

Scrutiny Review - Improving health, environmental quality, economic and social outcomes through Housing Open Spaces
Appendix A

| Proposed Recommendations | Proposed Actions | Deadline |
|---|---|--|
| <p>RECOMMENDATION 1 R1 – Drawing on intelligence, the Council produces an up to date GIS map of housing open spaces, and encourage THHF to <u>sample</u> and assess the accessibility of sites in wards with open space deficiencies identifying any improvement options.</p> | <p>1.1 THHF to support the Council to produce an up to date GIS map of housing open spaces (housing amenity land)</p> <p>1.2 Using the projected levels of open space deficiencies by ward (Open Space Strategy 2017-2027), the Council to map and identify wards with housing open space deficiencies.</p> <p>1.3 THHF to deliver a pilot project to explore the accessibility of housing open space sites (sample) in wards with the greatest open space deficiencies identifying improvement options (including the unlocking of sites where this is considered the most suitable option following stakeholder consultations).</p> | <p>Dec 2019 (</p> <p>March 202</p> <p>October 20</p> |
| <p>RECOMMENDATION 2 R2 – The Council to report back to the committee on new developments and their compliance with planning policies (below) and the Council to prioritise and encourage underutilised spaces to be co-designed and transformed to deliver a balance between competing priorities.</p> <p>Policy D.SG3: Health impact assessments Policy D.DH8: Amenity Policy D.H3: Housing standards and quality Policy S.SH1: Delivering high quality design Policy D.DH2: Attractive streets, spaces and public realm Policy S.CF1: Supporting community facilities Policy D.ES3: Urban greening and biodiversity Policy D.OWS3: Open space and green grid networks Policy D.DH6: Tall buildings Policy D.ES2: Air quality</p> | <p>2.1 Monitoring of policies in the Council’s adopted Local Plan relating to the delivery of open spaces, including those in housing developments, where these are publically accessible, and through the decision making process, ensure these are to a high quality. And in the draft Local Plan (anticipated for adoption in late 2019) investigate further indicators that would allow us to further monitor this in more detail. This would be reported in the Annual Monitoring Report and to Housing Scrutiny.</p> <p>2.2 Organised by the Councils Members support service, members of the Housing and Regeneration Scrutiny Sub Committee and Strategic Development Committee to carry out a site visit of a recently completed housing development, with feedback reported back to the Strategic Planning Team and THHF.</p> <p>2.4 The Council’s Strategic Planning service to report the findings of the high density living survey and next steps to the THHF Executive and the Housing Scrutiny Sub Committee.</p> <p>2.5 The Council to explore with stakeholder engagement the co-designing and transformation of underutilised spaces on Council land to deliver a balance between competing priorities, encouraging and engaging RPs to do the same, reporting progress back to the committee.</p> | <p>17/18 AMR</p> <p>18/19 AMR</p> <p>February 2</p> <p>Dec 2019</p> <p>Ongoing</p> |

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Appendix A

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| | <p>By March 2020:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engagement on environmental improvements on Locksley Estate • Creation of a project park on Shelmedine close. • Co-designing land formerly occupied by the Berner TRA, to deliver a community garden. <p>2.6 Public Health to lead and explore the expansion of the communities driving change programme working with landlords and residents to co-design open spaces, and continue to identify sites for outdoor gyms.</p> <p>2.7 Communities driving change programme - Public Health to report back on progress and outputs / outcomes achieved to the Community Involvement Network.</p> | <p>Ongoing</p> <p>March 2020</p> |

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Appendix A

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| <p>RECOMMENDATION 3 R3 - The Council to encourage and support THHF to develop a good practice guide to achieve quality open spaces – to deliver health, environmental quality, economic and social outcomes. Comprising of priorities to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Green communities, roofs and balconies and support (incl. grants, tools and revenue funding (where possible)) community growing - Improving access, encouraging usage and multiuse facilities on open spaces - Eco friendly and environmentally grounds maintenance and intelligence based planting | <p>3.1 THHF to develop a collective good practice guide for community greening and quality open spaces.</p> <p>3.2 Sharing through the public realm / benchmarking sub group good practices in grounds maintenance procurement and delivery with a focus on environmental, economic and community benefits.</p> <p>3.8 The Council to share with THHF its procedure for the Inspection And Maintenance Of Play Areas, presenting this to the benchmarking sub group and training staff on its inspection regime as required.</p> <p>3.3 The THHF CIN to agree the best method to establish a platform for community greening in the borough, publishing the good practice guide and developing a map of community growing projects and contacts.</p> <p>3.4 The Council’s Biodiversity officer to attend the Public Realm Sub group to re-introduce the Local Bio Diversity action Plan and its priorities, encourage support and regular engagement (2-3 reps) with the Bio Diversity Steering Group.</p> <p>3.5 Through the THHF Public Realm Sub Group, each Landlord to nominate a key contact specialising on biodiversity matters to be added to the Council’s biodiversity mailing list.</p> <p>3.7 The Council’s Sustainability team to explore through retrofitting, the greening of flat roofs of existing social housing stock, working with the THHF Executive.</p> | <p>June 2020 ongoing</p> <p>June 2020 ongoing</p> <p>June 2020</p> <p>June 2020 ongoing</p> <p>March 2020</p> <p>March 2020</p> <p>March 2020</p> |

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Appendix A

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| <p>RECOMMENDATION 4 R4 – The Tower Hamlets Housing Forum’s Community Involvement Network supported by the Council to facilitate the delivery of projects that encourage community greening, growing and quality open spaces that deliver wide benefits.</p> | <p>4.1 The THHF Community Involvement Network to identify projects for all seasons (working with local residents, volunteers, organisations, schools and charities - to engage the elderly, vulnerable, children, young people, and economically inactive in community greening and growing).</p> <p>4.2 The Council’s Housing Partnerships Team to co-ordinate submissions by THHF for community greening awards, including the Tower Hamlets in bloom awards, maximising bids in the innovation category.</p> <p>4.3 The Council’s Housing Partnerships Team to support the THHF’s Public Realm sub group / Community Involvement Network to co-ordinate the entry of community greening bids, accreditations and delivery of scrutiny outcomes.</p> <p>4.4 A community greening platform for residents, including information, advice and guidance, policies, procedures, duties, health and safety, licenses and a map of community growing projects.</p> | <p>December</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>December</p> |

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Appendix A

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| <p>RECOMMENDATION 5 R5 –The THHF Community Involvement Network to widen the scope of its ‘food growing and managing a food garden training session’ to a broader development programme to cover community greening and growing (available to both residents and staff) comprising:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • THHF good practice guide and sharing of good practices • The Green flag awards for housing • Intelligence based planting , enhancing biodiversity and green recycling • Benefits of friends groups • Community greening and growing - policies, procedures, duties, health and safety, and licenses • Supporting a cottage industry and resident led social enterprises • Local employment initiatives in horticulture | <p>5.1 Co-ordinated and facilitated by the THHF Community Involvement Network, the THHF resident training programme to extend its remit to comprise of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Training for environmental teams on the green flag awards guidance for housing - Ongoing training to ensure intelligence based planting and to enhance biodiversity (residents, TRA’s and horticulture staff) - Training on the benefits of friends groups, encouraging TRAs to take on the role - Borough wide training on the consolidated approach to community greening and growing - policies, procedures, duties, health and safety, and licenses - Sharing of good practices - Learning from successful organisations and experts in supporting local food growing, selling of those products at events and the creation of social enterprises. - The delivery of local employment initiatives in horticulture | <p>June 2020 ongoing</p> |

Scrutiny Review - Improving health, environmental quality, economic and social outcomes through Housing Open Spaces
Appendix A

| Short term outcomes | Medium term outcomes (desired outcomes of the review) | Long term outcomes |
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| <p>National, regional and local</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An understanding of national, regional and local definitions of and priorities for open spaces • Statutory duties on Local Authorities and Social landlords • Open space deficiencies in London and TH • The benefits of open spaces • Housing open spaces in TH, locations, accessibility, usage and benefits <p>Strategy, policy and management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identifying good practices in open space management and maintenance, and areas for improvement through strategy, policy and contract management. <p>Accessibility</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A good understanding of open space benefits to community engagement and empowerment, community development, cohesion, improved physical and mental health and wellbeing, environmental and economic outcomes • What are the issues and how the accessibility of open spaces be improved (design? access? Security and safety?) <p>Communications, engagement and partnership working</p> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Establish good practice in the management of open spaces. 2. Encouraging all social housing providers to adopt good practices in order to maximise the contribution these spaces can make to improving health and wellbeing, social, economic and environmental benefits and improvements to air quality in the borough 3. The Council working with THHF to establish a Borough wide Housing Estate Best (use of) Open Space competition. 4. Achieve an increase in the number of housing open Spaces accredited by the Green Flag Awards. 5. Investigate the appetite for outdoor gyms on open spaces 6. Identify funding opportunities that residents, Tenants and Residents Associations and social housing providers can bid for | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A cleaner and greener borough. • An increase in Neighbourhood satisfaction levels, by landlords • Resident satisfaction with green spaces, by landlord • More residents say the borough is a great place to live • More residents feel healthier and happier • More residents and service users are satisfied with parks and open spaces • Driving collective change working with landlords and the wider community |

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Appendix A

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reviewing case studies and resident feedback on whether engaging with open spaces has brought them improved their health and well-being, provided social opportunities, learn new skills and / or generate an income.• Understanding how social housing providers in TH are involving residents in managing and maintaining open spaces and how can good practice models and projects be shared, what lessons can be learned.• Understanding the added value the community and voluntary sector / friends groups bring to communities through open spaces, the social, health and wellbeing, environmental, educational and economic benefits they support.• Average levels of neighbourhood satisfaction data and whether those with community greening projects have higher satisfaction results. | | |
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