

Best Value Improvement Board

TITLE	Author	ITEM NO	Date
Forward Plan 2017-18	Afazul Hoque Interim Service Manager Strategy, Policy & Performance		14 th June 2017

1. **Summary**

- 1.1 This report sets out the Best Value Improvement Board's Forward Plan 2017-18.

2. **RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Board is asked to:

- Note and comment on the Forward Plan 2017-18.

3. **DETAILS OF REPORT**

- 3.1 The Forward Plan sets out the key issues to be brought before the Board over the next nine months. These include actions within the Best Value Improvement Plan such as drafting the year end update report to the Secretary of State as well as a Spotlight on the key priority areas.
- 3.3 The Forward Plan is attached in Appendix 1.

4. **COMMENTS OF THE CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER**

- 4.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

5. **LEGAL COMMENTS**

- 5.1 This report sets out the Best Value Improvement Board's Forward Plan 2017-18.
- 5.2 The Council is a best value authority within the meaning of Part 1 of the Local Government Act 1999. As a best value authority, the Council has an obligation under section 3 of the Local Government Act 1999 to "make arrangements to secure continuous improvement in the way in which its functions are exercised, having regard to a combination of economy, efficiency and effectiveness" (the best value duty).
- 5.3 Where the Secretary of State is satisfied that an authority is not meeting its best value duty, the Secretary of State may: (1) direct the authority to take action to bring itself into compliance with that duty; (2) direct that specified functions be carried out by the Secretary of

State or a nominee and that the authority follow the Secretary of State's instructions and provide such assistance as may be required (Local Government Act 1999). In accordance with this power the Secretary of State gave directions to the Council on 17 December 2014, 29 April 2015 and 6 May 2015. Revised directions were also given on 16 January 2017.

- 5.4 Although those Directions have now been revoked and the specified functions which were carried out by the Commissioners on behalf of the Secretary have been returned to the authority, the Secretary of State issued fresh directions to the Council for it to take specific action which were considered necessary or expedient to secure the Council's compliance with its best value duty without specifying that specified functions be carried out by the Secretary of State or a nominee. These include setting up a new Best Value Improvement Board, chaired by the Mayor, with cross party representation and external representatives to provide suitable challenge to improve all Council activities.
- 5.5 This forward plan is to proposed to allow compliance with the new Directions issued by the Secretary of State on 28th March 2017 and as the directions are enforceable by the Secretary of State, who may seek an order in the High Court requiring the Council to remedy any breach, It is appropriate that such be noted.

Appendix 1

Tower Hamlets Best Value Improvement Board 2017-18 Forward Plan

Date of Meeting	Agenda Items
14 th June 2017	1. BVIB Terms of Reference
	2. Draft Q1 update report to the SOS
	3. Spotlight: Organisation Culture
	4. Children's Social Care Improvement Plan
13 th Sept 2017	1. Draft Q2 update report to the SOS
	2. Spotlight: Elections
	3. Children's Social Care Improvement Plan Update
18 th Dec 2017	1. Draft Q3 Update report to the SOS
	2. Spotlight: Property
	3. Clear Up Project Recommendations – Update
	4. Children's Social Care Improvement Plan Update
19 th March 2018	1. Draft year end update report to the SOS
	2. Spotlight: Grants
	3. Children's Social Care Improvement Plan Update