

LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

MINUTES OF THE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

HELD AT 6.32 P.M. ON MONDAY, 26 JULY 2021

**COMMITTEE ROOM ONE - TOWN HALL, MULBERRY PLACE, 5 CLOVE
CRESCENT, LONDON, E14 2BG**

Members Present:

Councillor Mohammed Pappu (Chair)

Councillor Faroque Ahmed	– Scrutiny Lead for Community Safety
Councillor Marc Francis	–
Councillor Ehtasham Haque	– Scrutiny Lead for Housing and Regeneration
Councillor Denise Jones	–
Councillor Gabriela Salva Macallan	– Scrutiny Lead for Health and Adults
Councillor Leema Qureshi	– Scrutiny Lead for Resources and Finance
Councillor Andrew Wood	

Co-opted Members Present:

Halima Islam	– Co-Optee
James Wilson	– Co-Optee

Other Councillors Present:

Mayor John Biggs	– (Executive Mayor)
Councillor Sirajul Islam	– (Statutory Deputy Mayor for Community Safety, Faith and Equalities)

Apologies:

Councillor Bex White	– Scrutiny Lead for Children and Education
----------------------	---

Officers Present:

Kevin Bartle	– (Interim Corporate Director, Resources and Section 151 Officer)
Ann Corbett	– (Divisional Director, Community Safety)
Sharon Godman	– (Director, Strategy, Improvement and Transformation)
Charles Griggs	– Head of Community Safety
Hitesh Jolapara	– (Interim Divisional Director, Finance, Procurement & Audit)

Daniel Kerr	– (Strategy and Policy Manager)
Ahsan Khan	– (Chief Accountant)
Denise Radley	– (Corporate Director, Health, Adults & Community)
Chris Weavers	– Chair of Safer Neighbourhood Board

1. WELCOME

The Chair Councillor Mohammed Pappu welcomed everybody to this evening's meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. Members noted that in line with current requirements, this meeting was being held in person, with some Scrutiny Members along with key participants present in the meeting room, whilst others are joining remotely with only those Scrutiny Members present in the meeting room able to vote.

Members noted that although national restrictions have eased, the Council recognises that rates of Covid-19 infection continue to cause concern. Therefore, to help keep everybody safe, it has been agreed to take the precaution of restricting non-essential physical attendance, retaining a limited public gallery, and are retaining health and safety practices such as social distancing and encouraging use of masks for all attendees, when not seated.

2. COVID UPDATE INFORMATION

Members were advised that they would have all received the Covid update slides (from Dr Somen Banerjee Director of Public Health) on 22nd July 2021. It was noted that given the nature of the virus, it was important to note that some of the information may have changed since it was dispatched.

It was noted that the Borough is not immune to the pace of change and is now experiencing rising numbers on the rate of infection. Therefore, Members should remain cautious and continue to observe the hands face and space as good practice and importantly as Members of this Committee, it was imperative to encourage residents and families to take up the vaccination to help reduce the spread of the virus and protect the vulnerable.

3. UPDATE ON ATTENDANCE AT MAYORS ADVISORY BOARD (MAB) IMPROVEMENT SESSION

The Committee received a brief update from the Chair that provided an update on his attendance at the Mayors Advisory Board (MAB) improvement session held on the 14th July 2021. It was noted that the Chairs of the Council's Audit and General Purposes Committees had also been invited and were in attendance.

The session had focused on Children's improvement programme including special educational needs and disability (SEND) and the financial improvement programme with Cabinet Lead Members and senior officers providing an overview, which was followed by Question-and-Answer session from each of the committee chairs. In addition, there was also an update on Adult Social Care improvement programme.

The Committee was advised that this session was part of the preparations for a follow up visit from the Local Government Association (LGA) following their Corporate Peer Challenge of Tower Hamlets in 2018. It was noted that the visit will take place in September 2021 and the Chair has asked that the Committee be kept up to date regarding the recommendations which may inform the Committee's future work programme.

4. DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTEREST AND OTHER INTERESTS

The following Members for transparency declared a potential interest in relation to Item 9 Pre-Decision Scrutiny Questions:

1. Councillor Marc Francis due to his wife Councillor Rachel Blake being the Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Adults, Health and Wellbeing; and
2. Councillor Ehtasham Haque due to wife Councillor Sabina Akhtar being the Cabinet Member for Culture, Arts and Brexit.

5. UNRESTRICTED MINUTES

5.1 28th June 2021

The Chair **Moved** and it was:-

RESOLVED

That the unrestricted minutes of the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 28th June 2021 be approved as a correct record of the proceedings and the Chair was authorised to sign them accordingly.

6. REQUESTS TO SUBMIT PETITIONS

Nil items

7. FORTHCOMING DECISIONS

Noted

8. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

8.1 SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD ACTION PLAN REVIEW

The Committee received short presentation from the Statutory Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Lead for Community Safety, Faith and Equalities

Councillor Sirajul Islam; Ann Corbett Divisional Director for Community Safety; the Safer Neighbourhood Board Chair Chris Weaver; and Inspector Clare Thomas from the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) Safer Neighbourhood Teams were in attendance to discuss the progress so far in delivering the challenge session recommendations. It was noted that in 2019, the Committees Vice Chair Councillor Bex White had presided at a scrutiny challenge session on how the Police, Council and Safer Neighbourhood Ward Panel Groups work in partnership with seldom-heard residents on improving community safety. The main points raised as part of the discussion are summarised below:

The Committee

- ❖ **Noted** that the challenge session had focussed especially on the issues that seldom-heard groups faced on engagement and participation. It also examined how the partnership could help to improve the engagement and participation of seldom-heard residents on safer neighbourhood ward panels.
- ❖ **Noted** that the challenge session had made eleven recommendations for consideration and six out of the eleven actions have now been completed. Members welcomed the introduction of the Ward Panel Handbook which promoted best practice and supported ward panels improvement.
- ❖ Was pleased to **note** that despite the difficulties presented by the pandemic, ward panels had still continued to operate, and new opportunities have been identified to engage ward members with a long-term view to holding a mixture of physical and virtual meetings.
- ❖ **Challenged** the Ward Panels to hold six meetings per year to ensure better continuity in collecting resident feedback.
- ❖ **Questioned** whether adequate support had been provided by the Council and was pleased to note that each ward panel is now supported by an ASB officer who acts as their point of contact and can facilitate attendance from the public realm as and when required.
- ❖ **Agreed** that Safer Neighbourhoods Panels should continue to discuss with police and council officers how to develop opportunities either through outreach, social media or other means as identified to seek wider community views so that the work of the Panels can be demonstrated to be locally representative in content. Whilst consultation should also be used as a means of identifying potential panel members so that they can be sufficiently diverse and truly representative of all within the community that they seek to serve.
- ❖ **Expressed** concern that there are still issues of resourcing the 101 service with many local resident's still complaining that they are left on hold for over an hour without a response. However, this is being looked at and that other means of contact are being developed so that residents can get in touch online and through social media. The Committee emphasised the need for

further work in this area and requested a copy of the letter the Mayor sent to the Home Office to lobby for further resources to 101 service (Subsequent to the meeting this had been received and circulated to Committee Members). Accordingly, as a result of discussions on progress on delivery of the eleven recommendations the Overview and Scrutiny Committee **agreed** that:

1. Overall, it was satisfied that this action plan is progressing well given the restrictions imposed by the pandemic but requested that Councillor Sirajul Islam ensures the remainder of the actions are completed.

8.2 OUTTURN BUDGET REPORT 2020/21

The Committee received a report that presented the 2020-21 provisional outturn budget monitoring report for the General Fund, Dedicated Schools Budget (DSB), Housing Revenue Account (HRA), progress made against savings targets and the Council's capital programme. It also provided projections on General Fund earmarked reserves and updates on provisional outturn impacts of Covid on the Council's finances in 2020-21. It was noted that going forward this year, the Chair was keen for the Scrutiny Sub-Committees to take on some of the responsibility of scrutinising the budget for their respective areas. Thereby helping to prepare for a robust discussion when the Committee comes to scrutinise the budget in January 2022. The Chair then welcomed and thanked Executive Mayor John Biggs; Kevin Bartle interim Corporate Director for Resources; and Hitesh Jolapara, interim Divisional Director, Finance, Procurement and Audit for attending this meeting. The main points of the discussion may be summarised as follows:

The Committee **noted** that:

- ❖ One of the scrutiny functions key aims this year is to provide a robust scrutiny of the budget and engage in the budget process as early as possible.
- ❖ A briefing session had been held last week to inform Scrutiny's understanding of the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Business Plan and Savills report. The Chair thanked Councillor Danny Hassell and Councillor Rachel Blake for attending this session. This had provided a useful response to some of the issues that Scrutiny had raised, and it was planned to submit further questions on the budget.
- ❖ There may also be a follow up at another meeting to investigate this matter in further detail.
- ❖ The Outturn report must be considered within the context of Covid where the uncertainty has proved difficult to forecast and draw accurate conclusions. Accordingly, the Committee asked a wide range of questions on the report including (i) How are the Council encouraging and supporting business to reopen and/or new businesses to open; (ii) Reflections on the rationale for growing reserves and why 'earmarked' reserves are not being used ; (iii) A

request for an update on the additional COVID funding received from the Government for 2021/22 plus any roll over from 2020/21; and (iv) Given the underspend on the HRA, and level of improvement works required on estates, what is the rationale for squeezing day to day expenditure through the HRA and Tower Hamlets Homes (THH) management fees. Which has caused pressure on the extent of the work conducted on estates. Accordingly the Committee requested a note from the Corporate Director for Place to provide further details on this.

Accordingly, as a result of discussions on progress on the report the Overview and Scrutiny Committee **agreed** that:

1. The Corporate Director for Place be asked to provide further details on the rationale for squeezing day to day expenditure through the HRA and THH management fees; and
2. It would submit a number of pre-decision questions on this item as they had not had the time to ask all questions during this discussion that they wanted to raise with Cabinet on the 28th of July 2021 (**See attached appendix**).

8.3 SCRUTINY CHALLENGE SESSION REPORT ON EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES - ENGAGING OUR DIVERSE COMMUNITY AT A LOCAL LEVEL

The Committee received a report on the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (OSC) Challenge Session which examined how the council can improve its engagement with the Borough's diverse community at a local level. The Chair welcomed back Councillor James King, who had chaired this session and provided the Committee with a brief summary of this challenge session report. The main points of the discussion are summarised below:

The Committee noted that they had agreed the report and recommendations of the Empowering Communities Challenge Session held in March 2021. The session examined how the Council can improve its engagement with the Borough's diverse community at a local level. The report made four recommendations which included:

That the Council:

- ❖ uses its South Poplar and Isle of Dogs Community Development Panel as a model for engagement in other areas of the Borough
- ❖ strengthens feedback loops into existing programme delivery including the Local Infrastructure Fund, the Capital Programme, regeneration schemes.
- ❖ engages residents to determines local Covid-19 recovery priorities.
- ❖ develops a geography-based partnership approach that brings collaboration from the council, public and private partners, VCS, and others to pick up local priorities.

As a result of discussions on this report the Committee indicated that community panels such as in South Poplar and on the Isle of Dogs provide a completely unique way of communicating and enable community members to interact and communicate on specific subjects between each other; instead of just having a one-way dialogue with the Council and its partners. This gradual development of such genuine communications, consultation, participation, and co-development would reveal insight that would be harder to extract from the more traditional methods and be critical to achieving any successful outcomes.

Accordingly, as a result of discussions on progress on the report the Committee:

1. Formally **noted** the Overview and Scrutiny Challenge Session Report and **agreed** the recommendations; and
2. **Agreed** to submit the attached report to the Mayor and Cabinet for executive response.

8.4 OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME AND COMMUNICATIONS PLAN

The Committee received a copy of the Work Programme for 2021/22 and the Chair stressed that all of scrutiny committees need to be aware that the work programme and will need to be flexible so that the Scrutiny Function can respond to matters as and when they arise. The main points of the discussion may be summarised as follows:

The Committee

- ❖ **Noted** that at the last meeting they had considered a draft scrutiny work programme for discussion. Since then, the draft has been circulated to Cabinet Lead Members and senior council officers for their comments. The draft Work Programme had also been presented to Full Council on 21st July 2021.
- ❖ **Noted** that following the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) and Savills Information briefing session, the Chair has proposed for the Committee to hold a follow up spotlight session on this once it has been possible to scope this out with officers.
- ❖ **Noted** that the scrutiny work programmes included key equality considerations of the Strategic Plan, including reducing inequality, promoting community cohesion, and enabling community engagement. Identifying and prioritising issues, which are important to local residents, and will play a significant role in developing the work programme to drive service improvements.
- ❖ **Noted** that key to addressing equalities issues is to make scrutiny more accessible to residents. Accordingly, a Scrutiny Communication Plan had been developed and appended to the report, which provided an overview of the Scrutiny goals to raise and improve the profile of the Scrutiny Function.
- ❖ **Noted** that to ensure that the Scrutiny work programme captures the diverse range of resident's views and concerns, an online form has

been created to allow them to submit their items for Scrutiny to consider as part of the 2021/22 work programme. This has been promoted through the Council's social media channels to ensure all residents are aware of this opportunity and their submissions will be considered when reviewing relevant items.

Accordingly, as a result of discussions on the report the Committee:

1. **Agreed** the draft work Programme for 2021/22 2; and
2. **Noted** the specific equalities considerations as set out in Paragraph 4 of the report.

8.5 PRE-DECISION SCRUTINY OF UNRESTRICTED CABINET PAPERS

Following comments by the Committee the Pre-Decision Scrutiny Questions (PDSQ) Members **agreed** particular questions/recommendations that they wanted to raise with Cabinet on the 28th July 2021 (**See attached appendix**).

9. UPDATES FROM SCRUTINY LEADS

The Committee received and noted the updates from the Scrutiny Lead Members. Arising out of discussions on the updates it was noted that Housing & Regeneration Scrutiny Sub Committee would be looking at the performance of Registered Social Landlords in the very near future.

10. ANY OTHER UNRESTRICTED BUSINESS WHICH THE CHAIR CONSIDERS TO BE URGENT

With no other business to discuss the Chair called this meeting to a close; thanked all those attending for their contributions and informed the Committee that the next meeting would be on Monday, 20 September 2021.

11. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

As the agenda circulated contained no exempt/ confidential reports and there was therefore no requirement to exclude the press and public to allow for its consideration.

12. PRE-DECISION SCRUTINY OF EXEMPT/ CONFIDENTIAL) CABINET PAPERS

Nil item

13. ANY OTHER EXEMPT/ CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIR CONSIDERS URGENT

Nil items

The meeting ended at 8.23 p.m.

Chair, Councillor Mohammed Pappu
Overview & Scrutiny Committee

This page is intentionally left blank



CABINET

Wednesday, 28 July 2021 at 5.30 p.m.

TABLED PAPERS

	PAGE NUMBER
5. OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	
5.1 Chair's Advice of Key Issues or Questions	
Pre-Decision Scrutiny Questions and officer responses	3 - 12

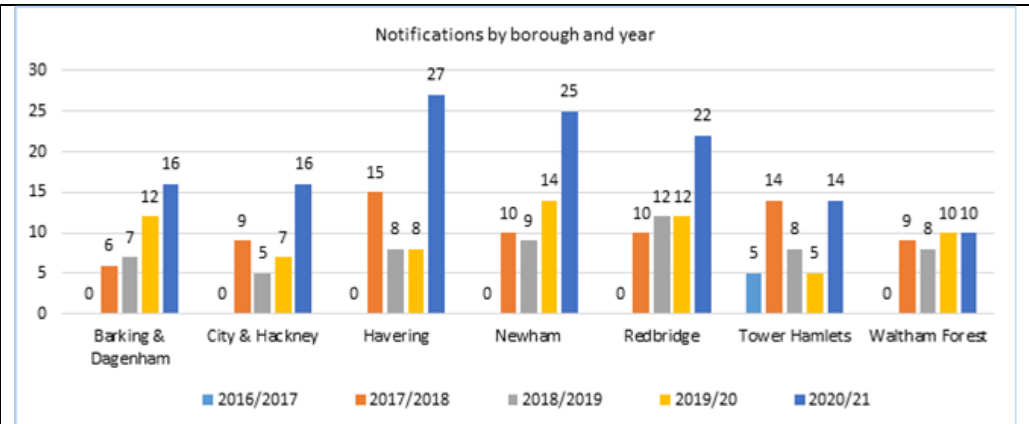
This page is intentionally left blank

Overview & Scrutiny PDSQs 26.07.2021

Questions	Response
Item 6.1 Tower Hamlets Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2020-21	
<p>Ref: Learning Disability Mortality Reviews (LeDeRs) Across North East London (NEL) boroughs, Tower Hamlets trends on average in regard to the number of deaths being recorded</p> <p>1. How does the number of deaths of people with a learning disability in Tower Hamlets compare to other local authorities in and outside of London in terms of absolute numbers and life expectancy?</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">Page 33</p>	<p>Reviewing the deaths of people known to have had a learning disability helps identify avoidable factors that lead to early deaths and supports services to improve their quality of care. Providing good quality care to people with learning disabilities and improving their health and wellbeing is a major step forward towards tackling inequalities within health and social care provision. Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCG), local authority and NHS Trust are expected to ensure LeDeR reviews are completed, and changes are put in place to improve services and reduce early deaths for people with learning disabilities.</p> <p>North East London (NEL) has received 333 death notifications since 2017. 87% (290) deaths were reviewed and closed by end of March 2021; 38 were in progress and 12 were awaiting allocation once reviewers become available. Of the 290 completed reviews, 25 were child deaths aged between 4 to 17 years old, whilst 265 were adults over 18 years old. The national team are compiling their report and we are currently awaiting narrative around comparison to other London Boroughs and the national picture.</p> <p>People with learning disabilities face more challenges than the general population and this was no exception during the COVID-19 pandemic. In March 2020, NEL recorded the first COVID-19 death. Since then more than twice the number of deaths were reported this year compared to the same period in the year before. In all boroughs in NEL except one, there was an increase in the number of death notifications during this current year due to COVID-19 as shown below.</p>

Overview & Scrutiny PDSQs 26.07.2021

Page 4



According to Mencap (2021) and NHS Digital (2017) people with a learning disabilities have worse physical and mental health than people without a learning disability. On average, in the UK, the life expectancy of women with a learning disability is 18 years shorter than for women in the general population. The life expectancy for men with a learning disability is 14 years shorter than for men in the general population.

Life expectancy will vary amongst different communities and different populations, work is ongoing within this area to understand the complexities between life expectancy, learning disabilities and the population demographic of Tower Hamlets. Life expectancy will also vary between people with learning disabilities, this complex group have a wide spectrum of conditions between mild and profound learning disability which impacts on health and different population groups. The new LeDeR policy has recognised that more needs to be done to understand the needs of BAME population and to work with this group to improve access and equity in health outcomes hence reduced health inequalities.

Item 6.4 Adoption of the South Poplar Masterplan SPD

1. Given that LBTH part owns the largest site in the SPD area where is the new large green park going to be given the known open space deficiencies in the local area which are getting worse with every new planning application?

The masterplan proposes the delivery of a total of 1.8 hectares of new public open space in accordance with the Local Plan's site allocation requirements for the sites of North Quay (0.4 ha), the Billingsgate Market (0.4 ha) and Aspen Way (1 ha). This significant provision of new publicly accessible open space will assist in meeting the needs and demands of existing residents and the anticipated residential population that will come forward in the future. All sites within the masterplan area will be expected to contribute towards the creation of these allocated new public open space areas.

New open space to be made up of a series of public spaces, landscaped routes and pocket parks. The masterplan proposes the delivery of these spaces in locations along key connections and routes to ensure that access is efficient and equitable. The location of these spaces can be found on figure 39 (page 33) of the masterplan SPD. These new public spaces would be delivered across various areas of the masterplan to meet the need of existing and future residents.

It should be noted that the masterplan also seeks to deliver improved access over Aspen Way with improved and new bridge connections. This will create increased opportunity for the populations of Poplar to more freely access the public open space offerings within Canary Wharf and the Isle of Dogs whilst the populations within Canary Wharf and the Isle of Dogs will be able to access the public open space offerings north of Aspen Way in Poplar and beyond.

Overview & Scrutiny PDSQs 26.07.2021

Each individual residential-led development application will further be subject to existing local plan requirements relating to the creation of on-site communal open space and child play space areas.

Item 6.6 Adoption of the Central Area Good Growth Supplementary Planning Document

1. Given that LBTH has been missing its housing targets since February 2020 why was no opportunity been made in the SPD to encourage more growth in the central area (compare & contrast the language in this SPD to the South Poplar masterplan)?

Page 6

The SPD has taken the opportunity to facilitate the delivery of new homes on small sites (up to 0.25 hectares), while responding to, and enhancing, the area's distinctive and valued character. The expectation is that there will be a significant amount of development in the area, and with an understanding the character of the different parts, the capacity for individual development sites to change can be determined. There is potential for higher densities and this is specifically noted under the character-based growth principle of Reinvention, where it states "Developments should reinvent sites by introducing new building types with scope to creating a new street pattern/frontage and higher densities."

The guidance provides the planning process with greater certainty so that applicants have a clear idea of what is considered acceptable in this area and there are no delays in the decision making process.

The housing target for every borough in London is defined by the London Plan. Under the recently adopted London Plan (2021), Tower Hamlets has the highest housing target in London. In order to manage this growth and to ensure that it is delivered in a sustainable way and that it respects existing residents, the Tower Hamlets Local Plan 2031, defined 4 sub-areas: City Fringe; Lower Lea Valley; Isle of Dogs and South Poplar; and Central. The first three areas are also Opportunity Areas, which are defined by the Mayor of London as areas which have

Overview & Scrutiny PDSQs 26.07.2021

Page 77

significant capacity for development.

The Central Area is not an Opportunity Area and it has a well-established, mostly low-rise residential character. It includes several listed buildings and conservation areas. Drawing from these considerations as well as a robust evidence-base (which can be accessed here), the Tower Hamlets Local Plan 2031 defined the expected housing growth for each of the 4 sub-areas. The minimum number of additional homes for the Central Area under the Local Plan is 7,597 or 14% of the borough's total.

There are a number of actions being taken by the council to ensure that it meets its housing need. The preparation of this and a number of SPDs to support the Local Plan is one of these actions, as they help to add more clarity to existing policies and to de-risk the development process. Moreover, Tower Hamlets is consistently one of the largest deliverers of affordable housing in London. In 2019/20 Tower Hamlets delivered 1,562 affordable homes in the year. This level of delivery for the year was the highest in London, by a large amount (Greenwich and Ealing following with 962, and 596 affordable homes respectively).

Item 6.7 Adoption of Reuse, Recycling and Waste SPD

1. Given the difficulties LBTH has had with URS collections over the last year are we still sure we want to recommend them?

Yes, we still recommend them. URS systems are used effectively across London and many European cities and LBTH's issues are temporary, relating to operational matters. These issues relate to the reliability of the two vehicles in the fleet, which are relatively new. The service resilience is immediately compromised if they breakdown, because the spare vehicle that the council had on the fleet is not ULEZ compliant. A viability assessment relating to its upgrade and return to the fleet is currently being undertaken. The Council has a new vehicle on order, which was scheduled to arrive in July but is has been delayed by the manufacturer until November. Increasing the fleet to 4 vehicles

Overview & Scrutiny PDSQs 26.07.2021

Page 8

will provide the resilience the service needs to maintain collections going forward. We are also in the processes of purchasing a 5th vehicle to provide extra resilience and prepare for future increases in demand.

Once the servicing vehicle issues have been resolved, they will be running as they should. Additionally, the public realm department keeps track of the best practice waste management systems available to the council. The SPD provides sufficient scope for approaches to be tailored to the appropriate circumstances, while ensuring there is an overall clear guidance of what the Council expects. Any future versions of the SPD will incorporate the best approaches and understanding at that time.

There is a focus in the guidance that URS serves as an alternative to traditional bin stores; however, it is not the only other option. Aside of the AWCS type system there is the opportunity for developers to bring forward the use of chutes and compactors, or compactors serviced by another other means such as a concierge service. An example of this is part of the Wood Wharf development. This is using compactor skips with a chute system and this seems to be working well.

A key aim of the SPD is to introduce guidance on appropriate technology approaches, particularly important given the wide range of scales and types of development that characterise the borough. In addition to the guidance on improvements to residents, understanding and use of systems, moving away from a proliferation of bin stores, particularly on our largest developments, is an important objective.

Overview & Scrutiny PDSQs 26.07.2021

<p>1. Can we have a summary of interest earned in 2020/21 by category, as we only see total average income return of 0.89% number on p7 of Appendix A i.e. lending to other local authority earned x%, overnight deposits y%</p>	<p>As these are detailed questions/answers – responses will be provided by the close of 30 July 2021.</p>
<p>2. Inflation loss - can we have a calculation of the net effect of inflation on ALL reserves p7 of Appendix A?</p>	<p>As these are detailed questions/answers – responses will be provided by the close of 30 July 2021.</p>
<p>3. Balance sheet presented to the Audit Committee on Thursday has Internal Borrowings of £342 million, Useable Reserves £578 million + Working Capital £37 million - how do these numbers reconcile to the reserves in section 5 & 6 of Appendix A? how useable are our useable reserves or how liquid are they?</p>	<p>As these are detailed questions/answers – responses will be provided by the close of 30 July 2021.</p>
<p>4. What is Internal Borrowing and how do we calculate the interest earned and inflation that we see on section 7 of Appendix A?</p>	<p>As these are detailed questions/answers – responses will be provided by the close of 30 July 2021.</p>
<p>Item 9.12 Contracts Forward Plan 2021/22 – Quarter One</p>	
<p>1. DR5025 Energy Supply 01/09/2016 31/08/2021 60 36,000,000 PL - was this contract solely from non-renewable sources? Is the replacement for this contract going to be electricity solely from renewable sources?</p>	<p>From 2017 all half hourly electricity was backed by REGO's (renewable energy guarantee origin) certificates. From October 2021 all council electricity will be obtained from renewable sources backed by REGO's.</p>
<p>2. P5602 Supply Waste and Recycling Sacks and Starch Liners 15/06/2020 14/02/2022 20 415,000 PL - Given that most households do not get recycling sacks/starch liners it is unclear why this contract is so expensive? what do we actually purchase?</p>	<p>In order to deliver the in-house waste and recycling collections and street cleansing services the council utilises a variety of different types or sacks and starch liners.</p> <p>The council continues to provide household recycling sacks to approx. 24,000 street level properties on a twice yearly basis (104 sacks per property are provide through this twice yearly delivery). Supplies of recycling sacks are also provided to the Ideas Stores, which can be collected by residents. The provision through the Ideas Stores is</p>

Overview & Scrutiny PDSQs 26.07.2021

	<p>anticipated to be up to 220,000 rolls of 26 sack per annum.</p> <p>In addition to the household recycling sacks, the service also purchases colour coded residual waste and recycling sacks for the commercial waste service, sweeper sacks that are used in the street cleansing service and a supply of black sacks for the service's own use.</p> <p>Starch liners are purchased to support the kerbside food waste collection service and are also used by schools that are provided with a food waste collection.</p>
<p>3. P5601 Supply and Repair of Wheeled Bins, Euro Bins and Food Waste Bins 29/09/2020 28/03/2022 18 375,000 PL - Since you cannot currently order new household black and recycling bins from the LBTH website exactly what kind of categories of bins does LBTH supply or repair under this contract?</p>	<p>In order to deliver the in-house waste and recycling collection services the council utilises a wide range of bins and requires spare parts for those bins in order to maintain them in a satisfactory condition. The contract also includes the provision for the factory refurbishment of the Euro bins which restores damaged bins to as new condition.</p> <p>The contract allows the service to purchase steel wheeled bins (Euro bins) in sizes ranging from 660 litres to 1280 litres. Bins are used for both the household and commercial waste services.</p> <p>A number of RSL's in the borough rent residual waste bins from the service, the rental includes the repair and maintenance of those bins. Commercial waste customers pay a rental charge for the bin as part of their commercial waste contract. The rental charge also includes the service for repair of the bins.</p> <p>The spare parts purchased include replacement lids, lid assembly kits, lid licks, castors (wheels) and drain plugs.</p>

Overview & Scrutiny PDSQs 26.07.2021

In order to support the kerbside food waste service the council purchases two types of food caddies, 5 litre kitchen caddies and 23 litre collection caddies.

Plastic wheeled bins are purchased under a separate contract due to no suppliers having bid for the plastic wheeled bin Lot tendered under contract P5601.

Plastic wheeled bins for recycling are still supplied to suitable kerbside properties and plastic wheeled bins are used for commercial waste customers.

This page is intentionally left blank

Meeting of the

CABINET

Wednesday, 28 July 2021 at 5.30 p.m.

POST MEETING UPDATE

PAGE
NUMBER

5. OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

5.1 Chair's Advice of Key Issues or Questions

Pre-Decision Scrutiny Questions and officer responses

3 - 4

This page is intentionally left blank

Overview & Scrutiny PDSQs 26.07.2021

Questions	Response																
Item 6.11 2020-21 Council Budget Monitoring Report – Provisional Outturn																	
1. Can we have a summary of interest earned in 2020/21 by category, as we only see total average income return of 0.89% number on p7 of Appendix A i.e. lending to other local authority earned x%, overnight deposits y%	Money Market Funds (MMFs): 0.14% Bank notice account: 0.25% Local Authorities: 0.37% Cash plus and short bond funds: 0.52% Strategic pooled funds: 3.38%																
2. Inflation loss - can we have a calculation of the net effect of inflation on ALL reserves p7 of Appendix A?	As at 31 March 2021, the Consumer Prices Index (CPI) was 0.7% compared to the 2020-21 average income return of 0.89%. The notional extra income above inflation at 31/3/21 (CPI and portfolio fund levels change throughout the year) is £521k (0.19% x £274m portfolio fund balance at 31/3/21).																
3. Balance sheet presented to the Audit Committee on Thursday has Internal Borrowings of £342 million, Useable Reserves £578 million + Working Capital £37 million - how do these numbers reconcile to the reserves in section 5 & 6 of Appendix A? how useable are our useable reserves or how liquid are they?	The below table provides a breakdown of the 2020-21 provisional outturn usable reserves figure of £578m as part of the balance sheet presented to Audit Committee; <table border="1" style="margin-top: 10px;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;"><u>2020-21 Provisional outturn usable reserves</u></th> <th style="text-align: right;"><u>£m</u></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>General Fund</td> <td style="text-align: right;">20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Housing Revenue Account</td> <td style="text-align: right;">52</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Earmarked reserves</td> <td style="text-align: right;">173</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Schools reserves</td> <td style="text-align: right;">35</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Capital Receipts Reserve</td> <td style="text-align: right;">139</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Capital Grants Unapplied</td> <td style="text-align: right;">159</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td style="text-align: right;">578</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>The usable reserves referenced within the 2020-21 provisional outturn reserves in section 5 and 6 of 'Appendix A – 2020-21 Provisional</p>	<u>2020-21 Provisional outturn usable reserves</u>	<u>£m</u>	General Fund	20	Housing Revenue Account	52	Earmarked reserves	173	Schools reserves	35	Capital Receipts Reserve	139	Capital Grants Unapplied	159	Total	578
<u>2020-21 Provisional outturn usable reserves</u>	<u>£m</u>																
General Fund	20																
Housing Revenue Account	52																
Earmarked reserves	173																
Schools reserves	35																
Capital Receipts Reserve	139																
Capital Grants Unapplied	159																
Total	578																

Page 25

Agenda Item 5.1

Overview & Scrutiny PDSQs 26.07.2021

	<p>Outturn Budget Monitoring Report' relate to the General Fund (£20.0m), Earmarked reserves (£173.0m) and Housing Revenue Account reserves (£52.3m). Also contained in section 6, the Dedicated School Grant (DSG) balance deficit of (£11.6m) would have previously been presented within usable reserves. However, from 2020-21 the Government has issued a new statutory adjustment that takes DSG deficits out of usable reserves and requires these balances to be held in unusable reserves. Usable reserves are highly liquid.</p>
<p>4. What is Internal Borrowing and how do we calculate the interest earned and inflation that we see on section 7 of Appendix A?</p> <p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Page 28</p>	<p>Capital expenditure is financed through a variety of sources, receipts from the sale of capital assets, capital grants, external contributions such as S106 or Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL), from reserves or from revenue budget contributions. Any capital expenditure that is not financed by available capital resources must be financed by borrowing. The council can temporarily utilise other resources (i.e. cash balances) in lieu of using external borrowing to fund capital expenditure. This is referred to as internal borrowing. Whilst internal borrowing is a useful treasury management facility to minimise debt financing costs, it can be seen to merely defer the timing of external borrowing rather than obviating the need.</p> <p>The interest earned figure is calculated on an accruals basis and therefore consists of interest income received during 2020-21 (which relates to the 2020-21 financial year) and accrued income for interest earned in 2020-21 which is owing to the Council at year end. The Consumer Prices Index (CPI) is calculated by the Office of National Statistics.</p>