

LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

**MINUTES OF THE TOWER HAMLETS TRANSFORMATION AND IMPROVEMENT
BOARD**

HELD AT 6.00 P.M. ON MONDAY, 9 SEPTEMBER 2019

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

Members Present:

Mayor John Biggs (Chair)	(Executive Mayor)
Sir Steve Bullock	(External Representative - THBVIB)
Sharon Godman	(Divisional Director, Strategy, Policy and Performance)
Kate Herbert	(LGA Representative)
Councillor Sirajul Islam	(Statutory Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Housing)
Councillor James King	
Councillor Andrew Wood	(Leader of the Conservative Group)

Other Councillors Present:

Councillor Danny Hassell	(Cabinet Member for Children, Schools and Young People)
Councillor Motin Uz-Zaman	(Cabinet Member for Work and Economic Growth)

Officers Present:

Vicky Clark	(Divisional Director for Growth and Economic Development)
Daniel Kerr	(Strategy and Policy Manager)
Christine McInnes	(Divisional Director, Education and Partnership, Children's)
Sripriya Sudhakar	(Place Shaping Team Leader, Place)
Ann Sutcliffe	(Corporate Director, Place)
David Knight	(Senior Democratic Services Officer)

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Asma Begum (Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Equalities) and Councillor Rachel Blake (Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Air Quality).

The Chair then welcomed Councillor James King, the Chair of the Councils Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests were received at the meeting.

3. **REVIEW OF MINUTES/ACTIONS AND MATTERS ARISING**

The minutes of the meeting held on 10 June, 2019 were confirmed as a correct record and the Chair was authorised to sign them accordingly.

4. **UNRESTRICTED REPORTS FOR CONSIDERATION**

4.1 **Regeneration Approach**

This report provides an overview of the strategic approach being taken to coordinate and deliver regeneration across the borough. It outlined why a coordinated approach to regeneration is paramount along with the contextual challenges faced in delivering on this. The main points of the discussions by the Board on this report may be summarised as follows:

The Committee

- Commented that transformation is not just about buildings/infrastructure, but for the local environment and communities more broadly;
- Indicated that transformation needs to reflect the vision of the Council and to show how the various programme will deliver the requires/desired outcomes;
- Noted that the Local Plan sets out how Tower Hamlets will grow and develop over the next 15 years. It outlines how and where homes, jobs, services and infrastructure will be delivered to meet future needs and the type of places and environments. However, whilst LBTH has the ability to finance local infrastructure projects e.g. the bridge over South Dock, its ability to influence through land ownership is finite as the majority of the land is in private hands;
- Noted LBTH must maintain a proper strategic oversight of the Borough's growth and regeneration programme and apply a consistent approach to secure its delivery. Therefore, it is essential that there properly budgeted permanent project management team (funded via Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) and Section 106 agreements) in place to support this process **e.g.** to maximise the benefits for residents within the available resources;

Accordingly the Transformation and Improvement Board **RESOLVED**:

1. To note approach for regeneration as detailed in the presentation.
- #### 4.2 **Employment: Work and Greater Prosperity**

The Board received a report that provided an overview of the approach taken to improve work and greater prosperity with Tower Hamlets. It covered the work areas of two lead members Councillor Motin Uz-Zaman, Cabinet Member for Work and Economic Growth and Councillor Danny Hassell, Cabinet Member for Children, Schools and Young People. The focus of the report was on the work that has been done to specifically improve outcomes

for young people. The main points of the discussions by the Board on this report may be summarised as follows:

The Committee noted that:

- Work is being done to giving young people and their family's exposure to other career paths;
- The Youth Service and partner agencies have an important role to encourage enterprise in the young and to help address the gender gap in attainment;
- There is work to be done on how to improve the transition for young people e.g. to develop the soft skills such as (i) interpersonal skills; (ii) communication skills; and (iii) problem solving skills to add young people;
- Work is required so that the Council and its partners can ensure they can support young people to (i) achieve their best educational and employment outcomes, (ii) ensure they are inspired; (iii) raise their aspirations; and (iv) help them develop the skills they need for the future;
- Whilst the Council supports all children and young people by beginning with a commitment to early help, LBTH also has to develop the groundwork for more specific focussed work in relation to the most vulnerable: those experiencing neglect, violence and those with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND);
- With the new apprenticeship programmes there is now a stronger expectation that young people should (i) gain real-life experience; (ii) acquire new skills; and (iii) earn while they learn. Therefore, apprenticeships are also of benefit to white collar/graduate career paths and not the more traditional role of blue collar work paths;
- The Council and its partners are there for families to help shape the employment programme/interventions and in terms of co-production so they have a better tool to get a positive outcome;
- The Council is using focus group's to ensure that all students get a good spread of opportunities and working with partners who can access other funding streams to ensure that students have a wider spread of opportunities;
- Doing a lot in destination work for young people so they know where they should be;

Accordingly the Transformation & Improvement Board **RESOLVED**:

1. Note the report and presentation.

4.3 Tower Hamlets Improvement Plan

The report provided a progress update on the Tower Hamlets Improvement Plan which had been developed in response to the findings of the LGA Corporate Peer Challenge (June 2018) and captured the significant transformation and improvement activity currently undertaken in the Council. The main points of the discussions by the Board are outlined below:

- Noted Ofsted ticked off
- Had the Brexit Commission
- Est P/Ship on employment

- Noted position with RAG Status
- Noted had final Ofsted Inspection under the new regime a very positive outcome
- Budget less harsh than anticipated
- Increased demands adult/social care
- Business Rates also an issue
- Brexit degree of uncertainty and LBTH remain one of the most internal boroughs in the UK for education/work. Concerns on the residency requirement changes and a degree of misinformation so need to do work to ensure what are EU citizen's rights. However, it is problematic for the supply change uncertainty; the work force
- John O'Brien Local Council is collating views from across London and LGA is signposting council to guidance and there is a CE Brexit Planning Group and the Resilience Forum and for LBTH to be prepared

As a result of discussions on this report the Transformation & Improvement Board **RESOLVED** to

1. Consider and comment on the progress of the Tower Hamlets Improvement Plan

5. ANY OTHER UNRESTRICTED BUSINESS CONSIDERED TO BE URGENT

- Partnership sumits at canary wharf and a jobs partnership with is paying dividends enables lbth to better cordinate things.
- grants programme lcf now been launched and had an indepent appraisal of the grants process, although been concerns has produced a healthy outcome
- Where been noted there are issues put in place mitigation e.g. small grants process.
- THH RE: Page 62 Section 2.4.4 check with DK.
- Results of LBTH resident's surveys been a fall in certain areas so residents feel that we are not as good as we could be in some areas. Noted that this is a trend across the public sector. It can be that the perceived situation by resents is not necessarily a close refection of the actual position. So a lot of work needs to be done in this area, next Cabinet Strategic Plan to be considered, LBTH has improved in a number of areas e.g. Ofsted and Tidy Britain improved children's service and waste management.
- OSC wish to be integrated into the various partnership boards.
- This Board Est nearly for a year and December to be an opportunity to reinvigorate the Board.
- As part of the corporate peer Review there will be one in 2020 and the Board needs to consider how to position this Review.

The meeting ended at 7.50 p.m.

**Chair, Mayor John Biggs
Tower Hamlets Transformation and Improvement Board**