

# Sex Establishments in Tower Hamlets – a consultation



In 2009 the last government granted local authorities greater powers to control and regulate sex establishments in their areas, such as lap dancing, pole dancing and table dancing clubs, strip shows, peep shows and live sex shows.

This was in response to local authorities' concerns that the existing system did not allow local people to have any control over whether sex establishments operated in their communities.

Around the time the government introduced the new legislation, Tower Hamlets Council conducted our own assessment and consultation to find out what local people think of sex establishments in the community.

The responses we received from local people and organisations were overwhelmingly weighted against having sex establishments in the borough, saying they have an adverse impact on neighbourhoods and that the council should do all we can to restrict this type of activity.

The council has therefore adopted the government's new legislation and to implement it we have produced a draft policy which says that sex establishments are not suitable for location anywhere within Tower Hamlets.

This draft policy has been based on views previously provided by the community, issues of community cohesion and empowerment, concerns about level of crime and fear of crime, and the suitability of localities to have sex establishments.

We are now asking the community, local businesses and organisations to tell us if you agree with this approach, by responding to this consultation and giving us your views. Implementation of the draft policy to restrict sex establishments in the borough will be entirely dependent on the views we receive through this consultation.

It is important to note that the legislation does not allow a ban on sex establishments for moral or equalities reasons. However, it does allow councils to restrict such premises on the basis of the locality being unsuitable.

Because we want the new policy to reflect the views of the Tower Hamlets community, responses from local residents, businesses and stakeholders and representative trade organisations will be given more weight than the views of those based outside the borough.

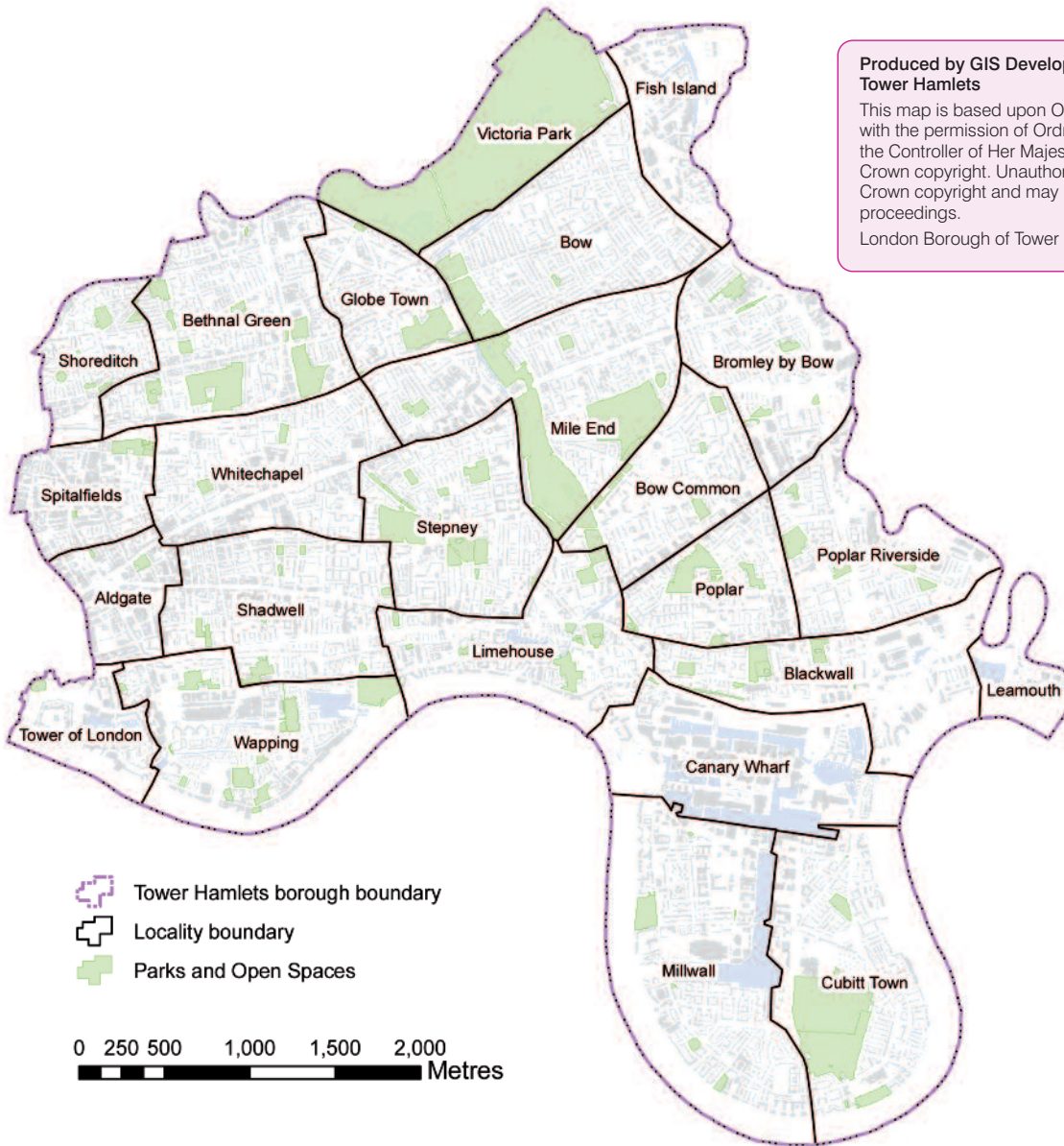
I do encourage you to contribute your views on this important issue by visiting [www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/consultation](http://www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/consultation) and completing the online survey. I look forward to hearing your views.

**Mayor of Tower Hamlets, Lutfur Rahman**

# Consultation Survey

## Question 1

The legislation requires us to break Tower Hamlets down into a number of localities, based on the characteristics of that area. We think Tower Hamlets is made up of 23 localities, as defined on this map:



Do you agree with the way we have defined the localities?

Yes

No

Why?

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## Question 2

We have summed up the characteristics of each locality by looking at the following aspects:

- population density and growth trends for residential amenity and related infrastructure
- locality and place profiles
- borough ethnicity profile
- economic and health specific deprivation indices
- our diverse cultural communities.

We have also considered the locations of:

- premises attracting vulnerable people such as GP surgeries and addiction centres
- areas and premises attracting families such as leisure and sport facilities and play spaces, parks and open spaces
- premises attracting young people such as schools, nurseries and other educational establishments
- places of worship.

We call these 'policy considerations'. Do you agree that the policy considerations we have identified are the right elements to consider when summing up the characteristics of an area?

Yes

No

Why?

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## Question 3

The legislation allows us to limit the number of sex establishments in each locality, on the basis of the policy considerations. Taking into account the policy considerations for each of the 23 localities, we think that none of them are suitable locations for sex establishments. On this basis we propose that there should be 'nil' sex establishments in Tower Hamlets.

Do you agree?

Yes

No

Why?

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## Question 4

Do you have any other comments regarding the draft sex establishment policy?

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## Submitting your views

We would prefer you to submit your responses by completing the online survey at [www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/consultation](http://www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/consultation)

Alternatively, you can complete the form in this booklet and return it to us using this freepost address:

**FREEPOST RRYE-RZAB-KBSX**  
**Consultation**  
**Mulberry Place**  
**London E14 2BG**

The closing date for responses is Monday 17 October 2011.

A draft policy has been produced which has been agreed by the council to be the basis of this consultation. The policy can be obtained on request by ringing the council's Licensing Service on **020 7364 5008** or emailing [licensing@towerhamlets.gov.uk](mailto:licensing@towerhamlets.gov.uk)

**Monday - Friday**  
**9.00am - 5.00pm**



English

**For free translation phone**

Somali

**Turjubaan lacag la'aan ah ka soo wac telefoonka.**

Bengali/Sylheti

**বিনাখরচে অনুবাদের জন্য টেলিফোন করুন**

Chinese

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