

Committee: Overview & Scrutiny	Date: 7 th May 2013	Classification: Unrestricted or Exempt To be completed by author	Report No:	Agenda Item:
Report of: Takki Sulaiman, Service Head Communications and Marketing		Title: Progress in implementing decisions relating to East End Life. Wards Affected: All		

1. **SUMMARY**

- 1.1 Overview and Scrutiny Committee on March 18th 2013 requested that officers report back on progress in implementing the decision of budget council on March 7th 2013.
- 1.2 The enclosed report summarises the events following budget council and the actions of officers following the Mayor's decision to provide funding for whilst a review is conducted into the future of East End Life. The Mayor's delegated decisions in relation to the budget are deal with elsewhere.

2. **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee is recommended to note the contents of the report.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Budget Council on 7th March 2013 agreed to 'delete funding of £1.214m from the budget used to fund East End Life.' The Budget motion set out a range of ways on which savings of £433k should be delivered.
- 3.2 On 22nd March 2013 the Executive Mayor, in a report entitled 'Report in response to Mayor's request for Advice', requested and considered advice from officers concerning the:-

'validity of the resolution adopted, any action he is required to take in response and his options in relation to the implementation of the Council's decision without interfering with the discharge of his own executive duties and responsibilities.'

- 3.3 Having considered the advice from officers and the options presented the Mayor made the following decision:-

'I have decided to vire £443k from general reserves which have not been allocated for any particular purpose to the Chief Executive's budget heading in order to ensure sufficient resources are available to continue East End Life whilst I consider all options for the service and implications of ceasing production. I have done this as I do not believe the proposals adopted in the budget were properly evaluated and the timescales for alternative sourcing taken into account.'

- 3.4 On Tuesday 9th April 2013 Overview and Scrutiny agreed to 'call-in' the Mayor's decision. The Mayor considered this on the 17th April and reaffirmed his original decision. Officers in the Communications Team are therefore acting on the most recent decision, which is the Mayor's decision to review East End Life and in the meantime to continue to publish the paper.

4. BODY OF REPORT

- 4.1 Overview and Scrutiny on 18th March 2013 requested that an update on implementation of the budget proposals in respect of the effective closure of East End Life and an indication as to the timetable officers were working towards.
- 4.2 As the Mayor has provided funding to continue to publish East End Life pending a review, officers are now working on the terms of reference of the review.

- 4.3 The first steps in carrying out the Mayor’s Decision of 22nd March 2013 will be to agree the review terms of reference with the Executive Mayor as the operation of East End Life is an Executive function. Amongst other things this process will set a clear EQIA on the options available, consult with the parties affected, consider the impact of removing East End Life as a communications channel on residents and establish the cost of fulfilling the council’s duties.

5. COMMENTS OF THE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

- 5.1 The report sets out the actions taken in relation to East End Life since the Budget Council on 7th March and the Mayor’s subsequent decision to continue to fund the paper pending a further review. Concerns raised by Members about the process for the Mayoral Decision are considered in other reports.

6. CONCURRENT REPORT OF THE ASSISTANT CHIEF EXECUTIVE (LEGAL)

- 6.1 There are no legal implications in this report back. The key decision is subject to a separate report to the Committee as requested.

7. ONE TOWER HAMLETS CONSIDERATIONS

- 7.1 There will be equalities issues if publication on East End Life were to be restricted or to cease and the Council would need to assess how to replace communication with protected groups who receive information via East End Life. The 2011 survey showed that proportionately more Bengali and the elder white residents read East End Life. To date no equalities impact assessment has been undertaken on the effect of ceasing or restricting publication and what alternatives methods could be used to inform residents of Council proposals.

8. RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 The risks are detailed in section 3.1 of decision log number 0021.

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

Reports considered at

- 26/03/2013 - Mayor's Executive Decision Making [Budget Implementation 2013/14 \(No](#)

LBTH Website

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- **09/04/2013** - Overview & Scrutiny Committee
[Budget Implementation 2013/14 \(No 1\)09/04/2013](#)
- **17/04/2013** - Mayor's Executive Decision
Making [Budget Implementation 2013/14 \(No 21](#)

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