

Meeting of the

# CABINET

---

Wednesday, 25 November 2020 at 5.30 p.m.

---

## TABLED PAPERS

---

	<b>PAGE NUMBER</b>
<b>5. OVERVIEW &amp; SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</b>	
<b>5.1 Chair's Advice of Key Issues or Questions</b>	
Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Committee (OSC) to report on any issues raised by the OSC in relation to unrestricted business to be considered.	<b>3 - 44</b>

If you require any further information relating to this meeting, would like to request a large print, Braille or audio version of this document, or would like to discuss access arrangements or any other special requirements, please contact:

Matthew Mannion, Democratic Services **Page 1**

Tel: 020 7364 4651, E-mail: [matthew.mannion@towerhamlets.gov.uk](mailto:matthew.mannion@towerhamlets.gov.uk)

This page is intentionally left blank



# **PRE-DECISION SCRUTINY QUESTIONS (PDSQ) FOR THE MAYOR IN CABINET**

---

**Wednesday, 25 November 2020**

---

**1. PDSQ FOR CABINET 25.11.2020**

**3 - 42**

**All Wards**

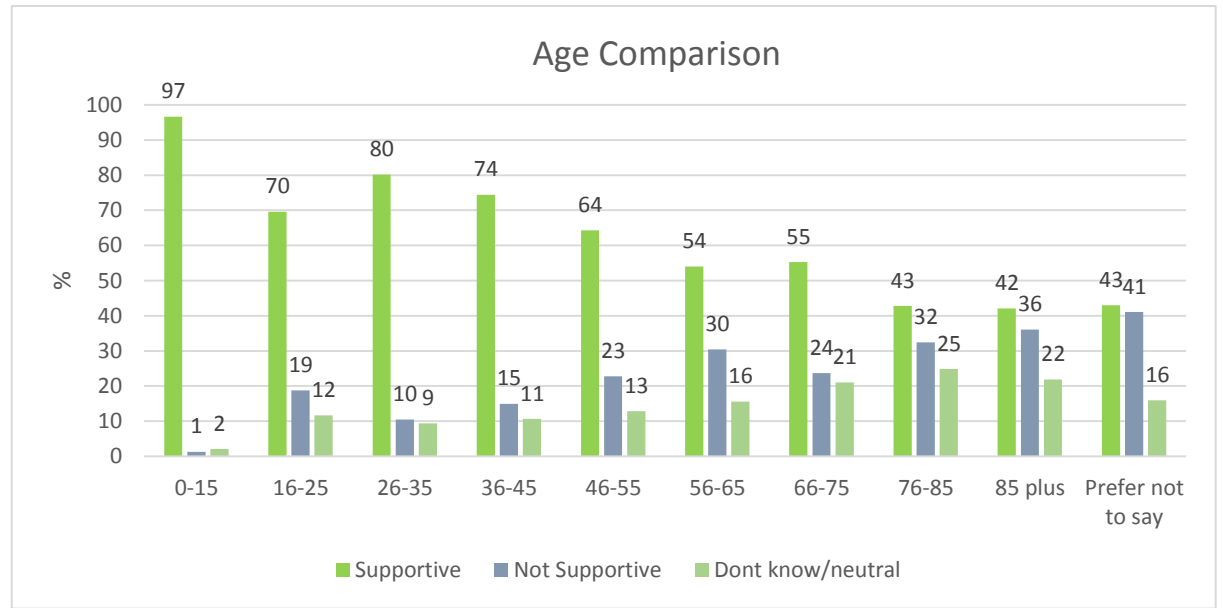
This page is intentionally left blank

**Item 6.1 Liveable Streets Bow consultation outcome report**

Questions	Response
<p>How many of those who responded to the consultation identified as being of (a) Bangladeshi heritage and (b) Somali heritage and what proportion of the total number of respondents does this represent in each instance?</p>	<p>To meet our Public Sector Equality Duty, we undertook a comprehensive programme of engagement to ensure that we engaged with the whole diverse community within the Bow area. Just over 4% (164) of those who responded declared that they were from Bangladeshi heritage and 0.1% (4) respondents declared that they were from Somali heritage. Just over 9% preferred not to declare their heritage.</p>
<p>How many people attended the additional workshop on the proposals held on 27th October and how many of those were of (a) Bangladeshi or (b) Somali heritage?</p>	<p>We held an additional workshop on 27 October to engage the Bow community on the proposals. The registration process for this event was a simple process created to ensure ease of access for the community, therefore we did not request detailed diversity information from those who attended and are unable to provide a breakdown of those that attended from a Bangladeshi or Somali heritage.</p>
<p>What factors explain why there were so many more responses from households in streets in conservation areas and privately-owned blocks than there were from flats on social housing estates, and what proactive action was taken to redress this imbalance before and after the formal consultation period?</p>	<p>We undertook an extensive programme of engagement during the consultation process, which ran from Monday 29 June to Wednesday 29 July 2020. Consultation packs were delivered to over 14,480 residents and businesses.</p> <p>A wide range of residential properties received copies of the consultation survey. There was no direct question on the whether the respondent was from either social housing or privately owned blocks. We do not have any evidence to suggest that there was an imbalance of responses.</p> <p>A comprehensive breakdown of the consultation and engagement programme and details of the responses is provided in Appendix C of the report.</p>
<p>Why was the data on responses from local “business owners” (a majority of whom opposed a bus gate at the junction of Roman Road and St Stephen’s Road) conflated with the responses from local “workers” in the data purporting to</p>	<p>There was no conflation of the responses in this instance. The responses are presented in a graph format and though they are shown together for every question, separate responses are provided for both workers and business owners - There was a total of 653 respondents of which 154 were business owners and 499 were workers.</p>

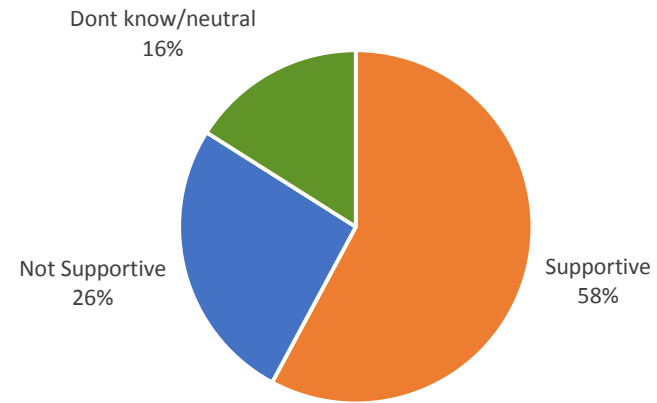
<p>show the level of support/opposition amongst local businesses?</p>	<p>It is important to understand the thoughts of workers travelling into the area and whether they can access the businesses affected by the proposals.</p> <p>This is referenced in Appendix D of Cabinet report – Section 3: responses from business owners and workers in the area.</p>
<p>How many of those residents who signed the petition against the bus gate presented at Full Council on 30th September did not submit a formal response to the consultation, and why are their views not mentioned in the report or In relation to recommendation 3, will the Mayor explain what factors will be taken into consideration to determine whether “further local exemptions” from the bus gate restriction should be made at a later date?</p>	<p>The petition was not directly in relation to the detailed proposal set out in Bow. The petition outlined a position for changes to Liveable Streets without road closures but was not specific in mentioning the design of the Bow Liveable Streets scheme or Bow in general. This consultation was comprehensive and provided the opportunity for everyone to take part and provide their views.</p> <p>We have though considered the balance of views among residents expressed in various forms, e.g. through the petition mentioned in the question, and as such have sought to find a balanced way forward by limiting the timed restriction on the bus gate to weekdays and peak hours.</p> <p>A review of the scheme is part of the 8-stage approved process for Liveable Streets and as with each of the stages before this will take place. Depending on feedback and proposals put forward, each review of the Liveable Streets area will have a different focus to ensure that it tackles any concerns residents and businesses may have. A similar review was undertaken on the Wapping bus gateway and I would suggest similar factors will be reviewed.</p>
<p>No equality information from the consultation responses were used in the consultation report nor the EQIA, can we have a more detailed breakdown of the responses by different groups, for example by age, ethnicity, health?</p>	<p>The Equality Impact Assessment is a living document that will be reviewed and updated following the decisions at Cabinet. It will be then updated as detailed designs are produced.</p> <p>A further breakdown of the following categories is provided:</p> <p><b>Age:</b> The graph below shows the results breakdown across age brackets for all</p>

responses received.



**Ethnicity:** The graph below shows the results from those who identify as BAME from within the consultation area.

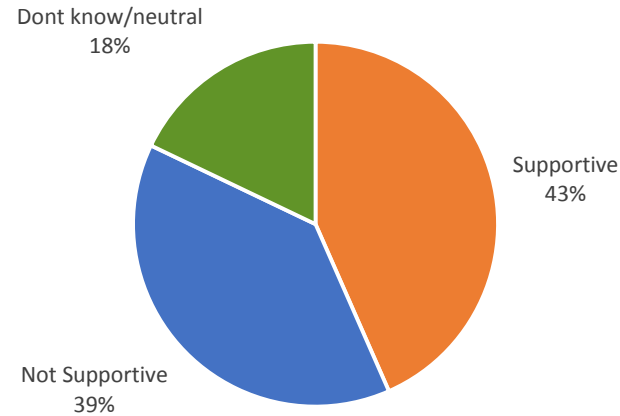
### All BAME Responses in consultation area



**Disability:** The graph below shows the results from those who identify as having a disability from within the consultation area



All Disabled Responses in consultation area



Please be reminded that not all respondents filled in the equality survey and therefore doesn't necessarily reflect all those that responded.

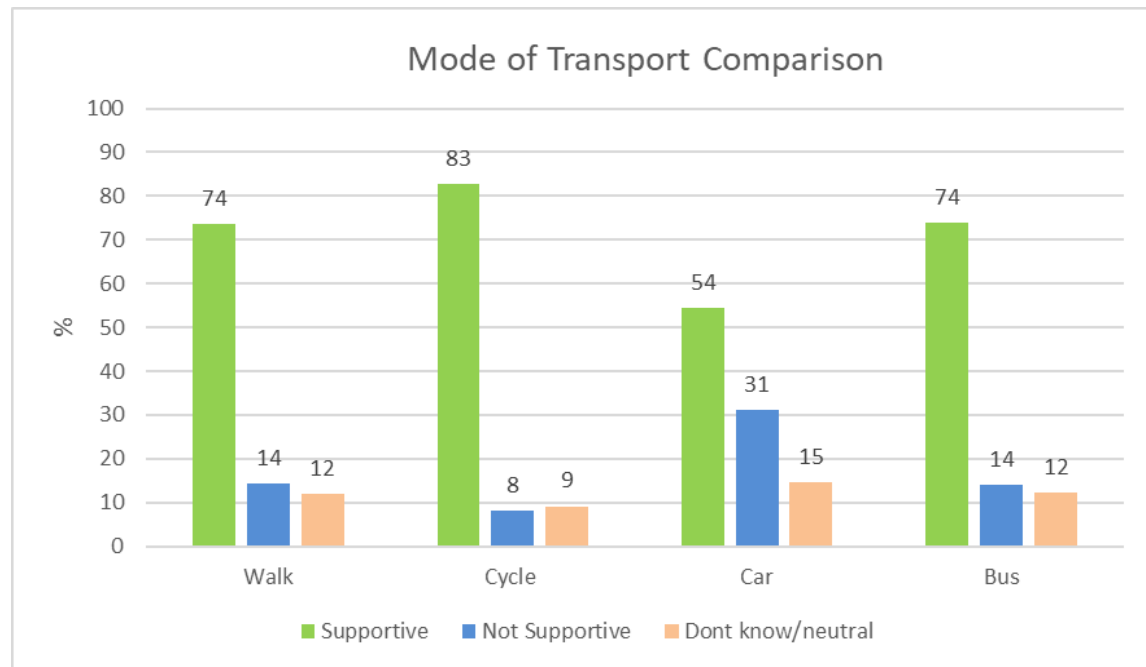
Can we see breakdown of the consultation responses by transport user? for example were many car drivers also cyclists? were the overall responses from the different transport groups similar or different, for example did bus users prefer different options to cyclists and car drivers or did all group overlap in their support?

When answering the question about which modes people use to travel in Tower Hamlets, respondents were able to choose as many modes as were applicable to them. This was to capture the ways people get around for all different types of trips whether this is travel for work, school, shopping, leisure, or more.

The number of people that chose the car as a mode of travel is 1856 respondents, or 48.7% of the total. Of the number of people that said they travel by car, 51% said they also cycle.

Number of respondents who cycle	2281
Number of respondents who travel by car	1856
Number of respondents who travel by car and also cycle	938
Number of respondents who cycle that also use another mode of transport	2231

The breakdown of results for those that travel by walking, cycling, car and bus are presented in the graph below. This shows that there is broad support across respondents from different modes of travel.



How representative of the Bow community were the consultation responses?

Through our Public Sector Equality Duty we have ensured that we have been as inclusive as possible during the consultation process. We have engaged the Bow community to ensure that the responses reflect their views and that the scheme developed meets the needs of the community.

- We met with business traders, emergency services, council departments, schools and community groups.
- 142 community members attended four co-design workshops
- 14,480 hard copies of the Bow Consultation document and survey questions were delivered throughout the consultation areas as well as hosted online and advertised via social media and direct emailing to community groups

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Our engagement teams visited the Bow area several times during the consultation window in person (adhering to government guidance), visiting business on Roman Road directly, advertising the consultation and answering questions</li></ul>
With the budget doubling from £1.5 million to £3 million will later phases of Liveable Streets be cut back to pay for this increase.	The cost of the scheme has not changed. Originally there was to be support from the TfL Liveable Neighbourhoods programme. However, that programme is currently on hold due to financial implications of Covid-19. The scheme put forward continues to meet the requirements and objectives of the TfL programme and we do anticipate that the additional funding will be possible through the programme in the future.
Why was the EQIA not written by an independent person but by the project champion?	The 'completing officer' of the EQIA, as well as using other council guidance, obtained information from other teams and officers within the council, including but not limited to, the Liveable Streets Team, Highways, Public Health, with support and guidance from the Strategy, Policy and Performance Officers within the Place Directorate.



This page is intentionally left blank

## Item 6.2 Planning for School Places 2020/21

Questions	Response
<p>3.25 refers to the Leven Road former gasworks site. If the proposed bridges over the Lea go ahead, would we expect applicants from Newham, or indeed LBTH young people to apply to schools across the river, and how might this impact on place planning?</p>	<p>The LA's arrangements for pupil place planning is mindful of the sufficiency of provision across the area, including the situation in neighbouring boroughs. It will therefore take account of any potential cross border movement, particularly as a consequence of improved road and transport links. Tower Hamlets works closely with Newham and neighbouring LAs through its membership of the North/East London Pupil Place Planning Group.</p>
<p>refers to work being undertaken to support the future sustainability of maintained nursery schools. What kinds of options are being examined, and do any of the proposals being considered involve closures?</p>	<p>LA officers are working with school leaders on a number of options for securing the future of maintained nursery schools. This includes supporting the schools in the development of new business models for their SEN resource and two year old provision; helping them to achieve 'Teaching School' status to enable the generation of additional income; and enabling the establishment of formal partnerships, through either a hard federation or amalgamation.</p> <p>There are no current plans for any closures, however each nursery school will need to ensure that they are able to manage within their budget in order to have a sustainable future.</p>
<p>3.31 notes an expected increase of 11.9% in the number of children with an EHCP between 19/20 and 2027. What is being done to build capacity in the assessment process in light of this expected increase?</p>	<p>The assessment for EHCPs is a joint process between all stakeholders, the LA, educational settings and the CCG which commissions health services. Officers are working with all partner organisations to ensure that the projected demand for EHCPs can be met across the Local Area.</p> <p>This work includes the current consultation on the reorganisation of SEND services within the local authority, reviewing of commissioning arrangements for services contributing to the assessment process and work to reduce demand through early intervention and support for capacity building within early years and school settings.</p>
<p>Planning for school places: There appears to be significant oversupply for year 7 entry (over 9 FEs). Are there any measures being looked at yet to avoid redundancy?</p>	<p>When assessing the need for school places, there is an expectation that the LA includes a level of planned surplus to enable a reasonable degree of parental choice and to allow for unforeseen rises in the pupil population, mainly due to migration. It is also necessary to factor in the potential for school underperformance. The recommendation, therefore, is that local authorities should aim to retain 5 -10% surplus places, and this is the approach we are taking in Tower Hamlets.</p>





<p>Wood Wharf "Plans are now in place to appoint the new school provider." Will the Council be consulting on the specifications document as this is the 1st time such a document is being prepared in Tower Hamlets or has a decision already been made to transfer an existing school to the IoD? who will make that decision? how will we judge who is the best provider without a competitive process? will the decision be made in secret? how can we be sure that the operators are the best people to run a new school in a new site in a new area?</p>	<p>The LA has prepared its specification for the new school at Wood Wharf and has already shared this with the DfE. The LA works closely with the DfE to ensure that there is joint strategic oversight of school sufficiency issues and that the plans of both agencies are aligned. This includes enabling the DfE and LA to first consider whether there are any existing LA academy schools or approved academy providers in need of a new/improved school site within the Tower Hamlets area. If the LA is then able to run its consultation and free school competition it will be ready to do so early next year, with intention for the preferred provider to be appointed by September 2021. This would be an open and transparent process with the final decision taken by the Secretary of State for Education.</p>
<p>New School Building at Crossharbour Town Centre - will the Council acquire Cafe Forever (now closed) to provide a link between the proposed new school site at ASDA and Cubitt Town school allowing one larger school to be developed or for 2 schools to share facilities?</p>	<p>The council is working with the developer to ensure that the site at Crossharbour Town allows flexibility for the development of the new school provision. This includes providing facility for the expansion of nearby Cubitt Town School, if this is then considered to be the best option for families and children. The discussions with the developer have included looking at options for a link between the two sites, including an option that would not require acquisition of the café.</p>
<p>3.24 subject to the Developer proceeding with the school site." has LBTH or the DoE presented the developer with the lease to sign as set out in the 2016 s106 legal agreement? the secondary school site is separate from the 2018 planning application and the land has been cleared.</p>	<p>Any lease to be entered into in the future will be between the DfE and Northern &amp; Shell and will be pursuant to the 2016 s106 agreement which accompanies the extant permission.</p>

This page is intentionally left blank

### Item 6.3 Closure of St Matthias School

	Response
<p>P4 of the Equality Impact report notes that there are vacancies at neighbouring faith schools. Is it standard practice to assume that parents who have chosen a CofE education will choose a Catholic education? Has this assumption been tested?</p>	<p>The LA has made no assumption that the families at St Matthias would prefer to attend Catholic schools. However, faith schools are amongst the range of local 'good' or 'outstanding' school options available for families, including Christchurch CofE School with whom St Matthias shares an executive Headteacher.</p> <p>Previously when the LA closed Raine's Foundation CofE School it was evident that the Bishop Challoner Catholic Schools were a popular choice for families, with a significant number of Raine's pupils transferring.</p>

This page is intentionally left blank

## Item 6.4 Cherry Trees closure

	Response
<p>The school was nearly at capacity in 2017/18 and only in 2019/20 did pupil numbers see a significant decrease. Is the council certain that this is not a temporary blip, and numbers might recover as quickly as they fell away?</p> <p>Is there modelling of future expected demand for special school places that confirms this?</p>	<p>The proposal for the closure of Cherry Trees takes account of a number of key considerations, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- the School's current Ofsted rating of 'inadequate';</li><li>- that the pupils on roll have significantly reduced over the previous five-year period and to the extent that this already small School is no longer financially viable;</li><li>- the development of a specialist and more inclusive provision, through plans to establish an SEMH Resource Base within an existing primary school, supported by the 'outstanding' Bowden House Special School. Although not a direct replacement for Cherry Trees, the planned new provision will extend the range of options to meet the diverse needs of vulnerable children who are mostly able to access a mainstream curriculum, albeit with significant modification, support and intervention.</li></ul>

This page is intentionally left blank

## Item 6.5 Voluntary and Community Sector Strategy 2020-23

Questions	Response
When will an action plan for this strategy be put in place?	The strategy provides a framework for partners to work together. High level actions for year one has been set out in the plan and we will work with the sector and partners to design future strategic action to respond to changing prioritisation.
How many small to medium voluntary and community organisations sit on, or report to, the Cross-Sector Steering Group?	Cooperate, a partnership group between the voluntary and statutory sectors currently has representatives from 12 voluntary and community sector (VCS) organisations. These organisations range in size. The membership is currently being reviewed to ensure that it fully represents the range of VCS organisations, including that the voice of smaller VCS organisations can be heard.

This page is intentionally left blank



**Item 6.6 Quarterly Performance and Improvement Monitoring Q2 2020/21**

**Questions Response**

How many placements have been available in the Workpath programme vs those seeking support through the programme?  
 Can details of the following measures by Q since 2015 be provided?

- Adults supported into work path
- Adults seeking support through the work path service
- Available placements within work path

Year	Job Outcomes	Registrations (1-1 assessments)	Conversion of registrations to jobs %
2015-16	554	1011	55%
2016-17	556	1193	47%
2017-18	721	1173	61%
2018-19	679	1336	51%
2019-20	504	1380	37%
2020-21 Yr. to-date	56	196	29%

Gathering intervention figures dating back to 2015 will take more time as we do not currently have access to GM - we are transitioning from the Goldmine (GM) system to a new Salesforce based system. However, based on our 2019/20 Pentana reporting, we can say the number of interventions completed in year 2019-20 was **2,925**. This includes employability support and training of various kinds.

Quarter	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
Q1	126	126	101	156	133	74
Q2	273	181	96	189	149	125
Q3	196	65	161	196	163	185

Q4	344	182	198	180	234	120
<b>Reported</b>	<b>939</b>	<b>554</b>	<b>556</b>	<b>721</b>	<b>679</b>	<b>504</b>

It is not currently possible to predict numbers into work under the current national circumstances, but the service continues to support and prepare clients for opportunities. The achievement of job outcomes and registration figures have been impacted by C-19 in the following ways:

- Lockdown and transition to remote working
- Recruitment freezes
- Increased childcare and other caring responsibilities
- Fear amongst clients
- Deployment of staff to emergency response teams

WorkPath does not have “placements” in the sense that client numbers are restricted. Clients are engaged, registered and then supported according to their need. Our client group consists primarily of those furthest away from the labour market and with multiple barriers to work. Post restructure (2019)/Pre-Covid targets were set as follows:

- IAG team of 8 officers (hardest to reach with multiple barriers) = 48 per month at full capacity
- Employer Engagement team of 10 officers = 70 per month at full capacity

The service also delivers Supported Employment programmes - paid work experience with mandatory training. Several themes are delivered:

- Women into Health & Social Care
- 50+
- Through Care
- Childcare Apprenticeships

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• IGNITION for those with additional learning needs</li> <li>• Summer programme for 10 x Through Care graduates.</li> </ul> <p>These programmes deliver several cohorts each per year. A cohort can be any size from 10 to 20, depending upon secured funding and placements, and assessment pass rates. Job outcomes are included in overall figures.</p>																											
<p>Why are 33 per cent fewer social housing properties let this year?</p>	<p>In quarters 1 and 2 this year, there was a significant reduction in the number of social housing properties available to let. There were approximately 33 % fewer properties available in this period compared to the first two quarters last year. During the first part of the pandemic there were restrictions on property viewings and house moves, resulting in fewer offers being made and consequently fewer properties being let.</p> <p>The table below shows the number of properties available before and during the pandemic.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="745 772 2033 967"> <thead> <tr> <th>Overall Lets</th> <th>Jan</th> <th>Feb</th> <th>Mar</th> <th>Apr</th> <th>May</th> <th>June</th> <th>July</th> <th>Aug</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Number of Lets</td> <td>153</td> <td>155</td> <td>154</td> <td>6</td> <td>5</td> <td>34</td> <td>49</td> <td>103</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Number of Landlords with Lets</td> <td>16</td> <td>16</td> <td>15</td> <td>5</td> <td>4</td> <td>8</td> <td>8</td> <td>10</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Lettings began to increase as Landlords started to advertise properties again with social distancing restrictions in place with some introducing virtual viewings.</p> <p>The lack of properties on the market meant we were unable to move as many homeless households into permanent accommodation as we would have wished to.</p> <p>We are working with partners to maximise the number of homes available to let for homeless applicants, and where possible ring-fencing/restricting homes for this particular cohort, which should see improvements in the coming months.</p>	Overall Lets	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Number of Lets	153	155	154	6	5	34	49	103	Number of Landlords with Lets	16	16	15	5	4	8	8	10
Overall Lets	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug																				
Number of Lets	153	155	154	6	5	34	49	103																				
Number of Landlords with Lets	16	16	15	5	4	8	8	10																				

Moving residents out of temporary accommodation and into permanent homes is a priority for the council. This indicator measures the proportion of all lets in the reporting period (accommodation of two bedrooms or more) which were made to homeless households. The variance between Q2 this year and Q2 last year is 32.74%.

Homeless households moved into permanent social housing	Number	Num	Denom
Q2 2020/21	26.09%	36	138
Q1 2020/21	30.00%	9	30
Q4 2019/20	29.37%	79	269
Q3 2019/20	27.89%	41	147
Q2 2019/20	33.52%	61	182
Q1 2019/20	27.34%	73	267

Can details of the staff sickness absence rate by Q since 2015 be provided?

Sickness Absence	Number of Days
Q2 2020/21	11.64
Q1 2020/21	10.76
Q4 2019/20	10.35
Q3 2019/20	9.70
Q2 2019/20	9.86
Q1 2019/20	10.20
Q4 2018/19	10.24
Q3 2018/19	10.42
Q2 2018/19	10.27
Q1 2018/19	10.43
Q4 2017/18	10.27
Q3 2017/18	10.75

	Q2 2017/18	10.27	
	Q1 2017/18	9.72	
	Q4 2016/17	10.29	
	Q3 2016/17	9.65	
	Q2 2016/17	9.73	
	Q1 2016/17	9.49	
On Outcome 5 “people live in a Borough that is clean and green”, please explain why the “easing of lockdown” justifies this underperformance when the original target of 95 per cent was set for normal times and please provide comparative data on street cleanliness for each of the previous five quarters?	<p>The outturn reported here is the average of the results for July, August and September. In Q2, 85.42% of inspected streets were acceptably clean, against our target of 95%. This reflects a reduction in cleansing standards in Q2, however so far this year we have inspected 480 transects in the borough of which 443 have been deemed to be acceptable, equating to 92.29% - just below our 95% target.</p> <p>In July, 91.25% of streets surveyed were deemed to be clean to acceptable standards for litter. 97.6% of streets were clean to acceptable standards for detritus, 93.8% for graffiti, and 98.8% for fly posting. The level of litter has increased over the past couple of months as lockdown measures have been eased. In addition, there was an increase in fly tipping which has led to spilt bags increasing litter levels. It also reflects the increase in litter in parks due to high usage. This was particularly an issue during the summer, late evenings and weekends.</p> <p>A more targeted approach has been adopted to tackle cleansing and flyposting hotspots across the borough. The service is using graphical analysis of litter and flyposting maps to aid them target their resources for action. We instruct our rapid response teams to clean up where we identify an unacceptable level of litter.</p> <p>Our Love your Neighbourhood app can be downloaded onto phones so that residents can report any issues they think need our attention – such as litter, fly tipping, fly posting, potholes and more.</p> <p>We expect to see improvements in standards of street cleanliness towards the end of the year.</p>		

	Period	% clean
	Q2 2020/21	85.42%
	Q1 2020/21	99.17%
	Q4 2019/20	96.17%
	Q3 2019/20	99.58%
	Q2 2019/20	98.33%
	Q1 2019/20	93.59%
On Outcome 5 “people live in a Borough that is clean and green”, why has the target of 22 per cent for recycling rates in 2020/21 been set so low and whether this target was approved by the Mayor and Lead Member?	<p>Targets were initially discussed at CLT, and following discussions between relevant Corporate Directors and Lead Members, signed off at MAB.</p> <p>The recycling target was set at 22% with the minimum expectation being 19.8%. The 2019/20 outturn was 21.5%. This target reflects the expected impact of Covid 19 and impacts on recycling service performance. The mayor and lead member have approved these targets, which reflect the first year of running services in house, and recycling capture rates prior to roll out of estates recycling improvements which have been delayed.</p> <p>Setting a target higher than last year's annual outturn starts to move us towards the rates achieved by our benchmark near neighbours. The 2019/20 annual outturn of 21.5% was lower than expected because Q4 outturn was low (19.4%) due to strike action and start of lockdown. The unaudited Q1 outturn shows a reduction in recycling due to little street cleansing arisings, increase in household waste, and disruptions in the recycling and food and garden waste collections caused by Covid-19.</p>	
The indicator 'Young people entering the youth justice system for the first time' is not being met. Why do officers believe the number is higher than the target?	<p>In the last 12 months there has been increased stop and search across London to tackle serious youth violence, as well as other targeted police operations, such as addressing street robberies. Tower Hamlets/City YJS has been identified as one of the 30 YJS' across England and Wales with the highest recorded levels of serious youth violence (recorded in LBTH rather than the City). Thus, in turn, this has resulted in increased police operations with more stop and search resulting in arrests/charges.</p> <p>Since the start of the first lockdown in March 2020, the number of Youth Conditional Cautions</p>	

	<p>(YCC) has also risen. From March – June 2020 there were 30 x YCC's and this accounted for more than 80% of all first-time entrants during that period. The increase in such out of court disposals is partly attributed to courts being closed (other than for serious offences leading to overnight remands) during the first few months of the lockdown. This meant that Police were encouraged to consider alternative disposals for less serious offences rather than charge straight to court.</p> <p>The YJS and YJS board are monitoring this situation. The head of the YJS &amp; the YJS management team are currently investigating this and an action plan is being drawn up to try and increase more prevention interventions for young people.</p> <p>Work has begun between YJS, LBTH Early Help and two third sector organisations (Osmani and Polar Harca) on a new programme: "Breaking the Cycle of Youth Violence". This will include those children at risk of becoming involved in the YJS, but also includes a groupwork programme for those subject to a Triage out of Court disposal. The aim is to reduce the chances of this cohort then entering/re-entering YJS as First Time Entrants.</p> <p>The first-time entrant's rate will be reviewed at the next YJS board meeting in December 2020. The rate has improved from the previous quarter, so we aim to see this reduce again for the forthcoming quarter. The aim is for the rate can meet the current target of 350 by Q4 2020-21.</p>
<p>What are the drivers for a slightly increasing amount of young people entering youth justice system?</p>	<p>See response to other question on the same indicator.</p>

This page is intentionally left blank



**Item 6.7 Direct Award to Look Ahead Care and Support for the support contract for Hackney Road, Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government funded Homeless Hostel Project.**

Questions	Response
<p>Hackney Road Hostel: Direct Award of contract to Look Ahead Care &amp; Support</p>	
<p>How does the offer and users of this contract differ from the contract/offer currently at Hackney Road hostel? What are the pathways currently being offered and taken by decanted Hackney Road hostel residents? Will the pathways of these residents and other low/medium need complexity homeless people be measured into the future?</p>	<p>Current residents at the Hackney Road hostel have comparatively low support needs or are residents who need accommodation to become abstinent (the hostel is a 'dry' hostel). This was part of the rationale for the savings proposal as move on from the hostel was feasible as part of our pathway of support into more independent accommodation.</p> <p>The new service will meet the needs of very complex, verified rough sleepers. Residents will typically have higher, multiple needs including significant support requirements in relation to mental health and substance misuse.</p> <p>Those moving on from the Hackney Road hostel are being supported through a range of different pathways according to their individual needs and circumstances:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clearing House (5 people) – a Greater London Authority pathway for verified rough sleepers which provides accommodation for up to two years. Accommodation may be in the private rented sector or in social housing.</li> <li>• Priority Band 1 Quota (15 people) – nominations for longer term tenancies based on individual vulnerabilities and needs under our allocations policy.</li> <li>• Private Rented Sector (1 person)</li> <li>• Sheltered housing (1 person)</li> <li>• Young People Quota Nomination (1 person)</li> <li>• Housing Register (1 person)</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Accommodation and support provided under the Care Act (1 person)</li> </ul> <p>The pathways are measured. We have other low to medium support bed spaces in the current commissioned hostel services and the floating support service that can be used flexibly to meet people's housing related support needs.</p>
As there was an agreed saving proposed for the Hackney Road Project (35 beds) earlier in the year, what has the impact been upon the service between the agreed saving in February 2020 and the new contract being proposed at the Cabinet Meeting on 25th November 2020	The agreed savings relating to our hostel provision were scheduled in the medium-term financial strategy for 2021/22 and 2022/23. The impact this year has been the preparation work for the support and move on of residents at the Hackney Road hostel as set out. The agreed savings proposal will be realised from next financial year with the completion of these moves.
Other than Direct Award to Look Ahead Care and Support have any alternative suppliers been approached to deliver Homeless Hostel Project?	No, due to the time constraints as part of the terms and conditions of the MHCLG funding to start services from 31 March 2021, no other suppliers were approached and there was no time for a tendering process.
Para 3.3 says 51 homeless people went back to the streets, what was the breakdown between eviction dues to ASB and those left voluntarily?	Of 52 clients (slightly updated since the report was drafted) the breakdown is as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Evicted – 16</li> <li>Abandoned accommodation voluntarily – 24 (see next question)</li> <li>Other – 12</li> </ul>
Of those who left voluntarily is there any analysis of why? found accommodation or did not want to live in hostel?	We have limited data on abandonments (referring to the 24 abandonments above): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The vast majority had a link to chaotic drug use or an entrenched street lifestyle.</li> <li>Some struggled to remain in accommodation living with others – some of our most entrenched clients have been living on the street for many years (10+ years in some instances) and living in accommodation is a huge adjustment.</li> <li>Where clients have needs around substance misuse, this is often</li> </ul>

serious, poly-substance misuse or IV drug use.

- Many returned to rough sleeping and some have not been seen since. In some cases, we later discovered they had been arrested or taken into custody.
- During the first wave of COVID-19, we had some clients abandon who were later picked up rough sleeping again, placed into a hotel and referred through to the supported hostel sector (not counted in the above figure).
- None of the clients recorded in this figure found their own accommodation or returned to live with family (as far as we are aware/were informed by the client or support services) – this data was categorised separately

This page is intentionally left blank

<b>Item 6.8 Approved Capital programme 20/2023 – additional projects</b>	
<b>Questions</b>	<b>Response</b>
The previous Capital programme had £55m unallocated. How much of that remains?	This report allocates £8.461m of s106 to the additional schemes, which leaves £46.539m unallocated.
The report states: “Investment in council-owned assets (building fabric works, M&E) requires the approval of an additional £4.000m for 2021/22 and 2022/23, from capital receipts.” Please could you provide a breakdown of which council owned assets this investment is ear-marked for?	The programme of investment in council-owned assets is based on the condition of the property portfolio. With insufficient capital receipts being available to fund the investment programme for next year and the year after, a indicative programme of works has been prepared, but this will not be agreed until funding has been secured, to ensure that the highest priority works can be progressed if the budget is limited.
Page 12. 6 INVEST TO SAVE (INCOME GENERATION) states that the buyback programme would require funding of £35.403m. What have been the substantial changes to the programme that have been identified as requiring £5.4039m of s106?	A budget of £5.343m is required to fund the buy-back programme in 2020/21 (shown in Appendix 1d as Purchase of properties for use as TA), £1.561m of which is funded by RTB receipts, and £3.782m from s106 contributions. This project enables the use of s106 contributions collected for affordable housing.
Page 21. Appendix 1b: Approved Programme 20-21 to 2022-23 refers to the S106 Funded Schemes – could you provide a breakdown of these schemes?	S106 funded schemes comprise: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Historic water fountains £0.110m</li> <li>• Island Garden Café: £0.442m</li> <li>• Maroon Street parklet: £0.350m</li> <li>• Berner Community Garden: £0.250m</li> <li>• Adaptations to new homes at Barchester Court: £0.054m</li> <li>• Open Spaces (Grow it here, Chicksand, Montague Landscape): £0.317m</li> <li>• Streets are Spaces too (Durward Street, Brady Street): £0.396m</li> </ul>
Page 22 Appendix 1b: Approved Programme 20-21 to 2022-23 refers to the Asset Maximisation over three years - could you provide a breakdown of these assets?	The schemes that have been funded through this programme include feasibility studies for council-owned assets that have led to capital projects (e.g. Island Garden Café, Rushmead, review of primary schools), with the remainder available as provision for new schemes
Pages 53 & 54 of the GLAs Isle of Dogs and South Poplar Development Infrastructure Funding Study show a funding gap even if all S106 & CIL earn't in the Isle of Dogs and South Poplar is spent in this area. The allocated funding programme suggests that S106 and CIL from this area is not being reserved but being spent	The Council is required to consider the infrastructure needs across the entire borough alongside the income available to fund this infrastructure. It does this through the Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP), which incorporates the findings of the Isle of Dogs and South Poplar Development Infrastructure Funding Study (DIFS) and identifies significant needs boroughwide. The IDP also

on other parts of TH. Is this correct and what will fill this funding gap if this continues?

identifies the income forecast to be secured through CIL and S106. This is higher in some areas, not only because of the level of development, but also the scale of charges which are higher where development sales values are higher. The increased charges are not in balance with the cost of delivering infrastructure which is broadly the same across the borough. Given this the Council is required to consider how best it uses the funding secured to support the meeting of needs across the borough. Additionally, infrastructure is often delivered as part of a boroughwide network, such as Secondary Schools and other initiatives that are required to cross multiple wards to be effective, such as traffic and highway improvements.

The September 2020 Cabinet Report on the Medium-Term Capital Programme included a recommendation to produce a long-term infrastructure Prioritisation and Financing Delivery Plan for all infrastructure. This document will allow the Council to consider strategically how to secure funding and deliver to meet needs across the borough, including in the Isle of Dogs and South Poplar area. To date the Council has secured external investment from the Strategic Investment Pot to support the delivery of South Dock Bridge and bridges in the Lower Lea Valley and will continue to seek further external investment to support further infrastructure delivery.

The Council takes a range of approaches, alongside the Capital Programme, to ensure that infrastructure is delivered alongside development in the Isle of Dogs and South Poplar Opportunity Area Planning Framework Area, such as the use of Site Allocations in the Local Plan that require developers to deliver social infrastructure on-site, including parks, schools and health centres. The value of this infrastructure amounts to several hundred millions £'s and it is secured in lieu of CIL and can therefore be considered in the same way as spend of CIL in the exact location where development is taking place. The vast majority of Site Allocated infrastructure is within the Isle of Dogs and South Poplar. Further, the Local Infrastructure Fund also guarantees that 25% of all CIL receipts are spent in the area they are collected. This is considerably higher than the 15% required by Government Regulations. Additionally, the Council work with third parties to facilitate and promote investment in the area. Strategic Transport costs make up a large proportion

	of the Isle of Dogs and South Poplar DIFS, such as improvements to the DLR and bus networks, and river crossings and the Council has been active in assisting TfL in securing considerable investment in the former from Government.
The Planning for School places document says the DoE will pick up all the costs for Westferry Printworks secondary school. Will we be contributing any money to ensure that the sports facilities are world class and also available out of school hours for a wider community benefit?	The proposals for the school design that has Planning Approval included sports facilities which could also be used by the community. This would be funded by the Department of Education as the proposed school is an Academy.'
Appendix 1e: 2020-23 Approved Capital Programme - HRA and Appendix 1d: Invest to Save Temporary homes purchases in previous years since £169 million approved - will we ever get any analysis of what bought, where, quantities, value for money etc?	A report on the buy-back programme will be brought to Cabinet next financial year and will provide an update on the programme including purchases up to and including those in 2020/21. This was agreed as part of the audit report on buybacks.
Appendix 1d: Invest to Save £15.4 million on street lighting - will the new streetlight columns be equipped with Electrical Vehicle charging points at their base as income for charging will help pay for new columns as well as more quickly reduce number of internal combustion engines.	The new columns have larger doors and casement area to accommodate EV charging points, if/when the decision is made to install these. The current cost of installing an EV point into one of these columns is £2.5k.

This page is intentionally left blank



**Item 6.9 Community Information Panels – Concession contract update and recommendation**

Questions	Response
<p>1. There were only two organisations that tendered for the contract and they seem to have tendered wildly differing amounts even though they are market competitors.</p>	<p>Realistically there are only 4 suppliers actively working within small format (6 Sheet size) advertising panels – other competitors are Global and Ocean Outdoor. All suppliers were contacted and made aware of the contract, but the 2 suppliers that submitted final bids – JC Decaux and Clear Channel – showed the most interest throughout continual market testing. The bid from Clear Channel is for £90,750, but the initial bid from JC Decaux was not compliant with the procurement process – it was offered as a base annual rental of £25,000 along with an additional commitment of £2000 for each digital unit erected (worth up to £74,000) – which is a more consistent figure with Clear Channel. As this bid was not compliant, we requested JC Decaux to resubmit a compliant bid as per our terms – this was £25,000 only.</p>
<p>2. As OSC was unable to access the unrestricted papers would it be possible to receive a highlight on the financial recommendation for 7.3.2. G5373 (Community Information Panels [CIP]) The generation of additional income is being considered across the Council as part of the Medium Term Financial; Strategy and budget planning process. Members may want to receive further information before this contract is let to ensure that the Council's broader strategic objectives are being fully considered and that therefore the potential benefits are being maximised.'</p>	<p>The proposed rental of £90,750 per annum would provide a guaranteed income for the Council over the next ten years of just short of £1million. The proposed contract will also expand our advertising infrastructure from 43 static units currently to approximately 60 units (subject to planning final approval) – of which we expect 20 to be digital units. This will extend our reach to residents to promote key council campaigns – we will have 50% (one side) of advertising space on static units and 10% advertising time on both sides of all digital panels. In addition, as part of the submission the supplier was instructed to include social value benefits to the council which will benefit the council in economic terms (3 month paid work experience placements), environmental (participation in Big Clean Up activities) and social (sponsorship of a Speaker's charity event), which support the broader strategic objectives of the council.</p>

<p>3. The papers did not come to OSC. Is this usual practice with a contract of this size? It is a concern that as scrutiny members we have not been able to scrutinise the content and would ask for a point of clarification around this practice from the monitoring officer.</p>	<p>The reason the contract is coming back to cabinet rather than be directly awarded is that the contract length was changed from 5 years to 10 years – reasoning behind this has been outlined as part of the cabinet paper. The contract did not go through the CLT/MAB process due to the speed of needing to bring in the income and award the contract, subject to cabinet approval of the contract change. Also due to this financial urgency to go direct to Cabinet, finance needed to make sure that they still gave appropriate rigour to their consideration of finance implications (having not considered these for earlier CLT/MAB papers which would normally be the case) and therefore finance clearance was unfortunately unable to be provided in time for earlier publishing.</p> <p>We apologise that the papers were submitted late. This has been fed back and discussed with officers concerned and we will do our absolute best to ensure that in future the papers are delivered on time in future.</p>
<p>4. Is Clear Channel the company that was involved in the anti-abortion billboard posters last year?</p>	<p>Clear Channel removed these posters and apologised in 2019. Clear Channel has contracts with local authorities across the UK and in the contract for our CIPS there are the following instructions which the supplier has to abide by:</p> <p>3.1.1 The Contractor must adhere to the Advertising Standards Agency’s code of practice.</p> <p>3.1.2 In addition to the advertising industry’s code of practice restricting alcohol advertising or sexualized imagery near sensitive locations (such as schools or religious sites) the Contractor must consider the Council’s wishes to minimize any potential detrimental impact on communities when carrying advertising.</p> <p>3.1.3 The Contractor must proactively assess the suitability of all adverts being carried, in relation to the surrounding area and where an advert is inappropriate not carry such an advert, for example fast food advertisements next to schools.</p> <p>3.1.4 The Contractor must remove any advertising that is in breach of the above-mentioned code or that the Council deems unacceptable within 1 working day of being notified.</p>



This page is intentionally left blank