

DRAFT SAVINGS PROPOSAL

London Borough of Tower Hamlets
Medium Term Financial Strategy 2021-24

Proposal Title:	Tenant Activity Pot (TAP) activities programme		
Reference:	SAV / HAC 001 / 21-22	Savings Type:	Reduction in provision
Directorate:	Health, Adults & Community	Savings Service Area:	Adult Social Care
Directorate Service:	Integrated Commissioning Service, Ageing Well Team	Strategic Priority Outcome:	8. People feel they are part of a cohesive and vibrant community
Lead Officer and Post:	Rahima Miah, Deputy Director, Integrated Commissioning	Lead Member and Portfolio:	Cllr Rachel Blake, Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Adults, Health and Wellbeing

Financial Impact:	Current Budget 2020-21	Savings/Income 2021-22	Savings/Income 2022-23	Savings/Income 2023-24	Total Savings/Income
Budget (£000)	299	299	-	-	299

Staffing Impact (if applicable):	Current 2020-21	FTE Reductions 2021-22	FTE Reductions 2022-23	FTE Reductions 2023-24	Total FTE Reductions
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Proposal Summary:

In March 2018, Cabinet approved the Ageing Well Commissioning Team's recommendation to move all sheltered services to an IHMS model of provision and for the funds freed through the remodelling of services to be reinvested to fund a range of activities within the sheltered schemes. This Tenant Activity Pot (TAP) reflected the priorities identified in the Ageing Well Strategy and the Mayor's commitment to tackling loneliness and isolation and improving the wellbeing of elderly tenants living in sheltered housing. The agreed fund allocated was £500 per flat per annum for 711 units at an annual cost of £355,500. This figure was based on the assumption that all providers would take part in this initiative. However, three providers chose not to do so, hence the reduction in figure to the current budget of £299,110.

Examples of the kinds of activities funded by TAP are:

- Delivering intergenerational projects by working in partnership with In-common to bring primary school children into a number of sheltered schemes.
- Working in partnership with New City College – hair and beauty students provided pamper session to residents of Lady Micos Alms-house and catering students provided Christmas Lunch
- Connecting residents to animals, nature and each other via Furry Friends a partners hope between Gateway Housing Association and Stepney City Farm.

The TAP programme launched in October 2018. As of March 2020;

	No. of Schemes taking part	No. of Units	Total Fund Paid	Provider Expenditure	Underspend
Expenditure 2018-19 @£500*536 units (6 months)	20	537	£ 131,167	£ 80,136	£ 51,031
Expenditure 2019-20 @ £500*536 units (12 months)	20	537	£ 127,250	£ 140,740	-£ 13,490
Total			£ 258,417	£ 220,876	£ 37,542

- There is ongoing dialogue with two of the three providers who agreed to engage prior to the Lockdown and the proposals assume their engagement.
- 20 schemes totalling 537 flats took part. This is due to the above providers initial non-engagement; participating Providers facing ongoing challenges such as restructures and staffing difficulties; voids in 3 Gateway schemes due to its redevelopment programme.
- £51,031 was underspent at the end of 2018-19, however, Providers had accrued funding for a range of activities into 2019-20.
- A current underspend of £37,542 is primarily due to activities ceasing mid-March due to Lockdown. Committed 2020-21 spend of £4,250 will reduce underspend to £33,291 as the Provider has carried forward an underspend.
- Discussion has occurred with providers who have carried forward an underspend. Where they have already made plans prior to lockdown to spend this money it is

recommended that they retain this funding. One Provider, Clarion has not made any plans to spend their carry forward money of approximately £17,500 and we are in discussion with the provider to claw this money back. The £33,291 has therefore not been taken into account for this financial review.

- Based on 537 units, £220,876 expenditure across 18 months which is the duration of the programme from October 2018 to March 2020, average expenditure equates to £274 per flat for this period and £275 per flat per annum.

Revised Provision:

This proposal sets out a withdrawal of the TAP fund, linking residents to the Council's other funded activities. Providers stopped all communal activities in March 2020 due to the Coronavirus Pandemic.

There is currently no other funding stream within the council that provides the same level or type of programme of activities specifically for residents in sheltered schemes. However, there are several projects funded through the Council's Local Community Fund, the Council's Loneliness Fund and through Linkage Plus run by organisations such as Age UK East London, Tower Hamlets Friends and Neighbours and St Hilda's Community Centre which also aim to reduce isolation and support older people to engage in activities. These are predominantly community based or provide one to one support. The TAP fund has allowed sheltered residents to tailor activities within their scheme based on their preferences.

Discussion with Providers have agreed areas of activity that they will provide in the absence of the TAP. These will be activities that each scheme will co-ordinate and run, some building on what the TAP has created. These activities will not directly replicate what the TAP currently provides but will mitigate the withdrawal of the TAP funding.

The implications of withdrawing the fund include a potential increase in loneliness and isolation amongst sheltered residents, a potential deterioration in resident's health and wellbeing and potential decrease in resident's sense of community within their scheme. It also will end the partnership work so far undertaken with community- based organisations such as In-Common and East London Business Alliance in developing intergenerational connections.

Risk and Mitigations:

Withdrawing the TAP fund could result in a less enhanced service provision in sheltered schemes. This could result in increased resident dissatisfaction and complaints to the Council. This could be mitigated by reducing the fund as opposed to withdrawing it fully. Withdrawing the TAP fund could result in a reduced level of partnership between the Authority and Registered Landlords. This could be mitigated through staff involvement and attendance at the Tower Hamlets Housing Forum. Further mitigation on both options will be through continuing discussions with providers about how they can organise alternative activities.

Resources and Implementation:

There are no resources required to implement this proposal.

SAVINGS PROPOSAL – BUDGET EQUALITY ANALYSIS SCREENING TOOL

Trigger Questions	Yes / No	If Yes – please provide a brief summary of how this impacts on each protected characteristic as identified in the Equalities Act 2010. This will need to be expanded in a full Equality Analysis at full Business Case stage.
Does the change reduce resources available to address inequality?	No	
Does the change reduce resources available to support vulnerable residents?	Yes	The implications of withdrawing the fund include a potential increase in loneliness and isolation amongst sheltered residents, a potential deterioration in resident's health and wellbeing and potential decrease in resident's sense of community within their scheme. It also will end the partnership work so far undertaken with community- based organisations such as In-Common and East London Business Alliance in developing intergenerational connections.
Does the change involve direct impact on front line services?	No	
Changes to a Service		
Does the change alter who is eligible for the service?	No	
Does the change alter access to the service?	No	
Changes to Staffing		
Does the change involve a reduction in staff?	No	
Does the change involve a redesign of the roles of staff?	No	

Summary:	
To be completed at the end of completing the Screening Tool.	
Based on the Screening Tool, will a full EA will be required?	Yes

Additional Information and Comments:
None