

<b>Committee:</b> Overview & Scrutiny	<b>Date:</b> 6 <sup>th</sup> June 2006	<b>Classification:</b> Unrestricted	<b>Report No:</b> 0&SC07/067	<b>Agenda Item:</b> 9.2
<b>Report of:</b> Chief Executive		<b>Title:</b> Tower Hamlets Community Plan to 2010: Year 6 (2006 – 07) Revision		
<b>Originating officer(s)</b> Alastair King, Head of Policy and Partnership x 4981		<b>Wards Affected:</b> All		

## 1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report sets out – through its appendix – the revised Community Plan for 2002 – 2010. The Community Plan for Year 6 comprises:
- a report on the progress and milestones achieved during 2005 – 06 (Year 5 of the plan)
  - the priorities and specific targets on which we will be concentrating for the sixth year of the plan – the year to April 2007
  - a summary of the outturns for the use of the Neighbourhood Renewal Fund (NRF) in 2004-06 (subject to final confirmation in the closure of the accounts in June 2006)
  - the process and priorities agreed by the Tower Hamlets Partnership Management Group for the allocation of the Neighbourhood Renewal Fund in 2006 - 2008
- 1.2 The Cabinet considered the Tower Hamlets Community Plan to 2010: Year 6 (2006/2007) Revision at its meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> April 2006. Cabinet endorsed these initial policy framework proposals and agreed to refer them to the Overview & Scrutiny Committee for consideration and advice, in accordance with the requirements of Budget and Policy Framework Procedure Rules contained within the Authority's Constitution, prior to its recent amendment.
- 1.3 The Overview & Scrutiny Committee will give consideration to the Tower Hamlets Community Plan to 2010: Year 6 (2006/2007) Revision at its meeting to be held on 6<sup>th</sup> June 2006, with any comments to be reported to the Cabinet, to be held on 7<sup>th</sup> June 2006. The advice / comments of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee will be tabled at the 7<sup>th</sup> June Cabinet meeting for Member's consideration.
- 1.4 Cabinet is then required by the Authority's Constitution, as amended, to take account of the views of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee, before submitting recommendations to full Council as appropriate.

---

**Local Government Act, 2000 (Section 97)**  
**List of "Background Papers" used in the preparation of this report**

Brief description of "back ground papers"	Name and telephone number of holder and address where open to inspection.
The Community Plan to 2010 Tower Hamlets Community Plan to 2010: Year 6 (2006/2007) Revision	Alastair King 020 7364 4981 Mulberry Place, 5 Clove Crescent, London E14 2BG
Cabinet draft minutes 05/04/06 Agenda item 10.1 Cabinet Agenda (05/04/06)	Angus Taylor ext. 4333

## **2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 That Overview & Scrutiny note and endorse the Tower Hamlets Community Plan to 2010: Year 6 (2006/2007) Revision, with any comments or recommendations to be reported to Cabinet for consideration at its June 7<sup>th</sup> 2006 meeting.

## **3. BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 The Local Government Act, 2000, places on local authorities a duty to prepare “community strategies” for promoting or improving the economic, social and environmental well-being of their areas.
- 3.2 The *Community Plan to 2010* is the borough’s community strategy. The Council has a leading role in developing and reviewing the Community Plan and, indeed, has a statutory responsibility for its preparation and agreement through the Tower Hamlets Partnership. It must be agreed by Full Council, in accordance with the requirements of the LBTH Constitution.
- 3.3 The Community Plan is reviewed annually – in consultation with all key stakeholders through the Tower Hamlets Partnership – with progress reported on and revised objectives and targets set out for each new year. The Partnership Management Group oversees the preparation of the Community Plan for Year 6 (2006 – 2007), and the proposed draft is presented in the attached Appendix 1.
- 3.4 Some amendments to the detail of the Community Plan to 2010: Year 6 (2006-07) will be necessary as additional information becomes available before final publication, particularly with regard to outcome figures and new targets for Performance Indicators. However, any amendments will not materially affect the key objectives and activities set out in the plan. The authority to make such amendments as are appropriate and necessary needs therefore to be delegated to the Chief Executive.
- 3.5 It is a government requirement that decisions on the allocation for the NRF be agreed through Local Strategic Partnerships – the Tower Hamlets Partnership in the case of Tower Hamlets. The broad allocation framework for 2004-06 was agreed through the Partnership and endorsed by Council through the respective budget processes for those years. The Partnership has agreed a similar allocation framework for the period 2006-08.
- 3.6 The figures reported in Appendix 2 for expenditure in 2004-06 are subject to final ratification at the closure of the accounts. They reflect the allocation that was agreed by the Partnership and confirm full spend on the agreed priorities.
- 3.7 While decisions about the allocation of NRF must be agreed by the Local Strategic Partnership, the Council is the Accountable Body for the Fund. The Council therefore needs to ensure that the framework and process for its allocation will result in all NRF initiatives being commissioned and accounted for in accordance with Council’s financial regulations, and that its responsibilities as Accountable Body are effectively fulfilled.
- 3.8 The Tower Hamlets Community Plan to 2010: Year 6 (2006-07) revision, as part of the

Authority's Policy Framework, is a matter which is reserved to full Council for decision under the provisions of Article 4 of the Authority's Constitution, as amended, and as recommended by the Secretary of State.

- 3.9 The process for development of the Authority's Policy Framework (see Section 4 below) requires publication of initial policy framework proposals and the referral of these to the Overview & Scrutiny Committee for consideration and advice.
- 3.10 The Cabinet considered initial policy framework proposals comprising the Tower Hamlets Community Plan to 2010: Year 6 (2006-07) revision, at its meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> April 2006. The Cabinet endorsed the proposals and referred them to the Overview & Scrutiny Committee for consideration and advice. Cabinet also agreed that the Chief Executive be requested to ensure that the report to be submitted for Cabinet consideration recommending the final version of the Community Plan 2006/2007 sets out the process and priorities for the Neighbourhood Renewal Fund in 2006/2007.
- 3.11 The Overview & Scrutiny Committee will give consideration to the Tower Hamlets Community Plan to 2010: Year 6 (2006-07) revision at its meeting to be held on 6<sup>th</sup> June 2006. The Committee will report to the Cabinet, to be held on 7<sup>th</sup> June 2006, in respect of its deliberations.
- 3.12 The Cabinet is required by the Authority's Constitution, as amended, to take account of the views of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee, before submitting recommendations to full Council as appropriate.

#### **4. BUDGET & POLICY FRAMEWORK PROCEDURE RULES**

- 4.1 The Authority's Constitution, Part 4 – Rules of Procedure, Section 4.3 - Budget and Policy Framework Procedure Rules, as amended, sets out the process for the development of the Budget and Policy Framework, as defined by Article 4 of the Constitution.
- 4.2 Paragraph 2.1 of the Budget and Policy Framework Procedure Rules
- Require the referral of initial policy proposals to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
  - Require notification of the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee of the referral of such Policy Framework proposals.
  - Provide that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee receives 20 working days to respond to this consultation.
- 4.3 Paragraph 2.1.4 of these procedure rules requires the Executive (the Cabinet) to take account of the views of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee before submitting recommendations to full Council as appropriate.
- 4.4 Paragraph 2.1.5 makes provision for full Council to consider the proposals of the Cabinet and to subsequently adopt them, amend them, refer them back to Cabinet for further consideration or to substitute its own proposals in their place.

## **5. REPORT**

- 5.1 The Community Plan Year 6 provides a report on progress in Year 5 of the Community Plan, identifying what was actually achieved in 2005 – 2006. It also details the priorities and specific targets on which the Tower Hamlets Partnership intends to concentrate for Year 6 of the plan – the year to April 2007.
- 5.2 It is proposed that the final plan should be approved by the Tower Hamlets Partnership Management Group and published by the end of June 2006.
- 5.3 The Tower Hamlets Partnership Management Group will ensure that the Community Plan continues to be reviewed regularly, with progress reports and new annual targets published annually.
- 5.4 In response to the requests from the 5<sup>th</sup> April Cabinet, Appendix 2 sets out the process and priorities for the allocation of the Neighbourhood Renewal Fund in 2006/2007.

## **6 CONSULTATION**

Consultation on the priorities for the Community Plan and neighbourhood renewal has been extensive, ranging across all of key partners through the Tower Hamlets Partnership and through Directorates' service planning arrangements. This has been channelled primarily through the development over the past 12 months of the borough's Local Area Agreement.

## **7. COMMENTS OF CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER**

- 7.1 This year's Community Plan sets out local priorities and specific targets for the year ahead for the Council and its key partners. The plan sets out a framework for allocating and directing financial resources both for the year ahead and the medium term, so that resources are aligned with priorities.
- 7.2 Provision exists within the Chief Executive's Directorate Budget for the costs of publishing the document.
- 7.3 The report also reports the provisional outturn for the Neighbourhood Renewal Fund for 2004/06 and sets out arrangements for agreeing the use and allocation of grant in 2006/08

## **8. CONCURRENT REPORT OF THE ASSISTANT CHIEF EXECUTIVE (LEGAL)**

- 8.1. Section 4(1) of the Local Government Act 2000 imposes a duty on local authorities to prepare a community strategy for "promoting or improving the economic, social and environmental well-being of their area."
- 8.2 Under section 4(2) a local authority has the power to modify the community strategy to reflect changes in local needs. In preparing or modifying its community strategy, a local authority must consult and seek the participation "of such persons as they consider appropriate" and have regard to any guidance issued by the Secretary of State.

8.3 Article 4 of the Council's Constitution provides that the Community Strategy forms part of the Council's policy framework which must be approved by full Council. The process for developing the framework contained in Rule 2 of the Budget and Policy Framework Procedure Rules provides that recommendations to Council shall be submitted by Cabinet which shall have taken account of the responses received to the consultation and the views of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. This report facilitates compliance with the procedure.

## **9. EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS**

9.1 Equal opportunities are central to the community plan and to the power to promote and improve well-being. In seeking to make Tower Hamlets a place to live safely and well, a place for creating and sharing prosperity, a place for learning, achievement and enjoyment and a place for excellent public services, accessible to all, the community plan aims to fulfil the Council's stated vision of improving the quality of life for all who live and work in Tower Hamlets.

## **10. ANTI-POVERTY IMPLICATIONS**

10.1 The Community Plan and neighbourhood renewal strategy is the key vehicle for delivering the inclusive vision of the Tower Hamlets Partnership. It specifically seeks to ensure that minimum standards of life quality are achieved for all communities in the borough.

## **11. SUSTAINABLE ACTION FOR A GREENER ENVIRONMENT**

11.1 The Community Plan explicitly embraces objectives, activities and milestones that are consistent with the council's policies in this area.

## **12. RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS**

12.1 The Community Plan provides a clear, public statement of the Tower Hamlets Partnership's strategic priorities. It also sets out the key performance indicators, targets and milestones against which the performance of the public services – including Council services – can be assessed.

12.2 Since the Community Plan is reflected in the service plans and resource allocation of all the service providers in the borough, financial and other services risks within the council are carried by individual Directorates. However, failure to achieve the substantive goals of the Community Plan would place the reputation of the Council at risk, both locally and nationally. These partnership risks are managed through the processed set out in the Council's Partnership Risk Management framework.

12.3 The risks associated with the NRF are assessed and challenged by a rigorous appraisal process for each NRF funded initiative and managed through the NRF Programme Management and Accountabilities Framework. The NRF is also one of the risk priorities monitored through the Chief Executive's Directorate Risk Register.

**Appendices:**

- Appendix 1: Tower Hamlets Community Plan to 2010: Year 6 (2006-07) revision
- Appendix 2: Neighbourhood Renewal Fund: outturns for 2004-06 and priorities, processes and accountabilities for 2006-08