

Cabinet 28 April 2021	 TOWER HAMLETS
Report of: Sharon Godman, Divisional Director, Strategy, Policy and Performance	Classification: Unrestricted
Tower Hamlets Plan Annual Report 2021 & Priorities going forward	

Lead Member	Mayor John Biggs
Originating Officer(s)	Clare Matthews, Strategy and Policy Manager (Corporate)
Wards affected	All
Key Decision?	No
Reason for Key Decision	As a noting report this is not a Key Decision
Forward Plan Notice Published	9 March 2021
Strategic Plan Priority / Outcome	All themes of the Tower Hamlets Plan

Executive Summary

Attached at appendix one is the Tower Hamlets Partnership annual report covering the previous 18 months. The report provides an overview of the key activities and case studies across the Partnership and a high level summary of activity needed to deal with the Covid-19 pandemic. In addition, the report documents progress against the agreed outcomes measures for the Tower Hamlets Plan. Also, the report sets out the partnership priorities for 2021 - 23 as discussed by the Partnership Executive Group and considering the need to have a collective approach to recovery from the impact of the pandemic, particularly on inequalities.

Recommendations:

The Cabinet is recommended to:

1. Note the content of the Tower Hamlets Plan Annual Report 2021 and progress against outcome measures.
2. Note and comment on the partnership priorities going forward to support the recovery of the borough.

1 REASONS FOR THE DECISIONS

- 1.1 The annual progress report marks the second opportunity for the Partnership to report on the activities, achievements and challenges over the past 18 months. last year.
- 1.2 It is also an opportunity to recognise examples of best practice where partners have worked together to improve outcomes for residents.
- 1.3 The Tower Hamlets Plan, which was formally adopted by the Cabinet in July 2018, sets the overarching vision for the borough, through which the Partnership coordinates its activity.
- 1.4 The report also sets out partnership priorities to support the economic and social recovery of the borough. The council will have a key role in facilitating this and will need to be reflected in our business planning.

2 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 2.1 The council could choose not to review progress against the Tower Hamlets Plan. However, it is considered important that the Partnership reflects on its achievements and better communicates its work to the public, to avoid stagnancy and inactivity.

3 DETAILS OF THE REPORT

- 3.1 In July 2018, the Partnership adopted a five-year strategy for the borough: the Tower Hamlets Plan (2018-23). The Plan set the shared vision for the Partnership: to tackle inequality by building a strong, inclusive and fair borough.
- 3.2 Underneath the Plan's vision, the Partnership agreed four themes on which efforts and activities would be focussed and relate to a thematic Board of the Partnership who are primarily responsible for the progress against the overspending theme:
 - A better deal for children and young people – Children and Families Executive
 - Good jobs and employment - Growth and Economic Development Board
 - Strong, resilient and safe communities – Community Safety Partnership
 - Better health and wellbeing – Health & Wellbeing Board

Annual Report

- 3.4 The Tower Hamlets Plan Annual Report 2021 provides an overview of the key partnership priorities and the activities that have taken place since the first Annual Report was published in September 2019. No review of the last 18 months would be complete without reference to the COVID-19 pandemic and the Annual Report is no exception. Each section of the report includes details

of COVID-19 response as our partnerships worked towards addressing the impacts of pandemic and supporting local residents, businesses and wider stakeholders.

A better deal for children and young people

- 3.5 The partnership in October 2019 launched a five-year strategy for children and families 'Every Chance for Every Child'. It details how by the end of 2020 the Tower Hamlets Children and Families partnership had delivered against a number of priorities in the strategy including a new strategy for tackling Violence, Vulnerability and Exploitation and a Play Charter to open up opportunities for play in every part of the borough.
- 3.6 It also outlines the joint work of the Children's Silver Operational Group and Bronze Groups which focused on maintenance and adaptation of services as well as understanding and responding to the impact of the pandemic on families, children and young people in order to support them throughout the year.

Good jobs and employment

- 3.7 The pandemic has exacerbated existing inequalities in the borough. The Growth and Economic Development Partnership has been working to deliver its priority outcomes of creating opportunity by supporting aspiration and tackling poverty, and harnessing economic growth.
- 3.8 The report details how the Partnership Board was re-shaped as the Local Economy Silver Group, in order to monitor the impact on the local economy, communicate support programmes for local businesses and workers, and coordinate council services to support the re-opening of local high streets.

Strong, resilient and safe communities

- 3.9 As a statutory board, the Tower Hamlets Community Safety Partnership Board has continued to function and perform its duties including ensuring compliance with COVID-19 rules and regulations. The report details how the Tension Monitoring Group frequently met to assist the appropriate response to increased community tensions following the impact of the death of George Floyd and the Black Lives Matter (BLM) movement.
- 3.10 Additionally, a variety of other work areas are highlighted including the highly successful Operation Continuum partnership approach which has delivered some notable results including numerous charges for drug supply and large scale drug seizures.

Better health and wellbeing

- 3.11 The report outlines how the Health and Wellbeing Partnership has been delivering against the vision and priorities set out in the Tower Hamlets Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2017-20. Additionally, it outlines how the Health &

Wellbeing Strategy 2020-25 is being refreshed by working closely with partner agencies and the community it will define a population health system.

- 3.12 The report goes on to highlight how the Health and Wellbeing partnership has been fundamental in supporting the borough's response to COVID-19. The partnership supported over 9,000 clinically vulnerable residents and contacted all those 'shielding', resulting in over 750 individuals receiving urgent food parcels, 180 provided with immediate financial advice, and over 500 referrals for ongoing social and practical support.

Outcome Measures

- 3.13 As part of the 2018 annual report, several outcome measures were agreed. There were developed alongside the key officers supporting each of the borough's four strategic partnership boards ensuring there is a broad alignment with the boards' existing priorities and consistency across the measures.
- 3.14 The most recent available data for each of the outcome measures has been published alongside previous data from 2016/17, 2017/18 and 2018/19. It has been noted in the Annual Report that performance against the measures is influenced by external factors, which are out of the control of the Partnership. However, it is considered important to understand the state of the borough on an annual basis and show direction of travel.
- 3.15 As performance against these high-level measures is influenced by external factors, additionally the performance update includes progress against key outputs towards achieving our outcomes.
- 3.16 Overall, the current data show the direction of travel against outcomes has been mixed, for example employment rates are down, however, residents supported into sustainable employment through the WorkPath partnership are up. The direction of travel of outputs that contribute towards the Tower Hamlets Plan outcomes is positive. This includes long term looked after children who are in stable placements, people who are more independent after being supported through reablement services and number of homes built. This demonstrates how our activities are on track and partners are delivering benefits for Tower Hamlets.

Priorities going forward

- 3.17 This section of the report outlines the key priorities for the Partnership going forward. Having identified the most severe impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on Tower Hamlets, the Partnership Executive Group chaired by the Mayor have broadly set out the key areas of focus going forward:
- Health and Wellbeing
 - Economy
 - Bouncing Back
 - Climate Change

- 3.18 These issues will be taken forward by the thematic boards as part of their work programmes and pandemic recovery plans. Addressing inequalities and in particular any widening gaps resulting from the pandemic, will continue to be core to the boards' work. Additionally, these partnership structures will have a role in implementing many of the recommendations from the Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic Inequalities Commission. However, alongside this, there is likely to be a requirement to strategically drive some of the larger cross cutting actions so a partnership sub group may be established to deliver the changes required. Our collaborative working will be assisted by the North East London (NEL) Integrated Care System (ICS) Anchor Charter (March 2021 draft at Appendix B).

Next Steps

- 3.19 The Report will be publicised on the council's website and social media channels, as well as through the Members Bulletin. Partners will be encouraged to follow the same approach so that its coverage is maximised.

4 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The strategic aim of the Tower Hamlets Plan is to reduce inequality in the borough. The proposals in this report seek to improve accountability and awareness of the steps the partnership is taking to deliver against this vision, as well as help partners identify actions to address areas of existing inequality in the borough.
- 4.2 Inequalities exist in all four themes of the Tower Hamlets Plan. Moreover, individuals and groups who share protected characteristics are overrepresented among those who are affected by the key issues identified in each of the four themes.
- 4.3 This report will assist the Tower Hamlets Partnership in delivering the Tower Hamlets Plan by better understanding progress against key outcomes and identifying ways to address areas of concern. Throughout all the Plan's delivery activity, the partnership will continue to have due regard for the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation, and advance equality of opportunity.

5 OTHER STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 This section of the report is used to highlight further specific statutory implications that are either not covered in the main body of the report or are required to be highlighted to ensure decision makers give them proper consideration. Examples of other implications may be:
- Best Value Implications,
 - Consultations,
 - Environmental (including air quality),
 - Risk Management,

- Crime Reduction,
- Safeguarding.
- Data Protection / Privacy Impact Assessment.

6 COMMENTS OF THE CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER

- 6.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from the recommendations contained within this report.

7 COMMENTS OF LEGAL SERVICES

- 7.1 There are no specific legal implications arising from this report
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Linked Reports, Appendices and Background Documents

Linked Report

- Tower Hamlets Plan 2018-23

Appendices

- Appendix A – Tower Hamlets Plan Annual Report 2021
- Appendix B – ELHCP's draft NEL ICS Anchor Charter

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

- NONE

Officer contact details for documents:

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