



State of the Borough

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Borough context

- Fastest growing population- now 310,300 residents (254,096 in 2011)
- Youngest population (average age 30)
- Most densely populated
- Largest Bangladeshi population in country (34.6%)
- Home to Canary Wharf/City Fringe and areas of poverty

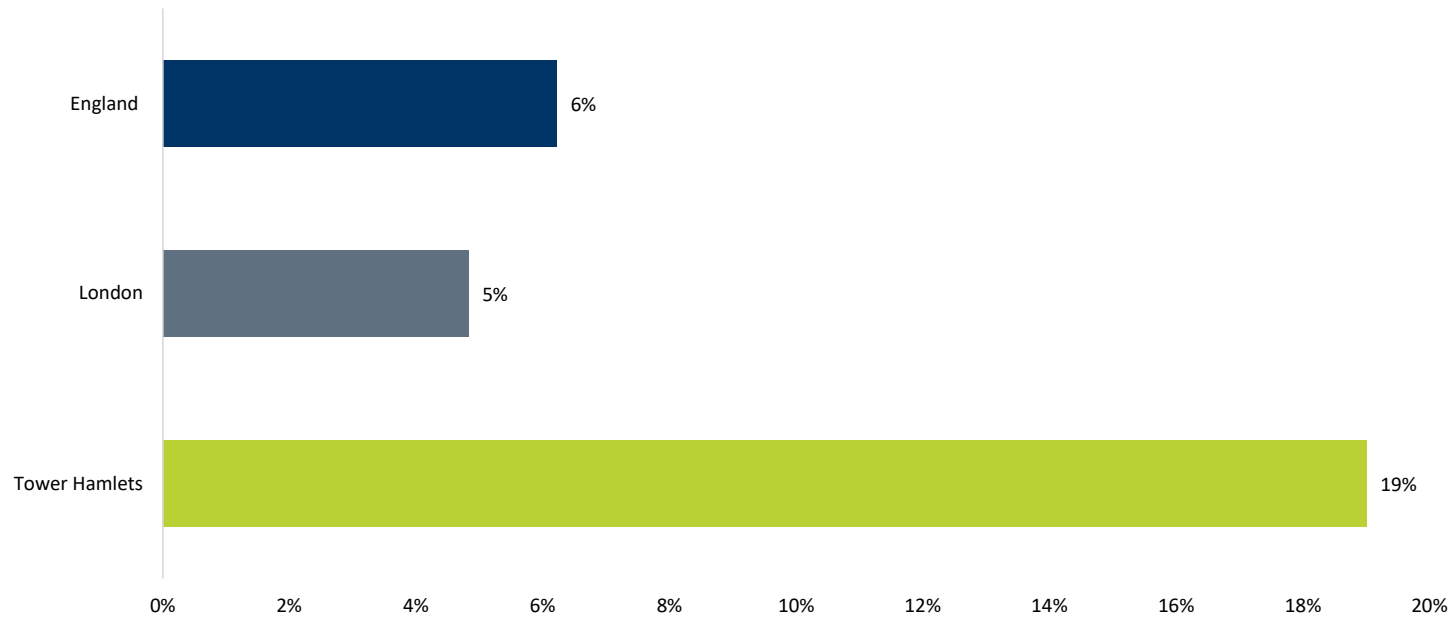


Most densely populated



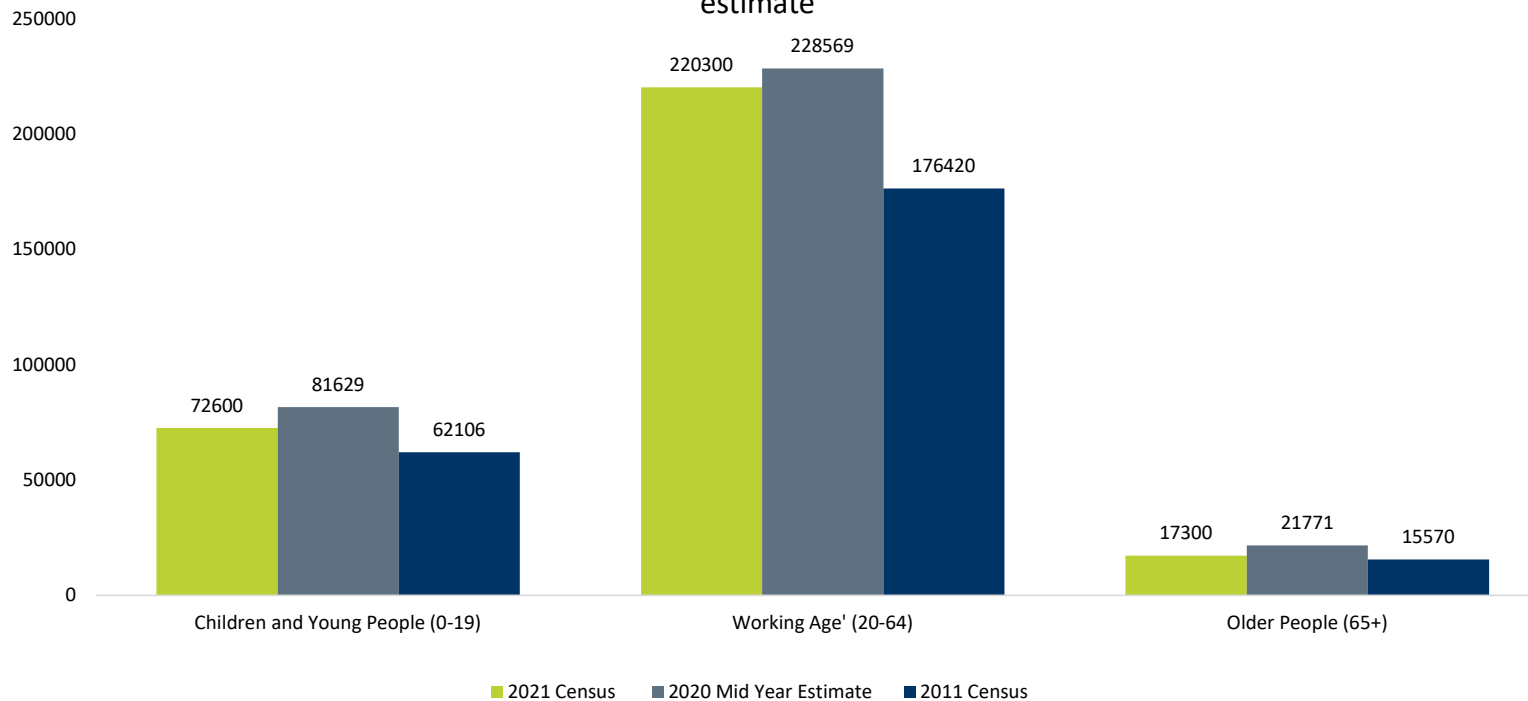
Rapid growth in new households

% Increase in number of households 2011 Census to 2021 Census, Tower Hamlets, London and England



Young population, disproportionately younger working age adults

Tower Hamlets Population by Age Group, 2021 Census, 2011 Census and Mid 2020 population estimate



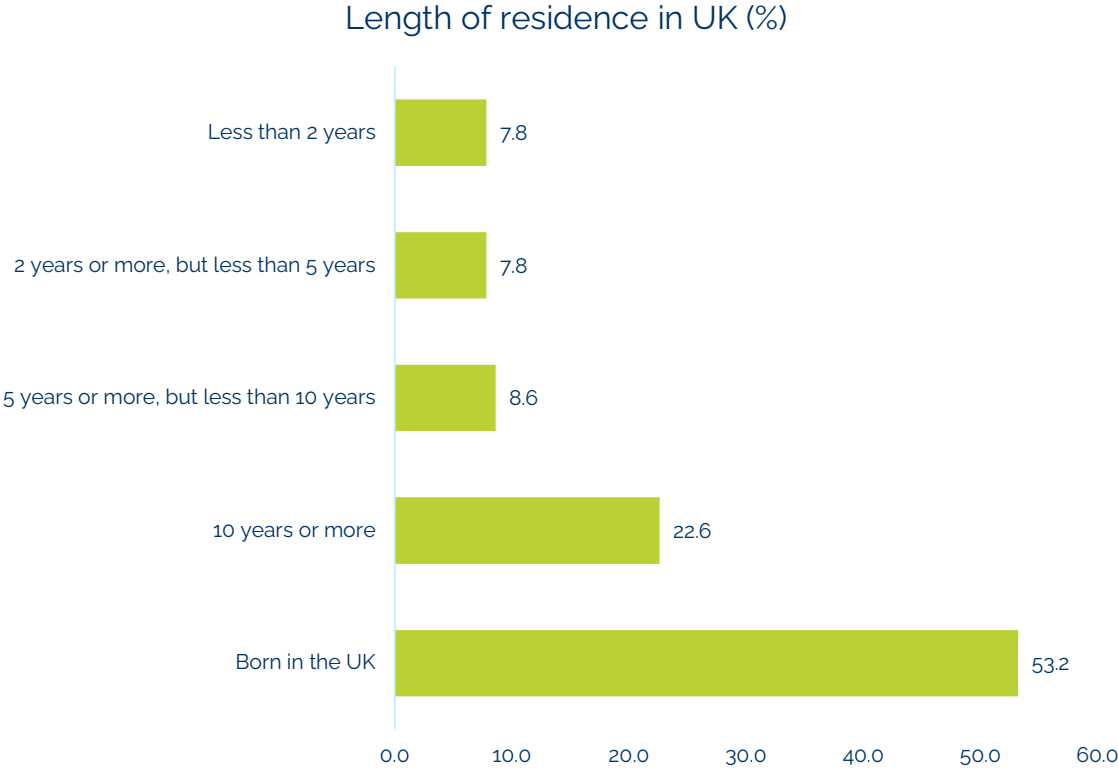
More than four in ten born outside the UK

| Country of Birth | 2011 | 2011 % | 2021 | 2021 % | 2011-2021 Increase | 2011-2021 % Increase |
|-----------------------|---------|--------|----------------|--------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| United Kingdom | 144,662 | 56.9% | 165,079 | 53.2% | 20,417 | 14% |
| Bangladesh | 38,877 | 15.3% | 43,561 | 14.0% | 4,684 | 12% |
| Italy | 3,047 | 1.2% | 10,553 | 3.4% | 7,506 | 246% |
| India | 3,889 | 1.5% | 6,317 | 2.0% | 2,428 | 62% |
| China | 3,552 | 1.4% | 4,818 | 1.6% | 1,296 | 37% |
| France | 3,014 | 1.2% | 4,562 | 1.5% | 1,548 | 51% |
| Spain | 2,025 | 0.8% | 3,791 | 1.2% | 1,766 | 87% |
| Somalia | 2,925 | 1.2% | 3,107 | 1.0% | 182 | 6% |
| Poland | 2,674 | 1.1% | 3,077 | 1.0% | 403 | 15% |
| Romania | 587 | 0.2% | 2,765 | 0.9% | 2,178 | 371% |

High turnover - One in five were living somewhere else a year ago

| | Tower Hamlets | Tower Hamlets % | England and Wales | England and Wales % | London | London % |
|--|---------------|-----------------|-------------------|---------------------|-----------|----------|
| Total: All usual residents | 306,333 | | 58,990,218 | | 8,695,497 | |
| Address one year ago is the same as the address of enumeration | 242,588 | 79.2% | 52,496,530 | 89% | 7,547,990 | 87% |
| Migrant from within the UK: Address one year ago was in the UK | 50,084 | 16.3% | 5,599,520 | 9.5% | 954,144 | 11% |
| Migrant from outside the UK: Address one year ago was outside the UK | 10,536 | 3.4% | 545,096 | 0.9% | 149,532 | 2% |
| Address one year ago is student term-time or boarding school address in the UK | 3,125 | 1.0% | 349,072 | 0.6% | 43,831 | 0.5% |

Almost a quarter of residents came to the UK in last ten years



Poverty in Tower Hamlets

TH faces particular exposure to poverty-related issues:

- Highest FSM rate in the country (56%)
- 50% of residents over 60 below the poverty line
- 22% of low income households in council data in rent arrears of £250 or more
- 36% of those receiving council benefits in-work
- Driven in part by housing costs and density
- Language barriers, digital literacy and barriers to accessing support



Consequences of poverty



Significant impacts on future health

- Life expectancy for women reduces by 19.3 years in most deprived areas of England
- Children in low income families three times more likely to develop severe mental health problems
- 23% of children in poverty miss expected language development goals by age 5
- Rates of obesity 13.3% higher in most deprived areas.
- Cost of child poverty to the UK economy valued at more than £39bn per year



LGA Corporate Peer Challenge – Position Statement

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Purpose of the Position Statement

- The Council is taking part in a LGA Corporate Peer Challenge Review (CPC) on 18th-22nd September.
- A key background document for the peer team will be a 'Position Statement' prepared by the council.
- This provides a clear brief and steer to the peer team on the local context and what the peer team should focus on. It is an opportunity to set out the key issues, challenges, opportunities and improvement work.



Structure of the Position Statement

The position statement is structured around the five core components that make up the scope of the CPC:

Understanding of the local place and priority setting

- Does the council understand its local context and place and use that to inform a clear vision and set of priorities?

Leadership of Place

- Does the council provide effective leadership of place through its elected members, officers and constructive relationships and partnerships with external stakeholders?

Organisational leadership and governance

- Are there effective political and managerial leadership supported by good governance and decision-making arrangements that respond to key challenges and enable change and transformation to be implemented?

Financial planning and viability

- Do the council have a financial plan in place to ensure long term viability and is there evidence that it is being implemented successfully?

Capacity to deliver

- Is organisational capacity aligned with priorities and does the council influence, enable, and leverage external capacity to focus on agreed outcomes?



Understanding of the local place and priority setting



Tower Hamlets: The council, the people, and the place.

- Provides a brief overview of the Council and the borough.
- Outlines the ambitious vision of the Mayor and the transformation agenda.
- Links to the 'State of the borough' document and Tower Hamlets Communication Strategy.

The council's vision and priorities and the outcomes sought by them

- Notes a key recommendation from the 2021 CPC revisit report was to ensure that there is a clear understanding of the Mayor's priorities for the Borough by the community, Members and officers.
- Outlines the golden thread translating the Mayor's manifesto into the Strategic Plan.

Working with our communities and stakeholders

- Outlines how the Council engages the community to help inform priorities.
- Case study provided on how 400 young people helped to design new council youth service.



Understanding of the local place and priority setting



How equality and diversity considerations inform the council's prioritisation and delivery arrangements

- Overview on how equality considerations help to inform priority setting.
- Reference to regular Borough Equality Assessments.
- Also sets out the council's refreshed equality policy, the corporate equalities board, staff networks, annual equalities report, and the work of the Tower Hamlets Equalities Hub.

The best of London
in one borough



Organisational and Place Leadership



The arrangements and support for organisational leadership

- Notes that the 2021 CPC follow up review recommended recruitment to the key vacant senior leadership team.
- The Council has recruited to these posts and corporate management and governance arrangements are strengthened.
- Set out the Mayor and Cabinet form of decision making, who the Cabinet members are, the role of the young Mayor.

Shared place ambitions, collective leadership capacity and the future focus of joint working

- Provides some examples of shared place ambitions, starting with the Tower Hamlets Partnership and Tower Hamlets Together.

How the council leads the local area and works with local and regional partners

- With reference to a specific recommendation from the 2021 CPC revisit recommendation, this section sets out how the Council is acting as a place leader to take forward work to tackle race inequalities across the borough



Organisational and Place Leadership

Working in partnership with the Voluntary, Community and Faith Sector

- Emphasises the increased support being given to the VCS, a time when many local authorities are scaling back on providing grants and commissioning services.
- References Mayors new community grant programme, and the work of the Co-operate Partnership work and relationship with Tower Hamlets Inter Faith Forum.

Climate Change and Digital Inclusion

- Two good examples of current 'place leadership' and partnership working - the work going on at the Council and across the borough to address climate change and digital inclusion are outlined.



Governance and Culture



The council's governance arrangements

- The Council's governance arrangements were the subject of recommendations for improvement in the 2021 CPC follow up review.
- This section notes the Head of Internal Audit's Opinion Statement for 2022/23 of 'reasonable assurance' and sets out the governance arrangements at the council.

Governance Improvement

- The Council's governance improvement action plan.
- It looks at the current arrangements in place for corporate governance to improve corporate oversight and control and promote transparency and accountability through new boards.



Financial Planning and Management



Financial Improvement

- This section notes a recommendation made in the 2021 CPC visit to close the previous years accounts and provides an update on the current progress being made to do this.

Finance Strategy

- Sets out the Council's 2023-26 MTFS. Key message here is the Mayor's ambition to spend and invest in services, whilst acknowledging the need to drawdown on reserves and make savings to have a balanced budget.

Current financial health, risks and plans to manage those, capital programme/investment plans

- Sets out financial health: high level of non-ringfenced reserves, high core spending power and lower than average level of debt.
- Risks are set out in the MTFS, include absence of long-term funding settlement and delays to fair funding review resetting business rate baseline, uncertainty of new homes bonus, funding pressures from inflation and energy costs, and high service demand.
- Covers transformation and savings programme and insourcing of services.



Capacity to deliver

How the council adapts, learns, and improves – arrangements and approaches

- Key message here is around the council's new transformation agenda, investment of £70m in services and the need to save £40m over the medium term.
- Role of the new transformation boards and New Target Operating Model.

Our approach to improvement

- Sets out the ongoing improvement programme, performance management framework, audit, and external inspections.
- Provides a link to the Council's improvement plan.

Current Areas of Challenge

- Trying to acknowledge some of our challenges to show we are aware of the areas that require improvement, this section outlines the current issues in the Youth Offending Team, Housing, and Waste Management.
- Bringing services back in house is also included here.

