

Committee: Overview and Scrutiny	Date: 4 th September 2012	Classification: Unrestricted	Report No.	Agenda Item No.
Report of: Frances Jones, Service Manager One Tower Hamlets, Chief Executive's Directorate Originating Officer: Sarah Barr – Senior Strategy Policy and Performance Officer One Tower Hamlets Service Chief Executive's Directorate		Title: Scrutiny review update: <i>Supporting New Communities, Case Study of the Somali Community</i> Wards: All		

1. **SUMMARY**

- 1.1 During the 2010-11 municipal year the Overview and Scrutiny Committee carried out a scrutiny review of the support available for new communities in the borough, using the Somali community as a case study. This review was completed in May 2011 and its recommendations submitted to Cabinet in October 2011. The review and the subsequent action plan are attached at Appendix 1.
- 1.2 At the Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting on 4th September, members will be given a presentation, updating the Committee on progress in implementing these recommendations. A summary of these updates is given at Appendix 2.

2. **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee is asked to note the update and consider any further actions they would like to recommend.

3. **COMMENTS OF THE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER**

- 3.1 There are no specific financial implications emanating from this report but in the event that the council agrees further action in response to this report's recommendations then officers will be obliged to seek the appropriate financial approval before further financial commitments are made

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

- 4.1 The Council is required by section 21 of the Local Government Act 2000 to have an Overview and Scrutiny Committee and to have

executive arrangements that ensure the committee has specified powers. Consistent with this obligation, Article 6 of the Council's Constitution provides that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee may consider any matter affecting the area or its inhabitants and may make reports and recommendations to the Full Council or the Executive in connection with the discharge of any functions. It is consistent with the Constitution and the statutory framework for the Executive to provide a response and for the Committee to be informed of progress made against any agreed action.

5. ONE TOWER HAMLETS CONSIDERATIONS

- 5.1 The original scrutiny review working group report made a number of recommendations to improve the way the Council meets the needs of new and small communities in the borough, who at times are hard to reach. The review identified specific areas for further development including greater voice and representation for these communities through various forums as a means to reduce inequality and increase community leadership. Recommendations also centred on increasing cohesion by encouraging third sector organisations to work in partnership when applying for bids in order to increase cross cultural working.
- 5.2 There are no specific One Tower Hamlets considerations arising from the recommendations in the cover report.

6. SUSTAINABLE ACTION FOR A GREENER ENVIRONMENT

- 6.1 There are no specific SAGE implications arising from the recommendations in the cover report.

7. RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 There are no specific risk management implications arising from the recommendations in the cover report.

8. CRIME AND DISORDER REDUCTION IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 There are no specific Crime and Disorder Reduction implications arising from the recommendations in the cover report.

9. EFFICIENCY STATEMENT

- 9.1 There are no specific efficiency implications arising from the recommendations in the cover report.

10. APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Supporting New Communities, Case Study of the Somali Community (original scrutiny review)

Appendix 2: May 2012 Update: Supporting New communities, Case Study of the Somali Community

**Local Government Act, 1972 Section 100D (As amended)
List of “Background Papers” used in the preparation of this report**

Brief description of “background papers”

Name and telephone number of holder and address where open to inspection.

None

n/a