


<p>Non-Executive Report of the:</p> <p><b>Overview &amp; Scrutiny Committee</b></p> <p>24/02/2019</p>	 <p><b>TOWER HAMLETS</b></p>
<p><b>Report of:</b> Overview &amp; Scrutiny Committee</p>	<p><b>Classification:</b></p>
<p><b>Updates from Scrutiny Leads</b></p>	

**Executive Summary**

This report provides an update of recent and upcoming Overview & Scrutiny Committee activity.

**Scrutiny Lead for Housing and Regeneration  
Councillor Dipa Das**

**1. Housing and Regeneration Scrutiny Sub-Committee Meetings 2019/20**

- There have been 5 meetings of the H&R Scrutiny Sub-Committee this financial year

(2019/20)

1	• 9 <sup>th</sup> April 2019
2	• 22 <sup>nd</sup> July 2019
3	• 10 <sup>th</sup> September 2019
4	• 26 <sup>th</sup> November 2019
5	• 21 <sup>st</sup> January 2019

- There is a Challenge Session scheduled for Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2020 and will look at the Homelessness Reduction Act – One year on. The session will comprise 2 presentations:

- The Housing Options Service -before and after implementation of the HRA.
- Barriers and Challenges in meeting HRA Duties.

**2. H&R Scrutiny Meeting – 21<sup>st</sup> January 2020**

Item	Actions/Recommendations
Housing Supply and Demand	<u>Officers to provide:</u> 1. A breakdown of the Housing Association supply slide by section 106 and Housing Association led development. 2. The number of under-occupiers on the Housing Register. 3. The split in acquisitions between ex council RTB and purchases of other housing provider stock.
Findings of the High-Density Living survey	Michael Ritchie to share research on school place planning and child yield in planning and development in the borough
AOB – Fire Safety Assessments	Karen Swift to Contact THH for an explanation on how fire safety assessments were being conducted

**3. H&R Scrutiny Meeting – 26<sup>th</sup> November 2019**

Item	Actions/Recommendations
Council's Emergency Planning/Response Procedure	1. Pam Bhamra (Chair of THHF) to provide local authority officers with landlord information for emergency purposes outside of the meeting. ACTION COMPLETED 2. Charles Griggs to share the emergency incident duty rota with elected councillors. ACTION COMPLETED
Approach to Regeneration	To share information on how the East of the Borough AAP area boundary was selected. ACTION COMPLETED

#### 4. H&R Scrutiny Meeting – 21<sup>st</sup> September 2019

Item	Actions/Recommendations
AOB - Resident Engagement	To include in the forward plan an update on how Social Landlords plan to/or are delivering the additional requirements of Resident Engagement as specified in the Social Housing Green Paper and Building a Safer Future consultation. An update will be requested from the Chair of THHF at the sub-committee meeting on 6 <sup>th</sup> May 2020, where the social landlord performance report will be reported.

#### 5. Previous Meetings – Outstanding Actions

Item	Actions/Recommendations
Allocations policy review	Exploration of proposed changes to policy (5 proposals) ahead of consultation with MAB / external consultations. Streamlining the applications process, including medical priority cases, clearing backlogs. Ensuring transparency and audit trail of decision making. Improved communications of process and decisions by the housing management panel.
Fire safety scrutiny review action plan monitoring	Received progress updates. ASB vs fire safety - Replacement of fire doors with multi-locks, preventing installation of new door grills. Council exploring an incentivised approach for leaseholders for fire doors. Encouraging consistency of approach across all landlords in fire safety policies – publishing FRAs, abandonment etc. through THHF.
Social landlord's performance report	Reviewed. Selection of underperforming landlord to attend scrutiny.
High streets and Town Centre strategy	Review progress of strategy, PIs and regeneration programmes. Tackling ASB and encouraging visitors. Meeting the housing and shopping needs of new and existing communities through planning. Supporting growth of businesses on Ben Jonson and delivery of small initiatives. Evidence based concentrations of markets. Tackling gentrification and encouraging community cohesion. Encouraging re-let vacant commercial spaces, discouraging a change of use and retaining commercial spaces. Invitations to members attend Town Centre seminar and project(s) events.
Housing open spaces scrutiny review report	Report, recommendations and action plan agreed for consideration by Cabinet in November 2019. A presentation on the action plan will be given at the THHF Exec Meeting on Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> March 2020.

#### 6. Other Actions

- Following a meeting with in June 2019 with the Corporate Director of Place, a visit to the Housing Options Service – to explore a client homelessness journey, casework management, and challenges has been requested.
- Slow response to a gas leak– A repeat of the presentation on the Council's contingency planning to be presented to the committee – for new committee members.

#### 7. Actions from OSC – 27<sup>th</sup> January 2020

Housing & Regeneration Scrutiny Sub-Committee consider the following:

- (i) A review of the Councils implementation of the HRA legislation;
- (ii) An update in 3 months of the Housing Options Improvement Business Case;
- (iii) An update on the backlog in regard to the Housing Options Service casework;
- (iv) A review of training contracts; and
- (v) A review of the improvement in operating practices.

**Scrutiny lead for Resources & Finance**  
**Cllr Tarik Khan**

**Scrutiny Challenge Session Report**

- The Scrutiny Challenge Session Report on Premises Charges and the Community Benefit Rent Reduction Scheme is scheduled to be presented at the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 24 February.
- This report is the outcome of the challenge session held in November 2019 which was attended by council officers, partners and community organisations.
- There are currently six recommendations resulting from the session relating to the community benefit rent reduction scheme, community buildings, capacity building and community hubs.
- The Overview and Scrutiny Committee are being asked to agree the recommendations made.

**Grants Determination Sub-Committee Meeting**

- The Grants Determination Sub-Committee meeting was held on 16 January with all items agreed. Scrutiny attended the session and requested further information on two of the three items.
- The next meeting of the sub-committee is scheduled for Wednesday 4 March and the agenda and accompanying reports will be circulated the week before. Scrutiny members are encouraged to send any questions on these items to Katy McGinity by mid-day Monday 2 March in order for further information to be requested from services before the meeting.

**Scrutiny Lead for Environment and Community Safety**  
**Cllr Bex White**

The Action Plan from the Community Safety Challenge Session on Resident Engagement in Safer Neighbourhood Panels is almost complete, pending input from Police, Public Realm and Youth Council. We have had productive engagement with Comms, Safer Neighbourhood Board, Mayor's Office and Lead Member for Community Safety.

We have scoped the next scrutiny challenge session on behaviour change within Environment and details will be circulated to members shortly. I intend to involve residents as much as possible in this session.

I've had meetings with 3 Cabinet Members for Community Safety, Air Quality and Environment.

In the coming weeks I will be scrutinising the reports from the waste service on missed collections and will provide an update on this at the next OSC.

I have participated in an organisational self-assessment for the Equality Framework for Local Government examining how the organisation's leadership promotes a meaningful commitment to equality within the OSC.

**Scrutiny lead for Health and Adults**  
**Kahar Chowdhury**

The next Health & Adults Scrutiny sub-committee meeting is scheduled for 12 March 2020 and the following is expected:

- The committee will hear about the PAN-London Sexual Health contract and assess the benefits of the new model. Health Watch have been undertaking insight work on sexual health services and the early findings will inform a joint approach with Barts' Health and GP Care Group in terms of abortion services, primary care and hospital based gynaecology services. This is an opportunity for the committee to get involved early on in the development work to support service improvement. Barts health have offered to host the next meeting at their Ambrose King Sexual Health centre. This is an exciting opportunity for the committee to visit the centre and see how the multi-million pound investment has improved patient and clinical environment. This also means the committee will be more accessible to the community as it intends to host more meetings outside of the town hall.
- The Joint Commissioning Team (Council and CCG) will set out how integration is structured in Tower Hamlets and North East London landscape and show practical examples of how this is being delivered and outlining priorities and plans for the future.
- A key part of the NHS long-term plan, primary care networks (PCNs) will bring general practices together to work at scale. But what are they? How are they funded and held accountable? And what difference will they make? We hope a report from the GP Care Group in Tower Hamlets will help us understand this better.
- The ASC Charging Impact Assessment has been of great interest to the committee and has generated a lot of discussion and information requests. This report will collate and summarise the requests and responses from the committee into one place to inform a discussion on the issue at the March 2020 meeting. It will also provide an update on the July 2019 request for more information on financial modelling in relation to respite.
- The committee has made a request to adult social care to present their savings proposal to merge physical disability day opportunities service with Riverside Day service so that we can better understand any potential changes and impact to the service offer.

**Scrutiny Challenge Session: Learning Disability**

- The committee feel outcomes are not improving fast enough for adults with Learning Disability and would like to investigate how services are responding to the needs of the service users and the wider community. The aim of the annual review is 'to examine how services are supporting adults with Learning Disability to live independent lives'. We will be focusing on the following three areas –
  - How services are addressing physical health management of adults with learning disability?
  - How are adults with learning disability supported into paid employment?

- How adults are supported to live locally?
- This review will inform the refresh of the Learning Disability Strategy 2020-25 and any other broader concerns related to Learning Disability provision will be picked up as part of the strategy development work. We have provisionally agreed a date to hold a challenge session with relevant officers on Tuesday 10 March, 6pm in the Town Hall. We would like to extend the invite to members and will be grateful if you can come along and support this review.