

**Officer Response - CLC Directorate - to questions raised at  
Extraordinary Budget OSC 1 on 21<sup>st</sup> January 2013**

**CLC O+S Budget Challenge Clarifications.**

1. In the context of the outlined budgetary pressures relating to Environmental Health: The nature/ extent of the additional duties/ responsibilities being placed on the Council, anticipated budgetary pressures resulting from these, what provision the Council was making for this risk to the Budget, or whether the Council would be reactive to emerging issue. These were thought to relate to premises inspections - **Further information on this to be provided by SH S&R CLC next day.**

**Response**

If the Infection Control and Prevention Roles come to the Consumer and Business Regulations Services there would be an additional 126 audits per annum at health care settings that would need to be undertaken, along with specimen and waste control advice and attendance at MRSA outbreak control meetings. Also included is training and discussion with PALS (Patient Liaison Services)

The Council needs to determine if there is a budget issue before it can act. This is dependent on clarification regarding duties and budget transfer that we do not have at this time. The risk is being monitored and factored in to budget discussions with the NHS.

2. In the context of the outlined budgetary pressures relating to Safer Communities and the Mayor of London Policing and Crime Funding: Whether the CLC Budget continued £1.45 million provision for additional police for the Borough, and the number of these. Also assurance regarding the anticipated impact of London-wide reductions in policing. What were the current numbers of Met police allocated to Tower Hamlets. The Chair commented that the potential risk for additional budgetary pressure as a result of the new London-wide policing arrangements should be monitored. **Further information to be provided on numbers of police currently allocated.**

## Response

The Home Office stopped publishing figures for Police officers by Borough in March 2011. Now they only publish by Force i.e. Met Police. The last official published figure for Police at Borough level was 31<sup>st</sup> March 2011 and detailed a local force in Tower Hamlets of 793. These figures are for Police Officers only.

The Borough Commander has recently reported to the Partnership Executive that the number of core funded front line police officers in Tower Hamlets are expected to remain the same following the introduction of the budget reductions pursued by the Commissioner. However, it is not yet clear if there will be reductions in police numbers away from front line operations that might impact on the quality of the service in the Borough. Council Officers are engaged with the Borough Commander to secure this clarity.

3. In the context of the introduction of bulk rubbish collection charges in last year's Budget: Whether the overall savings/income target had been met. Also whether there had been any impact on reporting of on street rubbish dumping.  
**Further information on call volumes reporting dumped rubbish to be provided; also on income stream expectations and delivery.**

## Response

There has been a 10% increase in total calls about "tips" from 2733 in 2011/12 to a 'year-end' projection of 3000 for 12/13. Typically only around 13% of all fly tip reports are related to bulky waste indicating that the Borough will have experienced an increase in bulky waste fly tips of around 1.3% by the end of the year. This is not considered statistically significant. Furthermore, the figures would indicate that the increase in calls is the result of an increase in instances where more than one person reports a single tip incident as the volume of tipping incidents themselves has decreased by 12% (PI 196 'flycapture' data) this year.

The increase in residents prepared to report tipping is almost certainly a reflection of changing demographics such as increased density of population and of the messaging promoted by the Council to residents encouraging them to take a greater pride in their area through initiatives such as the 'find it fix it' campaign.

It is important to note that the Bulky Waste Service remains free to residents on Housing Benefit and that since the introduction of the charge there has been a very significant increase in the amount of waste delivered to the Re use and Recycling Centre by residents themselves from 506 tonnes to 1405 tonnes (a rise of 177%). It is clear that the introduction of the charge has

initiated a positive channel shift away from reliance on Council Collection Services and promoting greater levels of personal responsibility for waste amongst residents.

The Service is on schedule to meet the MTFP income target for Bulky Waste.

4. Whether all refunds from LOCOG had been received following the borough's undertaking of its Olympic duties.  
**Officers to check and report back as to LOCOG meeting contractual obligations.**

### **Response**

All CLC contracted LOCOG obligations have been evidenced and the relevant payments by LOCOG released. These mainly covered parking, traffic management and the live site.