TOWER HAMLETS
CODE OF CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

July 2020 - Version 1.0

Foreword

From Will Tuckley, Chief Executive

This Code of Corporate Governance sets out the commitment of the London Borough of Tower Hamlets to continue to uphold the highest possible standards of good governance. This is essential for ensuring we conduct our business in accordance with the law and proper standards and that public money is properly accounted for.

The Code of Corporate Governance is an important tool in showing our residents how the Council follows good practice to achieve the best outcomes we can for them.

The Code will be regularly reviewed to match our evolving Corporate Strategies and Policies. Our Audit Committee has oversight for making sure that we are following the commitments in this document in order to deliver the highest standards of governance for our residents.

Introduction

Good governance is about how the Council ensures that it is doing the right things, in the right way, for the communities it serves, with particular regard to being open, inclusive and accountable.

Our Commitment
Tower Hamlets are committed to upholding the highest standards of good corporate governance.

The Governance Framework comprises the systems and processes, and cultures and values, by which the Council is directed and controlled and through which it accounts to, engages with and, where appropriate, leads the community. It enables the Council to monitor the achievement of its strategic objectives and to consider whether those objectives have led to the delivery of appropriate cost-effective services.

This Code of Corporate Governance is based on the following principles recommended by CIPFA/SOLACE in a joint document entitled 'Delivering Good Governance in Local Government' which builds on the seven Principles for the Conduct of Individuals in Public Life.

A. Behaving with integrity, demonstrating strong commitment to ethical values, and respecting the rule of law.
B. Ensuring openness and comprehensive stakeholder engagement.
C. Defining outcomes in terms of sustainable economic, social, and environmental benefits.
D. Determining the interventions necessary to optimize the achievement of the intended outcomes.
E. Developing the entity's capacity, including the capability of its leadership and the individuals within it.
F. Managing risks and performance through robust internal control and strong public financial management.
G. Implementing good practices in transparency, reporting, and audit, to deliver effective accountability.

This document describes how the Council achieves the seven principles of good governance and describes how the Council's corporate governance arrangements will be monitored and reviewed.

Applying the Seven Core Principles

Core Principle A: Behaving with integrity, demonstrating strong commitment to ethical values, and respecting the rule of law The following items are applicable to all three strands of Core Principle A			
Supporting Principles		*The Council does this by:*	*Supporting documentation and evidence of compliance*

A1	Behaving with Integrity	• The Council's constitution sets out the rules under which the organisation must operate. This includes ensuring decisions are taken appropriately, by the correct body and with all relevant information presented.
		• Article 12.03 of the Constitution sets out the role of the Monitoring Officer. The Corporate Director, Governance has this assigned role. The Monitoring Officer is responsible for dealing with many issues relating to integrity in decision making including around the work of the Standards (Advisory) Committee and Member Conduct.
		• The Strategic Plan is the main strategic business planning document of the council. It sets out the corporate priorities and outcomes, the high-level activities that will be undertaken to deliver the outcomes, as well as the measures that will help us determine whether we are achieving the outcomes. The Strategic Plan outlines the Council's approach to tackling inequality and
			• The Council's Constitution including sections on:
			  ○ Officer code of conduct
			  ○ Member code of conduct
			  ○ Member Officer Relations Protocol
			  ○ Scheme of Delegation
			• Register of Interests and Declarations at Meetings
			• Gifts and Hospitality Register
			• Cabinet, Council and Committee reports online
			• Member Induction and Development Programme
			• Strategic Plan –
			• Tower Hamlets Plan
			• Borough Equality Assessment
			• Equality Policy
			• Whistleblowing Policy
			• Corporate and Statutory

A2	Demonstrating Strong commitment to ethical values		
A3	Respecting the Rule of Law		

		improving outcomes for residents and has tackling inequality at its core outlining the priorities and outcomes for reducing inequality and need in the borough. • The Tower Hamlets Plan is the over-arching plan for the borough's local strategic partnership. Partners wanted to work together to identify creative and innovative new ways of delivering effective and efficient services and providing strategic leadership on complex, cross-cutting issues. • There is a whistleblowing policy and it can be found direct from the home page of the intranet. It provides a route for officers to bring to the monitoring officers attention areas of malpractice where no other appropriate route exists. • These reports and decisions are published online to ensure transparency and Executive decisions are subject to the 'Call-In' process by backbench Councillors who have the opportunity to raise any concerns they may have. • The Register or Interests (for officers and Members) and the requirement to declare interests at meetings ensure that potential issues are recorded and Members do not take part in meetings in an inappropriate way. This includes the need to leave the room when any items for which they have a Pecuniary Interest are discussed. • Likewise, the Gifts and Hospitalities register	Complaints Procedures • Information Governance Framework, including Data Protection, Information Security and Computer Use Policies. • Social Media Policy • TOWER values and new Competency Framework • Investors in People accreditation • Declarations of interest and secondary employment for officers • Grievance Policy • Disciplinary Policy • Combatting Harassment and Discrimination Policy

		ensures that Members and officers declare any relations with outside bodies that could be an issue. • The Member Induction and Member Development Programmes ensure Members are aware of their responsibilities around good decision making and behaving with integrity. This programme includes committee specific training where required. • Raising Awareness of Information Governance Regulations and Obligations as set out in the Council's procedures and framework. • The Council's TOWER values are important because they shape the culture and standards of the organisation. • The Council's Legal Services are tasked with ensuring Council decision making is not ultra vires and follows relevant regulations and legal processes as required.	

Core Principle B: Ensuring openness and comprehensive stakeholder engagement The following items are applicable to all three strands of Core Principle B			
Supporting Principles		*The Council does this by:*	*Supporting documentation and evidence of compliance*
B1	Openness	• Publishing a Constitution setting out the Council's governance and decision-making arrangements. • All formal decision-making meetings have agendas, reports and minutes which are published on the Council's website and available to anyone through the Mod.Gov tablet app. • The Council publishes and maintains a constantly updating list of important Executive decisions on the Council's website. This includes reports for Cabinet and any other key Executive decisions. • The Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee engages stakeholders, residents and community groups to review services and drive improvement in service delivery. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee co-opts residents with relevant knowledge onto the Committee and encourages residents to attend its meetings, which are open to the public and webcast. Further, residents, community groups and expert witnesses are invited to participate in Scrutiny review and challenge sessions so the Committee can hear directly from those whose interest are represented. • The Council is updating its Overview and Scrutiny Toolkit is to provide officers, Members, stakeholders and local communities with guidance and advice on how the scrutiny function works at Tower Hamlets. The Toolkit aims to clarify processes so	• The Council's Constitution • Publication of committee agendas and minutes of meetings. • Forward Plan • Committee software system • Register of Members' Interests • Strategic and Services Plans • Tower Hamlets Plan • Scrutiny Committee reports to Council • Strategic Plan (equalities embedded)
B2	Engaging comprehensively with institutional stakeholders		
B3	Engaging with individual citizens and service users effectively		

		residents know how they can get involved. • The Strategic Plan is the main strategic business planning document of the council. It sets out the corporate priorities and outcomes, the high-level activities that will be undertaken to deliver the outcomes, as well as the measures that will help us determine whether we are achieving the outcomes. The Strategic Plan outlines the Council's approach to tackling inequality and improving outcomes for residents and has tackling inequality at its core outlining the priorities and outcomes for reducing inequality and need in the borough. • The Performance and Intelligence and Communications teams provides advice on designing, running and analysing consultations and surveys to Officers around the Council. The Council actively engages specific groups depending on the nature of the consultation / survey. The Council commissions a specialist market research company to undertake its Annual Resident Survey with key findings made public. Action Plans are produced to address areas of under-performance / challenge. • The Council has an established voluntary and community sector strategy and a Local Community Fund and Small Grants Programme, which has been developed in co-production with the VCS. • We set out how we will work with our key strategic partners to deliver cross cutting actions for the borough in the Tower Hamlets Plan • We belong to a range of public sector information sharing networks for example sharing performance data for benchmarking and improvement with London LAs through London Councils. We are working with the GLA to develop London level data sharing agreements, and with our health	Equality Analysis • Annual Residents' Survey and other Residents' surveys • Range of consultations • Borough Profile • Co-production Framework • Tower Hamlets Together Board and Joint Commissioning Executive • Freedom of Information Publication and Disclosure Log • Publication Scheme • Corporate Complaints Procedure and Statutory Complaints Procedures • Customer Contact Centre and Complaints Procedure • Staff Training and

		partners through a partnership board Tower Hamlets Together. • The Council makes use of modern committee management software to support the efficient and transparent publication of all information related to the Council's decision-making functions including Councillor contact details, registers of interest, agendas, petitions, ways to get involved and similar. • The Council maintains a public register of Members interests and declarations made at meetings. These are published on the Council website. • Freedom of Information processes to allow for the submission and publication of Freedom of Information requests • Complaints systems to allow residents to challenge the Council. • Use of the Open Government Licence for Public Sector Information ensures that people can make use of our data without having to apply for permission.	Development • Engaging staff forums • Change Champions (i.e. Your Voice Ambassadors) • Youth Council and Young Mayor • Annual Statement of Accounts • Medium Term Financial Strategy and regular MTFS reports • The Internal Audit function • The role of the Audit Committee • Open Government Licence for Public Sector Information • Expected Standards for responding to residents/customers • A range of communication channels including digital infrastructure

			(website, social media, newsletter, plasma screens in Idea Stores and other buildings), physical infrastructure (street advertising, vehicle advertising) and print (Our East End). • Partnership Boards and their Terms of Reference/ Structures/ Minutes) (including for example Health and Wellbeing Board, Community Safety Partnership Board, Tower Hamlets Together Board Safeguarding Adults Board, Safeguarding Children's Partnership Board,

			Children and Families Partnership Board)

Core Principle C: Defining outcomes in terms of sustainable economic, social and environmental benefits The following items are applicable to Core Principle C			
Supporting Principles		*The Council does this by:*	*Supporting documentation and evidence of compliance*
C1	Defining outcomes in terms of sustainable economic, social and environmental benefits	• The Council has an established voluntary and community sector strategy and a Local Community Fund which has been developed in co-production with the VCS and Small Grants Programme to support a vibrant local VCS. • The Strategic Plan is the main strategic business planning document of the council. It sets out the corporate priorities and outcomes, the high-level activities that will be undertaken to deliver the outcomes, as well as the measures that will help us determine whether we are achieving the outcomes. The Council has a structured set of plans which turn our vision into actions, through Directorate, Key Council Strategies and Service Plans. • The Tower Hamlets Plan sets out the social, economic and environmental outcomes the Tower Hamlets Partnership partners are seeking to achieve. • The report templates for all Council, Cabinet and Committee reports contains specific sections to highlight key risks such as those around equalities, environment, crime etc. • The Council has a clear vision of the quality and nature of service delivery which we need to provide to meet the needs of our local community. To do this, ongoing investment needs to be made to our staff through our People Strategy.	• Voluntary and Community Sector Strategy • Strategic Plan and Service Plans • Performance Management and Accountability Framework • Co-production Framework (to be signed off Autumn 2018) • Risk Implications in all reports • Local Plan 2031: Managing Growth and Sharing the Benefits) and related Planning policies and documents

		• The Council's Local Plan considers the spatial vision and planning strategy & policies for Tower Hamlets. • The Council is committed to sustainable development and has a Carbon Management Plan, Environment Strategy and provides air quality monitoring and advice about energy efficiency. • The Tower Hamlets Housing Forum is a partnership between housing associations and the Council. • The Community Safety Partnership Plan 2017-21 sets out how we will make Tower Hamlets a safer and more cohesive place to live. • The Tower Hamlets Children's Partnership and Tower Hamlets Children and Families Partnership Board	• Growth Plan • Transport Strategy • Waste Management Strategy • Our East End • Financial and Budget Planning Consultations • Risk Management Policy and Procedures • Corporate Risk Register • Annual Statement of Accounts • Quarterly and annual finance and performance reporting being presented alongside one another • Capital Strategy • The work of the external auditors • Environmental Strategy • Air Quality and Climate Change

			Strategy • Air Quality Action Plan • Biodiversity Action Plan • Tower Hamlets Housing Forum • Self-Build Policy • Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy • Community Safety Partnership Plan • Health and Wellbeing Strategy • Substance Misuse Strategy • Mental Health Strategy • Violence Against Women & Girls Strategy • Safeguarding Adults Board Strategy • Suicide Prevention Strategy • Children and Families Strategy 2019-24

			• SEND Strategy

<table>
<tr><td colspan="3">Core Principle D: Determining the interventions necessary to optimise the achievement of the intended outcomes

The following items are applicable to all three strands of Core Principle D</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2">Supporting Principles</td><td>The Council does this by:</td><td>Supporting documentation and evidence of compliance</td></tr>
<tr><td>D1</td><td>Determining Interventions</td><td rowspan="3">Decision making processes that receive objective and rigorous analysis including involvement of the Monitoring Officer and the Section 151 Officer with all reports having set sections for legal and finance comments and all reports requiring final finance and legal clearance before publication.
Council, Cabinet and Committees receive regular reports on performance monitoring, the strategic plan and other policies and procedures to demonstrate the level to which intended outcomes are being achieved and any interventions planned to address issues.
Our Councils Strategic and service plans have a clear vision of the economic, social and environment of the borough, which has been informed by extensive analysis of key data, service intelligence and national and regional policy
The Council’s Corporate Portfolio Management Office is responsible for setting standards for programme and project management to make sure we can be excellent in delivering change.
The Performance Improvement Board challenges services where there are identified concerns, takes a trouble-shooting approach, acts as a “critical friend” to drive improvement in performance, and makes recommendations about where to focus resources to drive improvement.</td><td rowspan="3">Constitution containing the scheme of delegation and financial regulations
Strategic and Service Plans
Co-Production Framework
Scrutiny Committees
Corporate Leadership Team
Performance Management and Accountability Framework
Needs Analysis such as Borough Profile and Joint Strategic Needs</td></tr>
<tr><td>D2</td><td>Planning Interventions</td></tr>
<tr><td>D3</td><td>Optimising Achievement and Intended Outcomes</td></tr>
</table>

		• The Council's Performance Management and Accountability Framework (PMAF) sets out how we identify how we establish whether performance improvement is necessary, corporate expectations for managing performance, which are complemented by related processes within individual Directorates and services, and which improvement boards have this responsibility. Performance Improvement Board is the main board responsible for identifying and determining interventions to bring about improvements. • We are committed to undertaking needs assessments that provide evidence for areas where service improvement may be required. Our Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) helps us and our health partners understand resident's needs relating to health inequalities and improving health and wellbeing. In addition, the Borough Profile provides data and analysis in a range of topic areas such as crime, housing, income, jobs, education, supporting practitioners to identify interventions necessary to achieve outcomes. We use the Borough Profile to develop a Borough Equality Assessment which enables us to set our equality objectives. • The Council prepares an Annual Governance Statement that details the Council's framework for making decisions and controlling its resources. This is presented to the Audit Committee each year. • The Council's Emergency Planning works to ensure the Council can react quickly and robustly to any emergency situation effecting residents or its own ability to provide services. A number of plans have also been prepared on a multi-agency basis to deal with specific threats. • Internal Audit who should be outcome focused and providing assurance opinions on the effective management of risk leading	Analysis • Tower Hamlets Improvement Framework • Quarterly and annual finance and performance reports • Cabinet and Committee agendas and reports. • Legal and Financial clearance of all relevant reports • Annual Governance Statement • Standards for Managing Employee Performance • Performance Development and Review Scheme • Borough Major Emergency Plan • Multi Agency Plans • Business Continuity Policy

		to the organisational achievement of outcomes and priorities.	• Budget Setting and approval process • Risk Management Framework • Procurement Strategy • Business Plans and Consultations and Savings Tracker • Risk Management Policy

<table>
<tr><td colspan="4">Core Principle E: Developing the entity's capacity, including the capability of its leadership and the individuals within it

The following items are applicable to the two strands of Core Principle E</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2">Supporting Principles</td><td>The Council does this by:</td><td>Supporting documentation and evidence of compliance</td></tr>
<tr><td>E1</td><td>Developing the entity's capacity</td><td rowspan="2">The Council's constitution is published on the website and has been reviewed within the last year. It contains many relevant sections including the Scheme of Officer delegations, Terms of References for committees and panels, Member and Officer Codes of Conduct and the Member / Officer relations protocol.
The Corporate Leadership Team (CLT), Cabinet, Council and Committees receive reports on how the Council is performing and to highlight areas of weaker performance. CLT in particular receive regular reports on matters of performance. In addition, the CLT also have a specific CLT Transformation Board to examine these sorts of issues.
The Overview and Scrutiny Committee has reviewed its processes and is working towards implementing recommendations to further strengthen its effectiveness and support a culture of Overview and Scrutiny throughout the Council.
The Overview and Scrutiny Committee functions are supported by a training programme and external support through the Centre for Public Scrutiny. New members are supported through an induction programme to scrutiny, which includes effective</td><td rowspan="2">The Council's Constitution, including:
Scheme of Delegation
Committee Terms of Reference
'Other Bodies' Terms of Reference
Member Code of Conduct
Officer Code of Conduct
Member Officer Relations Protocol
Partnerships Governance Structure
Tower Hamlets Plan
Smarter Together Transformation Programme
Corporate Portfolio Management Office Scrutiny Committees
Reports to CLT, Cabinet,</td></tr>
<tr><td>E1</td><td>Developing the capability of the entity's leadership and other individuals</td></tr>
</table>

		questioning techniques and training throughout the year, covering budget scrutiny, performance reporting and one-to-one chairing skills. Further, scrutiny Members are provided with tools, advice and guidance through a scrutiny toolkit. • Key to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee's effectiveness is a well-developed work programme. Committee members recently attended a workshop, facilitated by the Centre for Public Scrutiny, to set out the Committee's priorities for the year. • The Partnership Governance structure includes a Partnership Executive Group led by the Mayor with chief officers from key local partner organisations and a range of Partnership groups/ board including statutory boards. • The parentship agreed a borough wide Plan 'Tower Hamlets Plan' to provide system wider leadership on few priority areas that needed improvement • Led by CLT and managed by the Corporate Portfolio Management Office, the Council's Transformation programme is called SMARTER TOGETHER. Focusing on ensuring the Council is more agile, leaner, and strategic to achieve the best outcomes with our limited resources. • A comprehensive programme of member induction sessions were provided after the Local Elections. These are being followed by an ongoing member development programme targeting planned and ad-hoc issues as they become apparent. • Members have been provided with an online portal to give them access to many useful documents and refine	Council and Committees • Member Induction Programme and wider Member Development Programme • Members' Hub • People Resource Plan • Corporate Training Programme • PDP/PDR Process • Job descriptions and person specifications • Continuous professional development for officers • Secondment policy • Recruitment and Selection Policy and Toolkit • Workforce Development Strategies • Corporate Induction and wider induction policies • TOWER values and new Competency Framework • Quarterly and annual finance and performance reporting being presented alongside one another • Corporate Risk Register • Role of Internal Audit • Business Planning Processes

		materials.	• Employee Assistance Programme

Core Principle F: Managing risks and performance through robust internal control and strong public financial management The following items are applicable to all five strands of Core Principle F			
Supporting Principles		*The Council does this by:*	*Supporting documentation and evidence of compliance*
F1	Manging risk	• The Council's Constitution sets out the Council's decision making in relation to Financial Management including through the Budget and Policy Framework, Key Decisions and Officer Schemes of Delegation. • The Council has developed a risk-based approach to identifying key performance indicators which are more susceptible for data quality breaches • All report templates contain sections to highlight the risks associated with the proposals set out in the reports. • The Council ensures that responsibilities for managing individual risks are clearly allocated, and the Corporate Risk register is reported to and reviewed by the Council's Senior Management Team, General Purposes Committee, and Audit Committee on a regular basis. • The Council has recently re-launched its whistleblowing policy following a review and there is a related whistleblowing section on the Council's intranet. • The Council's Emergency Planning works to ensure the Council can react quickly and robustly to any emergency situation effecting residents or its own ability to provide services. A number of plans have also been prepared on a	• The Council's Constitution • Performance Dashboards and reports • Data Quality Policy • Quarterly and annual finance and performance reporting being presented alongside one another • to OSC and Cabinet • Cabinet and Committee Report Templates • Risk Reports to CLT and Committees • Data Sharing Agreements • Information

		multi-agency basis to deal with specific threats.	Governance Framework • Whistleblowing Policy • Borough Major Emergency Plan • Multi Agency Plans • Business Continuity Policy • Publishing spend exceeding £250 • Risk Management Strategy and Toolkit • Corporate Risk Register • Regular risk management reports to the Audit Committee • Internal Audit Plan, annual report and recommendations tracker • Anti-Fraud and Corruption Strategy and Action Plan • The role of external audit • Corporate Risk Group • Audit Committee • Risk reports to

			Committees • Project Management Framework • Financial Regulations
F2	Manging performance	• The council makes decisions based on relevant, clear objective analysis and advice pointing out the implications and risks inherent in the organisation's financial, social and environmental position and outlook • The council is implementing outcomes-based accountability and outcomes-based budgeting and is working on integrating finance and performance reporting over the course of the financial year. • The council has developed a risk-based approach to identifying key performance indicators which are more susceptible for data quality breaches • Quarterly strategic performance monitoring of the strategic plan and strategic outcome measures is a separate agenda item for the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. • Members and senior management are provided with regular reports on performance and progress towards outcome achievement.	• Scrutiny Committees • Performance Management & Accountability Framework • Performance Dashboards and reports • Customer Feedback • Committee agendas, reports and minutes • Cabinet and Committee report templates • Quarterly and annual finance and performance reporting being presented alongside one another • Savings Tracker • Business Development Team • Internal Audit Reports

F3	Robust internal control	• Reports to Council, Cabinet and Committees are required to set out key implications information in areas such as risk, equalities and environmental impact. • The Audit Committee is responsible for considering the Council's arrangements for internal governance and financial management and to recommend any actions accordingly. It receives a number of relevant reports such as Audit Plans, reports from external audit, anti-fraud and corruption initiatives, Risk Management Arrangements and similar. The Committees full terms of references are provided in the Council's Constitution.	• Annual Governance Statement • Reports to Council, Cabinet and Committees of the Council with implications provided that are clear and measured. • Anti-Fraud and Corruption Policy • Anti-Money Laundering Policy • Internal Audit • Internal Audit Outcome Reports • Risk Management Policy • Risk Management Procedures • Corporate Risk Register • Audit Committee.
F4	Managing data	• There are governance arrangements for the partnership structure. The Tower Hamlets Plan identifies how the partnership will work together through the Partnership Executive Group to deliver cross-cutting activities. • The Council operates to expected Data Protection and records management policies and is implementing the new GDPR rules and procedures.	• Partnerships Governance • Data Protection Policy • Freedom of Information/EIR • Information Security

			Incident Policy • Records Management Policy • Safe Information Handling Policy • Senior Information Risk Owner • Data Confidentiality Champion • Information Sharing Network • Regulations Policy
F5	Strong public financial management	• The OSC has a crucial role in budget scrutiny. This includes reviewing and scrutinising the Council's annual allocation of financial resources to different services and projects, according to the Council's strategic priorities. This includes reviewing the treatment of risk, setting the council tax, and decisions relating to the control of the Council's borrowing, the control of its capital expenditure and the setting of virement limits. • Performance and Intelligence team analyses resident's views relating to the budget consultation which is then used to inform decision-making. • Budget monitoring reports are presented to Cabinet and are published on the Council's website allowing residents to see how the Council is performing against expected budgets. • The Audit Committee is responsible for considering the Council's arrangements for financial management and to recommend any actions accordingly. It receives regular reports such as Audit Plans, Risk Management arrangements, and it approves the Authorities Statement of Accounts.	• Scrutiny Budget Meetings • Budget Consultations • Regular Budget monitoring reports published in Cabinet agendas • Financial Regulations • Quarterly and annual finance and performance reporting being presented alongside one another • Business Plan • Business Planning Process • Budget Holder

			Information • Objection Timetable • External Auditors

Core Principle G: Implementing good practices in transparency, reporting and audit to deliver effective accountability The following items are applicable to the four strands of Core Principle G			
Supporting Principles		*The Council does this by:*	*Supporting documentation and evidence of compliance*
G1	Implementing good practice in transparency	• The Council has a published constitution setting out how decisions are taken and how the public can get involved in decision making, including Access to Information, Petitions and ways of getting involved in decision making. • Key data, statistics and horizon scanning of policy is produced to support the Overview and Scrutiny Committee in their work programming. OSC work programme published. • Having a defined process to ensure that reports for the public / stakeholders are fair, balanced and easy to access and understandable for the audience • The Council seeks to write and communicate reports and other information for the public and other stakeholders in a fair, balanced and understandable style appropriate to the intended audience and ensuring that they are easy to access and interrogate. • The Council webcasts it's Council, Cabinet and Overview and Scrutiny Committee meetings to ensure full transparency of the meetings. • The Council's maintains an up-to-date website which provides a mechanism for the Council to publish information important in ensuring transparency of its actions. • The Council has recently re-launched its whistleblowing policy	• The Council's Constitution • Annual Work Programme of Scrutiny Committees • Agendas and minutes of Cabinet and Committee Meetings • Agendas and minutes of Scrutiny and relevant Committees published • The Executive Forward Plan • Meeting Webcasts • Transparency Code • Data Sharing Agreements

		following a review and there is a related whistleblowing section on the Council's intranet.	• Publication Scheme • The Council's Website • Whistleblowing Policy • Gender Pay Gap reporting • Internal Audit Plan, annual report and recommendations tracker • Anti-Fraud and Corruption Strategy and Action Plan • External Audit Reports • Annual Governance Statement • Communications ensuring residents are informed of key issues, decisions and consultations. • Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report • Local Account in adult social care • Tower Hamlets Safeguarding

			Children Partnership Annual Report
G2	Implementing good practice in reporting	• The Council's constitution sets out the Terms of Reference of all Committees to ensure information is presented to the Appropriate Committees. Access to Information rules set out how the Council maintains good public access to information and reports. • There are governance arrangements for the partnership structure. The Tower Hamlets Plan identifies how the partnership will work together through the Partnership Executive Group to deliver cross-cutting activities. • Each Committee has a workplan or similar forward programme including expected monitoring reports.	• Partnerships Governance Guidance • Committee Agendas, Reports and Minutes • Constitution including Committee Terms of Reference and Access to Information Rules • Quarterly and annual finance and performance reporting being presented alongside one another • Statement of Accounts • Annual Governance Statement • Annual External Audit Report and Letter • Internal Audit Reports
G3	Assurance and	• Having processes to ensure external / internal audit	• Role of Internal and

	effective accountability	recommendations are acted upon / responded to by managers and the Council (G3 & G4) • There are governance arrangements for the partnership structure. The Tower Hamlets Plan identifies how the partnership will work together through the Partnership Executive Group to deliver cross-cutting activities. • As part of our extensive improvement journey since 2014, the Council has taken part in a tailored Peer Challenge managed by the LGA. We take part in service specific peer reviews – for example a peer review of our planning service will take place during 2018-19. • The Council uses the results from external inspections to action plan improvements. There is an extensive improvement structure in the Council including Member oversight and Officer operational groups. • As the Council's most senior decision-making body, Audit Committee, and any other relevant Non-Executive Committee including Scrutiny, can report up to it any concerns they have regarding actions that have not been undertaken. Council is also a forum for Members and the public to formally raise concerns that meeting may direct the Council to act upon.	External Audit • Audit Committee • Risk Management Procedures • Peer Reviews • Results of External Inspections (Ofsted, CQC, ICO etc) • Partnerships Governance Guidance • Council Meetings
G4	Managing data.	See G1 and G3	