

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE QUERY AND ACTION LOG 2015/16

Meeting and agenda item	Question or request for action	Response or current status
<p>1st February, 2016 - New Local Plan: First Steps</p>	<p>Provide more information on what is being done to develop tourism, protect heritage sites within TH & to improve the rates of recycling</p>	<p>The policies in the existing Local Plan encourage the development of tourism, protect heritage sites and assets and encourage recycling.</p> <p>The Council proactively manages and protects existing heritage sites through the input of conservation experts in the planning applications process and a dedicated resource to reducing the Borough's heritage at risk.</p> <p>The Council's Economic Development team and other services promote the Borough as a destination for Leisure and Culture through various media. This takes forward the ambitions of the Council's Enterprise Strategy, which seeks to promote and encourage tourism in the Borough.</p> <p>The Council's Public Realm service works with partners Veolia, and local business and registered social landlords, to encourage recycling. In addition, a Recycling Scrutiny Review sets out a number of recommendations to improve rates of recycling in the short, medium and long term.</p>
	<p>What can be done to restrict the expansion of betting shops and pay day lenders in the Borough's various town centres?</p>	<p>Changes to national planning policy in 2015 now require proposals for the development of betting shops to seek planning permission from the Council. This new measure allows the Council and residents to have a say in the appropriateness of the use in specific areas.</p> <p>In addition, the new Local Plan provides an opportunity to specify the mix and concentration that Council considers appropriate in the Borough's defined town centres and primary and secondary shop frontages. This provides a further opportunity to manage the future development of betting shops.</p>
	<p>More explicit reference in the Plan as to what is being done in terms of the health and wellbeing of the Borough (Including the provision of affordable housing for key workers (e.g.</p>	<p>This comment has been noted and the detail will be included in the next iteration of the new Local Plan, which is anticipated to be published in autumn 2016.</p>

	medical professionals)	
	More detail on the engagement with the various communities in the Borough	A separate document covering this will be circulated to the Committee.
	LBTH does not have properly designated town centres – this should be addressed in the Plan	The existing Local Plan defines the Borough's town centre boundaries and includes policies to manage development in these areas. This policy is being reviewed as part of the preparation of the new Local Plan, to ensure it appropriately supports and encourages vitality of our town centres.
	Details of those assets in LBTH that are considered to be of community value e.g. the older and more established public houses	The Community Right to Bid gives members of the local community the right to nominate buildings and land (assets) that are considered important to the community for listing on the Register of Assets of Community Value. The Council's has designated the following Assets of Community Value http://www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/Documents/Council-property/Property-and-land-management/Leasing/Assets_of_Community_Value_Register.pdf
1st February, 2016 - Community Safety Plan extension	The Head of Street Enforcement would circulate the note from the ASB Operations Group to all councillors	Pending.
	A briefing paper is submitted to a future meeting identifying ways to improve communication amongst the police, local residents, community safety and the councillors	There will be a review over summer 2016. We are also looking to recruit to a Partnership Coordinator post who will work with the PTF team and wards; ensuring ward action plans are drawn together and updates on actions are reported back to Lead Members and Strategic Boards and Forums. The post will also take a lead on ensuring information and engagement with local residents in regards to ward priorities and hotspots. A further briefing in regards to improving communication will be produced for a future scheduled committee.
	The MPS Officers responsible for investigating the electoral malpractice in Tower Hamlets be invited to a future meeting	The Overview and Scrutiny Committee will consider its work programme for 2016/17 following the Annual General Meeting.
	The results of issues raised at ward walkabouts be circulated to the Committee	2015-16 Walkabout Issues Plan has been circulated separately.
	Statistical data is provided to	This data has been requested from police, and will be circulated once available.

	<p>a future meeting on police engagement with primary schools</p>	
	<p>As part of any refresh of Safer Neighbourhood Panels (SNPs) how they can be involved in responding to issues such as radicalisation and FGM.</p>	<p>There are 20 wards in Tower Hamlets with 18 ward panels as two wards run combined panels. The Police, the Council and the Safer Neighbourhood Board (SNB) in Tower Hamlets fully support Ward Panels.</p> <p>The Ward Panels focus on Policing issues and those relating predominately on ASB as this has been the feedback from ward panel members. The issue of radicalisation and FGM have not been raised in this forum but there are a number of forums where these issues can be addressed including CSP Board, Prevent and Violence against Women and Girls Sub Group, Community Plan Consultation Event, Tension Monitoring Group and the No Place for Hate Forum.</p>
	<p>How actions arising from “Ward Walks” are being addressed</p>	<p>The Community Surgeries and Ward Walk-about are scheduled to take place in line with Ward Panel meetings. At the end of each ward walk-about an action plan is put together based on concerns raised with actions to be taken by lead partners. The action plan has milestones for responses that are followed up by a lead in the Community Safety Team. The action plan is shared with all leads who attend the ward walkabout and the ward panel chair.</p> <p>There are a number of ways we try to engage with residents to also feed into the action plan and we have in place an on line feedback form to support the walk-about for residents to complete.</p> <p>At the end of each deadline for responding to actions (8 weeks) an evaluation is completed and circulated. At the end of the ward walk-about sessions capturing each ward per year, an evaluation report is completed. The last evaluation report was completed and shared with the Lead Member as well as updates provided to residents through a number of forums and publications.</p> <p>The current webpage promoting the surgeries and walkabouts can be found via the following link: MPO Community Safety Surgeries & Walkabouts (2015-2016) . The current webpage also includes an online feedback form that residents can leave their comments on what they found useful about the surgeries/walkabouts and how we can improve them: feedback form. The Communications Team regularly tweet/Facebook prior</p>

		to and leading up to each of these events.
1st February, 2016 - Progress Update: Review On Improving Post-16 Educational Attainment	How the Council is helping young people to secure employment (e.g. developing the necessary life skills and the choosing the most appropriate courses for their career development)	In our work with schools we have put a strong emphasis on the post 16 Study Programme. The study programme gives a coherence and structure to post 16 study and/or training and includes substantial qualifications, work experience and work preparation, non – qualification activities and is based on progressing towards a clearly stated and sustainable career or educational goal. The Careers Service is part of this process as they provide clear and impartial advice and guidance to students before, during and after their post 16 education and/or training. The secondary learning team work with the Careers Service in promoting the Study Programme.
	What is being done in LBTH to address the gender gap in literacy	The gender gap in literacy, which persists at local and national level, is being addressed in Tower Hamlets schools by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing one to one tuition for A level students based on students' need to improve writing in all subjects, not just English. • Mayor of London - London Schools Excellence Fund project (December 2014 to December 2016) provided funding for 9 schools to use literacy expert coaching for subject teachers to learn how to use literacy strategies in their humanities, science and art lessons.
1st February, 2016 - Recruiting More Diverse School Governors	Details on the representation of support staff on governing bodies	There is no longer a separate category for 'Support Staff'. That was removed with the reduction of Staff Governors to one per governing body.
	More information on how individuals can become governors and that they wished to see people from the wider community being encouraged to come forward to become the school governors.	There are 3 categories of governor open to non-staff: LA - now only one per governing body, very few vacancies arise Parent – numbers have reduced in this category Co-opted – this is the only category that is open to all residents
	More detail on those schools that had vacancies on their governing bodies.	This information has been provided separately.
29th February, 2016 - Welfare Reform Task Group Update	Information relating to Welfare Reform should be communicated more to councillors and could include	Regular update briefings will be provided in the Members' Bulletin, including FAQs. For example, there will be a briefing on the proposed reduction to the Benefit Cap as soon as the implementation details are confirmed by Government. The briefing will detail the impact on residents and will also provide Members with advice on the support available to

	the Members' Bulletin with a FAQs page.	residents who are affected by the Cap.
	RSLs and other Advice Agency SLAs should be checked to ensure that advice, signposting and supporting local residents to complete forms is included and it is being monitored appropriately.	<p>The Benefits Service holds regular liaison meetings with Registered Providers and Advice Agencies. SLAs will be reviewed with a view to include advice, signposting and support.</p> <p>Joint working to address welfare reform issues is taking place e.g. the Benefits Service provides Registered Providers with regular lists of their households affected by the reforms including the Benefit Cap, the Social Sector Size Criteria (the "bedroom tax"), non dependant deductions, etc. This enables the Service and the RPs to jointly direct resources and ensure support is provided to those households. The Benefits Service works in partnership with Advice Agencies as evidenced by the local Universal Credit Delivery Partnership agreement with the DWP, jointly assisting residents who claim Universal Credit.</p>
	Additional partnerships and joint working should be explored with other London Boroughs to ensure unified responses to the Government.	The Council is meeting with other boroughs and London Councils on 11 th May to further progress joint working. In addition, the Council is also represented alongside other Authorities with the DWP on the national Universal Credit programme.
	The Welfare Reform Update should be scheduled into the work programme for the Overview and Scrutiny Committee so that it is kept on the radar to be re-visited.	Welfare reform will be proposed as an item for inclusion in the OSC 2016/17 work programme as part of the Committee's work planning session.
4th April, 2016 - Supply Of Affordable Housing	What can be done to increase the supply of Affordable Housing?	<p>The Council aims to increase the supply of affordable homes by developing its own new build programme and by working closely with its Housing Association partners to deliver new homes.</p> <p><i>New Council Homes</i></p> <p>The Council is using a combination of its Right to Buy receipts and HRA borrowing powers to deliver a programme of new Council homes across the Borough. Over 500 new homes are either built, being built or planned, most notably at Bradwell Street, Poplar Baths, Dame Colet House and Watts Grove with other sites to follow. A capacity study is underway to identify sites for a further 500 homes in order to meet the Mayor's target of a</p>

		<p>1000 new Council homes.</p> <p>In addition, Right to Buy receipts are being used to purchase Ex Right to Buy homes which can then be used for Council housing.</p> <p>The Council is also exploring how it can set up a new Housing Company with either a commercial or other public sector partners in order to develop further capacity to build new affordable housing. These plans are being developed and will be taken forward as part of a new 2016 – 2021 Housing Strategy which will be presented to the Council in the autumn.</p> <p><i>Housing Associations</i> The majority of new homes will continue to be developed by Housing Associations through Section 106 planning agreements in line with current planning policy which requires between 35% and 50% of homes on new sites over 10 units to be affordable. The Council has developed the most affordable housing the country over the past 5 years. The Council has also been set the highest Housebuilding target by the Mayor of London who expects to see 3391 homes delivered each year.</p>
4th April, 2016 - Quarter 3 Strategic Performance	The Committee asked for quarter 3 data for smoking quitters and recycling when available. These measures report performance in arrears.	<p><i>Smoking Quitters</i> – Q3 outturn for smoking quitters is 589 per 100,000 population. That equates to 1,337 people. The minimum expectation has been exceeded and there has been an improvement compared to this time last year.</p> <p><i>Recycling</i> – Q3 data will be provided when available.</p>
4th April, 2016 - Management Of Sickness	The Committee wanted to see the briefings being provided to managers on the management of sickness.	Document circulated separately to the Committee.