2013/14 (Oct – Sept)	Difference (+/-%) 2013/14 – 2012/13	Direction of Travel Oct 2011 – Sept 2014
Number of Violence with Injury (Non-Domestic Abuse)	Police (TTCG)	1548	1528	1,751	+223 (+15%)	+203 (+13.1%)
Number of Violence with Injury (Domestic Abuse)	Police (TTCG)	538	719	726	+7 (+1%)	+188 (+34.9%)
Number of Rapes and Other Serious Sexual Offences**	Police (TTCG)	455	489	584	+95 (+19%)	+129 (+28.3%)

Priority F: Hate Crime and Cohesion

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

Performance Indicator	Lead Agency for performance indicator	Performance 2011/12 (Oct – Sept)	Performance 2012/13 (Oct – Sept)	Performance 2013/14 (Oct-Sept)	Difference (+/-%) 2013/14 – 2012/13	Direction of Travel (Oct 2010 – Sept 2013)
Total Number of Hate Crimes reported to Police Please see above explanatory note	Police (NPFHF)	728	907	1002	+95 (+10.4%)	+274 (+37.6%)
Overall Hate Crime Sanction Detection (SD) Rate	Police (NPFHF)	297 (41%)	425 (47%)	271 (27%)	-154 (-20 percentage points)	-26 (-14 percentage points)
% of people who believe people from different backgrounds get on well together in their local area	LBTH (PTMG)	78% (sample size 1171)	81% (Sample Size 1192)	78% (Sample Size 1147)	-3 percentage points	-

Priority G: Killed or Seriously Injured on our roads

Performance Indicator	Lead Agency for performance indicator	Performance 2011/12 (Oct – Sept)	Performance 2012/13 (Oct – Sept)	Performance 2013/14 (Oct-Sept)	Difference (+/-%) 2013/14 – 2012/13	Direction of Travel (Oct 2010 – Sept 2013)
Number of persons killed or seriously injured on road	Police (KSI)	142 Aug 2011 – July 2012	132 Aug 2012 – July 2013	44 Aug 2013 – July 2014	-88 (-67%)	-98 (-69%)

Priority H: Property / Serious Acquisitive Crime

Performance Indicator	Lead Agency for performance indicator	Performance 2011/12 (Oct – Sept)	Performance 2012/13 (Oct – Sept)	Performance 2013/14 (Oct-Sept)	Difference (+/-%) 2013/14 – 2012/13	Direction of Travel (Oct 2011 – Sept 2014)
Number of Personal Robberies	Police (TTCG)	1,320	1,253	1,095	-158 (-12.6%)	-225 (-17%)
Number of Residential Burglaries	Police (TTCG)	1,367	1,533	1,206	-327 (-21.3%)	-161 (-11.8%)
Number of Theft of Motor Vehicle	Police (TTCG)	836	852	907	+55 (+6.4%)	+71 (+8.5%)
Number of Thefts from Motor Vehicle	Police (TTCG)	1,714	1,695	1,620	-75 (-4.4%)	-94 (-5.5%)
Number of Thefts from Persons	Police (TTCG)	1,754	1,708	1,261	-447 (-26.1%)	-493 (-28.1%)

Cross-Cutting Priority 1: Public Confidence and Victim Satisfaction

Performance Indicator	Lead Agency for performance indicator	Performance 2011/12 (Oct – Sept)	Performance 2012/13 (Oct – Sept)	Performance 2013/14 (Oct – Sept)	Difference (+/-%) 2013/14 – 2012/13	Direction of Travel (Oct 2011 – Sept 2014)
Percentage of Community Concerned about ASB: A) residents who feel that people using or dealing drugs is a very or fairly big problem	(LBTH) (TMG)	53%	55%	59%	+4 percentage points	+6 percentage points
Percentage of Community Concerned about ASB: B) residents who feel that Rubbish and Litter lying around is a very or fairly big problem	LBTH (TMG)	52%	50%	55%	+5 percentage points	+3 percentage points
Percentage of Community Concerned about ASB: C) residents who feel that people being drunk or rowdy is a very or fairly big problem	LBTH (TMG)	43%	46%	50%	+4 percentage points	+7 percentage points
Percentage of Community Concerned about ASB: D) residents who feel that vandalism, graffiti and criminal damage is a very or fairly big problem	LBTH (TMG)	41%	43%	39%	-4 percentage points	-2 percentage points
Overall Victim Satisfaction (with Police Service)	Police (Satisfaction Board)	70% (FY 11/12)	74% (FY 12/13)	72% (FY 13/14)	-2 percentage points	+2 percentage points
Overall confidence of Police doing a good job	Police (Confidence Board)	63% (July 12 – June 13)	61% (FY 12/13)	55% (current figure at time of writing)	-6 percentages points	-8 percentages points

Cross-cutting Priority 2: Reducing Re-offending

Performance Indicator	Lead Agency for performance indicator	Performance 2011/12 (Oct – Sept)	Performance 2012/13 (Oct – Sept)	Performance 2013/14 (Oct – Sept)	Difference (+/-%) 2013/14 – 2012/13	Direction of Travel (Oct 2011 – Sept 2014)
Number of offenders on IOM Cohort 18+ who have reduced offending – Red to Green on Cohort	Probation (RRB)	-	-	Unable to compare as data only available monthly from May – Nov 2014		
Number of young offenders in any reduced re-offending cohort	YJB (YOT MB)	-	-	Unable to compare data based on format released in		
Re-offending rates	Probation (RRB)	2011 Frequency Rate 0.96 Binary Rate 38.8%	2012 Frequency Rate 1.17 Binary Rate 41.5%	Data not available for comparison		

Public Consultation

As part of the Partnership's statutory duties to consult the community on community safety in the borough, an extensive 5 week public consultation took place during May and June 2012. The consultation asked members of the public (residents and business people), partnership and community groups/organisations for their top three community safety priorities.

People were made aware of the consultation via press articles, letters and email alerts. They were given the opportunity to attend their local Police Safer Neighbourhood Team's Public Meeting, a Borough Public Meeting or a Members' Consultation Session. In addition they could reply in writing /email or respond via the dedicated webpage.

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

Results:

Based solely on the number of selections by members of the public in Tower Hamlets across all the different collection methods, the top 4 community safety priorities for the Community Safety Plan 2013-16 are:

1) Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)	298
2) Serious Acquisitive Crime	200
3) Drugs and Alcohol	196
- Violence	196

In 2013/14 as part of the Partnership's statutory duty to consult, the Partnership held four Resident's Question Time public meetings, where anyone in the borough was able to raise community safety issues with senior officers from the Partnership. During these four themed events the residents' and local community groups' main concerns were:

- Drugs & Alcohol
- Anti-Social Behaviour
- Serious Acquisitive Crime
- Violence (including Violence Against Women and Girls)
- Reducing Re-offending
- Public Confidence

Priorities – How the Partnership Decided

In December 2012, the Community Safety Partnership was presented with the Strategic Assessment 2012, an Executive Summary of the Strategic Assessment 2012, the Public Consultation Report and a paper which made recommendations based on their findings. These documents were used along with internal/external partnership priorities, when the partnership originally set its priorities for the full term of the plan back in March 2013.

It is a statutory duty of the Community Safety Partnership to review the Community Safety Plan annually, based on the findings of its annual Strategic Assessment.

In February 2015, the Community Safety Partnership was presented with the Strategic Assessment 2014, which included public consultation findings from 2014/15 and made recommendations to the Partnership.

The recommendations took into account the original Community Safety Partnership Plan 2013-16 Priorities, areas where trends were going in the wrong direction, areas which the partner agencies had highlighted as being priorities for all the partnership and existing priorities external to the partnership i.e. Home Office, MOPAC and Community Plan as well as the public's perception/priorities.

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

Priorities for 2013 -2016

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

As part of the Community Safety Partnership's statutory duty to review its Plan on an annual basis, in March 2015 the CSP Co-chairs reviewed the current CSP Plan Priorities based on the findings of the 2014 Strategic Assessment and agreed that the following would be the priorities for the final year (2015/16) of this Plan's 3 year term:

- **Gangs and Serious Youth Violence**
- **Anti-Social Behaviour and Arson**
- **Drugs and Alcohol**
- **Violence (inc. Domestic Violence & Violence Against Women and Girls)**
- **Prostitution**
- **Hate Crime and Cohesion**
- **Killed or Seriously Injured**
- **Property / Serious Acquisitive Crime**
- **Public Confidence & Victim Satisfaction**
- **Reducing Re-offending**
- **MOPAC 7**

Priority A:

Gangs and Serious Youth Violence

Why is it a priority?

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

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

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

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

Responsible Board/CSP Sub-group:

Youth Offending Team Management Board
Operational Gangs Partnership

What will we aim to achieve this year?

- Reduce the levels of ASB, Drugs, Homicide, Firearms discharges, Knife crime, and Serious Youth Violence
- Reduce First Time Entrants (FTE) to the youth justice system by early intervention
- Reduce the harm caused by street gangs across the borough
- Reduce re-offending
- Reduce the use of custody, especially remands into custody
- Focus activity towards offenders who present most risk and harm to the community

^[1] ONS 2011 Census

^[2] GLA SHLAA population projections – 2012 Round

- Support interventions to prevent young people from becoming involved in gang crime, radicalisation and serious youth violence
- Improve the numbers of young offenders in Education, Training and Employment
- With partners, offer practical assistance to individuals wishing to stop their involvement in gang criminality
- Engage young people on the periphery of gangs in positive activities
- Deliver sturdy enforcement of the law against those who persist with gang criminality, ASB, drugs, knife crime and youth violence
- Make best use of all available Criminal Justice opportunities to prevent and disrupt gang criminality and bring offenders before the courts
- Train magistrates in the work we are doing in respect of gangs
- Ensure there is process for the community to provide information and we can demonstrate it has been acted upon
- Run a violent offender group-work programme via the Youth Offending Service
- Become actively involved in the Safe and Secure Project
- Work with Troubled Families, the Youth Service and Docklands Outreach to increase and improve our work with the Trauma unit (A&E screening and outreach to young victims of violence) at The Royal London Hospital
- The hospital is reporting growing numbers of stabbing injuries and one wounding by gunshot. Between Jan-October 2014: 430 people were seen at the Royal London with serious stab wounds. In the last 10 days 19th-29th of June 2015 there was 22 serious assaults with knives and 1 gunshot wound. The ages range from 12-25. It is important to note that the majority of patients do not come from Tower Hamlets, with approximately 2 within the 10 days data that came from Tower Hamlets postcodes.

How will we measure success?

- Number of Serious Youth Violence incidents
- Number of young people engaged with through the Police Gang Matrix
- Reduction in the number of First Time Entrants into the Criminal Justice System
- Number of young people from Police Gang Matrix:
 - Placed in Education, Training or Employment
 - Placed in suitable housing
- Re-offending Rates
- Police Public Attitude Survey
- Community Tension Reports
- Reducing Youth on Youth Violence through Rapid Response Team in identified Hotspot zones (identified by partners)
- YJB YOT rating reports (quarterly)
- Number of young people engaged via staff deployment in RLH A&E and Trauma ward.
- Number of young offenders given custodial sentences for SYV

How will we do this?

Youth Offending

- Identification and Priority Cohort – the key trigger for diversion and engagement targeted support and enforcement measures will be based on intelligence about young people shared between key partners and stakeholders.
- Support and enforcement to Young people (8-17 years) at risk of involvement in violent behaviour (including victims of SYV); those seeking a route out of violence and gang culture; and those being considered for enforcement measures due to refusing to exit violent lifestyles.
- Referrals will continue to come from schools to the Social Inclusion Panel and support will extend to siblings of the target cohort as well as children of adult offenders via the Youth Inclusion Support Programme. The Youth Offending Prevention Service will build on its existing referral mechanisms for parents and self-referrals.
- Referrals from Royal London Hospital A&E and Trauma wards
- We will also build on the Council's current arrangements for ASB enforcement measures and Gang Injunctions to ensure that young people have access to support services to prevent further escalation.
- Young people supported through diversion and engagement will be formally assessed using the Youth Justice Board's assessment framework. Assessments will aid the development of integrated action plans for each young person, determine and manage risks, taking into account safeguarding concerns.
- Interventions will be initiated via letter to both the young person and his/her guardian.
- Support available includes education, training, employment, accommodation (Police – Safe and Secure Initiative), substance misuse services, parental support, violent offenders/identity workshops, mentoring and positive activities, health and emotional wellbeing services and having a named key-worker.
- Early enforcement includes Behaviour Contracts (including exclusion zones and prohibitions), joint home visits and we would like to introduce the use of 'Buddi' monitoring tags.
- Civil enforcement including Gang Injunctions, Parenting Orders, Anti-Social Behaviour Orders and Individual Support Orders.

Integrated Youth and Community Service

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

Troubled Families Programme

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

Police

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

LSCB

LSCB to take forward actions identified in the Thematic Review – Older Children Who Have Caused Serious Harm or Come to Harm

What we will aim to achieve over the 3 years?

Over the next 3 years we will:

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

Priority B:

Anti-Social Behaviour and Arson

Why is it a priority?

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

Arson for the purpose of this plan refers to deliberate fire setting in the borough and the majority of this is in relation to deliberate bin fires on our housing estates, which can cause a significant threat to life due to the risks of these fires spreading to residential properties.

Responsible Board/CSP Sub-group:

Tactical Tasking and Co-ordinating Group
ASB Strategy Group

What will we aim to achieve this year?

- To better identify all incidents reported to partners in conjunction with Police data, to better identify all victims of ASB within the borough and provide a quality response to their needs.
- To reduce the number of callers who phone Police more than 10 times alleging anti-social behaviour issues
- To reduce the number of anti-social behaviour incidents recorded on the Police Computer Aided Despatch (CAD) system
- To reduce the number of anti-social behaviour incidents reported to Registered Social Landlords
- Reduce the number of incidents of Vandalism
- Reduce overall incidents of arson

How will we measure success?

- Number of calls to Police (101 or 999) for ASB**
- RSL ASB (no. of ASB incidents reported) data
- Number of young people engaged by the Youth Inclusion and Support Programme
- Number of incidents of Criminal Damage
- Improved Public Confidence and Victim Satisfaction

** Using Metropolitan Police definition of Anti-social behaviour

- Number of Arson incidents – All Deliberate Fires
- Number of Accidental Dwelling Fires
- Number of Primary Fires in Non-Domestic Buildings

How will we do this?

- Regular meetings between Police, Fire Brigade, Council ASB and Integrated Youth & Community Service (especially Rapid Response Team) together with key partners (including Housing Providers) to prioritise identified problems and tasking of resources committed to the reduction of anti-social behaviour
- Better identification of ASB through enhanced information sharing, improved data collection, recording and analysis
- By ensuring all activity is recorded on relevant systems to monitor individual team performance
- By every cluster/ward team being measured as to their success and levels of intervention
- By better use and co-ordination of civil tools and legislative powers available to landlords to tackle ASB in neighbourhoods
- By more use of informal tools, such as agreements and undertakings available to landlords to prevent and tackle ASB such as ABCs (Anti-Social Behaviour Contracts)
- By RSLs exploring opportunities to work in partnership to prevent crime and anti-social behaviour in their neighbourhoods and utilise 'secure by design' principles
- By engaging young people into universal services in their locality
- By maximising young people's participation during school holiday periods through Integrated Youth and Community Services programmes/initiatives
- By appropriate tasking of Tower Hamlets Enforcement Officers (THEOs) in order to build on the successful enforcement and reassurance patrols to tackle ASB and other community concerns
- By developing the ASB Partnership Action Group to support vulnerable victims of ASB
- LFB will work closely with LBTH and housing providers to reduce levels of rubbish that become arson targets
- LFB will work with LBTH and housing providers to develop easier and clearer reporting methods for residents to report rubbish accumulation

What we will aim to achieve over the 3 years?

- Through enhanced police and partnership activity we will seek a minimum 10% year on year reduction in the number of reported ASB
- We will identify ASB incidents initially reported as crime, ensuring ownership and commitment by their Neighbourhood Policing Team, so that all victims receive a quality service
- We will improve our standing from 2nd highest borough contributor of ASB in London to 5th highest or better
- Respond to new legislation and ensure any new powers for CSP agencies are utilised to prevent and respond to anti-social behaviour

- We will identify potential ASB perpetrators early, refer, develop a support/development plan and engage them onto positive activities through Targeted Youth Support Service
- Reduction in the Number of Incidents of Vandalism
- We will support vulnerable victims of ASB by working in partnership with key agencies

Priority C:

Drugs and Alcohol

Why is it a priority?

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

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

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

Responsible Board/CSP Sub-group:

Drug and Alcohol Action Team (DAAT) Management Board

What will we aim to achieve this year?

- Ensure school staff, pupils and parents receive substance misuse education
- Understand local trends in alcohol and drug consumption so that they inform the borough's Needs Assessment which in turn shapes service provision
- Report the number of young offenders screened and engaged by the YOT substance misuse worker
- Strengthen primary care responses to substance misuse
- Increase the number of alcohol screenings across the borough in primary care, hostel accommodation, police custody suites and hospitals, with referrals into treatment services
- Increase the number of drug users accessing targeted interventions who are identified via Police custody suite screening and widen the testing from Class A
- Increase the number of 18-24 year olds referred and engaging in treatment for drug and alcohol problems, including those at risk of harm from novel psychoactive substances
- Re-procure all drug / alcohol treatment services to deliver the innovative model of recovery support agreed in 2014/15.
- Combat sales to underage drinkers including proxy sales including using young offenders as part of community reparation
- Disrupt the supply of drugs, including harmful legal highs, through effective enforcement and legislation
- Develop and adopt a new Substance Misuse Strategy for 2016-2019

How will we measure success?

- Number of users of opiates that left drug treatment successfully (free of drug(s) dependence) who do not then re-present to treatment again within 6 months, as a percentage of the total number of opiate users in treatment
- Number of alcohol users engaging in structured treatment
- Number of DIP clients engaging in structured treatment
- Number of young people entering structured drug / alcohol treatment
- Number of planned exits from alcohol treatment
- Number of 'Dealer a Day' arrests

How will we do this?

- Provide training to schools, parents and peer educators on substance misuse education
- Introduce of quality and performance indicators linked to alcohol screening across St Bart's Health and borough hostels.
- Implement targeted interventions for 18-24 year olds and ensure adult treatment providers offer an appropriate approach for them.
- Conduct the defined procurement process to award contracts for new drug / alcohol treatment services
- Conduct underage alcohol sales operations which are supported by information and education for licensees on their legal obligations and follow up illegal sales with well-publicised prosecutions.
- Educate frontline professionals and residents about the harms and risks associated with the use of legal highs.
- Use all available legislation to limit the supply of harmful legal highs
- Continue to deliver the 'Dealer a Day' operation which aims to arrest a drug dealer every day of the year.

What we will aim to achieve over the 3 years?

- Review provision and configuration of drug and alcohol treatment for adults; including a redesign of treatment provision; facilitate a widespread consultation and an equalities impact assessment

Priority D:

Violence (inc. Domestic Violence and Violence Against Women & Girls)

Why is it a priority?

Violent crime is defined by the Home Office as robbery, sexual offences and violence against a person (ranging from assault without injury to homicide). The number of incidences of Most Serious Violence (GBH and above) in the borough has shown a significant increase over the 12 months measured in the Strategic Assessment 2013, up by 48% (173 incidents).

The strategic assessment figures above show that the number of Domestic Violence with Injury Offences has increased over the last 2 years i.e. since the baseline year (Oct 11-Sept 12), it has increased by 34.9% (188 recorded incidents), however it has remained stable in the last year compared to the previous year. This increase in domestic violence offences being recorded by the Police could be attributable to an increase in incidents being recorded as crimes rather than “non-crime incidents”, although at present there is no data to support an increase in the proportion of incidents that are treated as crimes by the Police. It is hoped that the data is attributable to increased reporting rates, as so much of our partnership work is focussed on increasing confidence in reporting, to address the huge problem of underreporting of this type of crime.

Domestic violence affects both adults and children and has serious consequences for victims and witnesses. Evidence shows that domestic violence is experienced for a number of years, on average, before it is reported to the police for the first time.

Particular focus will be placed on Domestic Violence within this priority as well as all of the other strands of Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) contained within the borough’s VAWG Plan, namely:

- Rape and Sexual Violence
- Domestic Violence (DV)
- Trafficking
- Prostitution
- Sexual Exploitation (including Child Sexual Exploitation)
- Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)
- Forced Marriage (FM)
- So called Honour Based Violence (HBV)
- Dowry Related Abuse
- Harassment
- Stalking

Across the partnership we have agreed to adopt the cross-Government definition of domestic violence and abuse which reads: -

"Any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive or threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between those aged 16 or over who are or have been intimate partners or family members regardless of gender or sexuality."

This definition incorporates most of the VAWG strands and a wide range of abusive and controlling behaviours including physical, sexual, financial, emotional and psychological abuse, which contribute to the increase in violence across the borough. Whilst the cross-Government definition does only include those who are 16 or over, in Tower Hamlets our partnership work ensures that there is no age barrier to local partners working together to address domestic abuse, with local processes such as MARAC being inclusive of domestic violence cases at any age. The cross-cutting nature of the Violence Against Women and Girls agenda means that responsibility for tackling these issues falls across a wide range of different agencies. Co-ordinating service provision and ensuring clear governance and accountability for this agenda is therefore a key challenge and a priority for the borough.

Responsible Board/CSP Sub-group:

Borough Crime Tasking Group
Domestic Violence (DV) Forum
Violence Against Women & Girls (VAWG) Steering Group

What will we aim to achieve this year?

- A reduction in the volume of non-domestic violence recorded Violence with injury compared with 2012/13 performance
- An increase in the proportion of domestic incidents that are recorded as crimes versus non-crime incidents by the Police.
- Improved sanctioned Detection rates for violence with injury (domestic and non-domestic) i.e. offences brought to justice.
- Increase in the reporting of domestic abuse and sexual violence to the Police
- Developing partnership work across the borough to ensure that Safeguarding Policies are adhered to by all agencies
- Increase in third party reports and an increase in the number of third party reporting sites that are operational.
- Further development of the DV One Stop Service in its new location and with its expanded remit across all the VAWG strands.
- Increase the number of DV perpetrators being referred to and accessing perpetrator programmes within the borough
- Run a violent offender group-work programme in the Youth Offending Team including an offensive weapon and joint enterprise session.
- Reduce the number of incidents of Violence with Injury
- Increased numbers of Tower Hamlets service users accessing the Haven, the Independent Sexual Violence Adviser (ISVA) and East London Rape Crisis (ELRC)
- Increased numbers of female genital mutilation (FGM) cases identified
- Increased numbers of victims of trafficking or sexual exploitation identified and supported through specialist services.

How will we measure success?

- Number of Most Serious Violence offences per 1000 of the population
- Number of Gun Crimes
- Number of Knife Crimes
- Number of incidents of Violence with injury
- Number of Domestic Violence with Injury offences recorded by the Police
- Number of incidents of non-Domestic Violence with Injury
- Number of DV Murders recorded by the Police
- Number of Domestic Violence Offences recorded by the Police
- Number of Domestic incidents (non-crimes) recorded by the Police
- Percentage of total domestic reports to the Police that are recorded as offences versus percentage recorded as non-crime incidents
- Domestic Violence Sanction Detection (SD) Rate
- Domestic Offence Arrest Rate
- Number of Rapes
- Rape Sanction Detection (SD) Rate
- Number of other Serious Sexual Offences
- Other Serious Sexual Offences Sanction Detection (SD) Rate
- Number of young people reported as missing from care or at risk of sexual exploitation, to Children's Services
- Number of cases referred to the MASE
- Number of service users presenting to sexual violence services in the borough
- Numbers referred to the MARAC
- Numbers of repeat referrals to the MARAC
- Number of women referred to the Prostitution MARAC
- Number of women re-referred to the Prostitution MARAC
- Number of women receiving de-infibulation services (for FGM) at Mile End Hospital
- Number of women who have undergone FGM reported to midwifery/sexual health services
- Numbers of people reporting HBV or FM (police and other partner data)
- Number of successful diversion from court outcomes for offences related to prostitution
- Number of test on arrest for drugs and alcohol when arrested for prostitution related offences
- Number of CRIS reports with flags for stalking or harassment
- Number of women and girls reported to the national referral mechanism for trafficking

How will we do this?

- The Council will continue to develop partnership working with the Police, Health and the Voluntary Sector, to increase the reporting of domestic abuse and provide more reporting centres.
- The Police will work to the 'action plans' for Violence with Injury and Domestic Violence which are designed to drive forward performance.
- The Council Domestic Violence and Hate Crime team will drive the Domestic Violence Forum and its action plan, developing and coordinating services and undertaking training and awareness raising activities.

- The Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) Strategy Manager will deliver against the VAWG Action Plan, ensuring that specific partnership activity takes places against each of the VAWG strands above, coordinating services across the borough and coordinating training and awareness raising activities on VAWG issues.
- Development of services to tackle VAWG and support victims, including specific case management services.

Role of the Domestic Violence and Hate Crime Team in relation to Domestic Violence and VAWG

- Running the Domestic Violence Forum, VAWG Steering Group and VAWG e-forum.
- Managing the Victim Support contract for Independent Domestic Violence Advisers and Violent Crime Caseworkers
- Co-ordinating The Tower Hamlets Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC): attended by key officers from the Police, Council and a range of other agencies. The MARAC meets fortnightly to share information and identify safety planning actions for agencies in high risk cases.
- Oversight, through the VAWG Steering Group of the prostitution work managed by the DIP, including the Police Vice Team, Open Doors Service and Tower Hamlets' Prostitution Partnership (THPP) meetings: interagency case meetings regarding sex workers
- Through the VAWG Steering Group, develop and oversee services to respond to all strands of VAWG
- Running the VAWG Champions Programme
- Running the Sanctuary Scheme to provide physical security measures in victim's homes.
- Servicing the Domestic Violence duty line providing advice and guidance to professionals and members of the public
- Receive and record DV1 referrals (inter-agency referral form) and maintain records of these through the borough's DV database
- Coordinate and support the Partnership DV One Stop Shop
- Hold DV Drop in surgeries including at the Barkantine and Homeless Person's Unit
- Coordinate the Specialist Domestic Violence Court for Tower Hamlets and Hackney
- Raise awareness and promote reporting amongst professionals and the public, in particular by providing training
- Coordinate and support the multi-agency forum on FGM
- Work with school staff, governors and parents, to enable young people to increase their awareness of VAWG and recognise when they are at risk
- Support agencies to identify and support people that are at risk of VAWG.

What we will aim to achieve over the 3 years?

- The Police will continue to work towards the MOPAC directive to achieve a 20% reduction in 'key crime' (Including Violence with Injury) by the end of 2015/16 performance year. The contribution to this performance through 2013/14 will be a 5% Reduction in Violent Crime married with a 34% detection rate against the 2012/13 performance year. A focus on Violence with Injury offences and building on the

success of Op Equinox the MPS Corporate Operation in the reduction of Violence with Injury (non DA).

- Reduce the length of time that individuals experience domestic abuse for before they report it.
- Increase awareness of domestic abuse and violence and increase reporting of domestic abuse to the Police.
- Increase awareness of all forms of VAWG and increase reporting to Police and other agencies
- Increase consistency of approach to addressing issues of domestic abuse across agencies, in particular by increasing the amount of training provided to professionals in front line services,.
- Increase referrals to the MARAC and THPP, with a particular focus on all strands of VAWG.
- Develop specialist services for victims/ survivors of each VAWG strand.
- Develop educational and training resources for professionals and schools on how to appropriately respond on cases of VAWG.
- Increase the safety and health of street based sex workers and reduce associated ASB.

Priority E

Prostitution

Why is it a priority?

Prostitution in the borough is a new standalone priority to the CSP as of April 2015, formerly covered by Violence Against Women and Girls and Anti-Social Behaviour. The CSP has taken the decision to separate this out of both existing priorities to ensure that the impact that Prostitution has on both those involved and the surrounding neighbourhoods is recognised and addressed as a priority.

Women who sex work often experience complex needs for support for drug and alcohol misuse as well as underlying health and wellbeing issues which need to be addressed to enable their safe exit.

For those in the neighbouring community affected by prostitution (whether street-based or off street locations including brothels), it is often seen as anti-social behaviour which is having a detrimental impact of their quality of life, either from witnessing the act or the waste products left afterwards, to harassment alarm and distress both the prostitute and those involved in prostitution cause.

Work carried out by the CSP to address prostitution and its causes will have a positive impact on the performance against other interrelated CSP Priorities of Anti-Social Behaviour, Drugs and Alcohol and Violence Against Women and Girls.

Responsible Board/CSP Sub-group:

Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) Steering Group

What will we aim to achieve this year?

- Development of multi-agency coordination and accountability for prostitution
- Women with 'red flag' indicators are supported to reduce their risk through an holistic support package provided by a dedicated case management service
- Women engaged in prostitution are offered holistic support across health, housing, education and criminal justice
- Agencies across Tower Hamlets feel supported to support women engaged in prostitution
- Residents are engaged in partnership work to reduce prostitution related ASB
- Men who buy sex are targeted with police actions including letters deterring them from Tower Hamlets

How will we measure success?

- Number of women referred to the Prostitution MARAC
- Number of women re-referred to the Prostitution MARAC

How will we do this?

- Support organisations to increase their referrals to the MARAC, with a focus on 'high-risk' groups such as sex workers, those who are dependent on alcohol or drugs, carers and young people.
- Increase safety and health of street based sex workers as well as reducing associated ASB.
- Meaningful consultation with residents, especially those from 'hotspot' areas for prostitution

What we will aim to achieve over the 3 years?

Not applicable due to this only being made a priority for the final year of this CSP Plan term 2015/16.

Priority F:

Hate Crime and Cohesion

Why is it a priority?

The Tower Hamlets Community Plan aims to make the borough a better place for everyone who lives and works here. The Borough's diversity is one of its greatest strengths with the richness, vibrancy and energy that our communities bring. As a partnership we are committed to build One Tower Hamlets, to tackle inequality, strengthen cohesion and build both community leadership and personal responsibility. Preventing extremism and people becoming involved in it, is fundamental to achieving One Tower Hamlets. Our partnership approach has developed over the past five years and enabled us to tackle complex and contentious issues during that time.

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

Responsible Board/CSP Sub-group:

No Place For Hate Forum (NPFHF)
Tension Monitoring Group (TMG)
Prevent Board

What will we aim to achieve this year?

No Place For Hate Forum (NPFHF)

The NPFHF is a partnership of statutory, voluntary and community organisations that join together in a zero tolerance approach to all forms of hate. We know that for some people difference is a frightening thing. In difference, they see a threat and that is when prejudice takes hold. Sometimes prejudice results in the abuse and violence that undermines the borough's proud tradition of diversity and tolerance.

The experience of prejudice and hate isn't limited to one particular group. Hate crimes are committed against people of different:

- races,
- faiths/beliefs,
- sexual orientations,
- gender identities,
- Genders
- Ages
- Disabilities
- And other actual or perceived differences.

We refer to these as the strands of hate crime.

In 2015/16 we aim to: -

- Increase the reporting to the Police of hate crimes and incidents across all strands, by building community confidence.
- Increase professional and community awareness of hate and its impact, through a wide range of education and awareness raising activities including targeted activity for each of the strands of hate.
- Deliver a range of initiatives at different points throughout the year that contribute to making the borough proud and tolerant of its diversity.

Tension Monitoring Group (TMG)

The TMG is acts as a network of key individuals who represent statutory, voluntary and community organisations in Tower Hamlets who respond in real time to critical incidents, to provide an effective emergency response.

In 2015/16 we aim to:

- Review the membership of the group in order to cover gaps and strengthen its impact in protecting local communities.
- Continue to respond to cohesion related issues in the borough in real time.
- Undertake meetings and events to consider specific threats to cohesion, in order to both increase our knowledge and identify how the borough can respond to reduce specific threats.
- Undertake research on specific threats and how they impact upon the local community.

Prevent Board

- Deliver the Building Community Resilience project, engaging young people in the borough in workshops to build their resilience to extremism
- Deliver a project to provide mosques and madrassas with continuing professional development to build the knowledge and skills of staff in relation to the safeguarding agenda

How will we measure success?

- Number of Hate Crimes recorded by the Police (overall and broken down into each strand of hate)
- Hate crime sanctioned detection (SD) rate (overall and broken down into each of the strands of hate)
- % of hate crime cases coming to the Hate Incidents Panel where enforcement action is taken against the perpetrator
- Number of “Racist and Religious” Offences recorded by the Police
- “Racist and Religious” SD Rate
- Number of Anti-Semitic Offences recorded by the Police
- Anti-Semitic SD rate

- Number of Islamophobic Offences recorded by the Police
- Islamophobic SD rate
- Number of hate crime cases where victims are supported by Victim Support
- % of people who believe people from different backgrounds get on well together in their local area (Annual Residents Survey)

How will we do this?

No Place For Hate Forum

- The Hate Incident Panel (HIP) consists of key agencies who can respond to cases of hate crime. Agencies who are members include the Council's Domestic Violence and Hate Crime Team, Police, LBTH Legal Services, Housing Associations, Victim Support and LBTH Youth Services. The HIP will meet regularly to assign and review effective actions, share information and swiftly manage responses to high risk hate crimes and incidents. It will ensure that the cases it considers receive a co-ordinated and structured response, and that offenders are held accountable for their actions. The HIP will increase the percentage of hate crime cases reviewed at the Panel, where enforcement action is taken. Enforcement action could be action against a tenancy such as eviction, legal action such as an injunction, criminal justice action such as arresting/charging/prosecuting or civil enforcement such as the range of powers available to THEOs and ASB Case Investigators.
- Advice and guidance will be provided by the LBTH Domestic Violence and Hate Crime Team to a range of agencies, particularly Registered Social Landlords (RSLs), with the intention to bring about a more coordinated and consistent response to hate crimes and incidents. Through this work, we will increase the number of cases referred to the HIP by RSLs.
- The Police, supported by other partners will work to increase the Sanctioned Detection (SD) Rate for hate crime across all strands.
- We will promote the message that we will not tolerate hate, in particular to offenders, by taking enforcement action and promoting the actions that have been taken.

Tension Monitoring Group (TMG)

- The TMG will continue to meet quarterly with emergency meetings taking place if and when needed to discuss imminent threats to cohesion. The group will also review its membership to ensure that all sections of the community are being engaged and are part of the discussion on cohesion related issues.

Prevent Board

- The Prevent Board will continue to meet every quarter. In addition to this we also support a fortnightly operations group for dedicated Prevent professionals in relevant services to engage with each other in relation to the Prevent agenda.

What we will aim to achieve over the 3 years?

No Place For Hate Forum

- We will maintain and further develop the Third Party Reporting Project, by recruiting new significant sites with established links and trust within their community to become Third Party Reporting (TPR) Centres. We will target new TPR locations in order to maximise reports from each strands of hate. We will provide training and support to new and existing centres, including a TPR Steering Group. We will publicise the locations and contact details of TPR centres widely.
- In 2015/16 we aim to significantly increase reports via the Third Party Reporting Centres. By the end of the 3 years we aim to receive at least 100 third party reports of hate crime per year.
- No Place For Hate Campaign – we will continue the campaign which promotes an established clear message to the community. The campaign will be used to link to and support national and international campaigns as well as local events, highlighting clearly that the borough will not tolerate hate in any form in our diverse and cohesive borough, that is 'One Tower Hamlets'.
- The Forum will continue to promote the No Place for Hate Pledge, including at having stalls or other presence at events in the community, and through workshops and training. It will encourage as many individuals and organisations as possible to make a pledge against hate.
- The Forum aspires to increase the sign up of individuals and organisations to the pledge by at least an additional 100 per year.

Tension Monitoring Group (TMG)

- Maintain its role in monitoring local tensions and responding to threats to cohesion that may arise
- Aims to ensure that we continue to increase, on an annual basis, the percentage of people who believe people from different backgrounds get on well together in their local area, as measured by the Annual Residents Survey.
- Tackle and counter negative media messages about the borough in relation to cohesion and tension related issues.

Prevent Board

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

Priority G:

Killed or Seriously Injured

Why is it a priority?

Road safety is an issue that affects not only everyone in London, but nationally and globally. We all need to use roads to get around – to school, to work, to the doctor, to the shops, to the cinema etc. Most of us use the roads every day, as drivers, passengers, cyclists and pedestrians, and for many people driving is the main part of their job.

TfL's annual health, safety and environment report reveals that 3,018 people were killed or seriously injured across Greater London in 2012, up from 2,805 in 2011, of that fatalities were down from 159 to 134 and included 69 pedestrians, 27 motorbike/scooter riders and 14 cyclists, down two on 2011. The cost to the community of the road collisions in 2012 was an extraordinary £2.26 billion.

This increase in recent years along with media attention, has led to increased concern around road safety across London. Recent cycling fatalities in Tower Hamlets in and around busy arterial roads has increased local concerns and is a major factor for this being made a priority for the Partnership.

Responsible Board/CSP Subgroup:

Killed or Seriously Injured (KSI) Board

What will we aim to achieve this year?

- Deliver road safety education programmes in schools, colleges and community groups in the borough
- Focus campaigns on discouraging drink driving and using mobile phones
- Focused enforcement around travelling public in respect to road signage such as traffic lights/cycle boxes.

How will we measure success?

- Number of recorded Killed or Seriously Injured incidents on CRIS

How will we do this?

- By engaging young people in schools/colleges/universities on road safety
- By provision of information and road safety equipment
- Better identification of road safety issue hotspots through enhanced information sharing, improved data collection, recording and analysis

- Regular meetings between Police, Fire Brigade, Council, TFL, London Ambulance Service (LAS) and key partners (including local transport groups), to prioritise identified problems and task resources committed to the reduction of KSI
- Identify road layout issues and set in place environmental changes to reduce risk

What will we aim to do over the 3 years?

Through enhanced Police and partnership activity, we will seek a minimum 20% reduction in line with the MOPAC Police and Crime Plan 2013-17.

Priority H:

Property / Serious Acquisitive Crime

Why is it a priority?

An acquisitive crime is one where the victim is permanently deprived of something that belongs to them by another person/s. Serious acquisitive crimes are the most harmful which include burglary, robbery and vehicle crime.

Acquisitive crimes have a high impact on the community's feeling of safety and dealing with acquisitive crime quickly, has the biggest impact on levels of public confidence and fear of crime.

While community safety agencies have a responsibility to prevent, investigate and bring offenders to justice for acquisitive crimes, the community also have a responsibility to take reasonable steps to safeguard their property and prevent crime from happening in the first place. Following crime prevention advice and participating in Neighbourhood Watch Schemes will be crucial in helping us to reduce this type of crime.

Responsible Board/CSP Subgroup:

Tactical Tasking and Co-ordinating Group (TTCG)

What will we aim to achieve this year?

Integrated offender management and targeted work around prolific and priority offenders is key to reducing these types of crimes. Working in partnership, agencies such as the Police, Probation, drug treatment services and the Council can manage these offenders by providing a range of interventions from treatment and support which seek to address the causes, to criminal justice interventions such as the courts.

Our work in this area focuses on residential burglary, robbery and motor vehicle crime. It utilises an intelligence and evidence based approach to target activity in areas where it will make the most difference, such as around markets and transport hubs. Around transport hubs it will require partnership officers to work closely with Police Safer Transport Teams, Transport For London and the British Transport Police, to ensure people are safe on journeys in Tower Hamlets.

How will we measure success?

- Number of Personal Robberies
- Number of Commercial Robberies
- Total Robbery numbers
- Number of Residential Burglaries
- Number of thefts of Motor Vehicles

- Number of thefts From Motor Vehicles
- Number of theft of pedal cycle

How will we do this?

Personal Robberies:

- Areas of high risk need to be identified through the BCTG process and staff allocated as required, a conscious decision needs to be made between the Local Authority and Police as to where their limited resources are best deployed at any given time.
- Additional support and training needs to be given to Teachers and those that have the closest interactions with youth in order to educate them in relation to their own safety, much more work needs to be done to educate members of the public in particular when exiting from transports hubs to be more aware of their property. This will need to be a joint venture between BTP, Metropolitan Police and the Council.

Residential Burglaries:

- Landlords, Local Authority and Police need to work closer together in order to ensure that many areas are not attractive to Burglars. We know that from speaking to offenders that they will look for the easiest option to break into someone's home, they will seek areas where they can be hidden from view and not disturbed.
- Common themes arise time and again in offences of which many can be addressed, windows left open in the summer, residents letting strangers into multi occupancy buildings without properly identifying them, poor door security, broken doors, property left in communal areas, double locks not utilised.
- The agencies need to work together to have a broad educational product developed that can be distributed to all residents within Tower Hamlets.

Non Residential Burglaries:

- Partnership working in place with Queen Elizabeth University - due to increased thefts from Halls of Residence. We have engaged in crime prevention work and have held crime prevention stalls within the university. Engagement with the university will continue.
- Working with schools officers, to engage with schools around crime prevention tactics. We are seeing an increase of thefts of rugs/carpets.
- Partnership working with business communities to reduce the amount of thefts from business premises. Currently working with City and Hackney Business community providing crime prevention advice. Currently looking at 'key fob entry' to premises. With all the above we are working with the Designing out crime team to increase our range of tactics.

Theft of Motor Vehicles:

- Increased education of owners in particular of Motor Cycles/ Mopeds to ensure increased security of these easily taken items
- Signage placed in areas of high crime not to increase the fear of crime but to assist in the education of individuals regarding the areas in which they are leaving their motor vehicles
- Publicity where early identification is made to a specific type of vehicle being targeted.

Theft from Motor Vehicles:

- Increased education of owners, in particular of non-residents parking areas they are unfamiliar with, to ensure increased security of these easily taken items.
- Signage placed in areas of high crime not to increase the fear of crime, but to assist in the education of individuals regarding the areas in which they are leaving their motor vehicles.
- Further education required deterring drivers from leaving valuables on display in their vehicles.

Theft of Pedal Cycles:

- Increased education of owners of pedal cycles to ensure increased security of these easily taken items
- Encourage bicycle owners to mark and register their bicycles on approved national property registers, to enable the recovery and return of stolen bicycles/parts to owners and prove that goods are stolen when seized, thus enabling prosecution of perpetrators.
- Signage placed in areas of high crime not to increase the fear of crime but to assist in the education of individuals regarding the areas in which they are leaving their pedal cycles
- Continued cross partnership operations aimed at tackling to sale of stolen bicycles and stolen bicycle parts in our borough markets

What will we aim to do over the 3 years?

Reduce MOPAC 7 crimes (including burglary, robbery and theft of/from motor vehicles) in total by 20%

Cross-Cutting Priorities

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

Public Confidence & Victim Satisfaction

Reducing Re-offending

MOPAC 7

Cross-Cutting Priority 1:

Public Confidence & Victim Satisfaction

Why is it a priority?

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

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

Responsible Board/CSP Sub-group:

Confidence and Satisfaction Board

What will we aim to achieve this year?

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

How will we measure success?

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

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

How will we do this?

- Continue and improve partnership working to provide a quality response to all victim needs and identified crime trends.
- Respond to every victim's call for help by responding in a timely fashion while delivering a quality service.
- Contact every victim of ASB to establish how we can support them better, to improve theirs and their community's quality of life.
- Contact a range of victims of crime to identify the level of service delivered and identify opportunities to improve service delivery.
- Restructure local policing by moving detectives into front line policing, so we improve primary investigation of reported crime.
 - Reduce the Number of Personal Robberies
 - Reduce the Number of Residential Burglaries
 - Reduce the Number of Thefts From Motor Vehicles
 - Reduce the Number of Thefts of Motor Vehicles
 - Reduce the Number of Thefts From a Person
 - Reduce the number of incidents of Criminal Damage

What we will aim to achieve over the 3 years?

- 20% Increase in Public Confidence
- Reduce the Volume of Reported Crime and ASB each year from a baseline measured on 2012/13 financial year.
- Improve our Confidence and Satisfaction Performance data by 2 percentage points per year based on 2012/13 financial year.
- Through better contact with victims, we will improve victim care and increase our Public Confidence and Satisfaction performance that will contribute together with other activity to show Tower Hamlets as the 'best in class' within inner London.
- 20% total reduction in Property Crime and MOPAC's 'key crimes' as a group:
 - Reduction in the Number of Personal Robberies
 - Reduction in the Number of Residential Burglaries
 - Reduction in the Number of Thefts From Motor Vehicles
 - Reduction in the Number of Thefts of Motor Vehicles
 - Reduction in the Number of Thefts From a Person
 - Reduction in the Number of incidents of Criminal Damage

Cross-Cutting Priority 2:

Reducing Re-offending

Why is it a priority?

Partners in Tower Hamlets are committed to working together to reduce crime and disorder, and tackling deprivation, worklessness and social exclusion. We know that 50% of all crime is committed by people who have already been through the criminal justice system – re-conviction rates for some offenders can reach over 70%.

In Tower Hamlets, like most boroughs there are a relatively small number of people who carry out the majority of criminal acts. By targeting resources at these prolific offenders, to improve the level of support provided for those who wish to change their lives in a positive way and fast-tracking the prosecution process for those who refuse to change, we aim to reduce the number of prolific offenders in the borough and make it a safer environment for everyone.

By reducing the number of prolific offenders in the borough, we will directly impact the levels of crime and anti-social behaviour which will particularly lead to a reduction in Serious Acquisitive Crime (Personal Robbery, Residential Burglary, Theft from Motor Vehicle, Theft of Motor Vehicle and Theft from a Person).

Recent NHS data analysis available on violent incidents to inform intervention and prevention of re-offending shows:-

1) Admissions for stabbings

Data reports on admissions to acute hospitals for Tower Hamlets residents for stabbings and compares admissions to those from Newham and Hackney shows that:

- Tower Hamlets has twice number of admission compared to Newham and almost three times number of admissions compared to Hackney
- A year on year variation but the number of admissions went down in 2013/14 and then almost tripled in 2014/15 compared to previous year in Tower Hamlets; this pattern was not shown in the neighbouring boroughs
- The vast majority of TH residents who are stabbed attend the Royal London Hospital

2) Admissions for assault

This data reports on admissions to acute hospitals for Tower Hamlets residents for assault and compares admission to those from Newham and Hackney shows that:

- Tower Hamlets residents had a higher number of admission in 2014/15 than the other boroughs
- Whilst there has been a decrease in the number of admissions in the other boroughs from 2012/13 to 2014/15 this is not the case in TH, with 2014/15 in TH having the highest number of admissions of the three year period.

Responsible Board/CSP Sub-group:

Reducing Re-offending Board (RRB)
Youth Offending Team (YOT) Management Board

What will we aim to achieve this year?

- Develop our joint understanding and commitment to Integrated Offender Management and review our Reducing Reoffending Strategy
- Reduce the level of recorded crime within the borough
- Reduce the Number of Personal Robberies
- Reduce the Number of Residential Burglaries
- Reduce the Number of Thefts From Motor Vehicles
- Reduce the Number of Thefts of Motor Vehicles
- Reduce the Number of Thefts From a Person
- Reduce the Number of incidents of Violence with Injury
- Reduce the Number of incidents of Criminal Damage
- Reduce the number of first time offenders entering the criminal justice system
- Reduce the re-offending rate of Prolific offenders
- Reduce the re-offending of young people leaving custody
- Engage more closely with and support identified criminals to encourage them to desist from their criminal lifestyle
- Provide targeted treatment and support for identified offenders, i.e. housing, benefits and treatment

How will we measure success?

- Number of Youths not entering Criminal Justice System through YOS EIP
- Proven reduced re-offending by offenders supported by Youth Offending Service
- Number of Offenders being supported by key agencies to help them disengage from criminal lifestyle
- Number of Priority Prolific Offenders engaging with the PPO Scheme who no longer have criminal offences recorded against them
- Number of Offenders under Probation supervision, living in settled and suitable accommodation at the end of their order/licence.
- Number of Offenders under Probation supervision in employment at the end of their order/licence
- Adult re-offending rates for those under Probation supervision
- Percentage of offenders under Probation supervision living in settled and suitable accommodation at the end of their order or license
- Percentage of offenders under Probation supervision in employment at the end of their order or license
- Number of Personal Robberies
- Number of Residential Burglaries
- Number of Thefts From Motor Vehicles
- Number of Thefts of Motor Vehicles
- Number of Thefts From a Person

- Number of incidents of Criminal Damage
- Number of young people leaving custody who go on to re-offend

How will we do this?

- Better identify youths who are suitable for non-Criminal Justice outcomes by improved triage processes and introduce conditional cautioning as a disposal option.
- Improve drug testing activity in Police custody, to identify potential offenders and provide support / treatment
- Improve partnership engagement to better identify third sector agencies that can support identified offenders who require help to escape their life of crime.
- Secure increased funding and resources aimed at offenders in the community to reduce/cease re-offending
- Enhance our daily contact with named individuals through the Integrated Offender Management Team (Police, Probation and Drug Intervention Project), to ensure their on-going commitment to a non-criminal lifestyle
- Use of the YJB Re-offending toolkit which enables management to target resources to those groups committing the most re-offending, using live data.

What we will aim to achieve over the 3 years?

- Increase the level of engagement (through IOM Board) provided by partner agencies and Third sector, to help identified individuals escape their criminal lifestyle
- Identify the number of offenders entering custody who have a drug habit, through targeted drug testing and providing appropriate support mechanisms and referrals
- Reduce the number of Youths entering the Criminal Justice System by providing alternative disposal options (CJB Data)
- Reduce the number of Adult Prolific and Priority Offenders (PPO) who commit crime, aiming at a 10% reduction each year from the 2012/13 baseline
- Show reduction in recorded crime for identified / supported offenders
- 20% reduction in MOPAC's 'key crimes' including Property Crime, as identified in the London Crime Reduction Plan:
 - Robbery
 - Residential Burglary
 - Theft from Motor Vehicles
 - Theft of Motor Vehicles
 - Theft from a Person
 - Violence with Injury
 - Incidents of Criminal Damage
 - Re-offending of young people leaving custody

Cross-Cutting Priority 3

MOPAC 7

Why is it a Priority?

The Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC) under their remit as Police and Crime Commissioner for London have produced their 3 year Police and Crime Plan. Within their plan are 7 reduction targets relating to key neighbourhood crimes, which in total MOPAC have set a target for the Metropolitan Police Service to reduce by 20% by the end of March 2016.

Using the financial year of 2011/12 as a baseline, each London Borough Police have been set individual targets against each of the 7 key crimes to obtain an overall 20% reduction. These individual reduction targets have been reviewed and set annually based on each financial year's performance during the 3 year term of the Police and Crime Plan.

Tower Hamlets Community Safety Partnership Plan is aligned to the London Police and Crime Plan both in terms of MOPAC 7 priorities and length of term.

Responsible Board/CSP Sub-group:

Tactical Tasking and Co-ordinating Group (TTCG)

What will we aim to achieve this year?

- Reduction in the total number of MOPAC 7 basket offences/crimes
- 8% reduction in the total number of Burglaries
- 3% reduction in Criminal Damage
- 8% reduction in Robbery
- 5% reduction in Theft from Motor Vehicle
- 6% reduction in Theft/Taking of Motor Vehicle
- 11% reduction in Theft from Person
- 10% reduction in Violence with Injury

How will we measure success?

- Number of MOPAC 7 basket offences/crimes
- Number of Burglaries
- Number of incidents of Criminal Damage
- Number of Robberies
- Number of Thefts from Motor Vehicles
- Number of Theft/Taking of Motor Vehicles
- Number of Thefts from Person
- Number of incidents of Violence with Injury

How will we do this?

Violence with Injury

- Identification and Priority Cohort – the key trigger for diversion and engagement targeted support and enforcement measures will be based on intelligence about young people shared between key partners and stakeholders
- Young people (8-17 years) at risk of involvement in violent behaviour (including victims of Serious Youth Violence); those seeking a route out of violence and gang culture; and those being considered for enforcement measures due to refusing to exit violent lifestyles
- Referrals will continue to come from schools to the Social Inclusion Panel and support will extend to siblings of the target cohort as well as children of adult offenders via the Youth Inclusion Support Programme. The Youth Offending Prevention Service will build on its existing referral mechanisms for parents and self-referrals.
- Referrals from Royal London Hospital A&E and Trauma Wards
- We will also build on the Council's current arrangements for ASB enforcement measures and Gang Injunctions to ensure that young people have access to support services to prevent further escalation
- Support available includes education, training, employment, accommodation (Police – Safe and Secure Initiative), substance misuse services, parental support, violent offenders/identity workshops, mentoring and positive activities, health and emotional wellbeing services and having a named key-worker
- Early enforcement includes behaviour contracts (including exclusion zones and prohibitions), joint home visits and 'Buddi' monitoring tags.
- Civil enforcement includes Gang Injunctions, Parenting Orders, Civil Injunctions and Individual Support Orders
- The Integrated Youth and Community Service will work in partnership with the Police and respond to 'Youth on Youth Violence' issues and engage them into structured learning opportunities
- The Police will use a range of activities to tackle serious youth violence, this will include activity analysis, weapons sweeps and seizures, arrests, detections, search warrants, CHIS coverage and financial investigation
- Produce gang related intervention profiles (GRIPs) on each individual which will include information on and from Matrix analysis.
- Police will work to the 'action plans' for Violence with Injury and Domestic Violence which are designed to drive forward performance

Robbery and Theft from Person

- Areas of high risk need will need to be identified through the TTCG process and staff allocated as required, a conscious decision needs to be made between Local Authority and Police as to where their limited resources are best deployed at a given time
- Additional support and training needs to be given to teachers and those that have the closest interactions with youth in order to educate them on personal safety.
- Raise awareness on personal safety when exiting transport hubs and being aware of their property

Burglary

- Landlords, Local Authority and Police to work closer together to reduce the number of properties/areas that are attractive to burglars, as offenders will look for the easiest option for the highest yield with the lowest risk of being detected.
- Address common themes and remind owners to take simple steps to protect their property, like securing windows and doors
- Work with developers to design out crime during the planning stages of new residential developments
- Work in partnership with Queen Mary University to educate students, target harden dorms and reduce burglaries/thefts from both student accommodation and campus
- Work with schools officers to engage with schools about crime prevention tactics
- Partnership working with businesses to reduce the amount of thefts from business premises, including use of key fob entry systems and designing out crime opportunities

Vehicle Crime

- Increase education of owners of particular motor cycles/mopeds to ensure increased security of these high risk vehicles
- Signage in high crime hotspots to educate owners to secure and protect their vehicles
- Use publicity to address emerging trends in types of vehicle being targeted to prevent further offences
- Increase education of owners/drivers and in particular non-resident parking area users to ensure they take steps to reduce risk and secure both vehicle and contents
- Deter drivers from leaving valuables on display for opportunist crimes

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APPENDIX 2 – Equalities Considerations

The Community Safety Plan 2013-16 is informed by both the Strategic Assessment 2012 and annual Strategic Assessments within its term, which analyses data on the trends and future local challenges, and through consultation with both members of the public and the wide membership of the Community Safety Partnership (Safe and Cohesive Community Plan Delivery Group). A number of cross cutting issues were also considered as part of this process.

From this detailed evaluation of the strategic landscape and assessment of the most effective governance arrangements, priority areas were developed. This included consideration of the drivers of crime locally and equalities - through the impact on people from different protected characteristic groups. This has influenced the identification of the Plan's priorities for 2013-16, which are:

- Gangs and Serious Youth Violence
- Anti-Social Behaviour (including Arson)
- Drugs and Alcohol
- Violence (inc. Domestic Violence and Violence Against Women and Girls)
- Prostitution
- Hate Crime and Cohesion
- Killed or Seriously Injured
- Property / Serious Acquisitive Crime

Cross-cutting Priorities:

- Public Confidence
- Reducing Re-offending
- MOPAC 7

A high level test of relevance equalities screening has been undertaken on the Plan. This is attached as appendix 2. As the Plan is to be further developed through Community Safety Partnership (CSP) subgroup action plans – further detailed evaluation of equalities in the action plans will be undertaken by those subgroups to ensure they continue to be considered with the development of the Plan.

The Plan is a jointly owned partnership approach – it is not solely owned by the Council – so the authority will communicate the importance of ensuring subgroups give 'due regard' to equalities in the action plan development process and are aware of the requirement to provide appropriate evidence: These considerations will be recorded through the inclusion of equalities considerations in the template for creating their action plans. As sub-group action plans are presented to the Community Safety Partnership (Safe and Cohesive CPDG) equalities considerations will be evaluated by the members.

APPENDIX 3 - Equalities Analysis - Initial Screening Document

This document is to be used for:-

- Establishing whether an Equality Analysis needs to be undertaken for the policy, function or strategy. *(Based on Section 4 around Impacts)*
- Reviewing existing equality analysis (EQIA) to ascertain whether the original EQIA needs revising.

Section 1 – General Information

Name of the Policy or Function
Community Safety Partnership Plan 2013-16

Service area
Safer Communities Service

Team name
The Community Safety Partnership

Service manager
Emily Fieran-Reed

Name and role of the officer completing the Initial Screening
(Explain why these people were selected i.e. the knowledge and experience they bring to the process)
Colin Hewitt – CSP Officer, Community Safety

Section 2 - Information about the Policy or Function

Is this a policy or function? Policy Function

Is the policy or function strategic or developmental?

Strategic Developmental

Is this a new or existing policy or function? New Existing

If for a new policy or function, please indicate the date this form was undertaken
April 2013

If for an existing policy or function, what was the original date(s) the equality analysis (Initial Screening or EQIA) was undertaken
(please attach a copy of any previous equality analysis)

What are the main aims and objectives of the Policy or Function

There is a legal requirement for each Community Safety Partnership formerly Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (Safe & Cohesive CPDG) to have a Community Safety Plan.

The Safe and Cohesive Plan 2013-2016 has been created in consultation with members of the Safe & Cohesive CPDG. The objective of the Plan is to address the following local priorities:

- Gangs and Serious Youth Violence
- Anti-Social Behaviour and Arson
- Drugs and Alcohol
- Violence (inc. Domestic Violence and Violence Against Women and Girls)
- Prostitution
- Hate Crime and Cohesion
- Killed or Seriously Injured
- Property/Serious Acquisitive Crime

Cross-cutting Priorities:

- Public Confidence
- Reducing Re-offending
- MOPAC 7

Who are the main stakeholders:

The London Borough of Tower Hamlets

The Police

London Fire Brigade

Probation Services

Health, NHS, CCG and Public Health

Those who live, work, study and visit the borough

Is this policy/function associated with any other policy or function of the Council
(i.e. *Community Plan, One Tower Hamlets etc.*)

- The Community Plan
- Children and Young People's Plan
- Substance Misuse Strategy 2011-2014 (Drugs & Alcohol)
- Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy
- Integrated Offender Management Plan
- Tower Hamlets Prevent Delivery Plan (under review in line with National Guidance)
- ASB Profile
- Hate Crime Strategy
- Community Cohesion Contingency Plan

Section 3 – Information about Existing Policies and, or Changes to Functions only

Has there been any 'significant' change to the Policy or Function?

Yes No

If yes, Please indicate what the change will be and what has brought about this change to the policy or function?

has been NO SIGNIFICANT amendments to an existing policy/function there is no need to continue to Section 4 below or a full equalities analysis

Section 4 – The Impact

(Briefly assess the potential impact that the policy/function could have on each of the target groups. The potential impact could be negative, positive or neutral. If you have assessed negative potential impact for any of the target groups you will need to also assess whether that negative potential impact is high, medium or low). Please also indicate if there is any link to Community Cohesion.

Identify the potential impact on the following groups and:

Target Groups What impact will the 'new' or 'significantly' amended policy or function have on specific groups of service users?	Impact – Positive or Adverse	Reason(s) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Please add a narrative to justify your claims around impacts and, • Please describe the analysis and interpretation of evidence to support your conclusion as this will inform members decision making • Can the negative impact be justified on the grounds of promoting equality?
Race Page 189	Positive	<p>For race equality the priority of addressing Hate Crime and Cohesion may be of particular relevance.</p> <p>The data collected in the CSP Strategic Assessment 2012 suggests that depending on your racial background, the likelihood of you being a victim of crime or identified as a perpetrator of crime varies significantly. The analysis below summarises this information and sets out key areas which will be addressed by sub-groups in developing detailed plans to reduce crime, protect victims and promote equality for people from different racial backgrounds.</p> <p>National crime data</p> <p>There is a significant amount of national and regional evidence about the different experiences of crime by people from different racial background, some of which is summarised below. These suggest possible areas of inequality locally. In developing the CSPP sub-group action plans we will seek to collect and analyse local data to identify patterns in the borough:</p> <p>Overall crime: Analysis from the Ministry of Justice's Statistics on Race and the Criminal Justice System 2010 and according to the 2010/11 British Crime Survey, showed that nationally the risk of being a victim of personal crime was higher for adults from a Mixed background than for other ethnic</p>

groups. It was also higher for members of all BME groups than for the White group. Over the five year period 2006/7 to 2010/11, there was a statistically significant fall in the risk of being a victim of personal crime for members of the White group of 0.8%. The apparent decrease for those from BME groups was not statistically significant.

Violent crime: Of the 2,007 homicides nation-wide recorded between 2007/8 and 2009/10, 75% of victims were White, 12% Black and 8% Asian. These proportions are lower for the white group and higher for the Black and Asian groups than reflected in estimates of the general population. In the majority of homicide cases, victims were suspected of being killed by someone of the same ethnic group, which is consistent with the previous trend (88% of White victims, 78% of Black victims and 60% of Asian victims).

Arrest and sanction rates: Across England and Wales, there was a 3% decrease in the total number of arrests in 2009/10 (1,386,030) compared to 2005/6 (1,429,785). The number of arrests for the White group also decreased during this period, arrests of Black persons rose by 5% and arrests of Asian people by 13%. Overall, there were more arrests per 1,000 population of each BME group (except for Chinese or Other) than for people of White ethnicity in 2009/10. Per 1,000 population, Black persons were arrested 3.3 times more than White people and those from Mixed ethnic group 2.3 times more than White people.

Conviction ratios for indictable offences were higher for White persons in 2010 than those in the Black and Asian groups (81% for White, 74% for Black and 77% for Asian). A higher percentage of those in the BME groups were sentenced to immediate custody for indictable offences than in the White group in 2010 (White 23%, Black 27%, Asian 29% and Other 42%), this is mainly due to differences in plea between ethnic groups.

Regional crime data:

Analysis from the MOPAC Policing and Crime Plan 2013-17 Equality Impact Assessment 2013 states that London is disproportionately affected by crime problems, such as robbery and knife crime, typically associated with young males who often operate in groups or 'gangs'. Current analysis shows that all of the gang members scored on the MPS matrix are male and that 79% are described as Black and Minority Ethnic (BME). In 2011 14% of homicides (19) were gang related and two thirds (12) were teenagers and all but one was male and from a BME background.

Hate crime: Analysis from the MOPAC Policing and Crime Plan 2013-17 Equality Impact Assessment 2013 states that hate crime is greatly unreported and which is a great concern for many communities. In 2011/12 there was a 6.8% reduction in the number of reported racist and religious hate crimes.

Analysis by the Home Office shows that there were 43,748 hate crimes recorded by the police in 2011/12 in England and Wales, of which 35,816 (82%) were race hate crimes

The number of Racially motivated crimes/incident recorded by the Police in 2010/11 was 18% lower at 51,187, than they were during the 5 year period 2006/7 to 2010/11.

Local data

Analysis from the CSP Strategic Assessment 2012 under Cohesion & Hate Crime indicator recording the number of racist and religious offences showed a 9% decrease (34 less) in the number of offences in the year up to September 2012, when compared to the previous year. Offence numbers have remained reasonable static for the last 3 years, with an average of 358 offences a year, or one a day.

Recommendations from CSP Strategic Assessment to CSP and Subgroups were that their action plans should maintain a continued focus on all Hate Crime Offences of which Racist and Religious Offences fall into. The CSP and its Subgroups to continue their work around education of potential victims and suspects within this crime category and to carry on with various education/crime prevention plans linked to this subject.

Analysis from the CSP Strategic Assessment 2012 provided by the Metropolitan Police to Victim Support regarding victims of crime by ethnicity and age is not thorough and reliant on the information recorded on the Police CRIS system. However combined figures for segmented groups into large groups (Asian, White, Black, Other) shows that during the period 1st October 2011 to 30th September 2012, 45% of victims of crime were from the White group, 35% from the Asian group and 9% from the Black group. Population figures for Tower Hamlets from the 2011 Census shows 45% from the White group, 41% from the Asian Group and 7% from the Black group. Therefore the Asian group is underrepresented by 6 percentage points and the Black group is over represented by 2 percentage points.

Looking at crime breakdown by ethnicity White people are over represented in the borough being victims to 60% of burglary and 50% of robbery, when compared to the population figure of 45%. Black people are over represented in the borough being victims to 12% of violent crime, when compared to

		<p>the population figure of 7%.</p> <p>Recommendation from Victim Support in the CSP Strategic Assessment 2012 is for the Metropolitan Police to improve the recording of specific hate crime categories which will improve the referrals to Victim Support via the automatic data transfer from the Police CRIS system. More accurate recording of ethnicity of victims will enable Victim Support to analyse trends in crimes for the borough and assist in targeted work for CSP Subgroups to deliver.</p>
Disability	Positive	<p>For disability equality, the priority of addressing Hate Crime and Cohesion may be of particular relevance.</p> <p><u>National and regional data</u> Analysis by the Home Office shows that there were 43,748 hate crimes recorded by the police in 2011/12 in England and Wales, of which 1,744 (4%) were disability hate crimes</p> <p>Analysis of regional police force figures show that there were 133 disability hate crimes recorded by the Metropolitan Police Force in 2011. This demonstrates a 14.66% increase on the number of recorded disability hate crimes in 2010 (116) and a 34% increase when compared to the ACPO figures for London in 2009 (99).</p> <p>Analysis in the British Crime Survey 2010/11 shows that Disabled people are significantly more likely to be victims of crime than non-disabled people. This gap is largest amongst 16-34 year-olds where 39 per cent of disabled people reported having been a victim of crime compared to 28 per cent of non-disabled people. Disabled people are less likely than their non-disabled peers to think the Criminal Justice System (CJS) is fair. This gap is largest amongst 16-34 year-olds, where 54 per cent of disabled people think that the CJS is fair compared to 66 per cent of non-disabled people</p> <p>Analysis from the MOPAC Policing and Crime Plan 2013-17 Equality Impact Assessment 2013 states that hate crime is greatly unreported and which is a great concern for many communities. There is significant underreporting of disability hate crimes (according to the Met's 2011/12 Annual Report).</p> <p><u>Local data:</u> Analysis from the Tower Hamlets Local Voices report (Hearing the Voices of Disabled People in Tower Hamlets) produced by REAL in 2013, of which 99 disabled people responded to the survey showed that the number one issue for 12% of the survey respondents and number 2 issue for 9.1% of</p>

		<p>the respondents was Crime and Safety. Older people, Asian people and those with a Mental Health condition has slightly higher levels of concern and a greater sense that crime and safety services were failing disabled people than others. Nearly half of the survey respondents disagreed/strongly disagreed that disabled people were safe from harassment and hate crime and only 30% agreed they were safe. Within each gender, age and ethnicity groups of those disabled people who completed the survey, it was Men, people under 60 and Asian people who most tended not to agree that disabled people were safe. Amongst different impairment groups, disagreement was particularly high for people with visual impairment (55%), people with learning disability or cognitive impairment (80%) and people with mental health condition (87%). Overall 28% of survey respondents believed crime and safety services did not serve disabled people well, making it fourth worst performing service out of the survey. People with visual impairment were particularly critical, with 25% saying it fails disabled people.</p> <p>Response - In line with the equalities duty and the No Place For Hate & Domestic Violence action plan, The Domestic Violence & Hate Crime Team are committed to supporting both agencies and disabled service users in the context of all crime and disorder.</p> <p>The DV & Hate Crime Team currently provide monthly training to service users who experience mental health illness & learning disabilities around recognising what domestic violence and hate crime is, which also shows them how they can report incidents. We have recently produced an 'easy read' DV leaflet for adults with learning disabilities and will have finished an easy read HC leaflet by November 2013. The team also provide regular training to the Community Mental Health Team, Safeguarding Adults Board, Safeguarding Adults Champions and local community groups including REAL, Positive East and MIND.</p>
Gender	Positive	<p>For gender equality, the priority of addressing Violence (with a focus on Domestic Violence) may be of particular relevance.</p> <p><u>National and regional data</u></p> <p>Analysis from the Ministry of Justice's Statistics on Women and the Criminal Justice System 2012, shows an estimated three in every 100 adults were a victim of violent crime according to the Crime Survey England and Wales 2011/12, with 2% of women reporting being victims of violent crime compared to 4% of men. The type of violence most commonly reported differs by gender. Women who reported being a victim of violence were most commonly victimized by an acquaintance whereas men</p>

most commonly were victims of stranger violence.

A higher proportion of women reported being victims of intimate violence such as partner or family non-physical abuse, threats sexual assault or stalking - 7% of women compared with 5% of men.

201 women were victims of homicide in 2010/11 compared with 435 men according to data from the Homicide Index. A greater proportion of female victims than male victims knew the principal suspect, 78% and 57% respectively in 2011.

34% of females and 31% of males were arrested for violence against the person in 2010/11 - the most common offence group for arrest during the five year period 2006/7 to 2010/11.

According to the Ministry of Justice figures for 2010/11 by Police Force area, the Metropolitan Police arrested 50,293 men and 9,464 women that year for Violence Against the Person. The next highest was 28,207 arrests of men and 8,471 arrests of women for Theft and Handling, followed by 20,980 arrests of men and 1,894 arrests of women for Drug Offences.

Nationally more than 1.2m persons of known gender were convicted and sentenced at all courts in 2011. Of these 24% were female and 76% were male.

Analysis from the MOPAC Policing and Crime Plan 2013-17 Equality Impact Assessment 2013 states that London is disproportionately affected by crime problems, such as robbery and knife crime, typically associated with young males who often operate in groups or 'gangs'. Current analysis shows that all of the gang members scored on the MPS matrix are male. In 2011 14% of homicides (19) were gang related and two thirds (12) were teenagers and all but one was male.

Local data

Analysis from the CSP Strategic Assessment 2012 under Violent Crime Indicator for the 'Number of Most Serious Violence offences per 1,000 of the population' and 'Number of Assault with Injury' show that victims are more likely to be male although repeat victims are more likely to be female. Currently (October 2013) Non Domestic Violence with Injury accounts for 68% and Domestic Violence With Injury accounts for 32% of all Violence with Injury in the borough. In the town centre hotspot, victims and suspects are less likely to know each other. When they do know each other they are more likely to be acquaintances, whereas on the rest of the borough, they are more likely to have been in a past or current relationship with each other (domestic violence).

		<p>Recommendations from CSP Strategic Assessment to CSP and Subgroups was that their action plan should include a continued focus on Violence Related Offences, the Community Safety Partnership to continue its work around education of potential victims and suspects within this crime category. Carry on with various education plans linked to this subject and continue crime prevention programmes. The subgroup responsible for the CSP Priority Violence (with a focus on Domestic Violence) action plan should contain detailed actions to address these findings, which should lead to a decrease in the number of offences and an increase in partnership working, social cohesion and education around this subject.</p> <p>Analysis from the CSP Strategic Assessment 2012 under Violence Against women and Girls, measures the number of Domestic Violence Offences shows an increase in the number of offences by 6% year on year over the three year period. This increase could be down to a number of factors including numbers of people living in the borough, overcrowding and the economic downturn, particularly the associated pressures that these can bring, but also may be down to an increase in confidence to report offences. A lot of work has been done in the borough to raise awareness of domestic violence, specifically Violence Against Women and Girls as it has been both nationally and locally grossly under reported. The Crime Survey for England and Wales estimates that since the age of 16, 29% of Women have experienced Domestic Violence; 20% have experience Sexual Assault and 19% have experienced Stalking. Approximately 97% of all known victims of interpersonal violence in Tower Hamlets are Female, which is a significant gender bias towards Women.</p> <p>Recommendations from CSP Strategic Assessment to CSP and Subgroups were that their action plan should include a continued focus on all violence related offences, especially those that can be linked to Domestic Violence. The CSP and Subgroups should continue to work and focus around education of potential victims and engaging with suspects within this crime category. Carry on with various education plans linked to this subject and continue with gender specific crime prevention programmes.</p>
Gender Reassignment	Positive	<p>For transgender equality, the priority of addressing Hate Crime and Cohesion may be of particular relevance, as this priority aims to address all hate crimes, of which trans phobic crime is one.</p> <p>Analysis by the Home Office shows that there were 43,748 hate crimes recorded by the police in 2011/12 in England and Wales, of which 315 (1%) were transgender hate crimes.</p> <p>In 2013 Galup's hate crime report stated that there were only 50 transphobic crimes recorded in</p>

		<p>London during 2012/13, yet anecdotal evidence collected by Galup identifies individual trans people who are the target of over 50 transphobic crimes each year.</p> <p>We do not have any local or borough data to analyse as there were no recorded trans phobic crimes in last year according the local Police data.</p>
Sexual Orientation	Positive	<p>For Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual people, the priority of addressing Hate Crime and Cohesion may be of particular relevance.</p> <p><u>National and regional data</u> Analysis by the Home Office shows that there were 43,748 hate crimes recorded by the police in 2011/12 in England and Wales, of which 4,252 (10%) were sexual orientation hate crimes.</p> <p>Analysis from the MOPAC Policing and Crime Plan 2013-17 Equality Impact Assessment 2013 states that hate crime is greatly unreported and which is a great concern for many communities. In 2011/12 there was a 5.5% reduction in the number of reported homophobic crimes.</p> <p>A report on homophobic crime produced by the Equality and Human Rights Commission shows that LGB people appear to worry about being the victim of crime to a greater degree than other minority groups. In 2008 around 40 per cent of LGB people say they are worried about being the victim of a crime. This compares to 13 per cent of people on average who are worried about being the victim of a crime. A survey of Homophobic hate crime in 2008 showed that eleven per cent of LGB people say being the victim of a crime is their biggest worry.</p> <p><u>Local data</u> Analysis from the CSP Strategic Assessment 2012 under Cohesion & Hate Crime indicator recording the number of Homophobic offences shows no pattern in the levels of offences each year. The figures from the control period shows increases one year and decreases the following, this is due to the low number of offences that are reported each year in the borough, 71 in the year up to September 2012. Over the past three years the average number of offences was 73.</p> <p>Recommendations from CSP Strategic Assessment to CSP and Subgroups were that their action plan should maintain a continued focus on all Hate Crime Offences of which Homophobic Crime can be categorised. The CSP and its Subgroups should continue their work around education of potential victims to boost confidence and increase reporting and work with the LGB community to address</p>

		homophobic attitudes which drive hate incidents and hate crimes. It should also carry on with various education/crime prevention plans linked to this subject to prevent further incidents/crimes.
Religion or Belief	Positive	<p>For Religion/Belief equality , the priority of addressing Hate Crime and Cohesion may be of particular relevance.</p> <p><u>National and regional data</u> Analysis by the Home Office shows that there were 43,748 hate crimes recorded by the police in 2011/12 in England and Wales, of which 1,621 (4%) were religion hate crimes.</p> <p>Analysis from the MOPAC Policing and Crime Plan 2013-17 Equality Impact Assessment 2013 states that hate crime is greatly unreported and which is a great concern for many communities. In 2011/12 there was a 6.8% reduction in the number of reported racist and religious hate crimes.</p> <p><u>Local data</u> Analysis from the CSP Strategic Assessment 2012 under Cohesion & Hate Crime indicator recording the number of racist and religious offences showed a 9% decrease (34 less) in the number of offences in the year up to September 2012, when compared to the previous year. Offence numbers have remained reasonable static for the last 3 years, with an average of 358 offences a year, or one a day.</p> <p>Recommendations from CSP Strategic Assessment to CSP and Subgroups were that their action plans should maintain a continued focus on all Hate Crime Offences of which Racist and Religious Offences fall into. The CSP and its Subgroups to continue their work around education of potential victims and suspects within this crime category and to carry on with various education/crime prevention plans linked to this subject.</p>
Age	Positive	<p>For age equality , the priorities of addressing Gangs & Serious Youth Violence and Reducing Re-offending may be of particular relevance.</p> <p><u>National and regional data</u> Analysis from the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime states that London is disproportionately affected by crime problems, such as robbery and knife crime, typically associated with young males who often operate in groups or 'gangs'. In 2011 14% of homicides (19) were gang related and two thirds (12) were teenagers. Gang members mostly fall into the 13-24 age range, with the largest cohort being 18-24 (75% of the highest harm individuals are over the age of 18); intelligence also suggests</p>

that 10-13 year olds are increasingly being drawn into gang membership.

Analysis from the Ministry of Justice's Breaking the Cycle: Effective punishment, rehabilitation and sentencing of offending 2010, states that 75% of young people released from custody and 68% of young people on community sentences re-offend within a year

Analysis from the CSP Strategic Assessment 2012 provided by the Metropolitan Police to Victim Support regarding victims of crime by ethnicity and age is not thorough. However looking at victim breakdown by age shows that 18 – 24 year olds are over represented at 24% of the borough's victims when compared to the population figure from the 2011 census of 12%. It also shows that 25-34 year olds are over represented in the victim breakdown for the borough at 34%, when compared to this group making up 25% of the population.

Local data

Analysis from the CSP Strategic Assessment 2012 under Violent Crime Indicator for the 'Number of Most Serious Violence offences per 1,000 of the population' and 'Number of Assault with Injury' show that offenders and victims show similar patterns of age, with a peak occurring in the 20's and a steep decline as age increases.

Recommendations from CSP Strategic Assessment to CSP and Subgroups was that their action plan should include a continued focus on Violence Related Offences, the Community Safety Partnership to continue its work around education of potential victims and suspects within this crime category. Carry on with various education plans linked to this subject and continue crime prevention programmes. The subgroup responsible for the CSP Priority Violence (with a focus on Domestic Violence) action plan should contain detailed actions to address these findings, which should lead to a decrease in the number of offences and an increase in partnership working, social cohesion and education around this subject. It recommends a continued investment in youth diversionary/outreach services to prevent young people being involved in crime and anti-social behaviour either as a victim or a perpetrator. The borough Gangs Matrix aims to tackle those already involved in gang activity/crime, offering ways out of offending behaviour or where this is not accepted by the offender, taking enforcement action against them.

Analysis from the CSP Strategic Assessment 2012 under Violent Crime Indicator for the number of 'Hospital admissions for unintentional and deliberate injuries for young people aged 0 – 17 years, shows that 0 – 4 and 5 – 14 age groups by 3 year pooled data, show downward trends in the numbers of admissions, with a more pronounced downward trend in 0 – 4 year age group.

Recommendations from CSP Strategic Assessment to CSP and Subgroups are for

- Programmes that support parents and families, develop life skills in children, work with high risk youth and reduce availability of and misuse of alcohol have proven effective at reducing violence. Measures to ensure appropriate identification, care and support mechanisms are in place are important in minimising the harms caused by violence and reducing its recurrence.
- Reducing violence to 0-5 does depend on widespread, multi-sectorial action and requires a well-planned strategic approach to involving all members of the partnership and Local Safeguarding Children Board. Moving straight into action planning now would be precipitate. However better data on presentations to A7E (work is on-going), we need better information on what is being delivered across the piece and thirdly we need a strategy that sets out what, why and how we are proposing action.

The subgroup responsible for the CSP Priority Violence (with a focus on Domestic Violence) and Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) action plans should contain detailed actions to address these findings, which should lead to a decrease in the number of offences and an increase in partnership working, social cohesion and education around this subject.

Analysis from the CSP Strategic Assessment 2012 under Property Crime indicator 'Number of Personal Robberies' will also contain some correlation with Serious Youth Violence and Knife Crime and shows that School pupils and students account for almost half of all victims on the borough, with mobile phones being the most frequently stolen property around 29% of all property taken. Personal Robbery appears to be mainly a crime whereby the majority of suspects are aged between 15 and 19 years and the majority of victims tend to be youths. Knife Enabled Robbery remained a persistent proportion of all personal robbery offences.

Recommendations from CSP Strategic Assessment to CSP and Subgroups was that their action plan should include a continued focus on Personal Robbery Offences and offenders as there are overlaps between offenders for robbery and other offence types. Community Safety Partnership and subgroups to continue their work around education of potential victims and suspects within this crime category. Carry on with various education plans linked to this subject and continue with crime prevention programmes. The subgroups responsible for the CSP Priorities Reducing Re-offending and Gangs & Serious Youth Violence action plans should contain detailed actions to address these findings, which should lead to a decrease in the number of offences and an increase in partnership working, social cohesion and education around this subject.

Analysis from the CSP Strategic Assessment 2012 under Youth Crime, measures the number of victims, offenders, incidents, entering custody, successfully completing orders and proven re-offending of young people. They show clear correlations between Knife Crime Offences, Robbery Offences and Serious Youth Violence as these offences tend to overlay each other in crime types and peak and trough at the same time throughout the year.

Recommendations from CSP Strategic Assessment to CSP and Subgroups was that their action plan should acknowledge the clear correlation between Knife Crime, Robbery and Serious Youth Violence and vital partnership working around all three identify the link and adapt their plans accordingly to ensure that they are all part of the strategy and performance measure. Increase in activity around hotspot wards for these offences will impact on one another as there is a link between the schools and robbery offences. Partnership working around facilities provided (ie. Schools, youth clubs and leisure facilities), as 80% of all Tower Hamlets' serious youth violence victims lives within the borough. The subgroups responsible for the CSP Priorities Reducing Re-offending and Gangs & Serious Youth Violence action plans should contain detailed actions to address these findings, which should lead to a decrease in the number of offences and an increase in partnership working, social cohesion and education around this subject.

Analysis from the CSP Strategic Assessment 2012 under Drugs and Alcohol, measures the number of Young People taking drugs and or alcohol in specialist treatment has shown an 11.5% increase in the number of Young People in treatment over the three year period. This could be down to the realignment of services due to changes in funding, the YOT becoming part of the specialist treatment network and having a dedicated drug worker or a combination of both. However it is expected that the performance over the coming 3 years is likely to stay relatively stable, which goes against the national trend of a decrease over both periods.

Recommendations from CSP Strategic Assessment to CSP and Subgroups was that specialist treatment service should continue to be monitored and adjustments made to it in accordance with the needs of the users/clients.

Analysis of National Research shows that Domestic violence is a significant issue for the welfare of children and young people. It is estimated that nearly three quarters of children on the 'at risk' register live in households where domestic violence is occurring (Department of Health 2002 – Women's Mental Health: Into the mainstream). The majority of children in households experiencing domestic

		<p>violence will witness abusive behaviour. It is estimated that 90% of children are in the same or next room when abuse occurs (Hughes, 1992)</p> <p>Response from Tower Hamlets Safeguarding Children’s Board is that it has risk assessment tool to support professionals in identifying risks to children in families experiencing domestic violence and ensure appropriate response and actions. The tool and accompanying guidance supports the London safeguarding children board procedure “Safeguarding children abused through domestic violence”.</p>
Socio-economic	Positive	<p>For this target group, the priorities of Drugs and Alcohol and Reducing Re-offending may be of particular relevance.</p> <p>Analysis from the CSP Strategic Assessment 2012 under Violence Against women and Girls, shows an increase in the number of domestic violence offences by 6% year on year over the three year period. This increase could be down to a number of factors including an increasing number of people living in the borough; overcrowding and; the economic downturn, particularly the associated pressures that these can bring, but also may be down to an increase in confidence to report offences.</p> <p>Recommendations from CSP Strategic Assessment to CSP and Subgroups were that their action plans should include a continued focus on all violence related offences, especially those that can be linked to Domestic Violence. The CSP and Subgroups should continue to work and focus around education of potential victims and engaging with suspects within this crime category. Carry on with various education plans linked to this subject and continue with crime prevention programmes.</p>
Marriage and Civil Partnerships.	Positive	No data available for analysis
Pregnancy and Maternity	Positive	<p>Research nationally shows that It is estimated 30% of domestic violence begins or escalates during pregnancy, and it has been identified as a prime cause of miscarriage or still-birth, premature birth, foetal psychological damage, foetal physical injury and foetal death. The mother may be prevented from seeking or receiving adequate ante-natal or post-natal care. In addition, if the mother is being abused this may affect her attachment to her child, more so if the pregnancy is a result of rape by her partner.</p>

	Response from the CSP and the DV Forum is that they have recognised this increased risk during pregnancy and recent birth of a child. It has included this in their Domestic Abuse Stalking and Honour-based Violence Risk Assessment Form, for consideration of individual cases when taking cases to their Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference on a bi-monthly basis.
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As a result of completing the above, what is the potential impact of your policy/function on the public, giving particular regard to potential impacts on minority or protected groups?


High Medium Low

Equalities to be further considered at the Action Planning stage.

If you have identified a LOW impact or, there has been NO SIGNIFICANT amendments to an existing policy/function there is no need to continue to a full equalities analysis.

If you have assessed the potential impact as MEDIUM or HIGH you will now need to complete a full equalities analysis - building upon the findings of the initial impact assessment (section 4)

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Non-Executive Report of the: OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL 1 February 2016	 TOWER HAMLETS
Report of: Debbie Jones, Interim Corporate Director, Children's Services	Classification: Unrestricted
Diverse School Governors	

Originating Officer(s)	Hania Franek
Wards affected	All wards

Summary

This report considers the composition of governing boards of maintained schools in Tower Hamlets, whether governors reflect the diverse nature of the borough and if not, whether and how the composition of governing boards can be influenced.

Recommendations:

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee is recommended to:

1. Receive the report and to note the limitations of the local authority in relation to the membership of school governing boards .

1. BACKGROUND TO THE REPORT

- 1.1 All maintained schools are required to have governing boards. Their compositions are set out in the 2012 School Governance (Constitution) Regulations 2012 and the School Governance (Federations) (England) Regulations 2012.
- 1.2 The maintained schools in Tower Hamlets are community schools, voluntary aided schools (Church of England and Catholic schools), one voluntary controlled school, one national trust school and one Interim Executive Board. In total there are 90 governing boards for these schools, two of which are federated and these are the subject of this report.
- 1.3 There are also a small number of Academies and Free Schools (8), which are subject to different governance requirements from maintained schools. For example, schools in a multi-Academy Trust are not required to have local governing boards and there are three such schools in Tower Hamlets where this is the case: Culloden, Old Ford and Solebay Academies. Free schools and Academies are not required to share information about their governors

with the local authority. Whilst they must publish governors' names on the school website, there is no additional information available.

- 1.4 Schools and local authorities must have regard to the Department for Education's (DfE) statutory guidance 2015 on the constitution of governing boards of maintained schools. It recommends smaller governing boards that are no bigger than they need to be and that "a key consideration in the appointment and election of all new governors should be the skills and experience the governing body needs to be effective". The minimum size for a governing board is seven governors.

2. COMPOSITION OF GOVERNING BOARDS

- 2.1 Governing boards are comprised of the following categories of governors, who are appointed for four years unless the governing board decides on a shorter term of office:

Parent governors are elected by other parents at the school. Where vacancies cannot be filled by election, the governing board may appoint parent governors. This rarely happens in Tower Hamlets. There must be at least two parent governors.

Staff governors are elected by the school staff and can be teaching or support staff. There is one post only for a designated staff governor in every school.

The Headteacher is a member of the governing board by virtue of his/her office.

Local authority governors are nominated by the local authority and appointed by the governing board. The governing board decides whether the nominee has the skills to contribute to effective governance and other eligibility criteria that governors have set. One local authority governor per governing board is permitted.

Co-opted governors are appointed by the governing board. There is no restriction on their numbers, (except in relation to staff who are co-opted).

Foundation and Trust governors are required at foundation and voluntary aided and controlled schools and out-number other governors usually by two, sometimes by one. These governors are appointed by the religious bodies for the faith schools, for example the London Diocesan Board for Schools (LDBS) for Church of England schools and the Diocese of Westminster for Catholic schools. They have a particular purpose: to safeguard the character of the school.

3. EQUALITIES PROFILE

- 3.1 The number of governors in total in Tower Hamlets maintained schools, excluding vacancies is 985. When governors are appointed and re-appointed, they are asked to complete an equalities monitoring form, which collects data

on gender, disability, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation and age. Appendix A provides a summary of the information collected on current governors. It should be noted that governors do not always complete all the sections on the form and some choose not to return it.

- 3.2 Of the 985 governors in post in January 2016, 41.5% were male and 58.5% were female.
- 3.3 6.6% of governors have advised that they have a disability.
- 3.4 Data on ethnicity is available for 70% of the governors. 70% of governors are White British, 14% are Asian/British Bangladeshi, 16 % are Asian/Asian British and 4% are Black/ African/Caribbean/Black British.
- 3.5 Data is available on religion for 25% of governors. 53% are Christian, 37% are Muslim and 31% stated that they have no religion.
- 3.6 In relation to sexual orientation 86% stated that they are heterosexual, 3% that they are lesbian/gay men and 12% preferred not to say.
- 3.7 93% of governors are in the 18 to 64 age range. The largest groups are governors aged 35 to 43 (24%) and 44 to 52 (24.75%).

4. COMPARISON WITH DATA ON LOCAL RESIDENTS

- 4.1 There is no central register for school governors. In response to the “Trojan Horse” claims in Birmingham, the DfE announced in June 2015 that a national database of school governors would be created to provide more oversight and transparency for parents and the wider community. This is awaited.
- 4.2 The equalities profile of Tower Hamlets governors can be compared to data available for residents from the 2011 census attached as Appendices C. Governors are overwhelmingly recruited from the 18 to 64 years age group, whose representation in Tower Hamlets is as follows:

White British 51.5%
Asian/British Bangladeshi 25.3%%
Asian/Asian British 36%
Black/African/Caribbean/Black British 6.6%.

Appendix B provides a summary of the ethnicity of the local school population. Appendix D is ethnicity data on families in Tower Hamlets with dependant children.

- 4.3 There is very significant over-representation of governors who are White British and significant under-representation of governors from other ethnic groups. It should be noted that many governors are not residents of Tower Hamlets. Also, unless they are elected, ex officio or foundation governors, they are appointed by the governing board for their skills.

- 4.4 Governing boards were required to re-constitute by 1 September 2015 in accordance with the 2012 Regulations and DfE statutory guidance. This resulted in 63 governing boards reducing the size of the membership (only two increased their size). The net effect has been 174 fewer governors.
- 4.5 The ethnic monitoring figures in February 2015 when data was available for approximately 50% of governors were:

	2015	2016
White British:	57%	70%
Asian/Asian British:	22%	16%
Black/African/Caribbean/Black British:	5.5%	4%

The changes in the ethnic profile of governors are largely due to the effects of reconstitution.

Some other factors that are relevant to the over-representation of White British and under-representation of BME groups are:

- Approximately 92.5% of Headteachers are White, i.e. 7.5% of all governors.
- Many governors are drawn from businesses in Canary Wharf and the City as they fulfil the skills needed by governing bodies and do not live in Tower Hamlets.
- The DfE statutory guidance states that whilst engagement with parents, staff and the wider community is vital, it is not role of governing bodies to provide this through their membership. Governor appointments are made on the basis of skills.
- Following reconstitution there are fewer parent governors and in relation to community schools many of these are Bangladeshi.
- Prior to the latest Regulations, most governing bodies had two staff governors, usually one teaching and one support staff. The support staff governor was more likely to be from a BME background.
- There are 9 governing boards of Catholic schools where governors are not drawn from the Asian/British Bangladeshi community. The number of governors in Catholic schools is 10.3% of the total number of governors.
- There are 11 Church of England (CofE) schools where the foundation governors, who form more than half of the boards (7.4% of all governors) are appointed by CofE religious bodies and are not drawn from the Bangladeshi community.
- Governors can apply to be re-appointed when their term of office ends. This has the value of retaining experience and knowledge but also has the effect of restricting opportunities for aspiring governors.

Local Authority Governors

- 4.6 Of the 82 LA governors currently in post, 55 (67%) have been re-appointed, as requested by their governing boards. Ethnicity data is available for 79% of LA governors:

55% are White British
13.5% are Asian/Asian British
1 governor is Black/African/Caribbean/Black British:

Measures to influence recruitment

- 4.7 The local authority has little scope to influence the appointments to governing boards as the decisions are overwhelmingly the remit of governors themselves or the appointing bodies for voluntary schools.
- 4.8 When vacancies arise for LA governors and terms of office are ending, governing boards are asked to advise on the skills needed of the LA governor and to take account of diversity issues.
- 4.9 The LA delivers a traded clerking service to approximately 70% of schools and the Governor Support Officers advise governing boards to consider equalities/diversity issues when recruiting to vacancies and offer support in identifying suitable potential governors. This allows them to seek to match the skills needed with applications held by the Governor Services Team whilst taking account of diversity.
- 4.10 The LA entered into Service Agreements with the Collective of Bangladeshi School Governors (CBSG) and the Ocean Somali Community Association (OSCA) from 2008 to 2015 to recruit and support BME governors. This raised awareness of the role of governors in the two communities and generated interest, but the outcomes in terms of improving their representation proved very difficult to achieve. As governing boards are increasingly appointed on the basis of skills and favoured experience such as finance, legal, HR and project management, the CBSG in particular reported that professionals in their community had little time to spare after the competing demands of career and family.
- 4.11 The Parent & Family Support Team facilitates a Parent Governor Network, which helps to promote the role and engage more parents from BME groups. The Governor Services Team supports schools with parent governor recruitment through a Service Level Agreement, which includes meetings to explain the work of the governing body and the training and support available.
- 4.12 Recruitment and the role of governors in improving diversity have been discussed at the Director's Meeting with Governors and there has also been a workshop at the governors' annual conference that addressed the concerns. An article will be included in the Director's summer report to governors, which will be sent to every Tower Hamlets governor, to feedback the discussion from this committee.
- 4.13 Consideration has been given to publicising the need for more diverse governors. However, given that more applications are received than vacancies available, it could be counter-productive to raise expectations that could not be fulfilled.

- 4.14 Improving diversity on governing boards is within the power of governors themselves and the LA will continue to encourage them to take more responsibility.

5. COMMENTS OF THE CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER

- 5.1 There are no direct financial implications as a result of the recommendations in this report.

6 LEGAL COMMENTS

- 6.1 The Council is required by section 9F of the Local Government Act 2000 to have an Overview and Scrutiny Committee and to have executive arrangements that ensure the committee has specified powers. Consistent with this obligation, Article 6 of the Council's Constitution provides that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee may consider any matter affecting the area or its inhabitants. The Committee may also make reports and recommendations to the Full Council or the Executive in connection with the discharge of any functions.

- 6.2 When making decisions, the Council must have due regard to the need to eliminate unlawful conduct under the Equality Act 2010, the need to advance equality of opportunity and the need to foster good relations between persons who share a protected characteristic and those who do not (the public sector equality duty). This duty applies to all decisions made by public authorities, whether those decisions have individual or general effect.

- 6.3 The Equality Act applies to all maintained and independent schools, as well as academies and free schools and it is the Governing Body of the school that is the "responsible body" for ensuring that the school meets the requirements of equality legislation. The actual recruitment of the Governing Body however is not subject to the public sector equality duty.

- 6.4 As this report correctly states aside from the nomination of the local authority governors (for which there can be only be one per school), the recruitment of the board is not a decision for the Council and therefore the Council has little scope to influence the appointments to governing boards. To the extent that it can, paragraph 4 of the report sets out what steps the Council can take for greater diversity of governors.

7. ONE TOWER HAMLETS CONSIDERATIONS

- 7.1 Governors are volunteers and their recruitment is not subject to the public sector equality duty. They can make important contributions to community cohesion and are a significant way that members of different local communities work together and participate to improve the educational outcomes of young people in Tower Hamlets.

8. BEST VALUE (BV) IMPLICATIONS

7.1 Governors will be invited to comment on actions that the directorate could take that would support them to support the objective of increasing their diversity.

9. SUSTAINABLE ACTION FOR A GREENER ENVIRONMENT

9.1 There are no SAGE implications in the report.

10. RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

10.1 There are no risk implications arising from the report.

11. CRIME AND DISORDER REDUCTION IMPLICATIONS

11.1 There are no proposals in this respect.

Appendices

- A Governor Equalities Data
- B Ethnicity of LBTH School Population
- C Ethnicity of Tower Hamlets Residents 2011
- D Population with Dependant Children 2011

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

- NONE.

Officer contact details for documents:

- N/A

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Governors' Equalities Data

Appendix A

Number of Governors: 985 (in post January 2016)

Gender Male: 409 (41.5%) Female: 576 (58.5%) Transgender: 1

Disability (data for 546 governors, 55%)

Physical impairment:	7
Sensory impairment:	4
Mental health:	0
Learning disability/difficulty:	10
Long standing illness:	10
Other:	3
None declared:	512
% with disability:	6.6%

Ethnicity (data for 724 governors, 70%)

Asian/British Bangladeshi	103 (14%)
Asian/British Indian	11
Asian/British Pakistan	1
Black/British Caribbean	14
Black/British Somali	5
Mixed/White & Asian	2
Mixed /White & Black African	1
Other Black African	8
Other - Chinese	1
Any other Asian	5
Any other Black	2
Any other group	10
Any other mixed	3
Any other white	28
White British	508 (70%)
White Irish	13
White Traveller Irish Heritage	1
White Turkish Cypriot	2
Prefer not to say	6

Religion (data for 246 governors, 25%)

Christian	129 (53%)
Muslim	92 (37%)
Hindu	3
Jewish	3
Sikh	1
Other religious beliefs	6
No religion	76 (31%)
Prefer not to say	16

Sexual Orientation (data for 521 governors, 53%)

Heterosexual/straight	448
Lesbian/gay man	17
Bisexual	3
Prefer not to say	53

Age

18 – 25	0.5%
26 – 34	21.25%
35 – 43	24%
44 – 52	24.75%
53 – 59	15%
60 – 64	7%
65+	7%
Prefer not to say	0

ETHNICITY OF SCHOOL POPULATION.

Appendix B

C	Any Other Ethnic Group		Any Other Ethnic Group	Asian or Asian British				Asian or Asian British	Unknown Ethnic Group		Unknown Ethnic Group	
	Any Other Ethnic Group	Vietnamese	Total	Any Other Asian Background	Bangladeshi	Indian	Pakistani	Total	Information Not Yet Obtained	Refused	Total	
	Total	2.1%	0.4%	2.5%	0.8%	61.7%	1.0%	0.9%	64.3%	2.8%	0.1%	2.9%

Black or Black British				Black or Black British	Chinese	Chinese	Mixed/Dual Background				Mixed/Dual Background
Any Other Black Background	Black - Somali	Black Caribbean	Black - Any Other Black African Background	Total	Chinese	Total	Any Other Mixed Background	White and Asian	White and Black African	White and Black Caribbean	Total
1.0%	3.7%	1.7%	4.2%	10.6%	0.5%	0.5%	2.4%	0.9%	0.6%	1.5%	5.3%

White					White
Any Other White Background	Gypsy / Roma	Traveller of Irish Heritage	White - British	White - Irish	Total
4.1%	0.0%	0.1%	9.6%	0.2%	13.9%

Ethnicity of Tower Hamlets Residents

2011 Census

APPENDIX C

Full Table	Number of residents			Proportion of residents	Proportion of residents		
	Age 0 to 17	Age 18 to 64	All Ages		Age 0 to 17	Age 18 to 64	All Ages
All Residents							
All categories: Ethnic group	55,096	183,430	254,096	100%	100%	100%	
White: Total	10,301	94,477	114,819	18.7%	51.5%	45.2%	
<i>White: English/Welsh/Scottish/Northern Irish/British</i>	8,174	62,190	79,231	14.8%	33.9%	31.2%	
<i>White: Irish</i>	99	3,191	3,863	0.2%	1.7%	1.5%	
<i>White: Gypsy or Irish Traveller</i>	53	118	175	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	
<i>White: Other White</i>	1,975	28,978	31,550	3.6%	15.8%	12.4%	
Mixed/multiple ethnic group: Total	4,061	6,106	10,360	7.4%	3.3%	4.1%	
<i>Mixed/multiple ethnic group: White and Black Caribbean</i>	1,267	1,493	2,837	2.3%	0.8%	1.1%	
<i>Mixed/multiple ethnic group: White and Black African</i>	555	932	1,509	1.0%	0.5%	0.6%	
<i>Mixed/multiple ethnic group: White and Asian</i>	1,177	1,749	2,961	2.1%	1.0%	1.2%	
<i>Mixed/multiple ethnic group: Other Mixed</i>	1,062	1,932	3,053	1.9%	1.1%	1.2%	
Asian/Asian British: Total	34,439	66,125	104,501	62.5%	36.0%	41.1%	
<i>Asian/Asian British: Indian</i>	712	5,924	6,787	1.3%	3.2%	2.7%	
<i>Asian/Asian British: Pakistani</i>	478	1,871	2,442	0.9%	1.0%	1.0%	
<i>Asian/Asian British: Bangladeshi</i>	31,656	46,406	81,377	57.5%	25.3%	32.0%	
<i>Asian/Asian British: Chinese</i>	633	7,261	8,109	1.1%	4.0%	3.2%	
<i>Asian/Asian British: Other Asian</i>	960	4,663	5,786	1.7%	2.5%	2.3%	
Black/African/Caribbean/Black British: Total	5,254	12,137	18,629	9.5%	6.6%	7.3%	
<i>Black/African/Caribbean/Black British: African</i>	2,742	6,358	9,495	5.0%	3.5%	3.7%	
<i>Black/African/Caribbean/Black British: Caribbean</i>	926	3,747	5,341	1.7%	2.0%	2.1%	
<i>Black/African/Caribbean/Black British: Other Black</i>	1,586	2,032	3,793	2.9%	1.1%	1.5%	
Other ethnic group: Total	1,041	4,585	5,787	1.9%	2.5%	2.3%	
<i>Other ethnic group: Arab</i>	513	2,026	2,573	0.9%	1.1%	1.0%	
<i>Other ethnic group: Any other ethnic group</i>	528	2,559	3,214	1.0%	1.4%	1.3%	

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Population, households and dependent children, by ethnic group, Tower Hamlets, 2011											
<i>HRP=household reference person</i>	Population		All households (by ethnicity of HRP)		Number of households with dependent children (by ethnicity of HRP)			Number of dependent children			
	All resident s	% total	Number of h'hlds	% total	Number	% total	As % of all households	Classified by ethnicity of child		Classified by ethnicity of HRP	
								Number	% total	Number	% total
All residents	254,096	100	101,257	100	26,916	100	27	56,090	100	56,090	100
White ethnic groups	114,819	45.2	58,357	57.6	7,563	28	13	10,342	18	11,817	21
- White British	79,231	31.2	41,306	40.8	5,369	20	13	8,210	15	8,573	15
- Irish	3,863	1.5	2,264	2.2	191	1	8	99	0	299	1
- Gypsy or Irish Traveller	175	0.1	63	0.1	18	0	29	53	0	53	0
- White Other	31,550	12.4	14,724	14.5	1,985	7	13	1,980	4	2,892	5
Mixed ethnicity	10,360	4.1	3,312	3.3	733	3	22	4,037	7	1,204	2
- White & Black Caribbean	2,837	1.1	828	0.8	268	1	32	1,265	2	420	1
- White & Black African	1,509	0.6	576	0.6	152	1	26	559	1	273	0
- White & Asian	2,961	1.2	899	0.9	152	1	17	1,183	2	255	0
- Other Mixed	3,053	1.2	1,009	1.0	161	1	16	1,030	2	256	0
Asian/Asian British	104,501	41.1	29,280	28.9	15,157	56	52	35,286	63	35,987	64
- Indian	6,787	2.7	3,089	3.1	586	2	19	718	1	864	2
- Pakistani	2,442	1.0	886	0.9	285	1	32	493	1	578	1
- Bangladeshi	81,377	32.0	19,526	19.3	13,287	49	68	32,467	58	32,949	59
- Chinese	8,109	3.2	3,581	3.5	466	2	13	639	1	702	1
- Other Asian	5,786	2.3	2,198	2.2	533	2	24	969	2	894	2

Black/Black British	18,629	7.3	7,996	7.9	2,845	11	36	5,372	10	5,862	10
- African	9,495	3.7	3,863	3.8	1,590	6	41	2,808	5	3,369	6
- Caribbean	5,341	2.1	2,907	2.9	714	3	25	938	2	1,094	2
- Other Black	3,793	1.5	1,226	1.2	541	2	44	1,626	3	1,399	2
Other groups	5,787	2.3	2,312	2.3	618	2	27	1,053	2	1,220	2
- Arab	2,573	1.0	1,005	1.0	300	1	30	518	1	616	1
- Other ethnic group	3,214	1.3	1,307	1.3	318	1	24	535	1	604	1
<i>All BME Groups</i>	<i>139,277</i>	<i>55</i>	<i>42,900</i>	<i>42</i>	<i>19,353</i>	<i>72</i>	<i>45</i>	<i>45,748</i>	<i>82</i>	<i>44,273</i>	<i>79</i>
<i>All groups except White British</i>	<i>174,865</i>	<i>69</i>	<i>59,951</i>	<i>59</i>	<i>21,547</i>	<i>80</i>	<i>36</i>	<i>47,880</i>	<i>85</i>	<i>47,517</i>	<i>85</i>

Source: 2011 Census (Tables: KS201EW, DC1201EW, DC1203EW, DC2116EW)

* Estimate was calculated by dividing the number of dependent children by number of households with dependent children (all on the basis of the ethnicity of HRP).

Agenda Item 8.4

Non-Executive Report of the: Overview and Scrutiny Committee 1 st February 2016	 TOWER HAMLETS
Report of: Melanie Clay, Director of Law, Probity and Governance and Debbie Jones, Corporate Director Children's Services	Classification: Unrestricted
Progress update report: Raising Post-16 Educational Attainment	

Originating Officer(s)	Kevin Kewin, Interim Service Head Corporate Strategy and Equality Terry Parkin, Interim Service Head Learning and Achievement Vicky Allen, Strategy, Policy and Performance Officer
Wards affected	All

Summary

This report follows up from the scrutiny review into post-16 educational attainment, which went to Overview and Scrutiny Committee in July 2013. This report reviews the progress against the original recommendations.

Recommendations:

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee is recommended to:

1. Note the report findings.

1. DETAILS OF REPORT

- 1.1 The review took place in June 2013. Post-16 educational attainment was chosen as a priority issue for the Overview and Scrutiny Committee in 2013-14 because of evidence that many young people in Tower Hamlets are not achieving their full potential at this level. Raising attainment at post-16 was a priority for the then Mayor and the Education Social Care and Wellbeing Directorate (now Children's Services) and it was felt strongly that a scrutiny review could make a valuable contribution to the work on this agenda.
- 1.2 The key aim of the review was to explore why post-16 results (AS and A2 Levels) are below average, particularly when considered against performance at GCSE. The review group also sought to understand the barriers which prevent better attainment, and ultimately how the council and its partners could further support schools and young people to increase overall performance at this level. Also, the review group was keen to look at

participation in higher education, and young people's aspirations for employment, as one of the factors which influences their post-16 choices and attainment.

- 1.3 The report made 16 recommendations around four central themes, which were agreed by OSC and by Cabinet:
- Supporting the transition to post-16;
 - Independent information and advice;
 - Teaching quality; and
 - Parental engagement
- 1.4 The body of this report outlines the progress against these recommendations. The original report with recommendations and the action plan which accompanies the report is attached as **Appendix 1**.

Supporting the transition to post-16

The participation age for post 16 education, training or work with training has recently been increased a young person's 18th birthday. This means that, while a young person should be in either education or training, there is no compulsory curriculum or subjects – with the exception of GCSE Maths and English Language when a young person doesn't have a C grade. Therefore schools can choose the combination of courses that they provide and the size of their sixth form.

The role of the LA is to take a strategic role – for example mapping post 16 provision, monitoring performance – and advise schools. We don't have statutory powers at post 16 and while schools can take our advice, they don't have to.

- 1.5 **RECOMMENDATION 1:** That the council funds and supports the development of academic literacy, by providing one to one tuition for students and support for teachers which schools can access
- 1.6 Service comment at action planning stage: A consultant has run the academic literacy scheme; the evaluation of this is very positive. The service drew up two actions to support the delivery of this recommendation:
- To fund and continue with the work that the consultant has piloted over the last 2 years.
 - To explore why more girls than boys attend the scheme. Start a new group of students in September 2013.
- 1.7 Progress update comment from service:
- A consultant has led a network of sixth form tutors and kept the provision of tuition under review. 6th form tutors are paid for by schools since start-up funding from the Council ceased in 2013. Good practice is shared between schools via Heads of Sixth Meetings and Tutors' termly network meetings.
 - Evidence from the academic literacy programme is that it has been successful in improving student grades. Schools have used the scheme in different ways; some have targeted students who should be achieving

A*/A at A level while other schools have focused on students who are struggling at D/E grades.

- Different delivery models have been used: whole class, small group and 1:1 sessions. Each has its benefits and schools have developed bespoke programmes for their needs.
- An LA officer led a London Schools Excellence Fund project between Dec 2013 and Dec 2015, designed to provide literacy coaches for humanities and science teachers in their subject lessons. The grant has paid for 110 teachers to be coached in nine schools. This programme has continued beyond its funding period with three schools having started their own self funded coaching programmes. A publication, *'Writing it Right, Activities to improve students' academic language in speech and writing (for exams and beyond)'* sets out good practice and has been given to all schools.
- We are beginning to see the results of this initiative in L3 results and progression – Level 3 points per student have increased from 628 in 2013 to 682 in 2015 (Inner London 636 and national 682). If the FE College is excluded (THC is outside the LA remit) the figures become 681 in 2013 rising to 725 in 2015 (Inner London 732 and national 766).
- 65% of TH students who successfully completed L3 went to university. Of these 25% went to HEIs classified as being in the top third and 12% went to Russell Group universities. This compares to Inner London figures of 62%, 25% and 16% respectively and national figures of 58%, 26% and 17% respectively. Progression to HE is higher than both National and London, comparable for top third and below for Russell Group. But there has been improvement of 1% from the previous year

1.8 **RECOMMENDATION 2:** That schools teach independent study skills and that the council promotes and facilitates best practice in approaches to incentivise learning and independent study

1.9 Service comment at action planning stage: Schools have different models of teaching independent study and best practice is shared at Head of Sixths forum – for example Targeted Intervention Groups, commitment interviews. This is going to become even more important with linear A levels. They have varied induction programmes for L3 study and some schools use bursary and MEA to incentivise independent study. The service drew up three activities to support the delivery of this recommendation:

- Focus on putting examples and models of independent learning into schools via HoS forum, website
- Encourage all schools to use MEA to encourage independent study
- Further develop induction programmes through more taster lessons and early development of study skills

1.10 Progress update comment from service:

- Schools have introduced a variety of programmes around developing independent learning skills and most now hold taster sessions for sixth form students.
- We have developed a continuing professional development unit on transition to post 16 and this has been held in several schools.

- We have also held several sixth form reviews that have highlighted good practice in developing independent learning skills.
- Schools are developing specific teaching and learning programmes for sixth form students.
- Where students are eligible for EMA attendance criteria includes private study periods.
- The post 16 Study Programme provides a framework for developing a coherent timetable for students that includes not only their subjects but also extra-curricular input, careers IAG, study support and the development of work related skills. Schools are at different places in developing the Study Programme but they are all making progress.

1.11 **RECOMMENDATION 3:** That the council supports all sixth forms to use ALPS data effectively in their planning, to target support to Year 12 students.

1.12 Service comment at action planning stage: We currently pay for schools' ALPS subscription and this gives access to a lot of ALPS support. For example ALPS will talk through data prior to an Ofsted inspection. ALPS data forms part of the data analysis carried out by the LA. Best ALPS subject practice is shared with schools to help develop links; other data sources are also used – Learning Plus UK, 6th from PANDA – these give further levels of analysis, for example retentions rates, course completion. Finally, all HoS have an Ofsted data list so that they can keep their data up to date. The service drew up three actions to support the delivery of this recommendation.

- Give examples of how ALPS can be used to improve performance via HoS forum and 6th form conference held annually
- Analysis of travel to learn ALPS data to inform IAG
- Improve data use and analysis for L1 and L2 courses

1.12 Progress update comment from service:

- DSG funding for the Alps programme has continued
- All HoS have attended at least one Alps national conference
- An Alps representative has run a session at HoS on how to use Alps effectively
- Individual schools have had bespoke Alps training from a representative of the company
- Borough led Alps training sessions have been held in several schools
- We have commissioned two travel to learn surveys from Alps (2012 and 2014) and these have given us detailed information on travel patterns and achievement data when our students study out of the borough. These trends have been fed into the information, advice and guidance sessions, but it is important to remember that students are sometimes justified in travelling outside the borough for specific courses or because their family have moved while they have been attending a Tower Hamlets secondary school
- Data for L1 and L2 is collected at school level but changes to post 16 performance table data will see this collected at national level over the next few years. Only a handful of schools offer L1 provision: Central Foundation Girls School, George Green's, Langdon Park. Tower Hamlets College have an extensive programme

- Where students re-sit GCSE Maths and English Language the data will be collected as part of reforms to post 16 performance tables.
- 1.13 **RECOMMENDATION 4:** That the council encourages the development of Raising Post-16 Attainment programmes in all sixth forms by sharing best practice examples inside and outside Tower Hamlets and by exploring how to expand the support offered to schools by partners such as Queen Mary university.
- 1.14 Service comment at action planning stage: The service has developed the Heads of Sixths forum as one to share good practice and sessions have been held on IAG and changes to post 16. They also work with QM, UEL and Sussex on a borough level and schools have many other links with HEIs. The service drew up four actions to support the delivery of this recommendation:
- Develop a section of the website to host materials on line that teachers can then use.
 - The Special Projects Officer is working with partner universities and work is developing in this area further.
 - Instigate an annual conference with HE partners
 - Schools establish lead teachers for HE – see R9
- 1.15 Progress update comment from service:
- Funded from DSG
 - No progress on establishing a website but good practice materials are sent via email to Heads of Sixths or via termly subject network meetings
 - We have extensive links with a range of universities - developed by our Special Projects Officer. These include Oxford, Cambridge, York, Durham, Manchester, Birmingham, Southampton, Newcastle as well as London based universities. These links enable our young people to access specific application advice, HEI visits and talks.
 - An HE Fair has been held every year and this is well attended by a range of HEIs from around the country and by students from many of our secondary schools.
 - Each school now has a key teacher or academic mentor for HE progression and our data for HE entry for students who get to the end of their KS5 course is good at around 68%
- 1.16 **RECOMMENDATION 5:** That schools adopt initiatives such as summer learning to ensure students are equipped for the transition to post-16 study.
- 1.17 Service comment at action planning stage: Schools already do a lot of activities around transition to post 16 but they could explore more timetabling possibilities around this. Schools are sent a regular information sheet on post 16 issues and policy changes. The service identified three actions to support the delivery of this recommendation:
- Share ideas and best practice more widely
 - Help schools use data quickly and effectively for transition
 - Develop scaffolding ideas in schools to structure early year 12 teaching

1.18 Progress update comment from service:

- A CPD module has been developed based around transition from year 11 to 12. This module has been held at several schools
- Schools have developed partnerships with Tower Project to deliver initiatives that prepare students with learning difficulties for post 16 internships and study programmes
- Several FE reviews have taken place in schools – led by LA officers. These have identified good practice and have explored transition issues. We have interviewed students and staff to get their perspective on transition to year 12. We now have examples of a range of good practice that is shared across the borough
- An increasing number of schools are holding year 12 taster/preparation lessons at the end of year 11
- Several data focused CPD sessions have been held in schools. These have focused on how to use live data to improve the performance of current students – rather than looking at historical data.

Raising aspiration

1.19 **RECOMMENDATION 6:** That the council sustains and expands the Oxbridge and Russell Group partnerships, through developing an alumni network and improving links with individual universities.

1.20 Service comment at action planning stage: All schools have an alumni network – some more formal than others. These are often Facebook groups. We are also working with the primary sector on this so that the Oxbridge/Russell link becomes long term and part of the culture of Tower Hamlets. Two activities were identified by the service to support this recommendation:

- Further develop alumni groups to get them in school helping or advising current students
- Make sure that activities at primary level are known about and used at secondary level

1.21 Progress update comment from service:

- Schools are developing alumni groups and organisations such as the EBP have also started to work in this area
- We still need to work on looking at activities at Primary school level.
- We are starting to introduce local labour market trends information into schools at a younger age

1.22 **RECOMMENDATION 7:** That Aim Higher funding is reinvested in higher education visits for students and parents, following a review by the council into which type of visits have been most well received and most successful, in terms of the impact on choices and mindset.

- 1.23 Service comment at action planning stage: Aim higher money has been given to each school and used for: university visits, visiting speakers, summer schools, parents HE visits, taster days. Two further activities have been identified by the service to support this activity:
- Aim higher money has been cut in 2013
 - Impact reviewed and application for further funding
- 1.24 Progress update comment from service:
- Aim Higher funding has finished and any money remaining from AH has now been spent. Activities that were funded from this are now drawn from school sixth form funding. So far schools have been able to provide HE visits, visiting speakers and HE Fairs. HEI's often fund summer schools, parents' visits and taster days. Students attend many taster days and these are paid for either from general sixth form funding or by HEIs or a mixture of both.
 - The impact of the withdrawal of the Aim Higher money has not yet been as serious as it could have been but with post 16 funding not having any protection – unlike pre 16 – the current situation cannot be guaranteed. HE widening participation funding has filled the gap but universities are reviewing how this money is spent.
- 1.25 **RECOMMENDATION 8:** That the council works with the EBP and local businesses, including Canary Wharf and public services, to increase the number of higher level work experience opportunities and explore their role in addressing the challenge of post-16 attainment and career aspiration.
- 1.26 Service comment at action planning stage: The Council uses its procurement contracts to develop apprenticeships and schools have links with local businesses. Two activities were identified by the service to support the delivery of this recommendation:
- Work with Businesses through the EBP to provide a greater range of high quality work experience
 - Expand the remit of the apprenticeship task group to look at wider employment experience opportunities
- 1.27 Progress update comment from service:
- Work experience provision is inconsistent. Students on vocational courses usually get a placement but A level students less so. We have developed supported work experience for post 16 SEN students and this has been very successful – although expensive. 40 SEND students will have had a work experience placement by March 2016 and this has cost £22,500 but this has been one-off funding.
 - The EBP has introduced its '750 Pledge Club' where it is aiming to get a commitment from a range of employers, local and international employers to provide work experience placements
 - The apprenticeship task group has widened its remit to include a range of members but needs reinvigorating following the recent re-organisation of economic regeneration
 - Further work to embed and ensure a smooth process whereby young people can access apprenticeships that result from planning gain

Independent information and advice

- 1.28 **RECOMMENDATION 9:** That the council invests in permanent support for higher education advisor roles, through
- training for school staff
 - recruitment of two independent higher education advisors who can go into schools to support students to make informed choices
 - facilitating mentoring to support students who wish to make choices not in line with parents' preferences
- 1.29 Service comment at action planning stage: Ten places were secured at the London South Bank University Higher Education Advisors course. Five of these places went to school and advisor staff and five to careers staff. Two schools already have academic mentors so this will mean that each school will have access to a specialist advisor. Several schools are working with the HE advisor from Camden. Schools have HE advice sessions for parents. Three activities were drawn up to support this recommendation:
- The advisors course will be completed by December 2013 and this should see a further improvement in the quality of advice offered to students about HE
 - HE advice sessions to include case studies of students who have chosen different or untypical subjects
 - Funding would be required to appoint LA HE advisers
- 1.30 Progress update comment from service:
- 10 staff from local schools and the careers service completed the London South Bank University HE adviser training. The good practice aspects of the course have been shared with all schools
 - Funding was found from the DSG to support the LA HE advisers in completing the course – this was one-off funding
 - Most of our schools have now moved to a model where they have an academic mentor or similar who takes the lead on HE issues
 - Schools are being encouraged to access expert careers guidance at post 16 that is available via the Careers Service
- 1.31 **RECOMMENDATION 10:** That the council improves information to support informed choice, by producing a handbook for students and parents explaining the range of choices available at post-16 and higher education, which is available in different languages and in formats, such as through video and social media.
- 1.32 Service comment at action planning stage: Schools publish sixth form handbooks detailing their courses and place on their websites. One activity was identified by the service to support the delivery of this recommendation:
- Explore the possibilities of a LA generic handbook/online presence
 - Also having a Facebook and Twitter presence is the way to go but this may require policy changes

1.33 Progress update comment from service:

- A post 16 options booklet has been produced and is updated annually
- Post 16 Vocational Education and Training Directory has been developed
- Post 16 Directory for Foundation Learners and Learners with Special Education Needs is also available
- The local offer containing information and advice for parents and young people with special educational needs and disabilities can be located on the council website.
- Facebook and Twitter pages are used in schools but this is not policy at Council level. The Prevent agenda and issues around this relating to social media make this a more difficult path to follow
- All schools publish their post 16 course offer on their websites

Teaching quality

1.34 **RECOMMENDATION 11:** That the council works with Heads of Sixth forms and Tower Hamlets College to develop a co-operative model which increases support for teaching to high attainment, by adopting best practice from Hackney including:

- Borough revision classes delivered by the best teachers
- Subject networks to support teachers

1.35 Service comment at action planning stage: The service works with Tower Hamlets College at different forums – 14-19 Partnership, Heads of Sixths, SFE planning. In addition, schools already take part in university provided revision classes. Two activities were drawn up by the service to support the delivery of this recommendation:

- Further explore possibilities of borough revision classes
- Development of an e-community subject network

1.36 Progress update comment from service:

- Schools generally hold their own revision classes and these reflect the specific needs of their students. We are developing some links between schools and subjects via the subject network initiative that is now in its second year. A spin off from this is an e-community of teachers swapping resources and ideas. LA work in this area is funded by the DSG while schools activities are funded by them
- A more specific e-community is being established at the Sixth Form East provision through a subject pair's initiative.

1.37 **RECOMMENDATION 12:** That the council uses ALPS data to link up schools that are performing well and poorly in a particular subject, to promote peer support to improve teaching quality

1.38 Service comment at action planning stage: See comments from recommendation 3. In addition, schools are beginning to link through exploring best practice list possibilities. The service drew up one action to support the delivery of this recommendation:

- Develop subject networks

1.39 Progress update comment from service:

- Alps data has been used to develop subject networks. We have analysed subject performance – for example whether students performed above, at or below target, three year patterns, trends between schools - and used this to identify lead schools for each subject in the network.
- A spin off from this is that schools are sharing good practice and there is a greater awareness of what is distinct about post 16 teaching – and what can be drawn on from KS3 and 4

Parental engagement

1.40 **RECOMMENDATION 13:** That the council conducts scoping work to better understand parents' and children's aspirations for post-16 study, to inform communications support it can provide to schools to market themselves as a provider of choice to parents and students

1.41 Service comment at action planning stage: At the recent Parents Conference we had an FE input and this was well received. Parents had workshop activities on post 16 and a frequently asked questions information sheet. We are also aiming to build on the work at Bow School as this launches its sixth form. All schools have an FE open day/evening. The service drew up three actions to support the recommendation:

- More sessions at the Parents conference – to include advice on different levels = L1, L2, L3 and apprenticeships
- More opportunities for parents to gain first hand understanding of university education
- Analysis and key messages disseminated from travel to study research

1.42 Progress update comment from service:

- We have held two sessions at the Annual Parents Conference. These have covered the wider post 16 progression routes – A levels, apprenticeships and work with training. Advice on L1 and 2 has also been given. The Parental Engagement Team – who organise the Annual Parent Conference – is a traded service
- Schools are being encouraged to consider the inclusion of level 1 and 2 courses for students who do not or cannot achieve the qualifications needed for A' level or level 3 learning.
- Parents have also had the chance to go on HE visits via their children's school
- We have analysed the trends in the travel to study research and this has been given to schools. Broadly students do no better when they travel to learn but there are exceptions – for example, where they go for specific courses.

1.43 **RECOMMENDATION 14:** That the council conducts a review of its parental engagement and advice services to understand
- Why schools are not purchasing the offer

- How to improve parental engagement at year 9 with a focus on decisions, subjects and careers
 - How to capitalise on the number of parents unsuccessful at becoming school governors to develop other methods of engagement through PTAs etc
- 1.44 Service comment at action planning stage: Three activities are already undertaken to support this recommendation: an annual parent conference; Schools have GCSE information evenings for year 9 students; and many schools take year 9 students on HE visits. Three further actions were drawn up to support this recommendation:
- Highlight employment pathways at yr 9 parents evenings
 - Develop FE input at the Parents Conference
 - Work with the Parental Engagement team to reach parents and encourage involvement in education
- 1.45 Progress update comment from service:
- The Careers Service has developed easy to understand local labour market information that is put into schools. Different employment route information is increasingly being put into year 9 options information sessions – for example the links between particular subjects and employment routes, links to apprenticeships and traineeships. The Careers Service is a traded service
 - There has been an FE input at each Parent’s Conference
 - SEND young people and those at risk of becoming NEET are given individual careers guidance during year 9 by the Careers Service as well as each school
- 1.46 **RECOMMENDATION 15:** That schools provide more opportunities for parents to get involved in the life of the school through parent network groups, parent governor positions and volunteering roles.
- 1.47 Service comment at action planning stage: Schools have various activities for parents, especially for younger year groups. Two activities were drawn up to support the delivery of this recommendation:
- Explore best practice and expand to older year groups
 - Encourage headteachers and governors to understand the benefits of parental engagement in secondary schools
- 1.48 Progress update comment from service:
- Transition briefings held for parents - starting secondary school, transition to GCSEs, planning for post 16
 - Parents’ guide and FAQs on post 16 transition written and circulated
 - Sessions held in schools on developing the parent voice
 - Parent network meetings
 - Dads’ network
 - Healthy families programme
 - Parent-governor network

- 1.49 **RECOMMENDATION 16:** That all schools run sessions for parents to raise awareness and knowledge of higher education.
- 1.50 Service comment at action planning stage: Schools have HE advice sessions for parents. Two actions were drawn up to support the delivery of this recommendation:
- To explore a handbook of HE key terms etc for parents together with TH student case studies
 - Publicise positive student University experiences
- 1.51 Progress update comment from service:
- Post 16, apprenticeship and HE key terms and frequently asked questions have been distributed at the Annual Parents Conference. Schools hold post 16 and 18 advice evenings
 - The EBP are established a borough alumni group. Schools also have their own alumni organisations. Both of these publicise the positive side of HE.

2. COMMENTS OF THE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

- 2.1 This report provides updates on progress in respect to the findings and recommendations of a scrutiny review into post-16 educational attainment in 2013.
- 2.2 The funding for each of the recommendations which have been implemented has mainly been provided by the Post 16 element of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) and other specific grants. These are mentioned within each of the progress updates provided in this report.
- 2.3 Where actions are to continue for the individual recommendations these will be met from existing resources. If there are costs for the Council additional to those already being incurred, officers will be obliged to seek the appropriate financial approval before further financial commitments are made.

3. LEGAL COMMENTS

- 3.1 The Council is required by section 9F of the Local Government Act 2000 to have an Overview and Scrutiny Committee and to have executive arrangements that ensure the committee has specified powers. Consistent with this obligation, Article 6 of the Council's Constitution provides that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee may consider any matter affecting the area or its inhabitants. The Committee may also make reports and recommendations to the Full Council or the Executive in connection with the discharge of any functions.
- 3.2 The report of the scrutiny review group proposed a range of measures to raise post-16 educational attainment and this report provides an update against the original recommendations.

3.3 As to the recommendations, the Council has a general duty under section 13 of the Education Act 1996, so far as its powers permit, to contribute towards the spiritual, moral, mental and physical development of the community by securing (relevantly) that efficient secondary education and further education are available to meet the needs of the population in Tower Hamlets. When exercising its functions related to the provision of education, the Council is required by section 13A of the Education Act 1996 to do so with a view to –

- (a) promoting high standards,
- (b) ensuring fair access to opportunities for education and training, and
- (c) promoting the fulfilment of learning potential by every person to whom its responsibilities extend (i.e. persons under the age of 20 and persons aged 20 or over but under 25 who are subject to learning difficulty assessment)

3.4 The borough's maintained schools have statutory responsibilities and budgets in relation to some of the matters the subject of recommendation. The Council's ability to intervene in the management of schools is circumscribed by the Education and Inspections Act 2006.

3.5 When considering its approach to post-16 attainment, the Council must have due regard to the need to eliminate unlawful conduct under the Equality Act 2010, the need to advance equality of opportunity and the need to foster good relations between persons who share a protected characteristic and those who don't.

4. ONE TOWER HAMLETS CONSIDERATIONS

4.1 Raising post-16 attainment is key to expanding the options available to young people when they leave education – either by going on to higher education or into employment. Improving the prospects of young people is an important way of reducing economic inequality within the borough.

5. BEST VALUE (BV) IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The recommendations in this report are made as part of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee's role in helping to secure continuous improvement for the council, as required under its Best Value duty.

6. SUSTAINABLE ACTION FOR A GREENER ENVIRONMENT

6.1 There are no direct environmental implications arising from this report.

7. RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

7.1 There are no direct risk management implications arising from this report or its recommendations.

8. CRIME AND DISORDER REDUCTION IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 There are no direct crime and disorder reduction implications arising from this report or its recommendations.
-

Linked Reports, Appendices and Background Documents

Linked Report

- NONE

Appendices

- Appendix 1 – Raising Post-16 Educational Attainment – report of the scrutiny review group
- Appendix 2 – Scrutiny review action plan

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

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

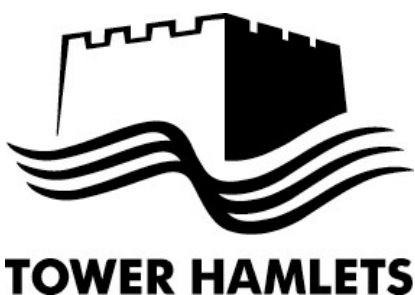
- NONE

Officer contact details for documents:

- N/A
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Overview and Scrutiny Committee Review Group Report

Raising Post-16 Educational Attainment



London Borough of Tower Hamlets
July 2013

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CHAIR'S FOREWORD – CLLR AMY WHITELOCK

Improving post-16 attainment is critical to ensuring all young people in Tower Hamlets are able to achieve their potential and take advantage of the higher education and career opportunities on our doorstep and beyond. Yet despite significant progress in GCSE attainment, this has not been matched by our post-16 results, which remain persistently below the national average. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee felt strongly that this merited further investigation as unless this is addressed, we risk failing our young people. I am very grateful to my colleagues and the parent governors who served on the review group and to council officers, teachers, former and current students, and external contributors, all of whose insights and experience were invaluable.

The review group observed two main findings. Firstly, it is particularly at the higher grades A*-B where we fall well below the national average, with students who achieve As at GCSE tending to underperform at A Level. We were concerned that it seems higher ability students are not being well served post-16, with potentially huge impacts on their subsequent life choices. Secondly, the range of subjects and destinations chosen for higher education is limited, with the vast majority opting to stay close to home to study and only 14% attending Russell Group universities, compared to 21% nationally. While we acknowledge the pressures on students due to both the rising cost of university and family commitments, and that depending on career goals different types of universities may be more appropriate, it is crucial that all students are encouraged to think broadly about their futures and explore different options, so they can make independent choices that are right for them.

The factors behind these overall findings are a complex combination – including the challenge posed to students and teachers by the jump between GCSE and A Level; academic literacy issues; students not necessarily picking the best subjects for them; the complexity of the post-16 landscape and choices on offer; parental influence, cultural context and aspiration. However, we were particularly impressed by good practice we heard about from some of our schools and in neighbouring Hackney and Camden. In Hackney, a strong focus on driving up teaching quality has led to huge improvements in post-16 attainment – in 2012 they had 12 Oxbridge offers compared to 2 in Tower Hamlets. In Camden, investment in an independent higher education advisor has ensured students are able to make more informed choices about higher education and career options, with 50% of students attending universities outside of London, compared to just 17% in Tower Hamlets.

Our main conclusions are that there are three main success criteria for driving up post-16 attainment: independent advice and guidance for students, high teaching quality to support and stretch students, and strong parental engagement – all of which should aim to facilitate high aspirations among our young people. This report makes recommendations for the council and schools on all these areas, which we hope will be adopted. But if we are to see transformational change, as we achieved with GCSE results before, we also need a big drive across the community – from the council and councillors, to parents, community groups, schools and 6th forms – which both supports students to succeed post-16 and broadens their horizons so they are equipped to take full advantage of the opportunities open to them.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Post-16 educational attainment was chosen as a priority issue for the Overview and Scrutiny Committee in 2013-14 because of evidence that many young people in Tower Hamlets are not achieving their full potential at this level, in stark contrast to recent progress at GCSE level. Raising attainment at post-16 is also a priority for the Mayor and the Education Social Care and Wellbeing Directorate and it was felt strongly that a scrutiny review could make a valuable contribution to the work on this agenda.
- 1.2 In recent years, Tower Hamlets has seen a significant improvement in GCSE achievement, following a sustained period of focus and investment. Results are now consistently above the national average and in line with regional figures. However, this progress is not reflected in post-16 results where the borough continues to lag behind national averages.
- 1.3 The key aim of the review was to explore why post-16 results (AS and A2 Levels) are below average, particularly when considered against performance at GCSE. The review group also sought to understand the barriers which prevent better attainment, and ultimately how the council and its partners could further support schools and young people to increase overall performance at this level. Also, the review group were keen to look at participation in higher education and young people's aspirations for employment, as factors which influence their post-16 choices and attainment.
- 1.4 Tower Hamlets currently has an employment rate of 61.6%, this is below the national (70.7%), and regional (68.9%) rates. Youth unemployment in Tower Hamlets, measured as the 18 to 24 years Jobseekers Allowance (JSA) claimant rate is 6.8%, compared to 5.7% regionally. Youth unemployment is therefore a significant concern in Tower Hamlets, and another key priority for the Mayor. It was vital and timely that this review looked at the barriers preventing young people reaching their potential in terms of post-16 attainment, higher education and therefore their future employment. Youth unemployment more broadly was considered through a separate scrutiny review led by Cllr Jackson.
- 1.5 This review was undertaken through four evidence gathering sessions:
 - The first session began with a detailed presentation from the Education, Social Care and Wellbeing Directorate on performance at post-16, based on analysis undertaken within the directorate. The presentation provided an excellent introduction to the key issues and more detail on performance statistics at post-16, enabling the review group to refine and agree the scope for the rest of the review.
 - The second session concentrated on the external factors affecting educational attainment and aspirations for higher education. These included parental engagement, the transition to independent learning and support to access Russell Group universities. It considered post-16 performance in other London authorities, drawing out examples of best practice.
 - The third session took place at Central Foundation Girls School in their new sixth form centre. This session gave the working group an opportunity

to listen to the views and experiences of current year 12 and 13 students as well as teaching staff. This was followed by a round table discussion with all Heads of sixth form providers.

- The final session was an opportunity to discuss all the findings so far and agree the review group's final recommendations.

2. BACKGROUND

National context

- 2.1 There has been significant national interest in recent years in raising post-16 participation in education and training and improving attainment. The current Government has published proposals to make structural changes to address the causes of underachievement and low attainment. For example *The Importance of Teaching: The Schools White Paper 2010* raised concerns about the relevance and standard of qualifications in the UK and proposed a reform of GCSE and A-Levels. These changes would be far-reaching and their likely impact on attainment in Tower Hamlets is yet to be fully assessed. We know that changes which prevent students from multiple re-sits for modular courses will directly affect results, as would the introduction of a linear A-Level system and an increasing focus on “traditional” academic subjects.
- 2.2 The Government has also set out a new framework for widening participation in higher education. *The Higher Education White Paper 2011* sets out the differences in participation in higher education depending on where a person lives:
- “Fewer than one in five young people from the most disadvantaged areas enter higher education compared to more than one in two for the most advantaged areas”.*¹
- To meet this objective of widening participation, universities will be required to undertake ‘widening participation strategic assessments’.
- 2.3 Furthermore, measures put in place by the previous Government to extend the school leaving age will shortly come into effect. As of summer 2013, all young people in England will be required to continue education or training until the end of the academic year in which they turn 17. Data will be available to show the proportion of students continuing education in school, further education, sixth form college or a higher education institution, as well as those doing an apprenticeship or other work-based learning.

Local context

- 2.4 The council has a clear vision to create a Tower Hamlets in which everyone, regardless of their background and circumstances, has the aspiration and opportunity to achieve their full potential. Raising educational attainment and increasing employment and skills are key Mayoral priorities and emphasise the importance of enabling young people to have the best start in life.

¹https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/31384/11-944-higher-education-students-at-heart-of-system.pdf

- 2.5 In recent years, continued improvements in GCSE results have resulted in attainment levels that are now above national averages. In 2012, 61.8% of pupils achieved five A*- C grades. This compared to a national average of 59.4%.²
- 2.6 However, the same improvement has not been seen in post-16 examination results, including A-Levels, with results persistently below national averages. This is a key issue for the young people of the borough as evidence shows that higher educational attainment is clearly linked to higher earning potential and lower risk of unemployment. Closing the attainment gap at post-16 is central to developing young people's future opportunities. This review contributes to the understanding of post-16 attainment by considering how best to improve educational attainment, broaden participation to higher education and ultimately improve young people's life chances.

3. ANALYSIS OF POST-16 PERFORMANCE AND DESTINATIONS

3.1 Post-16 attainment and current performance

- 3.1.1 No single data source currently exists for post-16 attainment results; however, a reasonable analysis of attainment at these levels can be done by bringing together a number of datasets. These include Department for Education (DfE) data, which covers only the 18 year old cohort, and borough level data for 17-19 year olds. Taken together, this information provides a sufficient picture of post-16 attainment, although the limitations of the sources of data being used should be kept in mind.
- 3.1.2 Department for Education data show that the proportion of students achieving 3 or more A-Levels at A*-E grades is 47% compared to a national average of 52%.³ When considering the higher grades, only 2% of students achieve 3 A-Levels at AAB in 'facilitating subjects'⁴, compared to a national average of 5%. The average point score per A-Level student in Tower Hamlets is 622 (CCC), compared to 736 (BBB) in England.⁵ Members were particularly concerned to note that in 2012 only 37% of Tower Hamlets students achieved A*-B grades compared to 53% nationally.
- 3.1.3 Table 1 below shows how Tower Hamlets results compare with those of neighbouring London boroughs and national averages. Table 2 shows data on individual sixth forms and Tower Hamlets College. The results vary by institution, partly because the newer 6th form providers have less experience of providing post-16 study, which emphasis the need for support for teaching at post-16 (see below).

Table 1: Department for Education Performance Data – January 2013

²<http://data.london.gov.uk/datastore/package/gcse-results-gender-and-location-educational-institution-borough>

³ This does not include vocational qualifications: for example if a student had taken 2 A Levels and a BTEC, only their A Level results would be captured.

⁴These are subjects considered to leave open a wide range of options for university study, if studied at Advanced Level: English Literature, History, Geography, Maths, Further Maths, Biology, Chemistry, Physics and Language (Modern and Classical)

⁵<http://www.education.gov.uk/schools/performance/>

How we compare with neighbouring boroughs	% of KS5 students achieving 3 A levels at AAB in facilitating subjects	% of A level students achieving 3 A levels at AAB in facilitating subjects	% of KS5 students achieving 3 or more A levels at A*-E	% of KS5 students achieving 2 or more A levels at A*-E	% of KS5 students achieving at least 1 A level at A*-E	Average point score per A level student	Average point score per A level entry
LB Tower Hamlets	2.00%	3.10%	46.80%	58.60%	65.70%	622.3	198.4
LB Newham	1.8%	3.4%	33.4%	46.5%	50.8%	595.9	199.9
LB Waltham Forest	1.2%	2.1%	47.1%	57.1%	59.7%	671.5	192.7
LB Hackney	2.2%	3.6%	47.9%	56.8%	61.9	649.7	198.7
LB Greenwich	1.9%	2.7%	41.3%	59.5%	70.3	573.6	198.8
LB Islington	1.7%	3.3%	40.5%	50.1%	52.5%	658.7	204.9
LB Barking and Dagenham	1.5%	2.8%	33%	44.3%	53.2%	597.8	198.9
National	4.8%	7.4%	52.3%	60.7%	65.2%	736.2	210.2

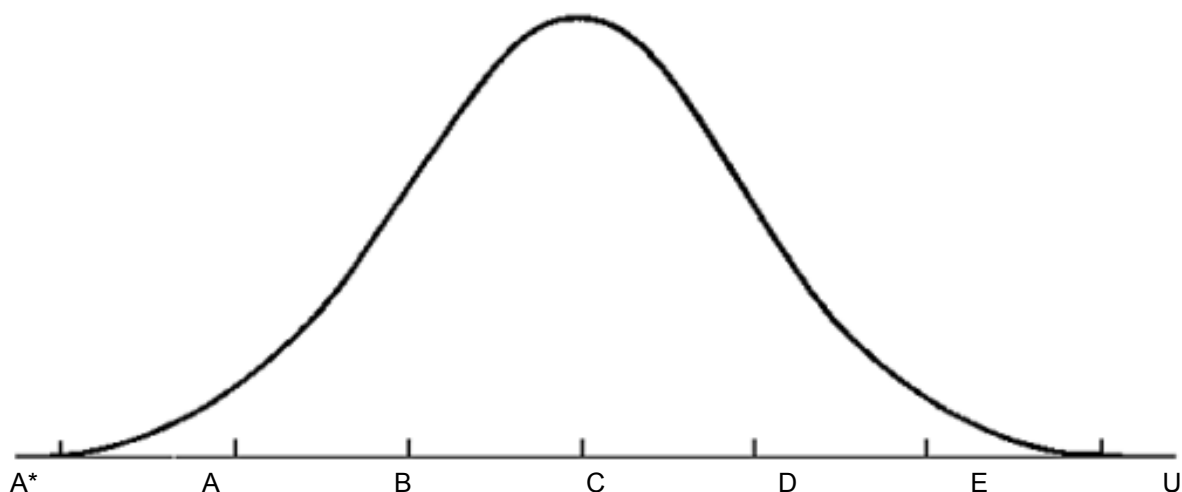
Notes: KS5 includes all Level 3 courses – A-Levels, Applied A-Levels, BTECS, and International Baccalaureate. Points score are deprived from QCA standards where A=270, B=240, C=210, D=180, and E=150

Table 2: Department for Education Performance Data – January 2013: Sixth Forms and Tower Hamlets College ⁶

Tower Hamlets Schools and the College	% of KS5 students achieving 3 A levels at AAB in facilitating subjects	% of A level students achieving 3 A levels at AAB in facilitating subjects	% of KS5 students achieving 3 or more A levels at A*-E	% of KS5 students achieving 2 or more A levels at A*-E	% of KS5 students achieving at least 1 A level at A*-E	Average point score per A level student	Average point score per A level entry
LB Tower Hamlets	2.00%	3.10%	46.80%	58.60%	65.70%	622.3	198.4
Bishop Challoner	0	0	60%	64%	68%	682.3	208.6
Cambridge Heath	2%	4%	33%	41%	49%	565.3	194.1
Central Foundation	1%	2%	53%	60%	63%	700	210.6
George Greens	0	0	14%	41%	43%	462.8	188.9
Mulberry	2%	2%	79%	84%	92%	689.1	209.7
Raines	2%	3%	48%	70%	84%	601.6	202.4
Sir John Cass	5%	6%	55%	68%	77%	648.5	203.7
Tower Hamlets College	2%	3%	33%	49%	56%	552.1	179.8

Notes: KS5 includes all Level 3 courses – A-Levels, Applied A-Levels, BTECS, and International Baccalaureate. Points score are derived from QCA standards where A=270, B=240, C=210, D=180, and E=150

Figure 1: National distribution curve for A-Level outcomes, non-selective schools



⁶ It should be noted that George Greens sixth form students take International Baccalaureate so this is not measured in the Department for Education performance tables above.

- 3.1.4 Figure 1 shows the standard distribution curve for exam results, i.e. those which would be typically expected in non-selective schools nationally. If we compare this to the distribution curve for Tower Hamlets A2 results (Figure 2), the trend line more or less matches the standard distribution. However, the distribution curve for AS results (Figure 3) does not match the standard. The right hand 'tail' of the trend line in Figure 3 is higher than the average distribution, meaning there are greater than expected number of students receiving lower grades, Es and Us. This trend disappears at A2, results are at the expected levels, suggesting low achievers have dropped out or switched subjects. Members were particularly concerned to note that 25% of boys are dropping out between Y12 and Y13.
- 3.1.5 It can therefore be seen that whilst A2 results are in line with expectations, AS results are below expectations; more Tower Hamlets students are underperforming at AS level, relative to their GCSE performance. This could be because students on the wrong course for them either fail or drop out. Equally, AS Levels can act as a filter and some students either start again, switch courses or change subjects.
- 3.1.6 While Tower Hamlets students perform in line with a normal distribution at A2 Level, ideally the peak of the curve would be more towards the left, as this would mean our results were above national average and students were excelling at the higher grades.

Figure 2: Distribution curve for A2 grades, Tower Hamlets:

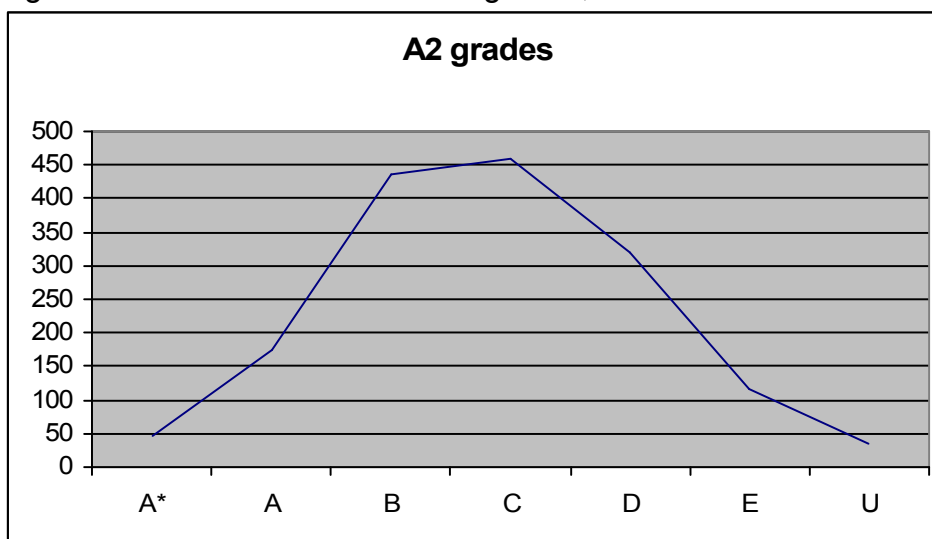
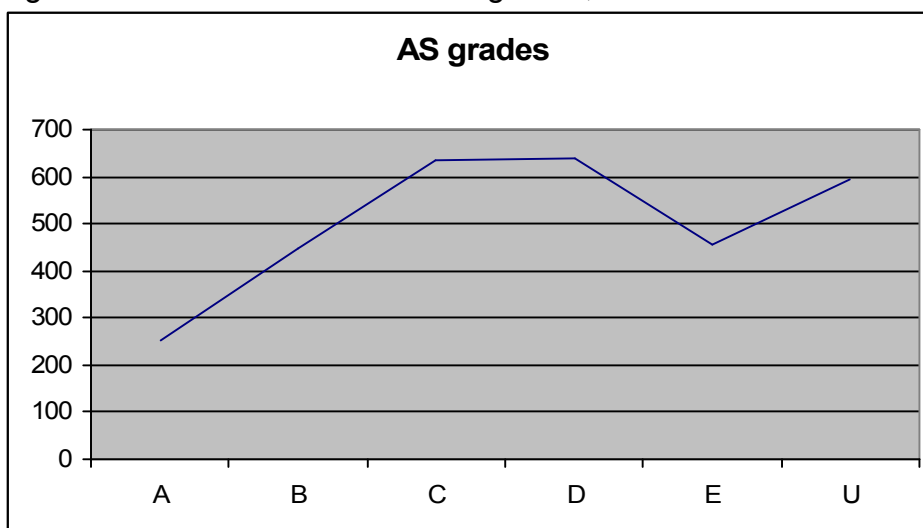


Figure 3: Distribution curve for AS grades, Tower Hamlets



3.1.7 As well as Department for Education data, the council and schools use the Advanced Level Performance System (ALPS). ALPS data reports provide detailed analysis of performance by student and subject, benchmarked against the national standards and taking into account student performance in previous exams. Educational institutions are encouraged to use this information to inform strategic planning and to raise student attainment by setting aspirational yet realistic target grades.

3.1.8 Table 3 shows that the number of students undertaking A-Levels is gradually increasing. Participation by students who achieved higher grades at GCSE is also increasing annually, though the overall performance score has declined since 2010. Worryingly, this group are underperforming at A-Level relative to their GCSE scores. For example, if student X achieves A grades overall at GCSE they earn a point score of 7.0. The ALPS data shows X's expected UCAS points is 368 (equivalent of AAA), but in Tower Hamlets, on average, student X would achieve only 324 points (equivalent of ABB). This is indicated in blue in Table 3, representing underperformance. Members were especially concerned that students at the top level are not performing as well as expected based on their GCSEs results, given the huge impact this has on further education and career options. Potential reasons for this were discussed including subject choice, higher level language skills and the ease with which they succeeded at GCSE compared to the leap to A Level study.

3.1.9 Analysis of ALPS data by the council's Learning and Achievement service identified three distinct groups in terms of post-16 attainment:

- i. Very high achieving GCSE students who *underperform* at A-Levels when considered against their expected grades. This is those with an average point score of 7.0 (grade A) or above.
- ii. Average achieving GCSE students who perform satisfactorily when considered against their expected grades. This is students with average point score between 5.5 and 6.7 (grades C to B).
- iii. Lower grade GCSE students who perform strongly when considered against their expected grades. Students with an average point score of 4.0 (grades D) and below are in this group. They perform strongest of all the attainment groups, relative to their GCSE results.

Members felt it was positive that lower grade students are being supported to exceed expectations, but were worried that this is not happening at all levels.

Table 3: ALPS data chart: Expected UCAS points target based on GCSE performance

GCSE score	QCA score	UCAS pts target	2009 [†]			2010 [*]			2011 [*]			2012		
			Student numbers	UCAS pts scored	Alps grade	Student numbers	UCAS pts scored	Alps grade	Student numbers	UCAS pts scored	Alps grade	Student numbers	UCAS pts scored	Alps grade
7.5-8.0	55.0-58.0	445.52	3	373.33	6	6	376.67	7	6	406.67	6	9	355.56	8
7.0-<7.5	52.0-<55.0	368.33	13	335.38	5	22	376.36	3	33	350.30	5	38	324.74	7
6.7-<7.0	50.2-<52.0	331.67	18	273.33	7	20	311.00	5	33	296.97	6	35	296.57	6
6.4-<6.7	48.4-<50.2	304.00	26	296.15	4	25	296.80	4	37	276.22	6	43	280.93	5
6.1-<6.4	46.6-<48.4	277.50	40	248.50	6	39	283.59	3	53	255.85	5	56	259.29	5
5.8-<6.1	44.8-<46.6	255.00	51	240.00	5	44	243.64	4	68	246.18	4	61	236.39	5
5.5-<5.8	43.0-<44.8	233.33	52	224.62	4	52	248.46	3	58	225.86	4	67	221.49	5
5.2-<5.5	41.2-<43.0	212.50	42	225.71	3	52	222.31	3	68	204.12	4	68	209.71	4
4.7-<5.2	38.2-<41.2	190.00	75	188.00	4	63	190.79	3	69	193.04	3	70	176.86	5
4.0-<4.7	34.0-<38.2	166.67	48	162.50	4	41	175.12	3	41	183.90	3	30	175.33	3
0.0-<4.0	10.0-<34.0	160.00	14	138.57	5	8	170.00	3	8	212.50	2	6	163.33	3

Notes: Red shading indicates good performance against target, black shows performance is satisfactory, and blue shading indicates under performance against target points.

3.2 Higher education destinations

3.2.1 In 2012 64.8% of students who completed A-Levels or equivalent qualifications went to university, 0.4 percentage points higher than the national average of 64.2%. However only 0.2% of students were accepted to Oxbridge, compared to a national average of 1.3%. 14% of Tower Hamlets students were accepted into a Russell Group university, 7 percentage points lower than the national level of 21%. Members were keen to explore whether this was due to grades, aspiration or choices, or a combination thereof.

3.2.2 The majority of students in 2012 who went onto university joined the following institutions: University of Westminster (102) Greenwich University (94), University of East London (71) Queen Mary University of London (69), London South Bank University (45), Goldsmiths University of London (37), London Metropolitan University (33), City University (27), Kings College London (160), Kingston University (15) and The School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London (12). In terms of subjects studied at university, the most popular subject was Business (100), followed by Law (39), Sociology (39) and Computing (38).

3.2.3 In 2012, 83% of students remained in London for higher education as can be seen above. Very small proportions, around 7% to 8% from each sixth form, go to universities outside London. Compared to previous years this figure appears to be unchanged or declining, which may be as a result of the rising costs associated with higher education as well as other factors such as wishing to live at home or family commitments.

3.2.4. Members discussed the results data and the analysis undertaken by Learning and Achievement. They identified a number of areas for improvement, which they thought the rest of the review should focus on.

- Why students who achieve top grades at GCSE are underperforming at A Level.
- The apparent difficulties in the transition from GCSE to A Level
- Whether and how students make appropriate subject choices at A Level.
- Progression of students onto higher education, particularly the top universities and a broader range of subjects.

3.2.5 The next section looks in more detail at each of these areas. It also captures the opinions and experiences of current and past post-16 students and examples of best practice from educational institutions both inside and outside Tower Hamlets which the members heard in their evidence gathering sessions.

4. FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1 The leap from GCSE to A-Level and ‘interventionitis’

4.1.1 The working group were keen to understand the experience of students transitioning from GCSE to A-Level. This was identified as an issue in the data analysis, by Heads of Sixth Forms and current students. It was discussed in some detail when the review group visited Central Foundation Girls School.

4.1.2 At Central Foundation members heard from the Headteacher, the Deputy Head of Sixth Form and current students on some of the key issues affecting the transition from GCSE to A-Level, and why some students find it difficult. These were mainly around academic literacy and independent study. The group also heard that some students use year 12 as a ‘correctional’ year, retaking GCSEs and starting AS levels, not completing their A Levels until year 14. This can be positive as it enables students who need extra support to complete their post-16 education in school.

4.1.3 Members also heard from CFGS and Hackney Learning Trust that the transition to post-16 education can be a challenge for teachers as well as students, as it requires a different method of tuition to prepare students for independent study and the high academic standards required. This is discussed in more detail in the section below on teaching quality.

Academic literacy

4.1.4 The review group heard that having strong English language skills and a broad vocabulary, or ‘academic literacy’ is much more important at A Level compared to GCSE. Subjects are assessed through longer essays and examinations and a good to excellent level of literacy, evidence of wider learning and reading is expected and examined. The level of competence required will vary depending on the subjects being studied.

4.1.5 Almost three quarters (74%) of Tower Hamlets pupils have a first language other than English⁷, and the borough has a relatively high proportion of residents who use a main language other than English, 34%, compared to

⁷http://towernet/Intranet/staff_services/business_planning/corporate_research_unit/corporate_research_briefings.aspx

22% in London and 8% in England. Furthermore, in 2010, Tower Hamlets Child Poverty Needs Assessment⁸ found that nearly half of the population had language needs.

- 4.1.6 Students at Central Foundation echoed this, saying that they found they needed support with essay writing, and that the reading material and its volume was challenging for some subjects. The Headteacher felt that the issue of academic literacy was particularly prevalent in their sixth form where 81% of students were of Bangladeshi origin, with many speaking Bengali at home. Students are therefore not exposed to the words and phrases needed to get the top grades at A Level, as they do not have this vocabulary reinforced either through conversations or through the media consumed at home. Teachers also pointed out that Sylheti, the main language of many students, is not a written language which can make written work even more challenging for students.
- 4.1.7 Members were interested to hear about a project to improve the academic writing skills of students on A Level courses and to enable more grades A and B to be achieved, through the provision of one-to-one tuition. Evaluation of the project showed both positive feedback from students and teachers and improvements in results, with targeted students achieving higher grades than the borough average at both A2 and AS Level. The project also worked with teachers to support them to develop skills to improve academic literacy.

RECOMMENDATION 1: That the council funds and supports the development of academic literacy, by providing one to one tuition for students and support for teachers which schools can access

Independent study

- 4.1.8 The group heard from students and sixth form staff that many students find it a big jump between GCSEs and A Level and don't adjust to the need for independent study. Some don't use their 'free' or 'independent study' time productively, or don't know how to study independently effectively. These are skills that they have not necessarily developed at GCSE.
- 4.1.9 To address this, the Central Foundation students had set up their own study group to help each other with difficulties they were having in a particular subject. Sir John Cass sixth form has developed an incentive programme to encourage students to study in specific allocated areas (such as the library) during their free periods. Attendance is checked and signed off in the student's diary by teaching staff. This has encouraged students to manage their time better and use their free periods for learning and revision. A similar initiative members heard about was a Learning Passport which sets out tasks that students can do with prizes attached, which builds their independent study skills and promotes healthy peer competition. Existing borough-wide programmes such as the Mayor's Education Award and the Aim Higher Scheme could be used to similar effect, with payments contingent on learning and independent study, not just general attendance.

⁸<http://www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/idoc.ashx?docid=d7bda100-561d-4a04-9c04-c8a278173a16&version=-1>

4.1.10 Teachers also raised that many students face practical challenges to undertaking the independent study required for A Level. Many live in overcrowded homes where there is literally no space to study. A culture of intense study is easier when parents have also been to university, which often is not the case. Many students may have family or caring responsibilities, and some 6th formers are married. Members heard how Central Foundation have tried to address some of these challenges by providing study space at school and encouraging its use beyond school hours, which their students reported was really valued as they can focus on study without home distractions.

RECOMMENDATION 2: That schools teach independent study skills and that the council promotes and facilitates best practice in approaches to incentivise learning and independent study

'Interventionitis'

- 4.1.11 Central Foundation teaching staff attributed some of the difficulties of transition between GCSE and A level to 'interventionitis'. This was described as an unintended consequence of the significant support students receive from teachers at GCSE. Whilst clearly enabling students to do well at GCSE, for some it has stopped them developing independent study skills and limited their awareness of the importance of wider learning and study. They are then ill-prepared for the challenge of A Levels. While some students make the transition well, the phenomenon is particularly noticeable in the first term of year 12 as students adjust to the new teaching and learning regime.
- 4.1.12 To address this issue Central Foundation has created 'Raising Standards' groups which band students into *Excel*, *Accelerate* and *Transform* categories. A tailored teaching approach and programme of support is developed for students in each band to help them succeed and develop their study skills. The review group considered this to be good practice that the council could further develop and disseminate to other schools.
- 4.1.13 The review group discussed how best to reduce the adverse impact of 'interventionitis' while maintaining the support that was obviously working well for GCSE students. They heard that support programmes which 'scaffold' students in the first term of year 12 term was crucial, as are mechanisms which identify and monitor students who are at risk of falling behind or dropping out. Schools should also encourage students to set up peer learning groups and make productive use of study periods, incentivising students if necessary, as discussed above.
- 4.1.14 Members also heard about the summer induction post-GCSE that Central Foundation runs, which enables students to get a taster of the level required at AS Level through real classes and set homework, and also gives the school an indication of their skills and needs. Initiatives run by Queen Mary university were also cited as good practice, such as one to one mentoring by university students and masterclasses targeted at those who are at or just below the grades needed for Queen Mary, which are currently operating at capacity.
- 4.1.15 It was concluded that there are various effective measures that the council could promote to support schools in helping students manage the step into

year 12 and avoid 'interventionitis'. The council can promote best practice from inside and outside Tower Hamlets. It can also help schools better target and evidence the benefits of such support through access to ALPS data. This would help schools set targets and develop individualised learning plans for students.

RECOMMENDATION 3: That the council supports all sixth forms to use ALPS data effectively in their planning, to target support to Year 12 students.

RECOMMENDATION 4: That the council encourages the development of Raising Post-16 Attainment programmes in all sixth forms by sharing best practice examples inside and outside Tower Hamlets and by exploring how to expand the support offered to schools by partners such as Queen Mary University.

RECOMMENDATION 5: That schools adopt initiatives such as summer learning to ensure students are equipped for the transition to post-16 study.

4.2 Aspirations for higher education

- 4.2.1 Aspirations for, and access to, good quality higher education were identified by the review group as fundamental to increasing post-16 attainment and broadening the horizons and future opportunities of young people. Given the lower percentage of Tower Hamlets students progressing onto Oxbridge and Russell Group universities, as identified above, the group were keen to explore how young people could best be encouraged and supported to access these universities. While such universities will not be appropriate for every student, depending on their subject choice and career goals, members felt strongly that all students should be supported to understand and access the full range of opportunities available to them. Members were concerned that this is not necessarily the case currently, given 2 Tower Hamlets gained a place at Oxbridge in 2012, compared to 12 in neighbouring Hackney, an area with similar socioeconomic, cultural and linguistic challenges.
- 4.2.2 The review group also felt quite strongly that leaving home and attending a university somewhere other than east London was often an important part of the university experience and were keen to understand why so many Tower Hamlets students stayed in London to study and whether more students could be encouraged to attend universities further afield, if appropriate for them. Teaching staff raised that attending university closer to home also impacts on the drop out rate, as it can be easier to stop attending if the subject or the environment is challenging and family duties can affect study time.
- 4.2.3 Reasons why students choose to stay closer to home to attend university were discussed by Central Foundation 6th formers, teaching staff and through anecdotal evidence. Home pressures and family commitments, fears about finance due to the cost of university fees, low aspiration and cultural context all play a part. Members heard about students given places at Oxford and even Imperial College in London who were reluctant to attend due to the distance from home and their parents' worries. A former student talked about

how cultural background can impact on choices about destination, for example when parents worry about students becoming involved in religiously or culturally inappropriate activities through university life.

- 4.2.4 The Central Foundation students spoke very positively about the opportunities they'd had to attend subject taster sessions and visit different universities, particularly those outside London. They said they would like the opportunity to do more of these visits, although in the discussion with Heads of 6th form, some staff raised concerns about the number of visits, and time out of school, some students end up going on. The few weeks after AS level exams, before the end of Year 12 were identified as a good time for students to do these visits and focus on their higher education choices. Members also heard about Mulberry school funding trips for parents to universities further afield, which has led to students achieving the most university offers outside of London ever. These kinds of initiatives should be expanded to ensure parents are also aware of and reassured about the opportunities available outside London.
- 4.2.5 The students also said they would like wider variety and better quality in the work experience and internship opportunities available to them. Specifically, they would like more 'aspirational' placements which better aligned with the subjects they were studying and their goals for higher education and employment. They cited an example of a project at City of London Girls School they'd been involved in where extra-curricular projects were linked to subjects being studied. These projects were considered by the students as strong examples of extra-curricular activities they could include on their personal statements when applying for university. Teachers at Central Foundation also raised concerns that the predominantly low level work experience placements on offer undermined their attempts to encourage their students to think ambitiously about their own future careers, in turn having an impact on their post-16 choices and attainment.
- 4.2.6 The Tower Hamlets Education Business Partnership (EBP) is responsible for coordinating secondary school work experience placements. They also organise placements for post-16 students but this is a limited area of their work. Less than 10% of their placements annually are with Canary Wharf or City corporate businesses and where these are secured it is nearly always through a family friend or relative. The EBP are aware that stronger relationships need to be brokered with Canary Wharf and the City Fringe to open up access to Level 3 & 4 work placements and internships. Members also heard from Central Foundation students that they would like opportunities to access work experience in medical and legal settings.
- 4.2.7 The Mayor of Tower Hamlets currently funds the Aim Higher Programme. The objectives of this programme are to support post-16 students to achieve top grades and access the best universities. It comprises three strands of work: achievement activities, interventions, and information, advice and guidance. The achievement activities include a debating competition, Eton summer school and an Oxbridge project.⁹ Interventions include one to one mentoring

⁹http://www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/lgs1/1-50/17_schools/schools_working_with_universit.aspx

by Queen Mary University and University of East London undergraduates as well as subject specific teaching support. Finally, four personal advisers are interviewing all year 11 students (prospective year 12s) to support them with their university subject choices and progression routes.

4.2.8 The group heard from Queen Mary University about the support services they offer to local students, which focus on three approaches: raising aspirations at primary age; improving attainment through support for teaching and lending facilities eg labs and art studios; information and advice for young people. A relatively high proportion of their students come from east London. They currently run a partnership project with St Pauls Way School to raise student aspirations and support and encourage them to continue onto higher education. Professors and post-graduates from the university support post-16 teaching staff at the school to increase the quality of teaching and provide subject specific advice. The university emphasised that support and interventions as early as primary school were necessary, in addition to getting to students at year 9 when they make GCSE choices. Queen Mary felt they have good relationships with some schools but there could be a danger not all schools in Tower Hamlets are benefitting.

4.2.9 In relation to increasing access to Oxbridge and Russell Group universities, the review group thought that all students should be given appropriate information, support and encouragement to explore applying to such universities, including those outside of London. The welcomed any opportunities for students to attend summer courses and master classes in partnership with different universities and relevant alumni networks. For example, both Oxford and Cambridge have schemes targeted at widening access, including fairs, summer activities and targeted local initiatives across the UK. Members heard that in Tower Hamlets an Oxbridge Fair was to be held in July, which it was hoped would be annual in future and combined with overnight visits for parents and students. Oxbridge graduates from Tower Hamlets are also informally supporting students with their applications and interview preparation and this could be encouraged more widely. Many Russell Group universities have been strengthening their alumni networks, maintaining contact with former students and developing comprehensive alumni databases. These developments suggest the potential to bringing together a Tower Hamlets alumni network to improve outreach work within the borough, develop links between local students and a broad range of universities and provide role models or mentoring by linking up former and prospective students from Tower Hamlets.

RECOMMENDATION 6: That the council sustains and expands the Oxbridge and Russell Group partnerships, through developing an alumni network and improving links with individual universities.

RECOMMENDATION 7: That Aim Higher funding is reinvested in higher education visits for students and parents, following a review by the council into which type of visits have been most well received and most successful, in terms of the impact on choices and mindset.

RECOMMENDATION 8: That the council works with the EBP and local businesses, including Canary Wharf and public services, to increase the number of higher level work experience opportunities and explore their role in addressing the challenge of post-16 attainment and career aspiration.

4.3 Information, advice and guidance

4.3.1 Members were keen to understand the information, advice and guidance available to support young people to make their A-Level subject and higher education choices. Current students, local sixth form staff and colleagues from other London boroughs all spoke about this, providing ideas to the review group on how it can be improved in Tower Hamlets. This was thought to be particularly crucial, given the complexity of the post-16 and higher education landscape and in light of the concerns about whether students are equipped to make their own independent choices in terms of subjects and destinations.

Choosing the right subjects and provider

4.3.2 The group heard that lots of students, particularly those who have done well at GCSE, are keen to study science and maths at A Level, but then perform poorly at these subjects relative to their GCSE grades. However, when some of these students switched to social sciences or humanities subjects they performed very well. In many instances, students, having done well at GCSE, felt they should be taking science subjects so they could go on to study medicine or engineering, yet they have less aptitude for those subjects compared with social sciences or humanities. These choices were also informed by family attitudes towards the prestige of medical careers. However, students who stick with their initial choices are less likely to achieve high grades and therefore unlikely to secure places to study medicine.

4.3.3 Sixth form staff emphasised the importance of having discussions with students early on regarding their A-Level subjects choices and making them aware of how their choices might impact their choice of subject at university if they intended to participate in higher education. Teachers are often having to deal with the consequences of choices made during year 9 for GCSE options and students echoed this, with some saying they regretted not taking certain subjects at GCSE, such as languages, and others saying not doing a particular subject was hindering their university choices. Some schools reported they found it easier to advise students who achieve lower grades at GCSE on subject choices, indicating which subjects they might find more challenging based on their GCSE performance. Central Foundation give students the opportunity to attend A-Level 'taster classes' in their chosen subjects in the summer term after their GCSE exams. Students said they found this useful in terms of knowing what to expect and confirming whether it was the right subject for them, while teaching staff find it an effective way to gauge how much support students might need in the first term of sixth form.

4.3.4 The group also heard anecdotal evidence that a number of students choose to study outside the borough at post-16. Parents reported that Tower Hamlets schools results, support programmes and extra-curricular activities didn't seem as good as those of some providers in other areas, or at least, Tower

Hamlets schools weren't as good at marketing themselves – their websites, materials and open days weren't as impressive. This perception is concerning given the new post-16 provision that is opening in the borough. The review group concluded that local post-16 provision could be promoted more by the council; reporting positive news stories to attract interest from Tower Hamlets parents and students. The council could also support schools to improve their marketing materials to help students and parents make informed decisions.

Higher education advice

- 4.3.5 The group heard from a higher education advisor based at LaSwap Sixth Form in Camden about the role he plays in advising students on their higher education choices. LaSwap is a consortium of four schools with over 30 years of experience providing post-16 education. In the previous academic year, 90% of their students applied to university, and 84% were successful, which is well above the national average of 70%. LaSwap employs a higher education advisor because they believe that teachers or even careers advisors are not sufficiently expert to advise young people on higher education. The focus is on presenting higher education as a positive choice and encouraging people to follow what they want to do and keep their options open, given 70% of graduate jobs are for any degree discipline. LaSwap has a self-referral system which allows students to access unlimited higher education and careers advice, information and support. The self-referral element is considered to be an important feature giving students choice and independence, so they can make the appropriate decisions for them.
- 4.3.6 50% of students at LaSwap attended universities outside London compared to 17% in Tower Hamlets. Currently only two schools in Tower Hamlets have dedicated higher education advisors. Although higher education advisors are a cost to the school, effective use of their expertise and the linkages with universities they could create could be excellent value for money and members felt the council should support this given the Mayor's stated commitment to promoting post-16 attainment and higher education. Members heard that funding locally for higher education advice is currently only for students at risk, and there was appetite among teachers for this to be expanded so it is more universal.

RECOMMENDATION 9: That the council invests in permanent support for higher education advisor roles, through

- **training for school staff**
- **recruitment of two independent higher education advisors who can go into schools to support students to make informed choices**
- **facilitating mentoring to support students who wish to make choices not in line with parents' preferences**

RECOMMENDATION 10: That the council improves information to support informed choice, by producing a handbook for students and parents explaining the range of choices available at post-16 and higher education, which is available in different languages and in formats, such as through video and social media.

4.4 Teaching quality

- 4.4.1 The review group heard from Hackney Learning Trust about the recent significant improvements they have made in their A-Level results. Their previous performance at post-16 was very low and their key objective was to raise achievement and enable students to continue their post-16 education in the borough. In 2007 their average point score per student was near the bottom of the national league table, while in 2013 it is above the inner London average. They put their transformational success since 2007 down to a focus on improving teaching quality, which is critical for high attainment.
- 4.4.2 All secondary schools in Hackney now have sixth forms and the council has established a co-operative model which promotes best practice sharing between sixth forms and colleges. This includes a termly post-16 network for sixth form head teachers and college managers; annual subject networks (moving to termly) which harness peer learning to support improvements in teaching; revision classes available to all Hackney post-16 students which are delivered by the best teachers in the borough for each subject; joint links with higher education institutions including Oxbridge and 19 other universities. Hackney Learning Trust is also aiming for each sixth form and college to have a subject specialism, and a partnership relationship with a good university. ALPS data is used to set aspirational targets and challenge schools where poor teaching is having an impact on grades, supported by coaching and training for teachers.
- 4.4.3 Members heard of a similar focus on supporting and improving the quality of teaching at Central Foundation, where the subjects with a pattern of under-achievement were identified and then solutions were developed through working collaboratively with teachers. Members concluded that quality of teaching is a key factor in improving post-16 attainment, so teachers are able to manage the jump from GCSE, support independent study and stretch the most able students.

RECOMMENDATION 11: That the council works with Heads of sixth forms and Tower Hamlets College to develop a co-operative model which increases support for teaching to high attainment, by adopting best practice from Hackney including:

- Borough revision classes delivered by the best teachers
- Subject networks to support teachers

RECOMMENDATION 12: That the council uses ALPS data to link up schools that are performing well and poorly in a particular subject, to promote peer support to improve teaching quality

4.5 Parental engagement

- 4.5.1 The importance of good and timely parental engagement was raised throughout the review. Parental involvement has a significant influence on educational achievement, which continues into adolescence and young adulthood. High parental involvement is associated with better exam results at 16 in Maths and English, compared to young people whose parents show no interest. Moreover, research from the Institute for Education shows that home

learning activities undertaken by parents are more important for a person's intellectual and social development than parental occupation, education or income.¹⁰

- 4.5.2 Involvement from parents takes two forms; parents' involvement in the life of the school, and their involvement in supporting the young person at home. There are barriers which can prevent parents from engagement with school and with learning at home. Work commitments are a common barrier, although this is counter balanced by the benefits for families of parents being in work. Family pressures, such as caring responsibilities, can also limit how much time parents have to support their child's learning. Language and literacy can also impact on parental involvement, in two ways: whether parents feel confident to get involved with the life of the school and support their child at home, and in communicating with the school and teachers about their child. Members also heard that the complexity of the education system and parents' having a poor prior experience of school themselves can make parents reluctant to be involved, particularly when their children are older.
- 4.5.3 The review group heard that early parental engagement was vital – both early on and then throughout their child's education, and early in the decision-making process around transition to GCSE, post-16 and higher education. There are services in Tower Hamlets which parents can access such as The Parent's Advice Centre – which offers advice and support to parents, carers and young people with special educational needs (SEN) – and the Family Information Service – which provides referral and signposting for parents of all 0-19 year olds – as well as engagement activities provided by schools. However, members were concerned to hear that many parental engagement services have been deleted as this is no longer linked to Ofsted inspections, so schools do not always prioritise it. The fact that at year 7 parents are keen to be engaged but by year 9 teaching staff tend to report parents will not come into school was another cause for concern and members questioned whether the existing parental engagement offer from the council is meeting parents' needs effectively.
- 4.5.4 The group heard from the council's parent engagement service that parental engagement levels in Tower Hamlets are strong at Key Stage 1 (children aged between 5 and 7 years) with a high proportion of parents engaged and visible to the school. At Key Stage 2 (children aged between 7 and 11 years) there is good engagement in terms of attending meetings but there is a reduction in overall visibility. In Key Stage 3 (child aged between 11 and 14 years), it becomes more difficult to maintain meaningful relationships with parents and some students reported they would prefer it if their parents were not involved. At Key Stage 4 (children aged between 14 and 16 years) and beyond, while parents may still attend parents evenings, this is in far fewer numbers compared to younger age groups and very little broader engagement occurs with parents, partly due to fewer informal opportunities but also the reduction in connections over time. Parents have said that one driver for them to get involved and become active in the school and their child's education is hearing that other parents are and that peer support is helpful. Parent Governor positions are also an effective way to increase

¹⁰<http://www.nationalcollege.org.uk/impact-of-parental-involvement-2.pdf>

parental involvement and members highlighted that there is often strong interest in governor positions, so parents who are unsuccessful in these posts could be supported to be involved in other ways, for example through parent teacher associations (PTAs). Parental awareness raising events could also be held in conjunction with parents' evenings or academic review days to incentivise attendance. These should take place from year 8 in Key Stage 3 right through to end of Key Stage 4.

- 4.5.5 The group heard from a local resident who had attended Bow School, Tower Hamlets College and then gone onto the University of Cambridge. He argued that more should be done to ensure parents understand the value and importance of post-16 and higher education. In his experience family influence was important to him feeling supported and empowered to study at university, but he had to work hard to convince them of the merits of leaving home to study and he felt not all students would achieve this in their families.
- 4.5.6 The review group concluded that parental engagement was a central factor for improving young people's attainment and aspirations for higher education. It is necessary to support and encourage parents to be more involved in the life of their children's school. Also, keeping parents informed and involved throughout post-16 education can help guide and support the young person. The group thought that events for students and parents, held at the school throughout key stages 3 and 4, with involvement from higher education advisers could be effective, as could more communication materials for parents which set out the benefits of higher education, and how parents can support their children's learning. Furthermore, schools should seek to understand why parental involvement starts to decline after Key Stage 2 and develop approaches to maintain engagement with parents. Members were concerned to note only 25% of secondary schools currently take up the council's parental engagement service, compared to 75% of primaries and felt strongly the reasons for this needed to be explored by the council to ensure the offer meets the needs of parents and schools.

RECOMMENDATION 13: That the council conducts scoping work to better understand parents' and children's aspirations for post-16 study, to inform communications support it can provide to schools to market themselves as a provider of choice to parents and students

RECOMMENDATION 14: That the council conducts a review of its parental engagement and advice services to understand

- **Why schools are not purchasing the offer**
- **How to improve parental engagement at year 9 with a focus on decisions, subjects and careers**
- **How to capitalise on the number of parents unsuccessful at becoming school governors to develop other methods of engagement through PTAs etc**

RECOMMENDATION 15: That schools provide more opportunities for parents to get involved in the life of the school through parent network groups, parent governor positions and volunteering roles.

RECOMMENDATION 16: That all schools run sessions for parents to raise awareness and knowledge of higher education.

5 SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 For ease of reference, this section groups the recommendations by theme.

Supporting the transition to post-16

RECOMMENDATION 1: That the council funds and supports the development of academic literacy, by providing one to one tuition for students and support for teachers which schools can access

RECOMMENDATION 2: That schools teach independent study skills and that the council promotes and facilitates best practice in approaches to incentivise learning and independent study

RECOMMENDATION 3: That the council supports all sixth forms to use ALPS data effectively in their planning, to target support to Year 12 students.

RECOMMENDATION 4: That the council encourages the development of Raising Post-16 Attainment programmes in all sixth forms by sharing best practice examples inside and outside Tower Hamlets and by exploring how to expand the support offered to schools by partners such as Queen Mary university.

RECOMMENDATION 5: That schools adopt initiatives such as summer learning to ensure students are equipped for the transition to post-16 study.

Independent information and advice

RECOMMENDATION 9: That the council invests in permanent support for higher education advisor roles, through

- training for school staff
- recruitment of two independent higher education advisors who can go into schools to support students to make informed choices
- facilitating mentoring to support students who wish to make choices not in line with parents' preferences

RECOMMENDATION 10: That the council improves information to support informed choice, by producing a handbook for students and parents explaining the range of choices available at post-16 and higher education, which is available in different languages and in formats, such as through video and social media.

Teaching quality

RECOMMENDATION 11: That the council works with Heads of sixth forms and Tower Hamlets College to develop a co-operative model which increases support for teaching to high attainment, by adopting best practice from Hackney including:

- Borough revision classes delivered by the best teachers
- Subject networks to support teachers

RECOMMENDATION 12: That the council uses ALPS data to link up schools that are performing well and poorly in a particular subject, to promote peer support to improve teaching quality

Parental engagement

RECOMMENDATION 13: That the council conducts scoping work to better understand parents' and children's aspirations for post-16 study, to inform communications support it can provide to schools to market themselves as a provider of choice to parents and students

RECOMMENDATION 14: That the council conducts a review of its parental engagement and advice services to understand

- Why schools are not purchasing the offer
- How to improve parental engagement at year 9 with a focus on decisions, subjects and careers
- How to capitalise on the number of parents unsuccessful at becoming school governors to develop other methods of engagement through PTAs etc

RECOMMENDATION 15: That schools provide more opportunities for parents to get involved in the life of the school through parent network groups, parent governor positions and volunteering roles.

RECOMMENDATION 16: That all schools run sessions for parents to raise awareness and knowledge of higher education.

Raising aspiration

RECOMMENDATION 6: That the council sustains and expands the Oxbridge and Russell Group partnerships, through developing an alumni network and improving links with individual universities.

RECOMMENDATION 7: That Aim Higher funding is reinvested in higher education visits for students and parents, following a review by the council into which type of visits have been most well received and most successful, in terms of the impact on choices and mindset.

RECOMMENDATION 8: That the council works with the EBP and local businesses, including Canary Wharf and public services, to increase the number of higher level work experience opportunities and explore their role in addressing the challenge of post-16 attainment and career aspiration

Appendix 2: Scrutiny review action plan

SCRUTINY REVIEW ACTION PLAN – Post-16 Educational Attainment

Recommendation	Response / Comments / Action	Responsibility	Date
<p>R1: That the council funds and supports the development of academic literacy, by providing one to one tuition for students and support for teachers which schools can access</p>	<p>Already in place:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Pauline Roberts has run the academic literacy scheme the evaluation of this is very positive <p>Further action:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To fund and continue with the work that Pauline Roberts has piloted over the last 2 years. ▪ To explore why more girls than boys attend the scheme 	<p>Jane Connolly, Pauline Roberts</p>	<p>Start a new group of students in September 2013</p>
<p>R2: That schools teach independent study skills and that the council promotes and facilitates best practice in approaches to incentivise learning and independent study</p>	<p>Already in place</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Schools have different models of teaching independent study and best practice is shared at HoS forum – for example Targeted Intervention Groups, commitment interviews. This is going to become even more important with linear A levels. ▪ Schools have varied induction programmes for L3 study ▪ Some schools use bursary and MEA to incentivise independent study <p>Further Action</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Focus on putting examples and models of independent learning into schools via HoS forum, website ▪ Encourage all schools to use MEA to encourage independent study ▪ Further develop induction programmes through more taster lessons and early development of study skills 	<p>Heads of Sixths</p> <p>Council to facilitate a HoS website for sharing resources</p>	<p>2013-2014</p>
<p>R3: That the council supports all sixth forms to use ALPS data</p>	<p>Already in place</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ We currently pay for schools' ALPS subscription and 	<p>Tim Williams Heads of Sixths</p>	<p>Hos Forum in</p>

SCRUTINY REVIEW ACTION PLAN – Post-16 Educational Attainment

Recommendation	Response / Comments / Action	Responsibility	Date
effectively in their planning, to target support to Year 12 students.	<p>this gives access to a lot of ALPS support. For example ALPS will talk through data prior to an Ofsted</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ ALPS data forms part of the data analysis carried out by the LA ▪ Best ALPS subject practice is shared with schools to help develop links ▪ Other data sources are used – Learning Plus UK, 6th from PANDA – these give further levels of analysis, for example retentions rates, course completion. ▪ All HoS have a Ofsted data list so that they can keep their data up to date <p>Further action</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Give examples of how ALPS can be used to improve performance via HoS forum and 6th form conference held annually ▪ Analysis of travel to learn ALPS data to inform IAG ▪ Improve data use and analysis for L1 and L2 courses 		September
R4: That the council encourages the development of Raising Post-16 Attainment programmes in all sixth forms by sharing best practice examples inside and outside Tower Hamlets and by exploring how to expand the support offered to schools by partners such as Queen Mary university.	<p>Already in place</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ We've developed the Heads of Sixths forum as one to share good practice and sessions have been held on IAG and changes to post 16. ▪ We work with QM, UEL and Sussex on a borough level and schools have many other links with HEIs <p>Further action</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Develop a section of the website to materials on line that teachers can then use. ▪ The Special Projects Officer is working with partner universities and work is developing in this area further. 	<p>Tim Williams Caroline Newte Hardie Heads of Sixths or academic mentors Council to facilitate a HoS website for sharing resources</p>	December 2013

SCRUTINY REVIEW ACTION PLAN – Post-16 Educational Attainment			
Recommendation	Response / Comments / Action	Responsibility	Date
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Instigate an annual conference with HE partners ▪ Schools establish lead teachers for HE – see R9 		
R5: That schools adopt initiatives such as summer learning to ensure students are equipped for the transition to post-16 study.	<p>Already in place</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Schools already do a lot of activities around transition to post 16. They could explore more timetabling possibilities around this ▪ Schools are sent a regular information sheet on post 16 issues and policy changes <p>Further action</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Share ideas and best practice more widely ▪ Help schools use data quickly and effectively for transition ▪ Develop scaffolding ideas in schools to structure early year 12 teaching 	Schools Tim Williams	In time for Summer induction
R6: That the council sustains and expands the Oxbridge and Russell Group partnerships, through developing an alumni network and improving links with individual universities.	<p>Already in place</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ All schools have an alumni network – some more formal than others. These are often Facebook groups. ▪ We are also working with the primary sector on this so that the Oxbridge/Russell link becomes long term and part of the culture of Tower Hamlets. <p>Further action</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Further develop alumni groups to get them in school helping or advising current students ▪ Make sure that activities at primary level are known about and used at secondary level 	Schools	2013 - 2014
R7: That Aim Higher funding is reinvested in higher education visits for students and parents,	<p>Already in place</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Aim higher money has been given to each school and used for: university visits, visiting speakers, summer 	Caroline Newte Hardie Tim Williams	2013-2014

SCRUTINY REVIEW ACTION PLAN – Post-16 Educational Attainment

Recommendation	Response / Comments / Action	Responsibility	Date
<p>following a review by the council into which type of visits have been most well received and most successful, in terms of the impact on choices and mindset.</p>	<p>schools, parents HE visits, taster days. Further action</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Aim higher money has been cut in 2013 ▪ Impact reviewed and application for further funding 		
<p>R8: That the council works with the EBP and local businesses, including Canary Wharf and public services, to increase the number of higher level work experience opportunities and explore their role in addressing the challenge of post-16 attainment and career aspiration.</p>	<p>Already in place</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Council uses its procurement contracts to develop apprenticeships ▪ Schools have links with local businesses <p>Further action</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Work with Businesses through the EBP to provide a greater range of high quality work experience ▪ Expand the remit of the apprenticeship task group to look at wider employment experience opportunities 	<p>EBP Council</p>	<p>May 2014</p>
<p>R9: That the council invests in permanent support for higher education advisor roles, through</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • training for school staff • recruitment of two independent higher education advisors who can go into schools to support students to make informed choices • facilitating mentoring to support students who wish to make choices not in line with parents' preferences 	<p>Already in place</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We have 10 places at the London South Bank University Higher Education Advisors course. 5 of these places have gone to school and advisor staff and 5 to careers staff. 2 schools already have academic mentors so this will mean that each school will have access to a specialist advisor. • Several schools are working with the HE advisor from Camden • Schools have HE advice sessions for parents <p>Further action</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The advisors course will be completed by December 2013 and this should see a further improvement in the 	<p>Tim Williams and Alan Davidson to coordinate LSBU course</p> <p>Schools</p>	<p>Sept 2013</p>

SCRUTINY REVIEW ACTION PLAN – Post-16 Educational Attainment


Recommendation	Response / Comments / Action	Responsibility	Date
	quality of advice offered to students about HE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ HE advice sessions to include case studies of students who have chosen different or untypical subjects ▪ Funding would be required to appoint LA HE advisers 		
R10: That the council improves information to support informed choice, by producing a handbook for students and parents explaining the range of choices available at post-16 and higher education, which is available in different languages and in formats, such as through video and social media.	<p>Already in place</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Schools publish sixth form handbooks detailing their courses and place on their websites <p>Further action</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Explore the possibilities of a LA generic handbook/online presence ▪ Also having a Facebook and Twitter presence is the way to go but this may require policy changes 	<p>Tim Williams, Tina Sode, Steve Grocott</p>	<p>Summer 2014</p>
R11: That the council works with Heads of sixth forms and Tower Hamlets College to develop a co-operative model which increases support for teaching to high attainment, by adopting best practice from Hackney including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Borough revision classes delivered by the best teachers 	<p>Already in place</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We work with THC at different forums – 14-19 Partnership, Heads of Sixths, SFE planning • Schools already take part in university provided revision classes <p>Further action</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further explore possibilities of borough revision classes • Development of an e-community subject network 	<p>Schools</p>	<p>March 2014</p>

SCRUTINY REVIEW ACTION PLAN – Post-16 Educational Attainment

Recommendation	Response / Comments / Action	Responsibility	Date
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Subject networks to support teachers 			
R12: That the council uses ALPS data to link up schools that are performing well and poorly in a particular subject, to promote peer support to improve teaching quality	<p>Already in place</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> See R3 Schools are beginning to link through exploring best practice list possibilities <p>Further action</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop subject networks 	Tim Williams to report on the ALPS data and publicise high performing subjects.	Autumn 2013
R13: That the council conducts scoping work to better understand parents' and children's aspirations for post-16 study, to inform communications support it can provide to schools to market themselves as a provider of choice to parents and students	<p>Already in place</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> At the recent Parents Conference we had an FE input and this was well received. Parents had workshop activities on post 16 and a frequently asked questions information sheet We are also aiming to build on the work at Bow School as this launches its sixth form All schools have an FE open day/evening <p>Further action</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> More sessions at the Parents conference – to include advice on different levels = L1, L2, L3 and apprenticeships More opportunities for parents to gain first hand understanding of university education Analysis and key messages disseminated from travel to study research 	Tim Williams Caroline Newte Hardie Tina Sode	January 2014
R14: That the council conducts a review of its parental engagement	<p>Already in place</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual parent conference 	Parents engagement team	

SCRUTINY REVIEW ACTION PLAN – Post-16 Educational Attainment

Recommendation	Response / Comments / Action	Responsibility	Date
and advice services to understand <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why schools are not purchasing the offer • How to improve parental engagement at year 9 with a focus on decisions, subjects and careers • How to capitalise on the number of parents unsuccessful at becoming school governors to develop other methods of engagement through PTAs etc 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schools have GCSE information evenings for year 9 students • Many schools take year 9 students on HE visits <p>Further action</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Highlight employment pathways at yr 9 parents evenings • Develop FE input at the Parents Conference • Work with the Parental Engagement team to reach parents and encourage involvement in education 	Schools	2013-2014
R15: That schools provide more opportunities for parents to get involved in the life of the school through parent network groups, parent governor positions and volunteering roles.	<p>Already in place</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schools have various activities for parents, especially for younger year groups <p>Further action</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore best practice and expand to older year groups • Encourage headteachers and governors to understand the benefits of parental engagement in secondary schools 	Schools	2013-2014
R16: That all schools run sessions for parents to raise awareness and knowledge of higher education.	<p>Already in place</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schools have HE advice sessions for parents <p>Further action</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To explore a handbook of HE key terms etc for parents together with TH student case studies • Publicise positive student University experiences 	Schools Tim Williams Caroline Newte Hardie	2013 - 2014

Non-Executive Report of the: Overview & Scrutiny Committee 1 February 2016	
Report of: Melanie Clay, Corporate Director – Law, Probity & Governance and Monitoring Officer	Classification: Unrestricted
Report of Investigations under the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act (RIPA)	

Originating Officer(s)	Graham White – Interim Service Head, Legal
Wards affected	All wards

Summary

The codes of practice issued by the Home Office in relation to Part 2 of the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 (“RIPA”) recommend that elected members have oversight of the Council’s use of these provisions. This report summarises the Council’s use of those powers and other activities under RIPA.

Recommendations:

The Overview & Scrutiny Committee is recommended to:

1. Consider and comment upon the information provided in the report.

1. REASONS FOR THE DECISIONS

- 1.1 The information in the report is provided so that members may oversee the Council’s use of powers under RIPA.

2. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 2.1 It is open to members to provide such comments on the Council’s use of RIPA powers as they consider appropriate.

3. DETAILS OF REPORT

3.1 Covert investigation and RIPA

- 3.2 The Council has broad statutory functions and takes targeted enforcement action in relation to those functions, having regard to the Tower Hamlets Community Plan, the Council’s Local Development Framework, any external targets or requirements imposed under relevant legislation and the Council’s enforcement policy. There may be circumstances in the discharge of its

statutory functions in which it is necessary for the Council to conduct directed surveillance or use a covert human intelligence source for the purpose of preventing crime or disorder.

3.3 RIPA was enacted to provide a framework within which a public authority may use covert investigation for the purpose of preventing or detecting crime or of preventing disorder. It is designed to ensure that public authorities do not contravene the obligation in section 6(1) of the Human Rights Act 1998 not to act in a way which is incompatible with an individual's rights under the European Convention on Human Rights ("ECHR"). It is particularly concerned to prevent contravention of the qualified right in Article 8 of the ECHR to respect for private and family life, home and correspondence.

3.4 **The Council's use of RIPA**

3.5 The Monitoring Officer is the senior responsible officer for ensuring the Council complies with RIPA.

3.6 The Council has policies on the use of directed surveillance or covert human intelligence sources. The current versions of these policies were approved by Cabinet on 3 October 2012, as appendices to the Council's enforcement policy. The Council has in place guidance manuals to assist officers in the authorisation process. The policy is in the course of being refreshed.

3.7 The Council's current priorities for using RIPA, as specified in its policies are –

- Anti-social behaviour
- Fly-tipping
- Unlawful street vending of DVDs and tobacco
- Underage sales of knives, tobacco, alcohol and fireworks
- Fraud, including misuse of disabled parking badges and claims for housing benefit
- Illegal money-lending and related offending
- Breach of licences
- Touting.

3.8 These priorities will be considered in the review of the enforcement policy.

3.9 The Council may only use covert investigation for the purposes of serious offences. This means an offence of the following kind –

- An offence punishable by a maximum term of at least 6 months of imprisonment.
- An offence under section 146 of the Licensing Act 2003 (sale of alcohol to children).
- An offence under section 147 of the Licensing Act 2003 (allowing the sale of alcohol to children).
- An offence under section 147A of the Licensing Act 2003 (persistently selling alcohol to children).

- An offence under section 7 of the Children and Young Persons Act 1933 (sale of tobacco etc. to persons under eighteen).
- 3.10 The Council must also have approval from a court, in addition to an internal authorisation granted by its authorising officer, before carrying out covert surveillance.
- 3.11 In accordance with the Council's policies and manuals, a central record is maintained in Legal Services of all authorisations and approvals granted to carry out either directed surveillance or to use covert human intelligence sources (authorisations under Part 2 of RIPA). The Council provides an annual return to the Office of Surveillance Commissioners ("OSC"), based on the central record.
- 3.12 In order to ensure that applications for RIPA authorisation are of an appropriate standard, the Council's policies and manuals provide that all applications for authorisation to conduct directed surveillance or to use covert human intelligence sources should be considered by a gatekeeper before being passed on to the authorising officer. The Council has a single gatekeeper (the Head of Community Safety Enforcement & Markets within the Community Safety Service). In the absence of the Head of Community Safety Enforcement & Markets, the HLS may act as gatekeeper. The gatekeeper must work with applicant officers to ensure an appropriate standard of applications, including that applications use the current template, correctly identify known targets and properly address issues of necessity, proportionality and collateral intrusion.
- 3.13 The Council has a single authorising officer (Service Head - Community Safety), who has responsibility for considering applications to use directed surveillance or covert human intelligence sources. The policies provide that the Head of Internal Audit may stand in for the Service Head, Safer Communities where the Monitoring Officer or HLS consider it necessary.
- 3.14 The Council's policies and manuals require officers who apply for RIPA authorisations to expeditiously forward copies of authorisations, reviews and cancellations to Legal Services for the central record. The HLS (or deputy) may attend fortnightly at CLC's internal deployment and tasking meetings to ensure the central record is being kept up to date. Representatives of each service area in CLC and the Police attend these meetings. The Council's authorising officer and gatekeeper attend. The meetings provide an opportunity to check the status of applications and authorisations under RIPA and a forum at which officers may present any operations plans where covert investigation may be required and seek a steer from those at the meeting.
- 3.15 The Council's RIPA applications in Q1 – Q3**
- 3.16 One application has been made for a RIPA authorisation in the second quarter of 2015/2016 (under Unique Reference Number 15/16 –CS -005) by the Trading Standards Service. This was authorised on 14th September 2015. Judicial Approval was obtained on 6th October 2015.

3.17 The observations using CCTV and officers' observations gathered evidence of a network of street traders and business premises in Whitechapel involved in the supply of illicit tobacco. The observations coupled with Trading Standards investigations provided information towards getting entry warrants under Schedule 5 to the Consumer Rights Act 2015. As a result Stratford Magistrates Court issued five entry warrants. The warrants were executed pm 26th November 2015, with the following results:

- Illicit cigarettes - 738 packets, 18,960 cigarettes.
- Illicit shisha – 78 packets;
- HRT – 12350 (12.35kg);
- Chewing tobacco not carrying appropriate warnings – 3186

3.18 A large quantity of cash was discovered by Trading Standards staff along with gold bars which were seized by the Police under the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002.

On 7th December 2015, the Authorisation was cancelled.

3.19 No applications were made in the first and third quarters.

3.20 Update

3.21 The annual RIPA report indicated that Members would be updated in due course on any enforcement action taken following the single authorisation granted in 2014/2015. However, those matters have not yet reached a point at which a report may be made.

3.22 The annual report also indicated that training needed to be arranged. This is yet to be put in place as difficulties have been experienced with the previous supplier and alternative arrangements may need to be made. Legal Services are making further enquiries.

4. COMMENTS OF THE CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER

4.1 This is a report of the Council's use of the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 ("RIPA"). There are no financial implications arising from the recommendations in this report.

5. LEGAL COMMENTS

5.1 Legal implications are addressed in the body of the report.

6. ONE TOWER HAMLETS CONSIDERATIONS

6.1 Enforcement action that complies with the five principles expressed in the Council's enforcement policy should help to achieve the objectives of equality and personal responsibility inherent in One Tower Hamlets.

- 6.2 The enforcement policy should enhance Council efforts to align its enforcement action with its overall objectives disclosed in the Community Plan and other key documents such as the local area agreement and the Local Development Framework. For example, one of the key Community Plan themes is A Great Place to Live. Within this theme there are objectives such as reducing graffiti and litter. The enforcement policy makes clear the need to target enforcement action towards such perceived problems. At the same time, the enforcement policy should discourage enforcement action that is inconsistent with the Council's objectives.
- 6.3 Enforcement action may lead to indirect discrimination in limited circumstances, but this will be justified where the action is necessary and proportionate. Necessity and proportionality are key considerations in respect of every application for authorisation under RIPA.

7. BEST VALUE (BV) IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 The report does not propose any direct expenditure. Rather, it is concerned with regularising decision-making in areas in which the Council is already active. The enforcement policy seeks to ensure that enforcement action is targeted to the Council's policy objectives. This is more likely to lead to efficient enforcement action than a less-controlled enforcement effort. It is also proposed that members will have an oversight role primarily through the Standards (Advisory) Committee but also through the Overview & Scrutiny Committee. This will provide an opportunity to judge whether the Council's enforcement action is being conducted efficiently.

8. SUSTAINABLE ACTION FOR A GREENER ENVIRONMENT

- 8.1 The enforcement policy seeks to target the Council's enforcement action in accordance with the Community Plan. The Community Plan contains the Council's sustainable community strategy for promoting or improving the economic, social and environmental well-being of Tower Hamlets and contributing to the achievement of sustainable development in the United Kingdom. To the extent that the enforcement policy aligns enforcement action with the Community Plan it will tend to promote sustainable action for a greener environment.

9. RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 Enforcement action carries with it a variety of inherent risks, including the potential for allegations of over- or under-enforcement, discrimination, adverse costs orders and damage to the Council's reputation. It is considered that proper adherence to RIPA, the codes of practice, the Council's policies and guidance will ensure that risks are properly managed. Oversight by Members should also provide a useful check that risks are being appropriately managed.

10. CRIME AND DISORDER REDUCTION IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 As set out in paragraphs 3.1 and 3.2 of the report, the Council's use of covert investigation may be a necessary part of its enforcement work, but must be carried out having regard to the requirements of RIPA.

Linked Reports, Appendices and Background Documents

Linked Report

- NONE

Appendices

- NONE


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

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

- NONE

Officer contact details for documents:

- N/A

Non-Executive Report of the: Standards Advisory Committee 24 November 2015	 TOWER HAMLETS
Report of: Monitoring Officer	Classification: Unrestricted
Report of Investigations under the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act (RIPA)	

Originating Officer(s)	Melanie Clay
Wards affected	All wards

Summary

The codes of practice issued by the Home Office in relation to Part 2 of the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 (“**RIPA**”) recommend that elected members have oversight of the Council’s use of these provisions. This report summarises the Council’s use of those powers and other activities under RIPA.

Recommendations:

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- 3.3 RIPA was enacted to provide a framework within which a public authority may use covert investigation for the purpose of preventing or detecting crime or of preventing disorder. It is designed to ensure that public authorities do not contravene the obligation in section 6(1) of the Human Rights Act 1998 not to act in a way which is incompatible with an individual's rights under the European Convention on Human Rights ("ECHR"). It is particularly concerned to prevent contravention of the qualified right in Article 8 of the ECHR to respect for private and family life, home and correspondence.

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- 3.5 The Monitoring Officer is the senior responsible officer for ensuring the Council complies with RIPA.

- 3.6 The Council has policies on the use of directed surveillance or covert human intelligence sources. The current versions of these policies were approved by Cabinet on 3 October 2012, as appendices to the Council's enforcement policy. The Council has in place guidance manuals to assist officers in the authorisation process. The policy is in the course of being refreshed.

- 3.7 The Council's current priorities for using RIPA, as specified in its policies are –

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- Fraud, including misuse of disabled parking badges and claims for housing benefit
 - Illegal money-lending and related offending
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the Head of Internal Audit may stand in for the Service Head, Safer Communities where the Monitoring Officer or HLS consider it necessary.

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3.15 The Council's RIPA applications in Q2

- 3.16 One application has been made for a RIPA authorisation in the second quarter of 2015/2016 (under Unique Reference Number 15/16 –CS -005) by the Trading Standards Service. This was authorised on 14th September 2015. Judicial Approval was obtained on 6th October 2015. The investigation is ongoing and is subject to review. The Committee will be updated in due course regarding any enforcement action taken.

3.17 Update

- 3.18 The annual RIPA report indicated that the Committee would be updated in due course on any enforcement action taken following the single authorisation granted in 2014/2015. However, those matters have not yet reached a point at which a report may be made.
- 3.19 The annual report also indicated that training needed to be arranged. This is yet to be put in place as difficulties have been experienced with the previous supplier and alternative arrangements may need to be made. Legal Services are making further enquiries.

4. COMMENTS OF THE CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER

- 4.1 This is a report of the Council's use of the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 ("RIPA") to the Standards Committee. There are no financial implications arising from the recommendations in this report.

5. LEGAL COMMENTS

- 5.1 Legal implications are addressed in the body of the report.

6. ONE TOWER HAMLETS CONSIDERATIONS

- 6.1 Enforcement action that complies with the five principles expressed in the Council's enforcement policy should help to achieve the objectives of equality and personal responsibility inherent in One Tower Hamlets.

- 6.2 The enforcement policy should enhance Council efforts to align its enforcement action with its overall objectives disclosed in the Community Plan and other key documents such as the local area agreement and the Local Development Framework. For example, one of the key Community Plan themes is A Great Place to Live. Within this theme there are objectives such as reducing graffiti and litter. The enforcement policy makes clear the need to target enforcement action towards such perceived problems. At the same time, the enforcement policy should discourage enforcement action that is inconsistent with the Council's objectives.
- 6.3 Enforcement action may lead to indirect discrimination in limited circumstances, but this will be justified where the action is necessary and proportionate. Necessity and proportionality are key considerations in respect of every application for authorisation under RIPA.

7. BEST VALUE (BV) IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 The report does not propose any direct expenditure. Rather, it is concerned with regularising decision-making in areas in which the Council is already active. The enforcement policy seeks to ensure that enforcement action is targeted to the Council's policy objectives. This is more likely to lead to efficient enforcement action than a less-controlled enforcement effort. It is also proposed that members will have an oversight role through the Standards Committee. This will provide an opportunity to judge whether the Council's enforcement action is being conducted efficiently.

8. SUSTAINABLE ACTION FOR A GREENER ENVIRONMENT

- 8.1 The enforcement policy seeks to target the Council's enforcement action in accordance with the Community Plan. The Community Plan contains the Council's sustainable community strategy for promoting or improving the economic, social and environmental well-being of Tower Hamlets and contributing to the achievement of sustainable development in the United Kingdom. To the extent that the enforcement policy aligns enforcement action with the Community Plan it will tend to promote sustainable action for a greener environment.

9. RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 Enforcement action carries with it a variety of inherent risks, including the potential for allegations of over- or under-enforcement, discrimination, adverse costs orders and damage to the Council's reputation. It is considered that proper adherence to RIPA, the codes of practice, the Council's policies and guidance will ensure that risks are properly managed. Oversight by the Standards Committee should also provide a useful check that risks are being appropriately managed.

10. CRIME AND DISORDER REDUCTION IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 As set out in paragraphs 3.1 and 3.2 of the report, the Council's use of covert investigation may be a necessary part of its enforcement work, but must be carried out having regard to the requirements of RIPA.
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Linked Reports, Appendices and Background Documents

Linked Report

- NONE

Appendices

- NONE

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

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

- NONE

Officer contact details for documents:

- N/A