SUPPLEMENTARY 1

London Borough of
Barking & Dagenham

THE CABINET
Tuesday, 15 March 2011

THE ASSEMBLY
Wednesday, 30 March 2011

Agenda Item 4.   **Smoking Cessation Scrutiny Review (Pages 1 - 23)**

Enclosed is the Health and Adult Services Select Committee's draft final report.

Agenda Item 5.   **Community Cohesion Scrutiny Review (Pages 25 - 101)**

Enclosed is the Safer and Stronger Community Select Committee's draft final report.

Agenda Item 9.   **Adoption of Borough-wide Development Policies Development Plan Document (Pages 103 - 179)**

Enclosed is the Development Plan Document

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Health and Adult Services Select Committee

London Borough of Barking & Dagenham

Smoking Cessation Scrutiny

Lead Member Foreword

Barking and Dagenham has the third highest rate of smokers in London and the eighth highest in England. In more real terms, in our community one person dies every day from a smoking related disease and of all deaths in the Borough, a fifth has causes linked to the harmful effects of smoking. Yet, despite the above, people continue to smoke, seemingly without regard to their potential long term health problems.

At the beginning of this process the Select Committee reviewed all of the work already taking place within the Borough and was pleased to note that the Partnership has already made a positive start towards tackling these issues with particular emphasis on the implementation of its Tobacco Strategy, in partnership with agencies such as the NHS Barking and Dagenham, the Stop Smoking Service and the Council for Voluntary Services.

This has enabled the Partnership to make inroads into this most difficult of areas and we are slowly beginning to see examples of genuine improvement, whilst however acknowledging that there is still a very long way to go to reduce levels to the national average and below.

The Select Committee was particularly happy to see very clear targets in relation to reducing smoking amongst the younger members of our population. The feeling of the Members is that targeting young people is vital to reducing smoking prevalence as this will then reduce the levels of adults smoking. Although there is very little evidence relating to smoking by young people, some pieces of work estimate that up to 27% of young people may smoke regularly within the borough. To this end several recommendations relate specifically to young people, but we hope that all of the recommendations will build upon the positive work already being undertaken.

I could not finish without mention of the very real issue of the severe financial restraints that we will be facing over the next four years. The Select Committee has some concerns with future funding streams and will continue to monitor this situation over the coming year.

Finally, on behalf of the Health and Adult Services Committee, I would like to thank everyone who participated in this review and give particular thanks to the Scrutiny Team who helped to pull everything together.

Councillor Dominic Twomey
Lead Member, Health and Adult Services Select Committee

1.   Introduction

> "Local smoking prevalence is the highest in London and the eighth highest in England, and as such it has a worse impact on health in this borough than elsewhere in London. Much of the poor health of the population of Barking and Dagenham can be directly attributed to diseases caused by smoking. Over a third of the local population smokes, compared to the one-fifth of people across England. In certain wards, this estimate rises as high as 38%."

(Barking and Dagenham Tobacco Control Strategy 2010–2014)

Smoking is the single biggest public health issue for Barking and Dagenham and a major contributor to deaths and ill health amongst local people. A significant portion of the Borough's residents, as smokers, are more susceptible to suffer from lung cancer, heart disease, stroke and chronic lung disease (COPD) as well as countless other health implications. The challenge for the Partnership is clear: to see tangible changes in the life expectancy inequalities gap, the Borough needs roughly 7,000 quitters each year – currently there are 1,300 and rising.

The purpose of this review was to see that there are strategies, activities, and interventions in place to make this change. The HASSC also wanted to ensure that future generations of residents were being deterred, and protected, from smoking in order to break the engrained culture of smoking in the Borough.

2.   Membership of the HASSC

The Health and Adult Services Select Committee (HASSC) consisted of nine Councillors, plus one co-opted member, in the 2010-2011 municipal year:

- Councillor D Twomey   (Lead Member)
- Councillor S Ashraf   (Deputy Lead Member)
- Councillor S Alasia
- Councillor A Gafoor Aziz
- Councillor J Clee
- Councillor H S Rai
- Councillor C Rice
- Councillor A Salam
- Councillor J Wade
- Sky Young   (Co-opted member, B&D LINk)

Glen Oldfield, Overview and Scrutiny Officer, supported the Select Committee.

3.   Choosing an Area for Review

The HASSC began its scrutiny review on 14 July 2010 and chose to investigate smoking cessation with a particular focus on preventing young people from smoking and helping them to quit.

This topic was chosen as an area for scrutiny for the following reasons:

1.   Local smoking prevalence was the highest in London and the eighth highest in England

2.   One person in Barking and Dagenham dies each day from a smoking related disease

3.   Tackling this issue will contribute towards realising our vision to create a healthy borough, where health inequalities are reduced.

4.   Each week smoking accounts for (nationally) an estimated £20 million expenditure on hospital admissions, £4 million on outpatients, £10 million on GP consultations, £1 million on practice nurse consultations and £17 million in prescription costs.[1]

5.   This issue is identified as one of the 10 priorities for the Barking and Dagenham Partnership's (the Partnership) Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

4.   Methodology

Terms of Reference (see Appendix 1) were agreed at the 14 July 2010 meeting and evidence gathering was completed on 26 January 2011.

Anne Bristow, Corporate Director of Adult and Community Services, nominated as the HASSC Scrutiny Champion, supported the Select Committee throughout the review and helped oversee the delivery of the project in collaboration with Councillor Twomey, the Lead Member and Glen Oldfield, Overview and Scrutiny Officer.

The Select Committee met on a six weekly basis and, over the course of five formal meetings, the HASSC heard evidence from senior officers and professional experts. After the January 2011 meeting the HASSC brought together its findings and started to prepare the final report. The scrutiny review concluded on 09 March 2011 when this report and its recommendations were agreed by the HASSC.

5.   What Happens Next?

The report will be presented to the Cabinet on 15 March 2011 for comment and then for consideration by the Assembly on 30 March 2011.

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[1]   ASH, 2008

If agreed, an action plan (with responsible officers and timescales) outlining the implementation of the recommendations will be will be drawn up and progress will be monitored. The first monitoring update will be received by the HASSC in approximately six months' time.

When finalised and agreed, the findings of this report are to be publicised in the following ways;

- A downloadable copy will be made available from www.lbbd.gov.uk/scrutiny
- A press release will be sent to local newspapers.
- A comprehensive summary of the report's findings will be sent to interested parties and relevant voluntary organisations.
- A downloadable copy will be made available from the 'Centre for Public Scrutiny' website.

6.   Background Papers

(See Appendix 3)

7.   Local Policy Context

Barking and Dagenham Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2010/2012

The Health and Wellbeing Strategy was published on 03 February 2010 to direct the Partnership's efforts to reducing health inequalities. The strategy is intimately linked with the overall community strategy that sets out 10 health and wellbeing priorities for the Partnership to focus its efforts around.

Smoking is one of these 10 priorities and the Partnership aims to reduce smoking prevalence by 3% over three years through prevention, improved access to smoking cessation services and better enforcement to control illicit tobacco.

Barking and Dagenham Tobacco Control Strategy 2010/2014

On 20 July 2010 the Health and Wellbeing Partnership Board approved a four year multi-agency Tobacco Control Strategy for the Borough. The strategy closely follows the instructions outlined in the most recent national policy document, 'A Smokefree Future' (2010). There are three key aims of the strategy:

- Stop the inflow of young people recruited as smokers
- Motivate and assist every smoker to quit
- Protect families and communities from tobacco-related harm

The Select Committee was impressed by the comprehensiveness of the Tobacco Strategy and especially pleased with its commitments to stop young people from smoking. To achieve the scale of change required the Partnership needs to tackle the problem at source. The HASSC has reviewed the strategy and is confident that a clear path towards reduced smoking prevalence and creating a different attitude to smoking among the community has been mapped.

8   Findings and Recommendations

In compiling the findings, the evidence gathered by the Select Committee has been grouped into key themes, and recommendations are presented with the relevant themes to provide context. For ease of reference, the recommendations can also be viewed as a list in Appendix 2.

8.1   Best Practice: Fresh North East

Fresh was set up in 2005 to tackle the high toll of death and disease caused by smoking in what became England's first dedicated regional office for tobacco control. Fresh involves key partners including the Association of North East Councils, all 12 Primary Care Trusts, the Strategic Health Authority and all local authorities. The vision Fresh works towards is to change the social norms around smoking to make it less desirable, less acceptable and less accessible.

In 2009 'Fresh' was awarded the Chief Medical Officer's Gold Award for Public Health for contributions to the health of the North East. The achievements of Fresh are quite remarkable, adult smoking rates have fallen to an all time low at 21% of the North East. The region now has higher support for action to reduce smoking than anywhere else in England.

Bearing in mind the socio-economic similarities between our population and those in the North East of England the Partnership should be encouraged that the Barking and Dagenham Tobacco Alliance can achieve just as much. The Select Committee can see that certain elements of Fresh's work are already in place here and it is good to see best practice being adopted.

Given that smoking prevalence is so high across North East London and there are established Tobacco Alliances in neighbouring boroughs, the Select Committee questions, in light of increasing cross-borough working and taking Fresh NE as an example, whether there is scope to form a regional tobacco alliance or network to share good practice and perhaps even achieve economies of scale with smoking cessation activity.

> **Recommendation 1:**
>
> The HASSC recommends that the Barking and Dagenham Tobacco Alliance explores the possibility of forming a regional tobacco alliance or network to share good practice.

8.2   Membership of Barking and Dagenham Tobacco Alliance

The Tobacco Alliance was formed in July 2009. It is responsible for ensuring the Tobacco Strategy is delivered by routinely monitoring progress against action plans and co-ordinating smoking cessation activity. The Tobacco Alliance is chaired by Darren Henaghan (Corporate Director, Customer Services) and has member representation from Councillor Vincent (Cabinet Member for Environment) and Councillor Reason (Cabinet Member for Health and Adult Services).   Wider membership of the Alliance is comprised of partners from:

a)   the Local Authority, including:

- Trading Standards, Community Safety, Environmental Health, Human Resources and School Improvement;

b)   the NHS, including:

- Commissioning, Marketing, Public health and health improvement, and the Stop Smoking Service;

c)   the Council for Voluntary Services.

The Select Committee is pleased that there is a multi-agency, co-ordinated effort to reduce smoking prevalence. The Tobacco Alliance epitomises the benefits of partnership working and Members are confident that important stakeholders are strategically working together and sharing intelligence to see that the services and interventions available are effective and represent good value for money.

The Select Committee is aware that an objective of the Tobacco Alliance is to add to its membership representation from Trade Union representatives.   Routine and manual workers are a difficult group to reach but also one of the most important. The Select Committee feels that the work of the Alliance can be maximised if it can get regular input and buy-in from trade unions as these organisations have a unique relationship and influence with routine and manual workers.

Therefore the Select Committee would like to see Trade Union representation on the Tobacco Alliance established as soon as possible and members of this Select Committee are happy to use their position and standing with Trade Unions to help make this happen so that the Alliance can move forward this agenda.

> **Recommendation 2:**
>
> The HASSC recommends that the Tobacco Alliance should secure membership of trade union representatives on the tobacco alliance to help reach and influence routine and manual workers with smoking cessation interventions.

8.2.1 Funding the Tobacco Alliance

Funding for the Tobacco Alliance has previously come from a grant from the Department of Health as part of the 'Reducing Health Inequalities through Tobacco Control' programme for which 25 local authorities were selected. The funding (£100k per annum for 2 years, plus a further £112k from NHS Barking and Dagenham) is used to finance the Tobacco Enforcement Officer post and Tobacco Programme Co-ordinator post, as well as other programme delivery costs.

The Select Committee understands that funding for the Tobacco Alliance is only guaranteed until March 2011 and would be disappointed to see such an important work stream undermined by lack of resource especially after so much excellent work has been done.

> **Recommendation 3:**
>
> The HASSC recommends that the Partnership should give commitment to funding the posts of tobacco control co-ordinator and Tobacco Enforcement Officer as well as other related tobacco programme costs to mitigate risk of not reaching strategy targets.

8.3 The role of GPs and health professionals in smoking cessation

Smokers are much more likely to act on the advice of their GP than anyone else because their opinion is highly valued. Wherever possible GPs should offer advice to patients and encourage them to quit smoking. However GPs only have on average seven minutes for each consultation so there is little time to address a person's smoking habit. The Select Committee would like to GPs to give stop smoking support in every appointment that involves a smoker. Currently only 20 of 41 GP practices in the Borough provide stop smoking services. Given the influence GPs have, it seems a shame that not all of them are contributing as much as possible to the smoking cessation agenda.

> **Recommendation 4:**
>
> The HASSC recommends that commissioners encourage more GPs to provide stop smoking services and that the emerging GP consortia give early consideration to this area of activity.

While GPs have an important role to play in reaching potential quitters, health professionals from other disciplines can use their position to influence smokers too. Dentists, pharmacists, midwives, and opticians, as well as many other health professionals, have opportunities to advise people on aspects of their health and lifestyle. Health professionals across the board should champion smoking cessation and raise awareness of stop smoking services to all smokers they encounter.

Recommendation 5:
The HASSC recommends that the Tobacco Alliance should encourage more frontline health workers (dentists, pharmacists, midwives, and opticians etc) to prioritize the delivery of smoking cessation interventions.

8.4   Smoking and young people

NHS Barking and Dagenham commissioned scoping work in late 2009 to profile the issue of smoking amongst local young people. The research found that:

- between 9% and 27% of local young people (aged 11-19) smoke regularly.

- a further 17% of respondents preferred not to disclose their smoking habits, which suggests the proportion is likely to be towards the higher end of this range.

- approximately 20% of young people stated that they had smoked in the past. The most common reasons for starting smoking were given as peer pressure, stress relief or "because everyone else (family and friends) does it".

- young people were most likely to start smoking at age 13 or 14, and 90% had started by the time they were 15.

8.4.1 Tobacco Education in Schools

The Select Committee sees tobacco education in schools as integral to dissuading young people from smoking and for this reason scrutinised the education programme as part of its review. The HASSC is pleased to report that all schools in the Borough have 'Healthy School status'; meaning LBBD schools deliver non-statutory Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education (PSHE) lessons. These lessons take a balanced approach to tobacco education by emphasising the harmful effects of tobacco along with the development of the necessary personal and social skills to resist peer and family pressure to use tobacco.

The Select Committee was disappointed that relatively little time was dedicated to tobacco education (only 2 hours in a year) but appreciates that the curriculum is already crammed and something beyond the Council's influence to change.

8.4.2 New Approaches to tobacco education

The HASSC's first impression of the tobacco education programme was that it lacked punch and this was epitomised by a demonstration of a smoking puppet which seemed to make light of the issue. Members were surprised, and not totally convinced, by this approach and thought that more hard-hitting graphic imagery would make more of an impression. However, evidence shows that less traditional approaches work better, especially on younger children, as stronger methods can result in de-sensitisation to the subject.

The delivery of tobacco education is constantly evolving, guidance is developing all the time and new styles and technologies can be employed to illustrate the harmful impact of smoking on health. A fine example of how things have moved on is the innovative use of ageing software to change young people's attitudes to smoking. This is a powerful way to show the impact of smoking on physical appearance – something that teenagers can be preoccupied with! The 'Save your Skin' campaign has been used in local secondary schools and has been particularly effective at discouraging girls from smoking.

Health professionals are also coming into schools to speak directly with young people as a way to freshen up tobacco education and make it appear different from a standard school lesson. Another new approach, yet to be developed in Barking and Dagenham, is to use peer-led interventions in schools. The Select Committee is particularly interested in this idea and feels that peer-led interventions could provide a counter to peer pressure as well as contribute in a new way towards changing young people's perceptions of tobacco.

Recommendation 6:
The HASSC recommends that the Council develops a range of interventions including peer-led interventions in schools.

8.4.3 Evaluating the education programme

Ultimately it is the opinion of young people on the effectiveness of tobacco education that matters and the feedback is good. The views of young people were gathered through annual Ofsted Tell Us surveys. In 2009 the Council's Tell Us survey reported that 66% of our young people find the information and guidance on tobacco they receive in school to be useful - this compares favourably to the national figure of 62%.

A new young people's school drug survey was developed in 2010 to enable schools to judge the impact of drug education programmes and to gather information on young people's perceptions of drugs, including tobacco. The Select Committee is pleased that schools are gathering wider intelligence from young people on smoking as this can only help to better understand the reasons why young people take up, and continue to smoke. It is also pleasing that the results of this survey will be used to inform the planning of teaching programmes, as this shows the commitment our schools have to continuous improvement.

When it comes to evaluating tobacco education in schools, The Select Committee suggests that Members serving on school governing bodies take an active interest to ensure that good quality tobacco education is given a high priority.

Recommendation 7:
The HASSC suggests that Members serving on school governing bodies take an active interest to ensure that good quality tobacco education is given a high priority.

8.4.4 Establishing a Youth Stop Smoking Service

Young people require a different type of support from adults to stop smoking and currently there is no tailored approach that caters to the needs of young people. Their understanding of dependence, addiction and cessation is naturally different, this being the case it is especially important that young people have a stop smoking service that responds to these factors. The vast majority of people start smoking before they turn 18 years old and therefore it seems obvious to create bespoke stop smoking services for young people.

NHS Barking and Dagenham has been working to address this gap in service provision and recently a scoping exercise has been completed to lay the plans for a Youth Stop Smoking Service; co-owned and co-designed with local young people. The idea for this service has a strong evidence base and rationale behind it, the proposed service fits perfectly with NICE guidance, whilst the Department of Health recommends that smoking services for young people should be "on a par" with that for adults.

If implemented it is hoped that the Youth Stop Smoking Service will:

- Offer smoking prevention and cessation services tailored to the specific needs of young people, delivered in an appropriate environment and tone and through trusted relationships
- Provide multiple entry points in order to ensure accessibility to local young people
- Build on existing best practice by taking a participatory approach to the development and delivery of the service, working directly with young people throughout.
- Be co-owned by young people in order to maximise engagement and ensure young people act as strong ambassadors to their peers
- Maximise existing relations with professionals and other people that come into contact with young people (teachers, youth workers, pharmacists, extended family, PSHE teachers, school nurses, youth clubs) to act as the service 'nodes'.

This type of tailored, targeted intervention is just what is needed to reduce prevalence and improve quit rates amongst 11-18 year olds. The business case for this scheme is

very convincing, the Select Committee would like to endorse the plans and hopes that all Councillors and relevant decision makers will too.

> **Recommendation 8:**
>
> The HASSC recommends that decision makers Implement the recommendations for a Youth Stop Smoking Service

8.5 Access to tobacco

The key to stopping young people from smoking is denying them access to tobacco products. Legislation has developed to a point where the minimum age for purchasing tobacco is now 18 but there is still more that could be done to deny young people access to cigarettes.

8.5.1 Vending machines

Vending machines are an unrestricted and easy source of tobacco for young people. Test purchasing results found that buying from vending machines was twice as successful as going to newsagents, off-licences or petrol station kiosks.[2]

The sale of cigarettes from vending machines totally undermines the hard work of responsible retailers, enforcement measures, and trading standards. Other age restricted goods are not as easy to purchase – there would be outrage if knives and fireworks were available from vending machines, but cigarettes seem acceptable.

It is hoped that legislation banning tobacco vending machines will come into effect soon but in the meantime the Select Committee wonders whether local vendors could take the initiative by removing vending machines from their premises. At the very least, places with vending machines should use a token system as a means of restricting access.

In any case, because public spaces are now under the smoking ban and vending machines constitute an insignificant funding stream[3], the necessity for them to be in establishments seems questionable.

> **Recommendation 9:**
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> The HASSC recommends that local proprietors are encouraged to remove tobacco vending machines from their premises ahead of forthcoming legislation. Consideration should be given to prohibiting tobacco vending machines as a condition of premises licences.

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2 Smokefree Action Coalition Briefing: Putting Tobacco Out of Sight and Out of Reach
3 http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2010/864/pdfs/uksiem_20100864_en.pdf

8.5.2 Proxy purchasing

To achieve the scale of change required to reduce smoking prevalence it is important that the engrained culture of smoking is dispelled. Legislation and policy can only do so much but to make a real difference individuals and communities need to act responsibly.

How many times do we see young people hanging outside tobacco vendors approaching adults to buy cigarettes for them? And more worryingly, how many times do we see adults go through with the request!?

Proxy purchasing is unacceptable, adults should not assist young people to cheat the system but instead uphold the principle of age restriction with regard to tobacco. It is not just an adult stranger buying tobacco for a young person that is a problem, adult friends and relatives also need to help to protect young people from the effects of smoking to break the generational cycle of whole families smoking.

The Tobacco Alliance has produced some powerful social marketing campaigns targeted at young people and routine manual workers to influence their choices around smoking and quitting. The Select Committee thinks that it would be worthwhile for there to be a campaign to prick the conscience of adults about proxy purchasing highlighting how a seemingly small action can have a profound effect on a young person's health in adulthood.

> **Recommendation 10:**
>
> The HASSC recommends that the Tobacco Control Alliance should develop a campaign to discourage adult proxy purchasing from strangers, friends and relatives.

8.5.3 Illicit tobacco

Young people also have access to tobacco through unscrupulous sellers of illicit tobacco who are not subject to any kind of regulation and use their illegitimate position to exploit this section of their market. Not only is illicit tobacco beyond compliance with age restriction but it also more affordable, making it an attractive source for young people with a limited supply of money.

Recent local research indicates how readily illicit tobacco is available. Intelligence revealed that there was a local supplier of singular cigarettes in a neighbouring borough that 'everyone knows' and it was possible to buy two packets of cigarettes on the street for £10 in many places.[4]

There is evidence to suggest that certain types of illicit tobacco can be more harmful than duty bound products as it has a higher content of carcinogens. The HASSC feels it is important this source of tobacco is denied to children and Members are pleased that there is a high volume of enforcement activity with prosecutions being issued -

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[4]   B&D Tobacco strategy

some of this enforcement work is actually carried out by young people through test purchasing exercises.

Recommendation 11:
The HASSC recommends that high profile prosecutions related to tobacco control enforcement are publicised in the local media to deter sellers of illicit tobacco products.

Tackling demand for, and supply of, counterfeit and illicit tobacco is a priority identified in the Tobacco Strategy. Counterfeit and illicit tobacco has strong links to wider criminal activity, and the trade perpetuates health inequalities amongst lower socioeconomic groups by enabling people to continue to smoke at a significantly reduced cost. For these reasons it is important that routine and manual workers do not have easy access to illicit tobacco. However, evidence suggests the illicit market is used by as much as 40% of male routine and manual smokers[5]. Many employers probably turn a blind eye to the sale of illicit tobacco on their premises thinking that it is a victimless crime and the Tobacco Alliance must work to change this perception.   If the Partnership is to succeed in improving quit rates among routine and manual workers it cannot be undermined by the trade of illicit tobacco that makes it easier to feed people's addictions. Therefore in conjunction with enforcement activity there must be support for people to stop smoking otherwise the allure of counterfeit tobacco will become difficult to resist when household incomes are stretched.

Recommendation 12:
The HASSC recommends that the Tobacco Alliance encourages local businesses to address the sale of illicit tobacco in the workplace.

8.6   Local businesses

Local businesses must understand their responsibility as employers to protect their employees from smoking because they have an important part to play in realising the targets set out in the Tobacco Strategy.

There are obvious benefits for employers who adopt progressive smoking policies as it saves money through reduced staff sickness levels and improved productivity. Therefore, the Tobacco Alliance must reach as many local businesses as possible to spread this message and in the process explain the benefits employers can enjoy from robust smokefree policies and stop smoking support. Some large local businesses, such as Coral and the Bus Depot, have worked with NHS Barking and Dagenham to reach out to their employees and offer support to quit smoking.

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[5]   B&D Tobacco strategy

> **Recommendation 13:**
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> The HASSC recommends that the Tobacco Alliance should encourage local businesses to provide more support to help staff quit.

8.6.1 Smoke Free Awards scheme

The London Borough of Tower Hamlets was awarded for its Tobacco Alliance work in developing an awards scheme that rewards employers who implement effective workplace smokefree policies.[6] As a result of the scheme 98 local businesses have been recognized with more than 12,000 employees covered by best practice smoke-free policy. Of these 12,000, over 1,000 smokers have received support to quit smoking.

The Select Committee is very interested by this scheme and would like to see if Barking and Dagenham could emulate a similar scheme. The HASSC appreciate that it would take significant resources to implement an awards scheme of this type and the Tobacco Alliance undoubtedly has other priorities for its budgets, but this seems to be the type of scheme that encourages local businesses to change their policies/practices. The Select Committee would like the Alliance to look at this if there is underspend of their budget at the end of a financial year.

> **Recommendation 14:**
>
> The HASSC recommends that the Tobacco Alliance explores the possibility of implementing a smokefree award scheme for local businesses that adopt good smoking cessation practices.

8.7 LBBD setting an example

The Tobacco Control Strategy and the work of the Alliance are centred on involving local businesses and encouraging them to adopt better smoking policies and work-based interventions. As a leading member of the Partnership and substantial employer of Barking and Dagenham residents, it is up to the Council to lead for others to follow. It is important that if the Council are asking Partners and local businesses to do more about smoking that it is doing everything in its power to do the same; otherwise the message will not be taken seriously.

8.7.1 Supporting staff through tough times

In the current climate of budget cuts and potential redundancies local government staff may be stressed and anxious about their futures, as well as under pressure from cuts to services and efficiency savings. The Select Committee feels it is important that

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[6] Local Innovation Awards Scheme

during these difficult times that the organisation has good health and wellbeing support on offer to staff thinking about resuming smoking or wanting to quit.

8.7.2 Employee health checks

Health Checks are available to local authority staff and are provided by Occupational Health Advisers that have been trained to give level 2 stop smoking support. Employees who smoke are always offered stop smoking services as part of the health check consultation. Over half of the smokers who went for a health check last year decided to quit.

The HASSC is pleased that as employers LBBD takes an interest in the overall health of its employees. Health Checks are a particularly effective work-based smoking intervention and powerful because people are more inclined to change their behaviour if there is medical evidence that proves smoking is impacting on their health. Furthermore, not everybody sees their GP (or other Health Professionals) regularly (if at all), therefore, it is important employees can access health advice through their place of work.

If providing health checks to employees becomes financially unviable efforts should be made by LBBD to make staff aware that if they live in the Borough, and are aged 35 and over, they can receive a vascular risk assessment from their GP every five years.

8.7.3 Impact of Human Resources measures

The effort to reduce smoking prevalence among employees has contributed to an overall reduction in sickness absence from 10.27 days per person (higher than public and private sector averages) in November 2009 to 9.4 days on November 2010. It is not yet quantifiable exactly how much impact was made through smoking policies. When this data is available it can be shared with local businesses to encourage them to adopt better practices that may lead to change.

The Select Committee is pleased with the support offered by the Local Authority to stop its workers from smoking and should continue to offer this level of support as well as updating good Human Resource practice with regard to smoking. It is hoped that the Local Authority can hold itself up as an example to local businesses so that they can adopt similar policies/practices to improve the health of their employees.

Recommendation 15:
The HASSC recommends that the Council becomes an exemplar organisation for stop smoking interventions in the workplace and uses LBBD achievements to encourage local businesses to adopt better smoking policies/practices.

8.7.4 Ethical investments

If the Council is going to set an example for other local businesses to follow on smoking cessation in the workplace it must do so without hypocrisy. Reports in the Evening Standard revealed that a number of local authorities in London have investments in the tobacco industry.[7] Barking and Dagenham was named and shamed in this report and was claimed to have £5.4 million worth of investment in tobacco companies.

In Barking and Dagenham it is unacceptable that the Council is bankrolling an industry that kills our residents prematurely. In light of the Evening Standard investigation some local authorities have woken up to the unethical nature of their investments and switched them accordingly. The HASSC accepts that these investments may be profitable but there must be equally profitable alternatives. Therefore, it is the Select Committee's opinion that the Local Authority should not be affiliated in any way with an industry that has such a negative impact on its own community.

Recommendation 16:
The HASSC recommends that the Local Authority reconsiders its pension investment strategy to reflect the Council's social responsibility whilst ensuring a focus on optimal investment.

9. Conclusion

It is possible to transform people's lives by helping them to quit smoking. The Partnership is in a position to begin to challenge the engrained culture of smoking to give future generations a better start in life. The structures are now in place to make a sizeable difference and it is just a matter of time until smoking prevalence is markedly down and quit rates on the up. The HASSC must point out that the smoking prevention/cessation activity referenced in this report is only the tip of the iceberg. The Select Committee has been impressed with the energy and enthusiasm of officers involved in the tobacco programme and is satisfied that the programme is moving in the right direction.

Reducing smoking prevalence is not a job for Councillors to sit back and let officers get on with. Councillors have an important role to play in helping the Borough achieve its aims with smoking cessation. As policy setters, school governors, and community leaders, Councillors are in a strong position to influence in many different ways. Councillors must be reminded of their responsibility in this regard and should promote anti-smoking messages when taking decisions.

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[7] http://www.thisislondon.co.uk/standard/article-23880876-town-halls-to-re-think-policy-on-investing-in-tobacco-firms

Terms of Reference

- To investigate what is being done to help smokers quit and prevent young people from smoking.

- To scrutinise the impact of support, treatments, and alternative therapies provided by the NHS.

- To involve the community (especially service users and carers) in the scrutiny process, provide them with opportunities to give evidence and inform the review.

- To investigate whether services have equal access and equal outcomes across the Borough and address inequalities.

- To collaborate with partner organisations to identify opportunities where partner working could benefit the service user's experience and to ensure that the partnership is working together strategically to achieve smoking cessation objectives.

- To consider the overall delivery of services, with an aim to improve poor performance and address any gaps in service

- To review best practice in other local authorities and to see where Barking and Dagenham can emulate or learn from these initiatives to achieve the scale of change needed for this Borough.

- To produce a final report with findings and recommendations for future policy and/or practice.

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List of Recommendations

The following recommendations are set out here as a list, for ease of reference.

Recommendation 1:
The HASSC recommends that the Barking and Dagenham Tobacco Alliance explores the possibility of forming a regional tobacco alliance or network to share good practice.

Recommendation 2:
The HASSC recommends that the Tobacco Alliance should secure membership of trade union representatives on the tobacco alliance to help reach and influence routine and manual workers with smoking cessation interventions.

Recommendation 3:
The HASSC recommends that the Partnership should give commitment to funding the posts of tobacco control co-ordinator and Tobacco Enforcement Officer as well as other related tobacco programme costs to mitigate risk of not reaching strategy targets.

Recommendation 4:
The HASSC recommends that commissioners encourage more GPs to provide stop smoking services and that the emerging GP consortia give early consideration to this area of activity.

Recommendation 5:
The HASSC recommends that the Tobacco Alliance should encourage more frontline health workers (dentists, pharmacists, midwives, and opticians etc) to prioritize the delivery of smoking cessation interventions.

Recommendation 6:
The HASSC recommends that the Council develops a range of interventions including peer-led interventions in schools.

Recommendation 7:
The HASSC suggests that Members serving on school governing bodies take an active interest to ensure that good quality tobacco education is given a high priority.

Recommendation 8:
The HASSC recommends that decision makers Implement the recommendations for a Youth Stop Smoking Service

Recommendation 9:

The HASSC recommends that local proprietors are encouraged to remove tobacco vending machines from their premises ahead of forthcoming legislation. Consideration should be given to prohibiting tobacco vending machines as a condition of premises licences.

Recommendation 10:

The HASSC recommends that the Tobacco Control Alliance should develop a campaign to discourage adult proxy purchasing from strangers, friends and relatives.

Recommendation 11:

The HASSC recommends that high profile prosecutions related to tobacco control enforcement are publicised in the local media to deter sellers of illicit tobacco products.

Recommendation 12:

The HASSC recommends that the Tobacco Alliance encourages local businesses to address the sale of illicit tobacco in the workplace.

Recommendation 13:

The HASSC recommends that the Tobacco Alliance should encourage local businesses to provide more support to help staff quit.

Recommendation 14:

The HASSC recommends that the Tobacco Alliance explores the possibility of implementing a smokefree award scheme for local businesses that adopt good smoking cessation practices.

Recommendation 15:

The HASSC recommends that the Council becomes an exemplar organisation for stop smoking interventions in the workplace and uses LBBD achievements to encourage local businesses to adopt better smoking policies/practices.

Recommendation 16:

The HASSC recommends that the Local Authority reconsiders its pension investment strategy to reflect the Council's social responsibility whilst ensuring a focus on optimal investment.

Background Papers

Author:	Title:	Date:
ASH	Beyond Smoking Kills	October 2008
ASH	The Cost of Smoking to the NHS	October 2008
ASH	Tobacco Advertising at Point of Sale	August 2008
DH	A Smokefree Future	February 2010
DH	Excellence in tobacco control: 10 High Impact Changes to achieve tobacco control	May 2008
DH	Smoking Kills	January 1998
HASSC	Agendas and Minutes	2010 - 2011
IDEA	Tobacco Control – the story so far	July 2010
IDEA	Tobacco Control Survey: England 2009-10	July 2010
LBBD	Statement of Investment Principles	2008/09
LBBD	Tobacco Control Strategy 2010/2014	July 2010
NHS B&D	Insight into smoking in routine and manual workers	March 2010
NICE	School-based Interventions to Prevent the Uptake of Smoking Among Children and Young People	February 2010
Tobacco Alliance	Business case for the development of a youth stop smoking service for 8-18 year olds in Barking and Dagenham	November 2010
Tribal	Barking and Dagenham Joint Strategic Needs Assessment	May 2009

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List of Contributors and Site Visits

Contributors:

- Linda Bailey   - Public Health Consultant

- Val Day   - Public Health Consultant

- Vicki Evans   - Tobacco Control Co-ordinator

- Darren Henaghan   - Chair, Tobacco Control Alliance

- Jane Hargreaves   - Head of Quality and School Improvement

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- Helen Jenner   - Corporate Director of Children's Services

- Martin Rayson   - Head of Human Resources

- Glynis Rogers   - Divisional Director Community Safety and Public Protection

- Penny Stothard   - Marketing Manager, NHS Barking and Dagenham

- Members of the Tobacco Alliance

Site Visits:

No site visits were undertaken by the Select Committee for this review.

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Lead Member Foreword

We are pleased to be presenting the report of the Safer and Stronger Community Select Committee.

We live in one of the most rapidly diversifying boroughs in London. As the increase in the number of people from different ethnic backgrounds offers considerable opportunities, at the same time, the pace of change creates a number of real challenges for building a stronger community. The challenge for the Council and its partners is to ensure that this diversity is a source of strength for the Borough.

Throughout this report, we consider the wide range of work undertaken by the Council and partners to promote a cohesive Barking and Dagenham. The Committee was also pleased to hear directly, the views and concerns of the community and voluntary groups.

We make a number of recommendations, which we believe will build on the positive work underway. A lot of positive work is already being done by a vast majority of community and voluntary organisations throughout the borough, and we as the Council must recognise their work and support these organisations.

Finally I would like to thank all the people who have contributed to this review. This includes all the Members of the Safer and Stronger Community Select Committee, all the Officers who presented evidence. Finally those community and voluntary organisations who took the time out to meet with the Select Committee to give evidence or participate in the consultation meetings.

Cllr Darren Rodwell
Lead Member of the Safer and Stronger Community Select Committee

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1. Introduction

At its meeting on 28 July 2010, the Safer and Stronger Community Select Committee (SSCSC) commissioned a review into community cohesion in the borough. The Select Committee wanted to know, in the current financial climate, how the Council and its partners can support community and voluntary groups in building cohesion amongst communities in the borough. The Select Committee also wanted to explore what opportunities are currently available for community and voluntary groups to build community cohesion.

The review was prompted by a number of considerations:
- Relevant indicators drawn from the Place Survey 2008/09 showed that only 49% of people in Barking and Dagenham believed that people from different backgrounds get on well together in their local area. Furthermore, only 44% of people in Barking and Dagenham felt that they belonged to their neighbourhoods.
- The review was strategically linked to the Council's Community priority to provide "a stronger and more cohesive borough so that it is a place where all people get along, and of which all residents feel proud". The review was also intended to identify and promote opportunities for the Third Sector to enhance community cohesion in the borough.
- Members also identified that community cohesion was a key concern and was raised frequently by residents during their 2010 election campaign.

The terms of reference for the Select Committee can be viewed in Appendix 1.

The Safer and Stronger Community Select Committee consisted of the following nine Councillors in the 2010-11 municipal year:
- Councillor Darren Rodwell (Lead Member)
- Councilor Laila Butt (Deputy Lead Member)
- Councillor Saima Ashraf
- Councillor Jim Clee
- Councillor Eileen Keller
- Councillor Graham Letchford
- Councillor Margaret Mullane
- Councillor Tony Perry
- Councillor Maureen Worby

The Scrutiny Officer was Paramjit Nijher. The Lead Service Officer for the review was Heather Wills, the Head of Community Cohesion and Equalities, who supported the Select Committee throughout the review and helped oversee the delivery of the project in collaboration with the Lead Member and the Scrutiny Officer.

Anne Bristow, the Corporate Director of Adult and Community Services, nominated as the SSCSC Scrutiny Champion, also supported the Select Committee throughout the review and provided her expertise and guidance to the Select Committee.

Over the course of the review, the Select Committee met on eight occasions, including formal and informal meetings, and heard evidence from a wide range of services and organisations associated with building community cohesion and the voluntary and community sector. The Select Committee also undertook a visit to Gascoigne Primary School, which has been rated outstanding for community cohesion.

The Select Committee enabled community and voluntary groups and their representatives to give their views directly, through a number of consultation meetings held in July, August and September 2010. The Select Committee heard view of approximately 25 community and voluntary groups and their representatives based throughout the borough. A number of issues and concerns were raised by the groups which are addressed throughout this report

This report will be presented to the Select Committee for agreement in January 2011. The report will then be presented to Cabinet on 15 March 2011 for comments and then for consideration by the Assembly on 30 March 2011.

If the report is agreed by the Assembly, an action plan outlining how the recommendations will be implemented will be produced and the recommendations will be monitored by the Select Committee until each one is completed.

When finalised and agreed, the findings of this report will be publicised in the following ways:
- A download copy will be made available from the Council's website at **www.lbbd.gov.uk/scrutiny**
- A brief summary of the report will be published in 'The News' and sent to other local newspapers.
- A comprehensive summary of the report's findings will be sent to interested parties and relevant organisations.
- A download copy will be made available from the 'Centre for Public Scrutiny' website.

2. Background

2.1 *What is community cohesion?*

Although the term community cohesion has many dimensions, a widely accepted definition of a 'cohesive community', was introduced by the Government in 2008; "Community cohesion is what must happen in all communities to enable different groups of people to get on well together. A key contributor to community cohesion is integration which is what must happen to enable new residents and exiting residents to adjust to one another[1]."

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[1] Department for Communities and Local Government, 2008, 'The Government's response to the commission on Integration and Cohesion'.

The Government's vision of an integrated and cohesive community is based on three foundations:

- *People from different backgrounds having similar life opportunities*
- *People knowing their rights and responsibilities*
- *People trusting one another and trusting local institutions to act fairly.*

and three key ways of living together:

- *A shared future vision and sense of belonging*
- *A focus on what new and existing communities have in common, alongside a recognition of the value of diversity*
- *Strong and positive relationships between people from different backgrounds.*

While not disagreeing with the Government's definition, Barking and Dagenham Council developed its own, simpler, definition and vision when developing a new Community Cohesion strategy in 2007:

> *Together we choose to build and support:*
> - *A strong community who will get fair access to services*
> - *A place where people respect one another and enjoy safe and peaceful lives*
> - *Opportunities to meet together and look forward to the future*

2.2 National Context and Guidance relating to community cohesion

Creating community cohesion is a complex challenge and has been a key theme in national and local government agendas since civic disturbances in 2001. Whilst there is a natural focus on how people from different cultural backgrounds can live peacefully side-by-side, the challenge exists equally in building intergenerational cohesion.

The Local Government Act 2000 introduced the 'wellbeing power' – the power for Councils to promote the economic, social or environmental wellbeing of their area. Many types of council have seen this as endorsement of their mainstream role in building community cohesion locally. No other statutory service has this power.

Local Authorities have legal duties with respect to promoting equality and eliminating discrimination and harassment – at present this relates to race, gender and disability, but when the new Equality Act comes fully into force (expected by March 2011), this will be extended to age, sexual orientation, faith and belief and pregnant women and new mothers.

While much work in relation to community cohesion is underpinned by effective work in relation to promoting equalities and tackling discrimination, a wider approach is required to build 'community spirit', to ensure that services are perceived to be fair, and to build good relationships between communities and individuals.

The Coalition Government's idea of 'Big Society' suggests that citizens and communities will gain the power and information they need to come together,

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solve the problems they face. The creation of the Big Society forms one of the main tenets of the government's vision for the future of society. The Voluntary and Community sector is expected to be the driving force behind this radical shift in power. It is hoped that the Big Society will help bring communities together and create a new era of local action.

Local authorities are key to promoting cohesion. They can do this by taking an active role in listening to their local communities – in terms of how they're changing, whether people are getting on well together, whether they're satisfied with their local area as a place to live, whether they're satisfied with the service they receive from the Council and whether they feel there is equality of service.

This has been measured through the national Place Survey conducted every two years.

2.3 Local Picture

The most recent figures show a borough population of approximately 175,600, living in just over 69,000 households[2]. The borough is one of the fastest-growing in the country.

However, the Greater London Authority has predicted that by 2020, Barking and Dagenham will have a population of 205,000, reflecting the increase in the number of houses that are being built in the borough, particularly the Thames Gateway regeneration such as Barking Riverside, which brings a demand for services as well as great opportunities.

At the moment 26% of the population are under 16, 62% are aged 17 to 64 and 12% are 65 and older. The borough has a higher proportion of both older and younger people than the London average.

An important recent change has been the rapid rise in the proportion of residents who are black or from an ethnic minority. In 1991, only 6.8% of the borough's population were black or from an ethnic minority. This had risen to nearly 15% in 2001, and is now estimated to be approximately 33.7%[3] . Historically, there has been a stable white, working-class population in many parts of the borough, although in areas of Barking there has been a high number of people from different ethnic backgrounds, also well-established since the 1960s. Increasing the number of people from different ethnic backgrounds offers considerable opportunities, but the pace of change creates a number of real challenges for building a strong community.

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[2] Office of National Statistics mid-year estimates, 2009
[3] Estimate by LBBD Information and GIS Team 2010

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A more detailed breakdown is provided below[4]:

Ethnic Group	Borough Count	Borough %
White British/Irish	102,637	56.4
White Other	19,695	10.8
Asian Indian	7,440	4.1
Asian Pakistani	9,754	5.4
Asian Bangladeshi	5,506	3.0
Asian Other	3,435	1.9
Black Caribbean	3,407	1.9
Black African	28,060	15.4
Black Other	514	0.3
Chinese	710	0.4
Other	970	0.5

Ipsos MORI[5], provide an insight into what drives individuals' perceptions of their local area and what they are looking for from those that serve them. Their data includes the overall results and overall trends in relation to the perceptions-based National Indicators (NIs) from the National Place Survey conducted until now every two years.

The key indicator used to measure performance in relation to community cohesion is National Indicator 1: the percentage of people surveyed who believe people from different backgrounds get on well together in the borough. The following table shows the results in the 2008/09 Place Survey:

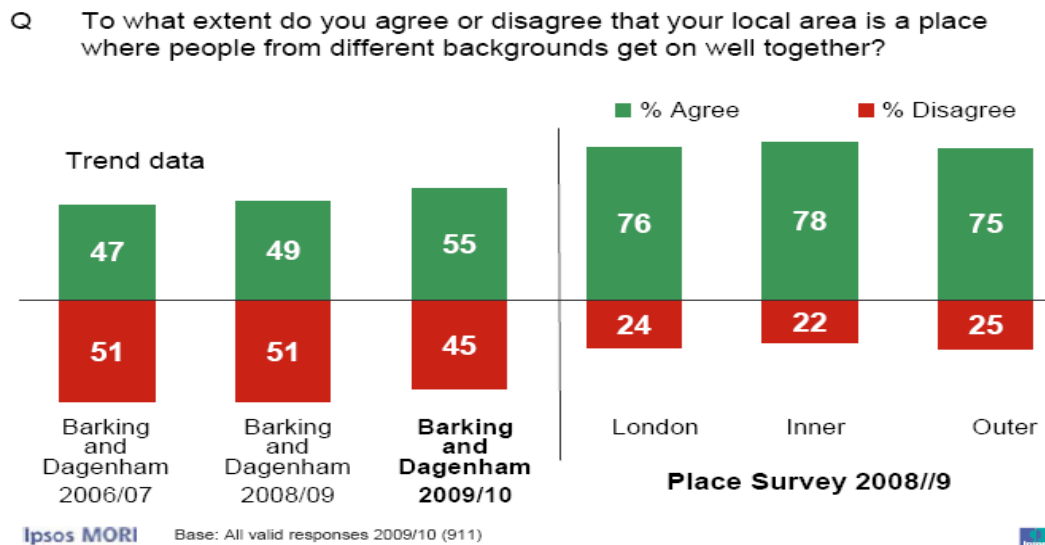|		
England (City of London)	Highest	91.6%
England (LBBD)	Lowest	49.1%
England Average		75.3%
London (LB Richmond/Thames)*	Highest	87.6%
London (LBBD)	Lowest	49.1%
London Average		76.3%
BARKING & DAGENHAM		49.1%

It can be seen that, in 2008/09, Barking and Dagenham was the worst performing local authority in the country against this indicator, with a score of 49.1%. Although the borough's performance was an improvement on its 2006/07 score,

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[4] This is assembled from three main data sources: GP Register 2010, Electoral Register 2010 and Annual School Census 2010 as part of the Borough's Community Mapping Project. The figures are a provisional estimate.

[5] Ipsos MORI Local, *People, Perception and Place*, 2009

it still remained below London average. The Council conducted its own survey in 2009/10, using the same methodology: while performance had improved to 55%, this remains considerably below the national and London averages, as shown below:

Q   To what extent do you agree or disagree that your local area is a place where people from different backgrounds get on well together?

The performances of other London boroughs most comparable to Barking and Dagenham in this indicator are Lewisham with 78% and Hackney with 77%.

The Place Survey also measures cohesiveness in the local area by asking residents about the degree to which they feel they belong to their neighbourhood (NI 2). Survey results for this measure in 2009/10 found that less than half (46%) of residents in Barking and Dagenham state that they feel a strong sense of belonging to their local area. This means that when compared with 2008/09 averages, residents' in Barking and Dagenham are slightly less likely to feel a sense of belonging to their immediate neighbourhood than those living in London as whole (where the average is 52%).

Another facet of community cohesion is viewed by asking residents the extent to which people treat one another with respect and consideration in the local area. Interim Place Survey results show that more than a half (56%) of residents in Barking and Dagenham feel that people do not treat one another with respect and consideration is a problem in their local area, while 44% say that this is not a very big problem or not a problem at all.

During its review, the Select Committee learned of the Coalition Government's decision to terminate the National Place Survey. However, officers are currently liaising with other local authorities to see if they will continue to commission a less detailed version of the survey which will also ask the NI1 question, at a cost of approximately £10,000: if so, this will be conducted in January 2011. However, there is as yet no guarantee that other authorities will conduct the survey, so comparisons with elsewhere will not be possible. Members were of the opinion that the Borough's own Place Survey should be sustained as it provides a valuable indication of how the local residents feel about community cohesion.

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> **Recommendation 1:**
>
> **The Select Committee supports the borough undertaking its own survey to provide insight into the views of residents towards community cohesion. The Select Committee therefore recommends that the Council should continue to survey residents in relation to this indicator, using statistically comparable methods.**

2.4 Community cohesion in Barking and Dagenham and relevant strategies in place

In 2004, Barking and Dagenham adopted its first community cohesion strategy, 'One Community'. This expired in March 2007, and a new strategy was built on the foundations of partnership working and shared values that One Community established, utilising insight gained from an extensive programme of community engagement with residents, key voluntary and community sector organisations and local businesses.

The results of the consultation revealed a number of community concerns and priorities, which were translated into actions in the strategy's action plan, published in July 2007. These were then continued into the Community Plan. The Community Plan outlines the Borough's aims for the future and the actions to be taken to deliver these aims, through working in partnership with a number of agencies, over the next three years. The plan is reviewed annually by the Barking and Dagenham Partnership to assess the progress on implementing the actions. New actions are incorporated or modified in light of progress, changing circumstances and in order to ensure continuous improvement.

The objective most relevant to community cohesion in the current Community Plan is
> *Fair and respectful: a stronger and more cohesive borough so that it is a place where all people get along and of which all people feel proud.*

The Council routinely considers the potential impacts of new policies in terms of community cohesion. Services are required to identify actions which will mitigate any negative impacts of new policies.

2.5 How does LBBD compare with best practice

The Select Committee explored the work undertaken by other boroughs in building community cohesion; this also included the work of four local authorities awarded beacon status for their work around community cohesion:

Lancashire, one of the most diverse counties, was recognised for its work on fostering good community cohesion through strong and effective partnership work. The Lancashire Community Cohesion Partnership, sub-regional and made up of the 15 Lancashire local authorities, developed a joint approach to community cohesion by working closely with a range of partners, both within and outside the Council. Representatives of the partnership also link to other strategic

partnerships including the Hate Crime Incident Working Group, Police Division Tension Monitoring Groups and the Community Safety Board.

London Borough of Hounslow was awarded for its outstanding work around preventing violent and extremism, particularly on the risk of violent Muslim extremism. The Council carried out innovative research into Far Right and religious fundamentalism and involved a series of stakeholder interviews and consultation with 200 young people. The Council developed programmes ranging from work with British Muslim scholars to sharing best practice with counterparts in Australia.

London Borough of Southwark delivered its cohesion work through capacity building and citizenship activities. Four area-based teams were developed to work with local communities; geographical areas set their own action plans in relation to monitoring community tensions, understanding new communities or working in schools. Furthermore, following July 7 bombings, the Council worked with the Police to support south Asian and Somali communities to take stance against extremism.

London Borough of Waltham Forest was awarded for its work around challenging extremis. A number of people arrested in the borough as part of the counter-terrorism operation called 'Operation Overt', which caused tensions between communities and also generated media attention. However, through strong leadership and partnership work on tension monitoring and maintaining cohesion, beacon status was jointly awarded to the local authority and Waltham Forest Metropolitan Police Service.

Although Barking and Dagenham does not face the same challenges in relation to violent extremism as other boroughs, the borough is working closely with community groups and the police to reduce risks in this area. Barking and Dagenham's Community Safety Partnership comprises of partners across the borough such as the Police, Fire Service, Probation, NHS, Community and Voluntary Services and so on. The role of the partnership is to work closely across organisations to develop and implement solutions to meet community priorities.

The Committee also noted interesting examples of activities undertaken by other borough to promote community cohesion.
- The London Borough of Lewisham holds local assemblies in each ward which are chaired by local councillors. In 2008, the Council held a Food and Drink Festival open to all communities
- The project 'Eco-Street' involved the Lewisham Council asking residents to nominate a street to win an environmental make-over. The successful street received free energy assessments, information and advice on recycling, environmental goodies and local cleanups. The project highlighted the importance of effective engagement with residents by ensuring that the motivations for the project are well understood and are aligned with the vision and sense of local pride held by the residents.
- London Borough of Hackney delivered a strong programme of activities to encourage local people to get involved in the Olympics. The borough also

held 'Give or Take Days', held after Christmas with residents giving away unwanted toys, books, tolls and kitchenware;

- The Kindness Club is a community rewards scheme run by a local newspaper in South London. The scheme offers rewards in exchange for good deeds and people who prove themselves worthy by doing good deed become members of the club. Members of the club also benefit from deals and discount offers from local businesses;

- The United Streets of Birmingham Community Awards was created in order to recognise the contribution of local people in reducing crime in Birmingham. Furthermore, in Shard End, Birmingham, people are celebrated as 'heroes' if they befriend other on the same housing development as them;

- Also on Birmingham's housing estates, under a community repairs scheme, people on the estate do minor repairs before they become major ones costing more money;

- In Suffolk, a community-led social enterprise has developed with the aim of tackling the economic and social needs of communities and promoting self-help. It delivers a range of projects, schemes, advice to community groups running village halls, and promotion of local products and businesses. The Good Neighbour Scheme involves raising a team of volunteers locally to help other people in their community with small services ranging from giving lifts to checking smoke alarms. There are currently 21 schemes up and running around the county and others under development. The Scheme has benefited communities by helping to knit the community together and building new friendships between villagers.

- Manchester has a very strong 'Manchester in Bloom' competition. A group of young and old residents who transformed a run-down piece of land - Hulme won the trophy for Best Large Neighbourhood category and also the Best of the Best with a secure planting scheme. Around 75 stainless-steel planters now brighten up the Liberty Gate estate. Flora and fauna make the area look good and act as a deterrent to burglars.

3 Findings

In compiling the findings, the evidence gathered by the Select Committee has been grouped into key themes, and recommendations are presented with the relevant themes to provide context.

3.1 *What are the opportunities for community and voluntary groups to build cohesion?*

3.1.1 **The Voluntary and Community Sector**

The voluntary sector or community sector (also non-profit sector) is made up of organisations that are for non-profit and non-governmental. This sector is also called the third sector.

There are over 500 Third Sector organisations in Barking and Dagenham, comprising voluntary, community and faith organisations, social enterprises and

not-for-profit organisations. The Committee noted that in 2007/08, over 120,000 people benefited from Third Sector services and activities, equating to 74% of the local population.

The Third Sector has a key role to play in supporting local communities within Barking and Dagenham, as well as creating employment, volunteering and work placement opportunities. Members were pleased to note the optimism of organisations in the Borough, as 48% had seen their turnover grow in the previous 12 months and over 50% felt that it would continue to grow in the future.

The Select Committee took the view that currently the voluntary and community sector in Barking and Dagenham sits in three tiers. Members established that tier one represented the well established voluntary and charitable organisations that are recognised and are regularly funded. Tier two includes the local community and voluntary groups that provide support to the community i.e. managing the community halls etc. Tier three represents the small groups such as the local knitting club, scout groups or the Tenants and Residents Associations which the Select Committee believe are under-represented in the borough. Currently there is no information to determine whether there is an average distribution of small, medium and large community groups across the borough.

Members felt that the Council needs to encourage people to come together to build community activity, and to ensure there is support for small groups to get established. The Council should also ensure that the benefits of working together are demonstrated to community and voluntary groups.

The Committee took the view that the challenge for the Council is to ensure the development of the strategic capacity and skills of a range of much smaller organisations such as local knitting clubs, scout groups and the Tenants and Residents Associations, building on their expertise in meeting the needs of very closely defined communities, and enabling them to support increased cohesion by working with and bringing together a wider range of groups within the community.

In the context of funding the voluntary and community groups across the borough to build community cohesion, the Select Committee took the view that there is currently a lack of join-up in work in this area. At present, work to build capacity in the voluntary and community sector is funded by the General Fund. However, some funding to support Tenants and Residents Associations also has the potential to build community cohesion: however, this is funded by the Housing Revenue Account and is managed separately.

Recommendation 2

The Select Committee recommends that funding to build community cohesion from both General Fund and Housing Revenue Account should be managed in a joined-up way to deliver maximum benefits to the community.

The Council provides significant funding to build capacity in the voluntary and community sector locally. The corporate grants fund in 2010/11, which is used to build capacity and community cohesion, stands at £845,000. Within this, £133,000 is spent on activities to support the infrastructure of the third sector (such as the CVS, the volunteer bureau and the community accountancy project). Subject to confirmation of available funding, the Council has agreed to increase the proportion of spending on infrastructure support in 2011/12 and ongoing.

In terms of comparisons with neighbouring boroughs, these are difficult as each authority records its spending on the sector in a different way, and not all have been willing or able to share their information. Redbridge provide £704,900 corporate grants funding, but until 2010 they did not have a Volunteer Bureau. For 2010-11 they are projecting spending £114,500 on a CVS and volunteer support. Waltham Forest spend £172,500 on the equivalent of their CVS and volunteer support. Newham does not fund an equivalent of a CVS, but does spend around £340,000 on promoting and supporting volunteering.

3.1.2 **Barking and Dagenham Council for Voluntary Service (CVS)**

Barking and Dagenham CVS is the main umbrella organisation for the Third Sector in the borough: the Council has currently commissioned the CVS to provide infrastructure support to community and voluntary organisations in the borough. The organisation provides support through five key functions:

1. Service and Support – The CVS pro-actively identifies needs in the local community and facilitates improvement in service provision to meet those needs. The CVS also promotes the effectiveness of the local Third Sector organisations by providing them with a range of services, including access to meeting rooms, administration support and training.

2. Liaison - The CVS promotes and facilitates effective communication, networking and partnership working amongst local voluntary and community groups. The organisation works with strategic funders and local third sector organisations to increase the level of resources coming into the sector in Barking and Dagenham. These funders include London Councils, the Big Lottery Fund and others.

3. Representation – The CVS enables the diverse views of the local voluntary and community sector to be represented to external bodies, developing and facilitating structures to promote effective working relationships and two way communication.

CVS has led on the development and implementation of a strategy to develop a strong third sector, and has established a number of working groups, such as the cross-sectoral Compact Working Group, and the ChangeUP Steering Group.

4. Development Work – The CVS assists local voluntary and community organisations to function more effectively and deliver quality services to their

users, members and constituents. The CVS Development Team uses diagnostic Organisational Healthchecks developed to identify specific needs of local community and voluntary groups and provide development support to meet those specific needs.

5. Strategic partnership – The CVS enhances the voluntary and community sector's role as an integral part of local planning and policy-making.

Following issues raised through the Select Committee's consultation, Members pointed out that several groups expressed disappointment with the lack of communication between CVS and community groups. The groups suggested that CVS should actively communicate with community and voluntary groups. The groups also stated that information on the CVS website needed to be updated and regularly communicated.

The Select Committee noted the following targets in relation to service and support currently being met by the CVS under its commission with the Council:

- 4 editions of CVS newsletter to be produced and sent to voluntary and community organisations in the borough. Newsletter to contain information which is relevant, useful and timely to groups, including information on funding opportunities, training and infrastructure support, and feedback from the Local Strategic Partnership.
- A regular eBulletin to be sent to local voluntary and community organisations with targeted information, for example on specific funding opportunities or policy initiatives.
- The CVS website to be maintained with up to date and relevant information and to be linked with other relevant websites.
- The CVS database of voluntary and community organisations in the borough to be comprehensively reviewed and updated to more accurately reflect not only the groups which exist but also the services they provide and their level of activity (including opening times).
- The CVS Directory of voluntary and community organisations in the borough to be updated and expanded based on the revised database, and to be made available through the CVS website and accessible online by March 2011.

During the consultation, several groups also expressed concerns regarding the lack of support received from the CVS. The groups further stated that CVS need to support small and local community and voluntary groups in the borough which are struggling to raise funds. The Select Committee met with the Chief Executive of CVS to address these concerns and looked into the role of the CVS and what support it currently provides to the community and voluntary groups in the borough.

The Committee noted that over the course of the year, the CVS Development Team delivered a range of training courses including 15 free training courses to a total of 148 attendees from local community and voluntary groups and facilitated a total of 44 participants through six Action Learning Sets, promoting peer learning and support. Furthermore, tailored one to one support was also provided to 102 local community and voluntary groups through 349 sessions. These covered a wide range of organisational and community development issues,

including governance, fundraising, project management and policy development. Specific fundraising support, including practical support on delivering bids, was provided to 22 local community and voluntary groups over 42 sessions. Financial management and support is also provided through Accounting for Community Enterprise (ACE).

The Social Enterprise Project provides information and practical support to new and upcoming social enterprises as well as to existing ones. In the last year, the CVS had successfully supported the establishment of four new social enterprises and delivered further ongoing support to 51 existing social enterprises.

Members noted that the CVS organises and facilitates a number of meetings with local community and voluntary groups such as:
- at least four meetings of the Voluntary Sector Forum a year to provide opportunities to discuss policy issues, network and share ideas and experiences
- at least six meetings with the larger and well-established voluntary sector organisations took place to discuss strategic issues of relevance to them.
- A Voluntary Sector Open Day was held in Vicarage Field Shopping Centre with stalls from 72 different community and voluntary sector organisations to showcase their work and publicise their services to Barking & Dagenham residents.

In October 2010, Members of the Select Committee visited the newly refurbished Ripple Resource Centre located in Barking. Members were impressed with the new layout and design of the centre and were also pleased to note that it provides excellent and high quality office accommodation, training rooms, meeting facilities, performance space, conference facilities and a community café.

Members were also pleased to note that an incubation space for new upcoming and established groups was now available at the centre, which provides the opportunity for groups to use the office space to start up at the maximum cost of £500 per year. This includes the provision of desks, chairs, computers and telephones.

CVS has recently appointed a Community Development & Resource Centre Manager who will be responsible for overseeing the management of this new centre, ensuring that it effectively meets the development needs of local groups and residents. The role will also manage the CVS Development Team, created in April 2008, to plan and deliver effective development support to local groups. The team currently comprises five staff funded from various sources, the majority until April 2012.

> **Recommendation 3:**
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> **The Select Committee recommends that an update on the achievement of the targets for service and support by the CVS be provided by the CVS to the Select Committee in six months time.**

The CVS has successfully gained Connecting Communities funding until March 2011 to provide additional capacity-building support for local Tenants and Residents Associations and Community Associations. This officer is currently meeting with local groups to discuss their needs and identify appropriate support to enable them to maximise their effectiveness as organisations.

3.1.3 Barking and Dagenham Faith Forum

In 2008, the Government issued the document 'Faith by Faith and Side by Side' after extensive consultation with faith communities. This report highlighted the significant proportion of the population (around 77%) who declared themselves as having a faith in the 2001 census, and noted that for many people, their faith is central to their identity and what they do on a daily basis. Figures in the Barking and Dagenham census were comparable, and it is considered that recent population changes are likely to have made the figures even higher locally. However, the Select Committee acknowledged that these figures are now out of date and that more recent figures were needed for an accurate analysis.

The Select Committee took the view that faith groups play an active role in society in bringing different faith communities together and contribute towards building community cohesion. The Committee therefore wished to look into the role of the Faith Forum and ascertain how the Council could support the organisation in achieving cohesion.

Barking and Dagenham Faith Forum is the main route to inter-faith dialogue and activity in the borough. The aim of the Faith Forum is to demonstrate that faith builds community. Its objectives are:
- To provide opportunities for each faith community and the wider community to gain a fuller understanding of the faith communities (education);
- To enable the voice of faith communities to be heard by statutory organisations in the borough both jointly and individually (consultation); and
- To lever into the borough resources for faith-based community action, both jointly and individually (resourcing).

The Council has commissioned the Faith Forum to:
1. Maintain and implement an ongoing business plan
2. Employ of a member of staff to service the forum/network
3. Hold 6 full meetings of the forum per annum:
4. Provide the opportunity for 12 borough consultations per year in a manner appropriate to the consultation.
5. Work to demonstrate how faith organisations contribute to bringing people from different backgrounds together.
6. Represent the faith sector at partnership meetings and events – and in particular Local Strategic Partnership boards
7. Maintain links with the CVS and Third Sector strategy to promote voluntary and community activity through faith communities eg the contribution made through volunteering in faith communities
8. Build relationships with relevant stakeholders and partnership bodies to develop their attendance at full meetings of the forum where appropriate e.g. PCT, Police etc

9. Facilitate a minimum of 3 appropriate training opportunities per annum for the local faith sector
10. Maintain a data base of relevant groups
11. Provide information on how the Forum is working towards promoting community cohesion e.g. community events, promotion of services etc.

The table below shows the different faith groups in the borough as at December 2007. Barking and Dagenham is different from many other London Boroughs in that the Christian faith is still the predominant and growing faith group:

Faith	Percentage
Bahai	0.6%
Christian	72.8%
Hindu	1.2%
Islam	4%
Jewish	0.6%
Sikh	3.5%

However, it is anticipated that the proportion of people from the Muslim faith will have grown since this assessment was completed.

Traditionally, faith groups have provided education, social welfare and community life for the borough population. In Barking and Dagenham, faith groups are the largest providers of youth activities, training and skills provision, community work and services for the vulnerable members of the society. All faith groups in the borough carry out community work as this part of their teaching.

There are currently at least 230 faith groups based throughout the borough. Although all groups are invited to become members, only 50-60 (approximately 25%) faith groups are actually registered members of the Faith Forum. This indicated that majority of the faith organisations in the borough are not registered. Encouraging faith organisations to register was identified as a key challenge by the Faith Forum. The Committee learned that some faith groups prefer to operate separately and do not wish to be part of the Faith Forum, in such circumstances the Faith Forum endeavour to interact with the groups by attending their meetings and participating in their activities.

3.1.3.1 Promoting the Faith Forum
The Select Committee noted that faith organisations approaching the Council for support or advice are already referred to the Faith Forum. The Committee however considered that one way to encourage faith groups to register was through promoting the benefits of being with the Faith Forum.

The Select Committee considered that the Council's discretion to award relief of up to 100% to organisations which are not established for profit should be further promoted to the faith groups. Only registered religious and charitable organisations are entitled to a mandatory rate relief of 80% for properties which are occupied for that charitable purpose. The Council's has discretionary powers

to award further rate relief of up to 20% (this is commonly referred to as 'top up' relief).

The Committee feels that there is also an important leadership role for elected councillors to play. Councillors must be willing to champion community cohesion at the ward level and, where necessary, take an upfront approach to the issue. The Select Committee took the view that Councillors in their role as representatives of the community should actively engage with the faith groups in their wards, as well as throughout the borough, more often and encourage them to register with the faith forum.

Recommendation 4:

The Select Committee recommends that the Faith Forum are invited to provide a briefing to all ward Councillors to enable them to encourage faith groups in their ward to register with the Faith Forum.

Recommendation 5:

The Select Committee recommends that the Faith Forum advertise the activities and events of different faith groups taking place in each ward in 'The News' on a regular basis.

Over the years, faith communities have changed dramatically in the borough: the number of faith groups in the borough has increased by 10% in 2009. Although the Church of England has always been well represented in the borough, the number of people participating in Pentecostal churches has increased and these churches now have the highest number of centres of worship. The Select Committee took the view that there was a lack of interaction between the new faith organisations and the wider community, impeding community cohesion. Furthermore, Members also expressed concerns that a number faith organisations are only communicating within their own community, which can create segregation and result in a negative impact on community cohesion.

The Faith Forum identified that the majority of all faith buildings are open to people of all cultures and backgrounds. Both worship services and community and youth activities are open to the whole community. For example, attendance at the Mosque is mainly by people of the Islamic faith although all communities are welcome and have been publicly invited. The Gudwara in Barking provides food, shelter and companionship to the whole community. A number of church buildings in the borough hold a playgroup or Mother and Toddler group for all cultural backgrounds. In addition many of the borough's churches run youth groups and these are open to any young people in the community.

Within the borough there are approximately 500 faith-led community programmes running, and 2,000 faith-led children and youth activities running every week. An example would be The Salvation Army in Barking who run Karate Classes, Kids Club, Bubbles Parents and Toddlers, Baby Song, Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Rainbows, Alove Youth Club, Youth Cell, Soul in the City Youth Events, Police

Panel, Sunday School, Crèche: that is, a total of 14 different Youth and Children's activities in one Centre.

There are also many other good examples of local faith groups which proactively contribute to their local community, for example:
- St Thomas Becontree's 'Life After Debt' project
- A wide range of positive activities for young people provided by the mosque in Victoria Road, Barking, including an allotment project
- Youth mentoring and other activities provided by the Harmony Christian Centre in Kemp Road

The Peace Week event held in September 2010 included the contribution of various faith groups, the Council and local schools. Peace Week also included the Peace Walk, starting from St Cedd's Church, through Barking Park then onto the Barking Mosque and Gurdwara and ending at St Margaret's Church.

3.1.3.2 Wider access to information
The Select Committee took the view that a database with information on all the activities provided by faith organisations should be available and shared publicly on the internet. It was noted that the Faith Forum records data on all the faith organisations and the work they do throughout the borough. However, the information is currently not shared, and permission from the organisations' contacts would be required to share the information. The Select Committee noted that libraries also provide a database of community groups on the Council's website and the Committee therefore suggested that details of faith organisations and their activities could be incorporated into this database, subject to the agreement of those people named as contacts.

> **Recommendation 6:**
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> **The Select Committee recommends that the Faith Forum work with libraries in the borough to seek permission of the faith groups to incorporate the details of their organisations and activities into the main database.**

3.1.3.3 Premises for religious worship
Barking and Dagenham is now home to a very rich and diverse range of faith communities and the demand for religious meeting places in the borough is increasing. It was noted the Faith Forum receives approximately two enquiries on this subject per week; however, the number of premises available is limited. The Council's policy on religious buildings confirms the Council's support to religious organisations in relation to premises is limited to advice and guidance, and financial support to the Faith Forum.

However, the Select Committee noted the increasing requirement for religious premises by new community groups, and the limited ability for these to be accommodated, has the potential to increase community tensions.

The Committee noted that the Council has recently reviewed its planning policy via a Planning Advice Note (PAN) on Religious Meeting Places. The revision to the Guidance introduces more clarity on what are considered to be the preferred

locations for religious meeting places, the main change being that the policy will now allow religious facility usage in areas which will have little impact (noise, disturbance and parking) in certain circumstances, such as within employment areas and the edges of industrial areas which are on a bus route. The following four locations have been identified where applications for religious meeting places will be dealt with favourably;

- Thames Road within the River Road Employment Area
- South Dagenham West. Sire Specific Allocation SSA SM2
- South Dagenham East. Site Specific Allocation SSA SM4
- Ripple Road within the Rippleside Employment Area

The Committee is however aware that, in some cases, premises may be being used as places of religious worship inappropriately. It is therefore important to ensure that any religious meetings are held in a place that are suitable for that use and will not impact adversely upon neighbouring use and areas, particularly residential areas.

Recommendation 7:

The Select Committee recommends that the Regeneration and Economic Department provide a briefing to all Members regarding the Council's policy for places of religious premises, including guidance on what to do if Members suspect premises are being used as places of worship outside of planning regulations, or are creating environmental nuisance to neighbours.

3.1.3.4 Parking for religious premises

One of the main concerns raised by the Faith Forum was the lack of parking facilities around a number of religious premises throughout the borough. Due to parking restrictions, the majority of the people are finding it difficult to park around their religious premises and as a result are reluctant to visit their place of worship. Conversely, competition for scarce parking spaces is a source of community tensions around some places of worship. It was suggested by the Faith Forum that the consideration to removing parking restrictions during worship hours should be given to enable people to park near their place of worship.

The Select Committee considered that that removing parking restrictions might not be feasible as it is likely that residents living around the religious premises will raise concerns, and this would not be conducive to community cohesion. Members were of the opinion that people living in the vicinity of their religious premises should be encouraged to walk; however, Members were also mindful that elderly or disabled people may need to drive to their places of worship. The Select Committee considered that a drop-off zone might be a more appropriate option to facilitate people's access to such premises.

> **Recommendation 8:**
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> **The Select Committee recommends that the Council undertake a review of the religious premises in the borough to establish where parking space is sufficient and consider whether a drop-off zone could be created to facilitate people visiting their places of worship.**

Another parking issue raised by the Faith Forum was the problems faced by Ministers of Religion when visiting houses in need. When visiting a bereaved family or administering last rites it can seem inappropriate for the first interaction to be a request for the visitors parking permit. It was suggested that consideration could be given to providing borough wide parking permits to Ministers of Religion registered with the Faith Forum. The Select Committee took the view that all faith ministers in the borough should have access to parking facilities and be issued with home visitor permits. There are currently 50-60 Faith Ministers in the borough and issuing a visitor parking permit would cost the Council approximately £3,000- £3,600, based on the cost of one permit being £60 each.

> **Recommendation 9:**
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> **The Select Committee recommends that the Council adopt a policy of issuing parking permits to Faith Ministers registered with the Faith Forum in the borough.**

3.2 How can the Council and its partners help to build cohesion?

In order to understand what community cohesion mean for their area, which goes beyond a formal and remote definition, it is important that the work of local authorities reflects the importance of openness and transparency and a willingness and capability to challenge myths and misinformation.

Building capacity in the voluntary, community and faith sectors is a key challenge for local authorities and their statutory partners. However, local authorities play a vital role in supporting and facilitating Voluntary and Community Sector (also known as Third Sector) involvement through funding arrangements, partnership working and capacity building.

Barking and Dagenham Council has worked closely with partners to understand how best to communicate with the minority of people in the borough who are disaffected and liable to believe myths (eg 'Africans are being paid to come to the borough'). The Council has been recognised as an example of good practice by the Department of Communities and Local Government in relation to this work.

The Council understands that using the printed and official communications to put forward the facts does not work; in fact it spreads the myths and makes people think that there is some truth to it. The Council instead focuses on

building contacts with people in the community who don't normally go to meetings or engage with the Council. This involves sharing the true facts on a one to one basis with people who may believe in a myth, with the aim that they will believe what they hear from a trusted source, and then share that news with their contacts. The community contacts also provide early warning of concerns and rumours in the community, in order to get a response back out in a timely way. This has proved to be a very successful model which is now being copied in many other local authorities.

The Government's Cohesion Delivery Framework[6] makes a number of suggestions and actions that the local authorities could take in order to build community cohesions. Barking and Dagenham have already adopted many of the suggestions by offering, for example:

- **Information packs for new migrants** – the Council provides a Welcome Pack to the new residents moving into the borough to help them access services appropriately and quickly become part of local society;
- **Encouraging volunteering** – this is done through a number of routes, including funding for the Volunteer Bureau and the 'Giving Back' awards during Peace Week
- **Promoting citizenship ceremonies** – these are routinely held at the Civic Centre
- **Promoting English as a Second Language (ESOL) classes** –the Council and the local college provide and commission a range of ESOL classes to the community, and the Council is doing further work with learning providers and community representatives to ensure that its resources for ESOL provision are targeted where they will have most impact;
- **Use translation guidance** – Translation and interpreting are used where they can be more effective in enabling residents to access services
- **Sports development strategies** – Such as the football development strategy which includes plans for a football competition, bring people from different communities together.
- **Time Bank** – this approach enables people to give their time to something of community benefit on the basis that they will get a 'credit' for a similar amount of benefit at a later date- e.g. I do your shopping for you on the basis that you will teach my children knitting.

3.2.1 Building cohesion through community events and festivals

Community events and festivals can play a vital role in building community cohesion and contribute to economic prosperity. By promoting positive interaction between different cultures, the Council aims to build up residents' pride in Barking and Dagenham, minimise social tensions or conflicts and support residents living in the borough.

A number of events are run by the Council which have the potential to promote interaction between communities. There is scope to question the extent to which they achieve this.

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[6] Communities and Local Government, March 2010, Cohesion Delivery Framework 2010

The Dagenham Town Show is the biggest entertainment show in the borough held in Central Park in Dagenham, for almost over 50 years. This year's Dagenham Town Show was held on Saturday 17 and Sunday 18 July and included at the main stage featuring headlines acts like Stacey Solomon and Damage, supported by a number of tribute bands. A performance arena featured comedy cars, high drives, car stunts, workshops and performances by local groups. There was also a traditional crafts area, carnival parade, trade stall and funfair. A number of exhibition marquees promoted Council services and the work of community organisations, such as things for young people to do; being safe, feeling safe; smartening up the borough, health and well being and community spirit. In addition, Musictek co-ordinated a showcase for local bands, dancers and singers on the community stage and Arc theatre presented their community play, 'The marvel of Muddy End', in a performance tent.

However, a number of groups in the consultation expressed disappointment regarding this year's Dagenham Town Show, stating that there was little presence of community and voluntary groups. A number of groups from the consultation also felt that the cost of hiring a tent or a stall to display information was too high, discouraging groups from participating at the Town Show.

The Select Committee met with the Head of Arts and Leisure to address the issues raised at the consultation. The Committee was pleased to note that in 2009 the Council had introduced free basic accommodation to all local community groups and charities to promote their services. The incentive includes a basic exhibition pitch (2m x 3m) in a marquee, provision of exhibition panels, display boards etc to facilitate the groups; charges are only made for any additional requirements. Furthermore, all prices are displayed in the form filled put by the groups wishing to participate at the Dagenham Town Show.

The Committee took the view that despite the excellent opportunity provided by the Council, a vast majority of the community and voluntary groups remain unaware of this support. The Committee felt that this incentive needed to be further promoted to the community and voluntary groups.

Recommendation 10:

The Committee recommends that the provision of free accommodation at the Town Show for community and voluntary groups, including faith groups, be further promoted in the Third Sector via the equalities fora and CVS.

The Select Committee made the following suggestions for improvement at future Town Shows:
- Re-branding the Town Show – Members suggested that the Show's name should be changed to 'Barking and Dagenham Town Show' to help brand the event as one for the whole of the Borough and not just for Dagenham residents, as it is currently perceived. Also instead of having the Town Show in one particular place, it should be relocated to a more central location to attract a borough-wide audience. However, Members were made aware that

the relocation of such a large event to another park could also attract a large number of complaints from nearby residents, as the current location does not have many houses bordering onto the park.

- Increase participation by local community groups – the exhibition marquees promoted Council services more than the work of the community groups. Members felt that more community groups should exhibit their work. The Committee noted that currently it would cost the Council approximately £20,000 in marquee hire cost to provide up to 100 local community groups and charities with free space (2 metre frontage including table and chair hire cost) to showcase their services.

- Re-invigorate the carnival parade- Members stated that parades including floats should be reinstated at the Town Show. It was noted that parades were currently organised and managed by a Parade Committee, and the Council provides administration and marketing support to the Committee. However, recently, it has proved difficult to get groups involved in the parade. The Select Committee stated that the Council should identify ways of achieving a float for each ward in the borough, furthermore, local businesses should be encourage to sponsor the floats.

- Use of local music bands – increase the profile of local bands by moving them from the side stage to the main stage.

- More activities during the day - the activities and entertainment at this year's Town Show mainly took place in the evenings, while there wasn't enough to do during the day. Members suggested that activities and side shows should be organised for families attending during the day.

- Representing different and diverse groups - Diverse community and voluntary groups should be encouraged to be present at the Town Show to raise awareness of their work to the community, i.e. the knitting group, history and heritage, scouts groups, Tenants Resident Association Groups, different religious groups etc.

- Stage shows and acts - Members were of the opinion that the stage shows and acts are very popular at the Town Show; however, concerns were raised regarding problems associated with people drinking alcohol and behaving anti-social such as leaving empty bottles around. It was suggested that in the evenings, the arena around the stage should be made an alcohol free zone by fencing part of the area off which would be prohibited from drinking alcohol. This would require additional security at an estimated cost of £4,000.

- Invite schools to participate – the Select Committee was concerned regarding the lack of participation of schools at the Town Show. Members felt that schools should also actively take part in the town show and the carnival and exhibit their contribution towards promoting community cohesion in the borough. Furthermore, the Select Committee felt there are a number of young talented music bands in various schools that should be given the opportunity to perform at the town show. This would also save the Council money in hiring external bands.

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Recommendation 11:

The Select Committee recommends that the Council should encourage local businesses to support a reinvigorated carnival with the aim of achieving at least one float per ward.

Recommendation 12:

The Select Committee recommends that the Council invite schools to exhibit their extra-curricular activities and increase their presence at the Town Show and the carnival.

Officers have conducted a review of the Town Show, and are now proceeding to plan for the 2011 event. These plans respond to the concerns and ideas of the Select Committee, such as a proposal is being developed to provide support to increase participation by local community groups.

3.2.2 Promoting pride in the borough's heritage

Feedback from the consultation revealed that a number of groups felt there should be greater contact between different generations and communities, and that they could all learn from each other. It was suggested that one way to build community cohesion is to promote the borough's heritage and history so people could feel proud and respect the areas they live in.

The Select Committee looked into the contribution of the Council's Heritage Services to building cohesion. Members were pleased to note that much positive work was already being undertaken by Heritage Services in promoting the borough's history and heritage to the community. The Committee noted the following:

Valence House Museum - Following extensive renovation and refurbishment, Valence House Museum was reopened in June 2010. The Museum is the centre piece for pride in the borough and highlights the achievements of the past through a number of displays of the borough's history, in a friendly and modern way to suit people of all ages, origins and learning abilities. Entry to the Museum is free and is open to all and includes access to a visitor centre with café, education rooms and a state of the art local studies library.

The displays in the Museum's galleries outline the story of the borough and reflect the people that make up Barking and Dagenham.

Teaching also takes place in the museum galleries and in the education facility in the new visitor centre. This includes teaching on the Key Stage 1 subject on famous people, both local and national.

A total of 18 classes were booked into the museum from 15 October to 18 November 2010 (about 500 children and 180 adults). Furthermore in November 2010, Rush Green Primary school brought three year 2 classes to study famous people.

The museum also exhibits the lifestyle of residents who lived in the Becontree housing estate in the 1930s, through a recreated living room and kitchen. Schools use these settings to teach local children studying 'How we used to Live' and 'Houses and Homes'. Furthermore presentations are tailored for individual schools that wish to learn about the history of their area. A number of sessions have also been provided on Pride in the Borough, Remembrance, transport, Victorian Barking, the Fishing Fleet, Victorian Dagenham, Who do you think you are and Victorian Christmas. A total of 504 children were taught in the Museum and in formal outreach sessions between June–July 2010.

Eastbury Manor House uses both costumed interpreters and members of Heritage staff to interpret the history of the house and to explain the Tudor period to both school children and adults. Eastbury Manor House's ability to promote pride is in its existence and has been promoted as the 'Jewel in the Crown'.

Heritage Services have also created over 20 loan boxes covering a range of Key Stage subjects. The Tudor box is often used by teachers as prequel to a visit to Eastbury Manor House. An average loan box is used for a year group and reaches up to 112 children over a two week loan period.

Intergenerational work is normally done with Key Stage 2 children in primary and junior schools and involves older people explaining the changes in an area they have seen throughout their lifetime. Leys Primary School has worked with a worker from Samuel William's Dock in Dagenham, part of a Heritage Service project that taught 112 children about the history of the borough and how it had changed over the years.

The Heritage Service is working hard to capture historical experiences for tomorrow's children and have created opportunities to bring older and younger people together. Rush Green Junior School experienced soldiers and veterans recounting their stories of evacuation, military services and the Home Front. The veterans have also helped schools with Remembrance themed workshops and have been part of the Soldiers and Civilians Lottery Project that reached some 439 children in the borough.

Members commended the work undertaken by Heritage Services and were particularly impressed with Valence House Museum as it caters for both adults and children. Members suggested subjects for a number of additional displays which could be mounted in the future: Dagenham Beaches, and exhibitions on different communities in the borough. Members suggested that the Museum should consider selling a wider range of books based on the borough's history and heritage as these would be popular.

The Select Committee took the view that sites of historic importance to borough's heritage should be further promoted by erecting commemorative plaques of

eminent figure from the borough. The Select Committee considered that Heritage plaques are a unique way to promote greater awareness of borough's heritage and a way of connecting people and places by commemorating the link between notable figures of the past and the buildings in which they lived and worked.

Recommendation: 13

The Select Committee recommends that the Council uses commemorative plaques to celebrate famous figures that were born or lived in the borough in the past as well as those currently reside in the borough.

Recommendation 14:

The Select Committee recommends that consideration be given to promoting a local history week to increase awareness of the borough's history and heritage across all ages.

3.3 The role of schools in building cohesion

Schools have a central role to play in breaking down barriers between young people and helping to create cohesive communities. By enabling every child and young person to achieve their potential, schools make a significant contribution to long term community cohesion.

According to the Department of Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) community cohesion is defined as 'working towards a society in which there is a common vision and sense of belonging by all communities; a society in which the diversity of people's backgrounds and circumstances is appreciated and valued; a society in which similar life opportunities are available to all; and a society in which strong and positive relationships exist and continue to develop in the workplace, in schools and in the wider community'[7].

The Education and Inspections Act 2006 placed a duty on all maintained schools to promote community cohesion. However, Ofsted will no longer be inspecting schools on this issue.

The role and the work of schools in promoting community cohesion has been categorised under the following headings:

Teaching and learning: teaching pupils to understand others, promoting discussion and debate about common values and diversity. For example through the new 'identity and diversity: living together in the UK' strand within citizenship education.

Equity and excellence: removing barriers to access and participation, offering equal opportunities to all their pupils to succeed at the highest level possible. This category of action focuses on securing high standards of

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[7] Guidance on the duty to promote community cohesion, DCSF, 2007

attainment for all pupils from all ethnic backgrounds and of different socio-economic status; dealing with incidents of prejudice, bullying and harassment, and developing admission arrangements that promote community cohesion and social equity.

Engagement and ethos: providing opportunities for children, young people and their families to interact with others from different backgrounds. This category of action picks up on the extended school agenda and the engagement with parents and with the wider community.

There are currently 57 schools in Barking and Dagenham. The majority of schools already consider promoting cohesion as a fundamental part of their role and work in ways which promote community cohesion. The Council is working closely with schools to promote community cohesion by providing guidance and support to them and their governors. There is already excellent practice in some local schools in promoting community cohesion. This has been recognised by Ofsted since inspection results reveal that 51% of primary and 86% of secondary schools were rated either good or outstanding in this regard. The results of inspections since 2008 are shown below:

	Outstanding	Good	Satisfactory	Inadequate
Primary	19%	32%	46%	3%
Secondary	43%	43%	14%	

Although Barking and Dagenham's primary inspections have seen an improvement from satisfactory to good or outstanding, the Select Committee expressed concerns that only 19% of primary schools achieved outstanding (which represents seven primary schools). The Select Committee was of the opinion that given the level of good work undertaken by many of the primary schools in building community cohesion, they should aim to achieve better than 'satisfactory'.

Recommendation 15:

The Select Committee recommends that the schools not yet rated 'good' or 'outstanding' be encouraged to develop plans to achieve a higher rating in building cohesion.

As well as the generic citizenship curriculum, which all schools in the borough deliver, there is a number of additional activities which provide good opportunities for young people to engage with their community. These include:
- Volunteering in secondary schools such as Jo Richardson School
- All primary schools in the borough have playground buddies to prevent bullying and promote citizenship and community.
- All schools in the borough have active school councils. School councils are democratically elected groups of students who represent their peers and enable pupils to become partners in their own education, making a positive contribution to the school environment and ethos.

- The majority of the schools invite speakers from the local community to speak at their assemblies. Furthermore, schools organise Citizenship days where local and national community and voluntary groups visit and present through discussion and interactive workshops on the work they do and how people can support them.

The Select Committee was pleased to note the approach undertaken by schools in engaging young people and community groups. The Select Committee however felt that a number of local community and voluntary groups (such as Tenants and Residents Associations) lack the involvement of young people, and suggested that schools should particularly invite locally based community and voluntary groups to give them the opportunity to promote their work and encourage youth participation.

The Committee noted the work undertaken by a number of schools in building community cohesion. Some examples are shown below:

Beam Primary	'contributing ideas to a local playground project'
Cambell Infant's	'they have been active in the local community persuading local shopkeepers to put up their posters about keeping the environment tidy and clean'.
Ripple Primary	international week with each classroom designated as a different country, a focus on learning about the language and culture of that country. Parents cook food which reflects the cuisine of their mother county.
Roding Primary	'pupils visit many different places of worship and gain a clear understanding of the diverse cultures that shape their community'
Thamesview Infants	'developing understanding and respect for differences in race and faith is part and parcel of the school's mission. Parents and pupils from all ethnic backgrounds dancing to music from Indian cinema is an example of the positive impact the school is having in promoting racial tolerance'.
Village Infants	'good contribution to community cohesion through dance celebrations, charity work and a multicultural week'.
Barking Abbey Comprehensive	'excellent opportunities for pupils to learn about other cultures through their subject lessons as well as whole-school 'Cultural Days' and different cultural events. The school's specialisms of Sport and Humanities are having a positive impact on raising attainment by improving students' engagement, self-confidence and ability to work collaboratively in a harmonious international community'.
	'working with a local community centre, the school contributed

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Eastbrook Comprehensive	to a community cohesion breakfast to encourage greater engagement with local senior citizens'.
Eastbury Comprehensive	'under the banner 'Being Different, Belonging Together' the school has developed a number of projects to promote tolerance and understanding. The school supports the learning needs of local families by offering English courses, and facilitates local organisations by hosting events for a variety of groups. The school plays an active role in working with safe neighbourhood groups, local agencies and voluntary organisations to promote local community cohesion'.

3.3.1 Integrated Youth Support Services (IYSS)

The Integrated Youth Support Service in Barking and Dagenham works with partners to deliver positive activities and preventative targeted services to young people aged 11-19. The service delivers generic youth club sessions at the Vibe, the Sue Bramley Centre and the Gascoigne Youth and Community Centre.

The Youth Support Service helps to support and develop third sector and voluntary youth provision by providing professional advice, support and training to existing groups and by developing new local voluntary youth clubs known as Street Base Locals. There are currently 10 voluntary led youth clubs throughout the borough, enabled and facilitated by local residents. The youth clubs are run from both the schools and community centres.

Gascoigne Youth and Community Centre is a prime example of how communities come together. Amongst the facilities on offer at the centre are a contemporary recording studio and editing suite, a games and socialising area, IT suite complete with the latest technology and a kitchen/café area. The centre opens during the summer for young people to take part in summer programme activities. It also runs a pre-school from Monday to Friday and runs a youth club twice a week. It also hosts a 'Chit Chat' club on Tuesday mornings for adults who want to network and socialise. On Sunday mornings a church group is based at the centre.

Streetbase is a youth initiative that provides a multitude of positive activities for young people to develop new skills and increase participation in positive activities. Streetbase Connect and Splash presents the Council with an opportunity to engage, encourage and incentivise local young people to participate in community, voluntary and environmental activities. It enables young people to take positive actions like choosing healthier meals in their school lunch, taking part in sporting activities or volunteering for charities, the card holders earn rewards points that they can trade in for exciting incentives. It is currently planned to complete the roll out of Streetbase Connect by mid December 2010 and the roll out of Splash by June 2011.

Solutions have been identified and procured that will allow non school / leisure and library uses to be recorded against young people's individual card accounts. The scheme will piloted through the extended schools coordinators in borough's secondary schools throughout Nov and Dec 2010. Once fully tested this will be made available to community and youth groups, Barking College along with charities and services such as young offenders service.

The encouragement, recognition and reward of young people for their participation in community activities and events such as the Olympics, form a central part of the project and one that will expand considerably once the project moves beyond the roll out stage.

3.3.2 Best Practice within the borough

The Select Committee met with representatives from two schools that have been rated outstanding for their work around community cohesion: Sydney Russell School and Gascoigne Primary School. The Committee commended the work undertaken by both schools in promoting community cohesion with young people and the wider community.

3.3.2.1 Sydney Russell School

Sydney Russell School is a much larger than average secondary school. The proportion of students for whom English is an additional language is above average with 47 different languages spoken at the school. The school has a number of refugees and asylum seekers. The main minority ethnic groups are Black or Black British African, Any Other (than British or Irish) White, and Black or Black British Caribbean.

The school has specialist media arts status and shares the facilities of a leisure centre with the local community. Sydney Russell works in a consortium with three other schools providing sixth form courses.

The work of the school in promoting community cohesion was graded exceptionally and consistently high by the Ofsted inspection in 2008. The school comprises students from a wide range of cultures, who get on extremely well together, valuing their diverse backgrounds. This harmonious situation has been achieved through rigorous and consistent application of carefully-designed policies that build trust and respect.

Members noted a number of recent community projects undertaken by the school in promoting cohesion:
- *Age Swap* – students worked with the tea dance group at the Kingsley Hall community centre by teaching seniors to spray paint. Together they created a mural on one of the walls at Kingsley Hall. In return, the seniors taught the young people how to tea dance. The feedback from both was extremely positive and provided a learning experience for both parties.
- *Respect Show*- the show was a culmination of three months of students' extra curriculum workshops in dance, singing and fashion involving over 60 students. The work of the students focused on encouraging children to build respect for oneself and others by working in a team.

- *Beauty in an urban age photography* – an ongoing community digital photography project involving people's perspective of what is perceived to be 'beautiful' in an urban area with a particular focus on Barking and Dagenham, under the guidance of a professional photographer.
- *Silver surfers' week* – Members of staff and students volunteered to help at various events held in the borough's libraries in workshops aimed at helping over 50's learn how to use the internet and computers.
- *Black History Month* **–** is a remembrance of important people and events in the history of the African diasporas and is celebrated every year with all students from different backgrounds.

3.3.2.2 Gascoigne Primary School

Gascoigne Primary School is a very large school consisting of over 1,000 pupils. The number of pupils from an ethnic minority background has risen significantly in recent years from 20% in 1999/2000 to 90% at present. The school draws children from a wide range of minority ethnic backgrounds, the main groups being from Albania, Somalia, West Africa and Easter European Heritage. The number of children with English as an additional language has risen from 18% in 1999 to 76% in 2005; it now stands at 90%. Currently there are 57 different languages spoken by children in the school and 26% of pupils are in the early stages of learning English. The school provides thorough support to newly arrived pupils and those with English as Additional Language.

The School defines community cohesion as working towards a society in which:
- There is a common vision and sense of belonging among all communities;
- The diversity of people's backgrounds and circumstances are appreciated and valued;
- Similar life opportunities are available to all;
- Strong and positive relationships exist and continue to develop in schools and the wider community

The school runs a number of project and activities to encourage children's involvement in the local community. Some examples include:
- The school embraces students' input in a positive and proactive way. Pupils in Key Stage 1 and 2 discuss important issues and make recommendations for change at the School Council meetings.
- Children are encouraged to organise and plan events themselves and have raised funds for various organisations and charities such as Children in Need, Comic Relief, the Haitian Earthquake appeal and the UNICEF Pakistan Flood Children's Appeal.
- The school encourages children's involvement in the local community and have organised a school choir to entertain the residents of a local care home at Christmas, for the St George's Day celebration in Barking Town Centre and at the Community Singing Festival, hosted at the school.
- The school took part in the annual Fourth Plinth awards scheme and won the borough prize two years running.
- The Gascoigne Summer Exhibition is a new initiative that involves the whole school and parents working together.

- The Diversity Week involved children celebrating similarities and differences in cultures.
- The school values the many languages spoken by its pupils and encourages the development of bilingualism. It advises parents to maintain the use of their language in the home. It uses Language of the Month in all classes to introduce children to a wide range of languages.

The school has maintained good links with the local religious communities, with members of all faith communities visiting the school. The school believes that this has been achieved through the good work of the teachers and administrative staff which in turn reflects the ethnic diversity of the local community. The school has close links with the local Mosques, churches and temples.

Encouraging the involvement of parents in schools and education of their children has been a key priority for Gascoigne Primary School. The school has a strong parental links through working with parents groups who run after school provision. In particular, two parent groups; Albanian and Portuguese groups run the extended schools activities with which the school is closely associated. Due to the large number of parents from minority ethnic backgrounds, workshops for parents are run by teachers and outside providers on speech and language, reading and writing and maths for families.

A key development in building good relationships with the local community was achieved through the Shpresa project. The school worked in partnership with Shpresa, an active user-led organisation that promotes the participation and contribution of the Albanian-speaking community, to encourage the involvement of Albanian parents in the school, on discipline and on the children's cultural confidence and attainment. The school provided Shpresa with free use of its premises and facilities to set up an after school class, one day a week until 7pm, which included an hour of literacy in Albanian and a very popular hour of games and lively and complex traditional dancing.

It also set up regular consultations with parents and ran support sessions to meet identified needs and provided individual support for parents if required. In particular it ran the Step-by-Step parental support programme that introduced parents into the English education system, helping them to support their children and get involved in the life of the school. It also advised the school on issues of culture and language and deployed three Albanian volunteers, training to work with children in schools. The director of Shpresa has regular meetings with the headteacher of the school and the Ethnic Minority Achievement co-ordinator and also serves on the School's Board of Governors. The project resulted in very positive effect on the children's self-esteem of experiencing their culture valued in school and enhanced parental involvement. The school is hoping to use the Sphresa project to engage with the Portuguese community.

The Select Committee commended the work undertaken by the school in actively engaging with the Albanian community. The Select Committee also commended the school's provision of free use of its premises to the local groups; Members felt that this was very encouraging and a positive step taken by the school in building cohesion amongst diverse communities in the borough.

3.4.1 **The use of community facilities to promote cohesion**

Currently the Council's network of community halls is as follows:

Abbey	Heath Park	Ted Ball
Fanshawe	Marks Gate	Thames View
Gascoigne	Ripple	Village
Hatfield	Teresa Green	Wantz

The 12 community centres are run in partnership between the Council and Community Associations, with the exception of Ripple Hall, which is managed and held on a long lease by the CVS. The Gascoigne Community Centre is currently under the control of the Council until a new Community Association is established. Community Associations are responsible for the centres' operations from Sunday through Friday, and can request to make bookings on 12 Saturdays of the year.

There are however other community facilities available for hire by the community and voluntary groups such as:
- The Barking Learning Centre
- Eastbury Manor House
- Valence House Museum Visitor Centre
- Kingsley Hall Dagenham
- Halls associated with places of worship
- A range of school halls

Feedback from the Select Committee's consultation indicated that a number of groups felt that the availability of community centres was not well publicised throughout the borough. The groups suggested that it would be useful to have a regular update on what community centres are available and where in the borough.

Groups also raised concerns regarding charges for the hire of community halls. The majority of groups felt that the charges were too high, particularly at the weekends, and that a number of small groups find it difficult to afford for these charges.

Following the Coalition Government's announcement on the Comprehensive Spending Review in October 2010, the Council is facing tough financial challenges in achieving difficult budget reductions. The Committee noted the Council's proposal to transfer community halls as assets to Community Associations, which is expected to commence in April 2011. The Council has invited Community Associations across the borough to take over the running of their local centres on long leases at a peppercorn rent. This will enable the groups to bid for funding against the leases, bringing new funding into the borough which is currently inaccessible to the Council.

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The proposals intend to build community capacity and to give local community and voluntary groups the opportunity to contribute towards community priorities. A provision will be incorporated into lease agreements to ensure halls remain accessible by all groups in the community.

However, unless the community centres are transferred to local groups by the end of March next year, the Council cannot continue to run them. Depending on the geographical location and presence of other facilities in the area, the halls may be closed from April 2011 and this would result in some reductions in local community spaces.

Members took the view that there are a range of facilities available for community and voluntary groups; however, other than the Council and CVS website, these facilities need to be widely publicised using different channels of communication.

Recommendation 16:

The Select Committee recommends that the provision of community facilities, including the availability of community halls and church halls, should be further publicised to the community in the News, on a ward-by-ward basis, and using Community TV.

Recommendation 17:

The Select Committee recommends that a report, outlining the extent to which the community centres transferred continue to enable the whole community to access their space, be brought to the Committee in six months time.

3.4.2 The use of School Halls through Extended Schools and wider community access to schools

The Select Committee regarded schools as the hubs of communities, particularly for families and the local community groups that could benefit from using school resources. Members felt that schools play an important role in promoting cohesion and should work with local voluntary and community groups to build stronger relationships with the community by increasing the range of activities and services available. The schools would also benefit from shared expertise by working with different groups who are already established in their area.

Extended services in and through schools (also known as Extended Schools) is a programme initiated by the previous government, which required schools to offer a range of extended activities to the community by 2010 (Barking and Dagenham has already met this target).These include a varied menu of activities including:
- study support;
- childcare in primary schools;
- parenting support;

- swift and easy access to targeted and specialist services and opening and
- **opening up facilities to the wider community**

A definition of the wider community access within the Extended Schools agenda was set out by the previous government:

"Where a school has facilities suitable for use by the wider community (e.g. playing fields, sports facilities, IT facilities, halls), it should look to open these up to meet community needs in response to an assessment of local demand"

In Barking and Dagenham, schools do not necessarily provide services directly, but commission providers and link/signpost to existing provision through clusters of schools, children's centres and other settings.

Furthermore, a range of guidance documents is provided by the Council to support schools in developing a wider community access provision:
- Extended schools staff guidance – setting out key considerations for Headteachers to appropriately and fairly staff their extended schools provision.
- Legal guidance for Governing bodies offers advice to Governors who wish to let school premises to a third party providers i.e. community groups. It includes a model 'Transfer of Control Agreement' which will serve to protect the school in the instance of something going wrong. A Transfer of Control is the way in which the Governors can permit a third party to use part of school premises by transferring control of that area to the third party for a given period of time.
- Charging and remission policy for schools and model charging policy, using the best practice guidance developed by the London Borough of Islington. The document provides guidance on developing a charging policy that is both fair to community groups and private providers, and at the same time, is sustainable for the school. All schools are required to develop this policy by the end of 2010.
- Ongoing support and professional development is provided by the Head of Youth Support Service by regularly liaising with schools to address various issues.

The Committee noted the current provision, in relation to wider community access, taking place in individual schools throughout the borough. Full details of provision in individual schools (including infant, primary, special and secondary schools) can be viewed in appendix 2. The Committee was pleased to note that every school in the borough provided wider community access in one form or another, whether through the provision of groups and classes specifically linked to the school, such as activities for parents, or through the 18 Children's Centres based throughout the borough.

In 2008, the Department for Children, Schools & Families (DCSF) announced a three year Extended Schools capital allocation to develop extended schools across an area to support delivery of the core offer. So far, the capital programme has seen £1.1m invested in a range of projects, benefiting the

schools and the wider community, in 16 primary schools throughout the borough. The projects have included

- access to sports hall with independent community access i.e. at William Ford J school;
- 'zoning off' to allow community access i.e. at Ripple Primary School and Thames View Junior School;
- adaptation of ICT suite i.e. in Parsloes and Thomas Arnold School

In developing services it is important for schools to plan collaboratively with other local schools as well as other agencies and voluntary organisations in order to provide a wide a range of facilities for an area. The majority of the schools in Barking and Dagenham share extended services by sharing facilities for wider community access such as Grafton Infant and Junior, Marks Gate Infants and Junior, Thames View Infants and Junior and William Ford and Village Infants.

3.4.3 **Which schools hire their halls and for how much?**

Currently 18 primaries, 8 secondaries and one special school let their halls out for community access. Although all schools are required to follow the borough's guidance for developing a charging policy or revising their existing policy, charges for letting out halls vary from school to school according to the beneficiary. Example charges for letting school halls are provided in appendix 3.

The Committee expressed disappointment regarding the number of schools not letting their halls for use, based in areas where community facilities are needed the most. In particular, 15 schools within the five wards situated in the heart of the borough (including Parsloes, Alibon and Valence) do not offer their facilities to the community. Member felt that at least one school in each ward should provide community access to their facilities.

The Committee suggested that the Council should demonstrate to schools the benefits of engaging with the community and by allowing this provision schools will be able to build good relationship with their local community. The Committee however noted that schools do not have to open up the facilities if they are not suitable or if opening them up would duplicate existing community facilities. Furthermore, the Council's powers are limited in enforcing schools to let their halls for hire; the School Governors have the authority to require schools to open their halls for community use. It was discussed that Councillors who are representatives on the school governing bodies across the borough have a role to play in encouraging schools to promote community cohesion.

Recommendation 18:

The Select Committee recommends that the Council encourage school governing bodies to consider opening facilities to the community in at least one school in each ward.

Recommendation 19:

The Select Committee recommends that Councillors, in their role as school governors, encourage schools to allow their facilities to be used by the community.

The Select Committee identified a number of key challenges for schools around wider community access, mainly around safeguarding and liability. It was established that a number of schools are not designed to facilitate wider community access through the appropriate 'zoning off' of parts of the school to safeguard children. This has however been addressed through the Extended School Capital Programme, which has seen development of areas within a number of primary schools that are now accessible for independent community access, such as Ripple Primary and William Ford Junior. The schools are now able to 'zone off' areas and only open parts of the school accessible by the community. A number of schools also raised issues around not having the appropriate furniture to cater for community groups to use, however Extended Schools revenue funding has been provided to support this.

As well as safeguarding, insurance has also been a key concern amongst many school and governing bodies. Furthermore, the school governors who participated in the consultation with the Select Committee also identified insurance as a barrier to schools letting halls out for wider community access. However, it was noted that the schools are actively supported by the Council to put in place robust and legally binding partnership agreements that cover them in instance if any damages, such as through the Transfer of Control Agreement.14 schools currently host external childcare providers until 6pm each weekday and have put these arrangements in place.

3.4.4 **Improving community perceptions**

During the Select Committee's consultation, a number of groups felt that despite the level of good work undertaken by local community and voluntary groups, it often goes unnoticed. Promoting and publicising the work and the contribution of the local community and voluntary groups would help improve the perception issue within the borough.

The Select Committee took the view that the local media plays an important role in eliminating myths and stereotyping and could help promote an appreciation of diversity in the borough. Therefore, publicising the positive work of community and voluntary groups in the borough would improve communications and subsequently challenge misconceptions and tackle negative views of some local residents towards changing communities. The Select Committee also suggested that community events and activities should also be widely publicised by the local media to raise further awareness in the community.

However, it is equally important that the community and voluntary groups proactively engage with the local media to promote community cohesion by developing guidance for the release of information which might impact on perceptions of cohesion.

Recommendations 20:

The Select Committee recommends that the CVS pro-actively approach the local media to further promote the work undertaken by the local community and voluntary groups, including the publication of the activities and event organised by the groups.

3.4.5 **Volunteering**

Volunteering plays a vital role in sustaining the Third Sector and supporting communities in the borough. Currently, 26% of organisations survive on volunteering support alone in the borough. The prevalence of organisations managing with an all volunteer workforce or mainly volunteers is partly explained by the number of new groups in the borough in their formative stages. However, a number of well and established groups also manage to sustain their work with few or no paid staff. A total number of 2,561 volunteers were identified in 2008/09.

The Council currently commissions the Volunteer Bureau to provide a range of support in relation to volunteering. Their targets include the following:
- Promote the role of volunteering in the borough:
  - o Place 200 volunteers in organisations per annum
  - o Recruit, train and support these volunteers
  - o 75 volunteers to take up accredited training
- Continue promoting the CRB process and implementation within the voluntary sector in the borough:
  - o Ensure 2 yearly renewals for all registered organisations
  - o Process 500 voluntary and community sector applications per annum

This commission is currently being re-tendered: the new commission will commence in July 2011.

Recommendation 21:

The Select Committee recommends that in nine months time, by when the new volunteering function will be up and running , a report on the impact of volunteering in the borough and plans for its promotion be presented to the Committee by the organisation delivering this commission.

4.   Conclusion

This has been the second in-depth review conducted by the Safer and Stronger Community Select Committee. The review has aimed to identify some key areas that impact upon community cohesion, and to put forward recommendations to support those working in the complex yet vital area.

Members recognise that many of the report's recommendations require partnership working between the Local Authority and other relevant organisations and intend to hold ongoing dialogue with those on whom the recommendations have an impact.

The Select Committee recognise the importance of continued consultation with the voluntary and community sector in relation to building community cohesion. Following the drafting of this report, the Select Committee has consulted further with the community and voluntary organisations, and intends to incorporate any recommendations arising in consideration for further action plans, where not possible to accommodate at this present time.

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Terms of Reference

- To identify what opportunities are available for community and voluntary groups in the borough to build community cohesion?

- To look at how the Council can support the community/voluntary groups and representatives in building a cohesive borough?

- To look at the role the Council and its partners play in building community cohesion?

- To engage with the community and voluntary groups and representatives through consultation meetings.

- To identify best practice and successful initiatives nationally and in other local authorities, including London Borough of Barking and Dagenham's statistical neighbours and Beacon authorities.

- To report back to Cabinet and relevant partnership sub-groups for comments and to the Assembly for agreement with findings and recommendations for future policy and or practice.

- To monitor progress against the implementations of the recommendations, agreed by the Assembly, after six months.

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School	Summary of provision as at autumn 2010	Summary of action plan for 2010-2011
	INFANT SCHOOLS	
Cambell	- Providers coming into school to deliver clubs and curriculum support. - Closer connections with community police, with regular visits now taking place. - Jo Richardson students helping with Multi-skills activities for KS1. - Parent Council about to be launched. - Full time Parent Support Adviser.	Continue to signpost to Children's Centres and other community venues.
Dorothy Barley	Full time Parent Support Adviser and range of courses from adult college as well as courses run by schools own staff. Courses selected according to parents needs and requests.	Securing school hall and toilet facilities for meetings through Extended Schools Capital Programme
Furze	Signpost to courses in Children's Centre	Signpost to Furze Children's Centre
Grafton	Family learning	Signpost to Children's Centres and other community venues.
Manor	- Conversation Classes for parents run by Teaching Assistants. - ICT, Literacy, Numeracy, Getting ready for Reception, Getting Ready for Nursery through the Adult College, Speak Easy, The Incredible years, ESOL and various parenting courses through the Children's Centre. - Parent Support Adviser also runs various parenting workshops and courses	Signpost to Children's Centres and other community venues.
Marks Gate	Offer a range of adult education classes in a spare	Signpost to Children's Centres and other community venues.

	classroom. Active involvement of Parent Support Advisor has ensured these have been well attended.	
Northbury	- Quran classes take place three evenings a week after school. - Yoga.	Signpost to Children's Centres and other community venues.
Rush Green	Parents' courses ran this year provided by Adult College and PSA, but no community lettings.	- New Parents room will help parents to have regularly access to the school. - Need to equip room to provide cooking facilities and ingredients. Younger siblings will be able to accompany parents and equipment will be ensure safety
Thames View	- The school runs and also hosts events for a wide range of community stakeholders. This includes: consultancy for local schools around ICT; Thames Gateway Meetings; Barking College Events (family yoga, adult literacy); school run internet drop in; 'Let's get cooking'; 'Getting Ready for Reception' (for families having not previously attended Nursery) - Links made with local - the school runs both Arabic and Albanian language clubs, which are attended by parents from these communities. - Community events: Diwali, Eid, Easter Bonnet Parade; Sports day; the Dance-a-thon; 2xFun Days; Bhangra Drumming Day; the Thames View Village Show. - 24 hour HQ 'wrap around' accessibility and accountability: vibrant website translated into 11 local languages, containing over 150 pupil/parental	- Zone-based classroom security system, allowing better security when opening the school out of hours - All UEL PGCE students attend TVI for an ICT planning/engagement day (over 8 days) in which they will learn how to use ICT to accelerate learning and parental engagement. - To provide a more systematic and formal means of parents contribution to school evaluation and decision making.

	resources. Access to real-time information about school (via Twitter). Thames View Infants Television on YouTube. Dedicated 24 hour 'home work' support email address (homework.help@bdcs.org.uk) Dedicated 24 hour School-run ICT support phone line. Newsletter by e-mail service. Negotiation with RM to allow parents to access real-time attendance data.	
Village	- Church lettings – Sunday and one evening - Community meetings – one evening termly - Holiday Club Sport Activities [Premier Sports]	- Children's Centre/Family Learning - organised groups to use school facilities, which are more suitable for delivery of workshops and crèche - Community Activator – exercise opportunities for parents
William Bellamy	- Do not currently let the school for any groups. However, have allowed outside areas to be used for the summer play schemes run by the neighbouring children's centre. - Some specialist services have utilised space in school when we have some available (e.g. speech therapist, supervised contact for the social care team etc).	Signpost to Children's Centres and other community venues.
JUNIOR SCHOOLS		
Cambell	- Parenting group/coffee morning (variety of subjects discussed). - Autistic children parent's support group. - Parent guide to computing run by ICT coordinator.	Computing skills for parents - use of ICT room.
Dorothy Barley	- Community art projects. - Fetes and fairs.	Development of newly created community Art area to provide storage and seating for parents / carers.

Grafton	- Borough courses & meetings in Art rooms shared with Infant School. - Courses run by Valence Children's Centre. - Parents' Forum Weekly Meeting.	- Parents curriculum support meetings. - Outside sports coaches running after school clubs. All Saints/ Eastbrook year 11s Sports Leaders – Curriculum and Clubs - Courses run by Valence Children's Centre.
Manor	Community functions supporting PTA fundraising and social activities which increases community cohesion.	- Community functions - Friends of Manor PTA - Parent and social activities
Marks Gate	- Yoga courses provided for parents/ carers & children. - ICT courses for parents. - School participation in community events such as fun run and St Marks Day. - School to help with promotion and facilities for 2010 church summer holiday scheme. - School holds Christmas bazaar and summer fete.	- Community centre and library next door. - Signpost to Children's Centres and other community venues.
Northbury	- Family ICT courses. - Family yoga courses. - Quran classes run in annex after-school	- Development of grow and eat garden with the children, families, and community.
Rush Green	Development priority although dependant on extra funding.	Carry out community user survey to establish access needs.
Thames View	- Use of school field by local football clubs. - Lettings to church groups and private functions. - Signposting to various other services.	Signpost to Children's Centres and other community venues.
Warren	Signpost to Children's Centres and other community	Signpost to Children's Centres and other community venues.

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	venues.	
William Bellamy	- The Children's Centre have organised a range of activities for families during school holidays and use the school grounds. - Local football team (Romford Borough Girls) use school grounds for training. - Local Asian community group use school grounds for teaching Asian dance. - Safer Neighbourhoods Team use school grounds for events. - Feeder Infants School use grounds for activities during and after school. - Community Playground accessed by community from 3:10pm until 6:00pm daily.	Signpost to Children's Centres and other community venues.
William Ford	- Adult Education community use of facilities. - Used by two churches.	Community communication day. A day of story telling, story making, writing and listening.
PRIMARY SCHOOLS		
Beam	- Wider community access is provided by allowing access to the field for sports clubs. - Holiday schemes have been running at Easter and May. All children are able to attend.	Establishing more groups to use school during school holidays.
Becontree	- School continues to provide access and signposting to services through the Children's Centre. - Local MP uses school hall to provide annual constituency meeting. - Drama club run by outside provider is shared with and	Signpost to Children's Centres and other community venues.

	taking place in St Vincent's Primary.	
Eastbury	Signposting to Eastbury Children's Centre.	Development and facilities in new building for community use.
Five Elms	- Adult college and Children's Centre provide courses at school. - Support groups for Parents with deaf children. - Placements offered to local residents and parents facilitating access back to work.	Signpost to Children's Centres and other community venues.
Gascoigne	- An 'activities' fair where we invite other organisations to come in and show parents and children what we offer in the area. - Portuguese cultural/ after school group. - Al Noor two nights a week. - ICT, Sports, Arts, Adult Learning.	Signpost to Children's Centres and other community venues.
Godwin	- No lettings at present and no plans to offer this. - Signposting to Castle Green & other local facilities for adult training etc. - School used by LBBD as a gymnastics teacher training centre. Tech room also being used to train borough's teachers.	Signpost to Children's Centres and other community venues.
Henry Green	Signpost to Children's Centres and other community venues.	Set up a website to relay information and make a different kind of link with parents. We are looking at making this facility with an option of translation into the language of the home.
Hunters Hall	Signpost to Children's Centres and other community	Story Sacks replenishment.

	venues.	
John Perry	- ICT courses run for parents in school. - Joint courses run with Children's Centre e.g. Literacy and Numeracy.	ICT club for parents.
Marsh Green	- The Children's Centre is used by the wider community for parenting groups, ESOL classes with crèche, family and health advice. - The school hall is used by cubs and scouts one evening a week and for CGAPs breakfast and after school club.	Signpost to Children's Centres and other community venues.
Monteagle	- Letting for Goresbrook Village Community Activities (5-13 year olds) during Easter holidays. - Street dance – summer term.	Develop further links with Goresbrook Village Communal Activities group by extending opportunities for them to use school premises during holidays.
Parsloes	No lettings at present and no plans to offer this.	To provide additional books for our re-furbished library so we have enough to keep up with demand for our families.
Richard Alibon	Occasional letting of building to community users e.g. salvation army.	Signpost to Children's Centres and other community venues.
Ripple	Hosting of residents public meetings, Ward Panel Meetings, community group meetings e.g. Friends of Eastbury Ward.	The school site is now open until 9pm Monday to Friday to provide activities for children aged 8-17 (including the Ripple Youth Club) and wider community access.
Roding	Signpost to Children's Centres and other community venues.	Signpost to Children's Centres and other community venues.

Southwood	- No lettings at present and no plans to offer. - Signposting to Sydney Russell Children's Centre as well as local groups and activities taking place in the local community. - Links established with Sydney Russell Children's Centre, the Adult College and Barking College with regard to parent courses. - After school Family Yoga Club organised by Parent Support Adviser. - Pupils and parents continue to access playground areas after school hours including the use of the adventure playground apparatus and seating areas.	- Maintain family courses to be run by school staff and outside providers. - New courses to include ICT for parents to be led by ICT Technician (Autumn term). - Increase use of School Library outside school session times. - Plan works to create entrance to library from outside – when capital funding available. - Organise an after school event with a range of activities available in the playground e.g. adventure playground, scooters
St. Joseph's Catholic Barking	- Dad's Saturday Group - Summer Term. - Family Day- Family and education support and range of activities provided.	Signpost to Children's Centres and other community venues.
St. Joseph's Catholic Dagenham	- Karate Club. - Parish Youth Club. - Use of church hall.	Signpost to Children's Centres and other community venues.
St. Margaret's Church of England	- Children's Centres running courses on site. - Family Learning courses being run on site. - Sunday access for the church and community service groups.	Signpost to Children's Centres and other community venues.
St. Peter's Catholic	- Parents/ friends to quiz nights, variety shows, school fete assemblies and coffee mornings.	- Weekly parent and community coffee mornings. PTA fetes Christmas, Easter and Summer. Friends functions. - Possible establishment of MUGA for school and wider

		community use e.g. local sports teams.
St. Teresa Catholic	- Celebration of culture organised jointly between school and PTA with invitations extended to wider community. - Invitation to members of the local community to speak to Y6 pupils about their work in the community.	Signpost to Children's Centres and other community venues.
St Vincent's	No lettings. Strong links with the Parish. The school hall is used by Parish for church groups.	Signpost to Children's Centres and other community venues.
The Leys	ESOL, Family Literacy/ Numeracy, ICT Courses.	- Let's Get Cooking - ICT Community group - Notice boards for parent - Community groups/ advisory staff using spare classroom and school facilities.
Thomas Arnold	- Offers of training/support courses are made and held at the school or by other providers. - Offer voluntary placements for members of the community/parents/carers who are accessing college training. - Also offer a programme of workshops to parents/carers across YR-Y6 throughout the year.	Signpost to Children's Centres and other community venues.
Valence	- Local youth club have two evenings for up to 40 young people. - IT facilities shared with local church group supporting people with debt issues. - Local sports teams use Hall and playground on a	New Gym equipment put in playground for use by parents and children.

	weekly basis. - Parent Support Adviser organised local groups to meet in school. - Links with local legion for accessing older residents. - Links with local debt agency has seen up to 10 adults using ICT facilities on a regular basis.	
TRINITY		
Trinity	- After-school club on Mondays at Abbey Sports Centre run by Borough Sports Development team. - Cricket on Fridays led / supported by Essex County Cricket club	Signpost to Children's Centres and other community venues.
SECONDARY SCHOOLS		
All Saints	- Community projects developed with feeder schools and the elderly in the local parishes. - Pupil group helps at lunchtimes with local primary school one day per week. - Counselling service available to all students and their families. - Links with parish. Priest to support the liturgical life of the school. - Fund raising activities – CAFOD/Breast Cancer Awareness.	School website is under review. The site includes an Extended Schools page where parents can access large amounts of information on local community services.
Barking Abbey	- Access to facilities after school hours and at weekends for local clubs and associations. - Sports Centre membership for local residents. - Longbridge youth club.	- Evening and weekend community lettings. - Onsite Physiotherapist to support sporting Academies + public access. - Further development of Music, Dance, Performing Arts,

	- Used by Christian Church group (Sunday) + other religious communities for celebrations and festivities. - Holiday school activities. - Cultural evenings (international dimension).	photography and Art activities, opening days, exhibitions, performances and events. - Further expansion of Youth Club provision.
Dagenham Park	- Comprehensive Youth Dance Provision, including links with Royal Ballet - BanDiT Shed Inclusive Theatre. This is a satellite inclusive theatre group initially founded and set up by Chicken Shed Inclusive Theatre Company. - Tea Dance. Christmas concert for OAP. - Sports Leisure Centre. - Church worship.	Signpost to Children's Centres and other community venues.
Eastbrook	- Area for counselling. - Extended schools office available for agencies to use. - City learning Centre on site.	Make fitness suite available to community.
Eastbury	- Extensive use of sports facilities by local community groups including – Goresbrook Leisure Centre (Occasional), Eastbury Judo Club, Loxford Sports Club OG Football Club, B&D Disabled Archery, Eastbury Tigers Basketball, B&D Carers Association, Barking Bangladeshi Muslim Trust, Feza/Turkish Language School, Dog Training. Badminton, Police Cadets. - Regular week-end hire of the Assembly Hall and Dining Hall by private hirers and organisations, usually for weddings, parties and meetings throughout the year. - Occasional annual use of the Assembly Hall for Community Music, Borough Speech and Language,	Signpost to Children's Centres and other community venues.

	Borough Black History and Borough Dance.	
Jo Richardson	Full programme of leisure and community activities run by Castle Green.	Signpost to Children's Centres and other community venues.
Robert Clack	- The School Leisure centre is open to the public from 6pm onwards and offers and range of sporting opportunities and full gym facilities. For example, marching band, slimming world, keep fit and after school gym clubs. - Site also hosts a City Learning Centre which is regularly used by local primary schools.	Research extending family learning within the school.
Sydney Russell	- The School Leisure centre is open to the public from 5pm onwards and offers and range of sporting opportunities and full gym facilities. - Tennis courts used by Barking and Dagenham tennis club. - Hard play area hired by local sports clubs. Year 5 and year 6 students invited in for various activities. - School site used for "boot sales".	Signpost to Children's Centres and other community venues.
Warren	The Leisure Centre is open to the public from 5pm weekdays and from 10.30 am weekends and offers a range of sporting opportunities and full gym facilities. Trampoline Clubs, Rosemary Conley classes, Keep Fit, Hockey, Judo, Soccer and after school gym clubs are but a few on offer.	Signpost to Children's Centres and other community venues.

Wider Community Access: School Lettings audit 2009				Appendix 3
School	Letting what	To whom	For what purpose	Charge
All Saints Comprehensive	No lets	N/A	N/A	N/A
Barking Abbey Comprehensive	Extensive lettings	Groups/Clubs/individuals	weddings, parties, conventions, churches	See appendix 3a
Beam Primary	Grass area, new changing rooms	Other schools sports teams	Sports	Nil
Becontree Primary	No lets	N/A	N/A	N/A
Cambell Infant	2 rooms	Adult College	adult courses	Nil
Cambell Junior	Gym	Hat-trick	After school coaching	Nil-children pay direct (£3)
Dagenham Park Community	Extensive lettings	Groups/Clubs/individuals	Sport	See appendix 3a
Dorothy Barley Infant	Halls, computer suite and playgrounds, cooking facilities	Bright Futures	After school club	peppercorn
Dorothy Barley Junior	No lets	N/A	N/A	N/A
Eastbrook Comprehensive	Football pitch/Main hall	5 teams/Dagenham Girl Pipers	Football/Piper practise	£35/h-£55/match-£65/match/free
Eastbury Comprehensive	Extensive lettings	Groups/Clubs/individuals	Social/Educational	See appendix 3a
Eastbury Primary	No lets	N/A	N/A	N/A
Five Elms Primary	Garden suite, sometimes library	Parents/LA facilitators	Family learning, signing classes	Nil
Furze Infant	Nursery, playground	Creative Steps	After school club	Nil-children pay direct
Gascoine Primary	No lets	N/A	N/A	N/A
Godwin Primary School	No lets	N/A	N/A	N/A
Grafton Infant	No lets	N/A	N/A	N/A
Grafton Junior	No lets	N/A	N/A	N/A
Henry Green Primary	No lets	N/A	N/A	N/A
Hunters Hall Primary	No lets	N/A	N/A	N/A
Jo Richardson Community	Extensive lettings	LA, community groups	Conferences, meetings, concerts etc	See appendix 3a
John Perry Primary	Infant hall/part catering hall	Bright Futures	Pre & after school clubs	£12/h
Leys Primary	Hall	Local community	Meetings	Nil
Manor Infant	No lets	N/A	N/A	N/A
Manor Junior	Hall, library, playground	Childville	After school/breakfast clubs	£32.50/£5 per session
Marks Gate Infant	Hall	Premier Sport/ Ark Theatre Leisure	After school Sports/Drama/Sports	School pays and charges children
Marks Gate Junior	2 demountable classes	Creative Steps	After school club	£500/term

Marsh Green Primary	Classroom & Hall/Hall	CGAPS/Scouts	Pre & after school clubs/scouts	£100/w /£12/h
Monteagle Primary	No lets	N/A	N/A	N/A
Northbury Infant	Hall	Premier Sport	After school Sports	Nil-children pay direct
Northbury Junior	Hall/playground	Big Foot/Football	After school club/football	Nil-children pay direct (under review)
Parsloes Primary	No lets	N/A	N/A	N/A
Richard Alibon Primary	No lets	N/A	N/A	N/A
Ripple Primary	Extensive lettings			See appendix 3a
Robert Clack Comprehensive	Hall/Leisure Centre Facilities	Clubs/Public	Meetings/Sport	£30/h / Various charges
Roding Primary	No lets	N/A	N/A	N/A
Rush Green Infant	Hall	Cousin Football	Football coaching	Nil-children pay direct
Rush Green Junior	No lets	N/A	N/A	N/A
Southwood Primary	ICT room/Hall/Meeting room	Parents and carers	Parent training/PSA coffee morning	Nil
St Joseph's Primary Barking	No lets	N/A	N/A	N/A
St Joseph's Primary Dagenham	Hall	Shoot Academy/Mark Pearson	Football/Karate	Nil-children pay direct/£15/h
St Margaret's Primary	Hall	St Margaret's Church	Sunday school	Nil
St Peter's Primary	Hall?	Parent and Friends Association and local football club		Nil
St Teresa's Primary	No lets	N/A	N/A	N/A
St Vincent's Primary	No lets	N/A	N/A	N/A
Sydney Russell Comprehensive	Hall/Sports Facilities	KICC Church/Public	Religious services/Sport	£40/h / Various charges
Thames View Infant	Hall	Elm Sports/Active Sports/community sports coaches	After school Sports/multiskills	£30-35 school pays them
Thames View Junior	Hall/sports field	Charlottes Dance/Active Sports/Church/Private functions	After school Dance/Football/meetings/functions	Church/functions £35/h - others as above
Thomas Arnold Primary	Adult college, ict, cultural days (taken from audit)			
Trinity Special	All areas available inc specialist equipment	Parents Support Group	Supporting families	£60/h+ staff costs (D-catch funded)
Valence Primary	Gym/Dining hall	Residents association/Sun & Moon	Meetings/After school club	£42.25/h / £500/month
Village Infant	Hall/Sports hall & playground	Church/Premier Sport	Meetings/Football coaching	£25/h / % of receipts
Warren Comprehensive	Sports Centre (various spaces)	Groups/Clubs/Individuals	Sport	Various charges
Warren Junior	No lets	N/A	N/A	N/A
William Bellamy Infant	Grass area	West Ham United	Football coaching	Nil
William Bellamy Junior	No lets	N/A	N/A	N/A
William Ford Junior	Drama room, kitchen and sports hall	Rhodes Stage School and Church	Drama for children and YP	£40/h

Specific lettings

Castle Green (Jo Richardson Community School) lettings charges

	Hourly Rate		
	0-4 hours	4.25-7 hours	7.25+
Meeting Room 1 for 16 people	£ 25.00	£ 20.00	£ 15.00
Meeting Room 2	£ 12.00	£ 12.00	£ 10.00
Meeting Room 3	£ 12.00	£ 12.00	£ 10.00
Boothroyd Hall for up to 800 people	£ 200.00	£ 160.00	£ 125.00
Community Suite for 30 people	£ 40.00	£ 35.00	£ 30.00
Training Suite as a classroom for 20	£ 32.00	£ 27.00	£ 18.00
Training Suite as an IT classroom for 15	£ 42.00	£ 37.00	£ 24.00
Drama Rooms 1 & 2 for 30 people	£	£	£

	40.00	35.00	24.00
Drama Room 3 for 30 people	£ 45.00	£ 40.00	£ 26.00
Street up to 200 people (including change of layout)	£ 80.00	£ 65.00	£ 50.00
Sixth Form Common Room	£ 60.00	£ 50.00	£ 45.00

Please note the hourly rate increases by 50% after 10:30pm
An Indemnity of £150 will be charged for all Boothroyd Hall bookings and £50 for all other bookings

Additional Charges

Change of Hall layout (per booking)   £50
Change of Classroom layout (per booking)   £10
Round/Square Tables Hire   £5 each   (including chairs)
Table Cloths   £5 each
Display board   £5
Technician (per hour)   £20
Car Park Steward (per hour)   £12
Cloakroom Attendant (per hour)   £12

Hire of Equipment   **Per booking**

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Flipchart/pens/paper   £15
Laptop and projector (£20 each)   £40
Television and Video/DVD   £15
OHP   £10
Mini Stage/Portable Staging (per unit)   £10

Photocopying
A4 Black & White   10p   each
A3 Black & White   15 p each

Price increase occurs each year on 1st
April
Above Hire Charges apply to any bookings booked and confirmed before 1st April
2009

At the Council's discretion, hire charges are liable to increase at any time
between the date
of the booking and the date of the hire taking place. The Hirer will be
bound to pay any
such increase and the Council undertakes to give notice of any such
increase before the
event takes place.

Barking Abbey Comprehensive School lettings charges

RATES FOR HIRE (effective 1st January 2009)

AREA	CAPACITY	STANDARD WEEKDAY EVENING RATE (only if other groups also on site)	SATURDAYS	SUNDAYS
Main Hall (Sandringham Road)	250	N/A	£80 per hr	£100 per hr
Dining Hall & Kitchen (Sandringham Road)	150	N/A	£80 per hr	£100 per hr
Main Hall, Dining Hall & Kitchen (Sandringham Road)	400	N/A	£115 per hr	£140 per hr
Main Hall (Longbridge Road)	125	N/A	£70 per hr	£90 per hr
Dance Studio	150	N/A	£50 per hr	£50 per hr
Drama (1)	80	£35 per hr	£35 per hr	£35 per hr
Drama (2)	40	£20 per hr	£20 per hr	£20 per hr
Drama (1 + 2)	120	£45 per hr	£45 per hr	£45 per hr
Music (1)	50	£30 per hr	£30 per hr	£30 per hr

Music (2)	50	£30 per hr	£30 per hr	£30 per hr
Gym (Upper/Lower)	150	£50 per hr	£50 per hr	£50 per hr
Classrooms (Lower/Upper)	30 - 32	£17.50 per hr	£25 per hr	£25 per hr
Recording Studio (Additional charge for use of technical support).	10	£35 per hr	£35 per hr	£35 per hr

Further discounts may be available for multiple bookings
*Minimum 6 hours hire for halls
*Minimum 2 hours hire for classrooms

<u>Further charges for hire</u>

\+ 3% Public Liability Insurance cover if required

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS/SPECIAL REQUESTS IN RELATION TO BOOKING (eg access to chairs/tables, etc):

Dagenham Park Church of England School lettings charges

Community Hall: The community hall has been specifically built for multi-purpose use. The hall is well lit, has changing facilities, disabled access and changing facilities, full flexibility with tables and chairs and kitchen facility. The hall is the perfect way to spend your birthday, wedding reception or anniversary. Open to all bookings from conferences to award ceremonies. This hall can also be set up anyway you wish.

Capacity – 200/800 people, Availability – Monday – Sunday, Refundable deposit of £200 is required
Price - £100, LBBD - £50

The Dining Hall 1: the hall area is a great space to hold church services, conferences and birthday parties. The Dining Hall can be set up any way you wish and we have chairs and tables which are included in the price. This area can be set up to your liking and for any function.

Capacity – 150 people, Availability – Friday to Sunday, Refundable deposit of £200 is required
Price - £85, LBBD - £45

Dining Hall 2- This smaller Dining Hall area is perfect for young children's birthday parties if you wish to hold them yourself. We also run children's Sports, Dance and Climbing Parties please see reception for more information. This area is also good for small church groups or training courses like first aid as there is plenty of floor space but can also be used as a classroom.

Capacity – 60 people, Availability – Friday to Sunday, Refundable deposit of £200 is required
Price - £65, LBBD - £35

Meeting Room - This room is fantastic for training courses, award ceremonies, first aid courses, small parties and church services. This room has an overhead projector with built in laptop input, audio equipment and facilities to play videos and DVDs. It also has a kitchen with shutters which can be left shut or opened to be able to serve teas and coffees etc.

Capacity – 30 people, Availability – Monday – Sunday
Price - £30, LBBD - £25

Dagenham Park Church of England School Leisure Centre lettings charges

Old Sports Hall

	1 hr	4hr	8hr	Capacity
Regular	£100.00	£350.00	£700.00	250
Concession	£50.00	£150.00	£300.00	250

Dining Hall 1

Regular	£85.00	£300.00	£600.00	200
Concession	£45.00	£135.00	£270.00	200

Dining Hall 2

Regular	£65.00	£200.00	£400.00	60
Concession	£35.00	£105.00	£210.00	60

Lounge

Regular	£30.00	£100.00	£200.00	30
Concession	£28.00	£90.00	£180.00	30
Other	£25.00	£75.00	£150.00	30

		Non-member	Member	Sports Development
Dance Studio Hire (Per hour)				
Peak	Adult	£30.00	£27.00	£20.00
	Senior	£27.50	£20.00	£15.00
	Concession	£27.50	£20.00	£15.00
	Junior	£27.50	£20.00	£15.00
Off Peak	Adult	£27.00	£22.50	£15.00
	Senior	£22.50	£16.00	£10.00
	Concession	£22.50	£16.00	£10.00
	Junior	£22.50	£16.00	£10.00

		Based on 30 people	
Lounge & Meeting Room Hire			
Peak	Adult	£32	30
	Senior	£29.00	27
	Concession	£29.00	27
	Junior	£29.00	27

Off Peak	Adult	£30.00	28
	Senior	£27.00	25
	Concession	£27.00	25
	Junior	£27.00	25

Sports Hall Prices   4

		Non - member	Member	Premier Member

Badminton (Per court - Per hour)
4 courts available

Peak	Adult	£8.00	£7.00	Free
	Senior	£7.00	£6.00	Free
	Concession	£7.00	£6.00	Free
	Junior	£7.00	£6.00	Free
Off Peak	Adult	£5.00	£5.00	Free
	Senior	£5.00	£5.00	Free
	Concession	£5.00	£5.00	Free
	Junior	£5.00	£5.00	Free
Equipment Hire (non-refundable)	Racquet Hire	£1.00	£1.00	£1.00
	Shuttlecocks x3	£1.00	£1.00	£1.00
	Deposits	£10.00	£5.00	Membership Card

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Table Tennis (Per court - Per hour)
8 courts available

Peak	Adult	£4.00	£3.50	Free
	Senior	£3.00	£2.50	Free
	Concession	£3.00	£2.50	Free
	Junior	£3.00	£2.50	Free
Off Peak	Adult	£3.00	£2.50	Free
	Senior	£2.00	£1.50	Free
	Concession	£2.00	£1.50	Free
	Junior	£2.00	£1.50	Free
Equipment Hire (non-refundable)	TT Bat	£1.00	£1.00	£1.00
	TT Ball x3	£1.00	£1.00	£1.00

Sports Hall Hire   5

Per hour

		Non-member	Member	Sports Development
Peak	Adult	£45.00	£35.00	£29.00
	Senior	£40.00	£30.00	£26.00
	Concession	£40.00	£30.00	£26.00

	Junior	£40.00	£30.00	£26.00
Off Peak	Adult	£40.00	£32.00	£27.00
	Senior	£35.00	£26.00	£24.00
	Concession	£35.00	£26.00	£24.00
	Junior	£35.00	£26.00	£24.00

Cricket Nets

Peak	Adult	£45.00	£40.00	£35.00
	Senior	£40.00	£35.00	£30.00
	Concession	£40.00	£35.00	£30.00
	Junior	£40.00	£35.00	£30.00
Off Peak	Adult	£40.00	£35.00	£30.00
	Senior	£35.00	£30.00	£25.00
	Concession	£35.00	£30.00	£25.00
	Junior	£35.00	£30.00	£25.00

Climbing Wall Prices
(Not available until early 2008)

		Non-member	Member/BMC Members	Sports Development
Induction	Adult		£15	
(one off payment)	Senior		£11	
	Concession		£11	
	Junior		£11	
Casual Use				

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Peak	Adult	£4.00
	Senior	£3.00
	Concession	£3.00
	Junior	£3.00
Off Peak	Adult	£3.50
	Senior	£2.50
	Concession	£2.50
	Junior	£2.50

Eastbury Comprehensive School lettings charges

Eastbury is open 7 days a week!

WEEKENDS - SATURDAYS - 9.30 to 2.30
- Accommodation is let to Turkish AND Muslim Community for Language Classes.
- There is a possibility that this will be extended to Albanians next term.
- Feza Weekend School (Turkish) use 3 classrooms and Small Dining Hall – they are charged a concessionary rate of £150 per session.
- Muslim/Arabic School uses 8 classrooms – they are NOT charged as they tutor Eastbury students for free!

SATURDAYS/SUNDAYS
- The Assembly Hall, Dining Hall/Kitchen and Small Dining Hall is booked nearly EVERY Saturday and Sunday throughout the year except May/June when we do not let because the hall is laid out for external exams.
- Assembly Hall : £85 hr on Saturday and £100 on Sunday
- Dining Hall/Kitchen -Same price
- Kitchen -£50 hour

- Small Dining Hall -£50 hr on Saturday and £60 on a Sunday

WEEKDAYS - Charges vary but average £45 to £60 per weekly session. Sessions average 1 to 1.5 hours.
MONDAY - Eastbury Judo Club – Gymnasium
TUESDAY - Loxford Sports Club – Gymnasium, OG Football – Sports Hall (also occasionally use Sports Pitch on Saturday for a match)
WEDNESDAY - LBBD Disabled Archery – Sports Hall, Barking Bangladeshi Muslim Trust - 2 Classrooms
THURSDAY -Eastbury Tigers Basketball – Sports Hall, Carers of LBBD – Food Technology and 1 Classroom
FRIDAY - LBBD Disabled Association – Food Technology and Gymnasium, Dog Training Class – Hulse Hall

Ripple Infant and Junior Schools lettings charges

Letting what	To whom	For Purpose	Charge
Dining Hall/ playground	Sun & Moon	After school club	£500/month
Dining hall	June O'Brien	Dance club	£300/month
Classroom	Boss Crowns	Film club	Free
Hall	Private hire	Parties/discos	£25/hour
Hall	Voluntary groups	Parties/discos	Free
Hall	LA/Police	Indoor street youth activity for YP 12-16	Free
Hall	Eastbury Youth workers	Indoor street youth activity for YP 9-12	Free
Playground	Safer Neighbourhood team	Basketball	Free

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Recommendation 1:

The Select Committee supports the borough undertaking its own survey to provide insight into the views of residents towards community cohesion. The Select Committee therefore recommends that the Council should continue to survey residents in relation to this indicator, using statistically comparable methods.

Recommendation 2

The Select Committee recommends that funding to build community cohesion from both General Fund and Housing Revenue Account should be managed in a joined-up way to deliver maximum benefits to the community.

Recommendation 3:

The Select Committee recommends that an update on the achievement of the targets for service and support by the CVS be provided by the CVS to the Select Committee in six months time.

Recommendation 4:

The Select Committee recommends that the Faith Forum be invited to provide a briefing to all ward Councillors to enable them to encourage faith groups in their ward to register with the Faith Forum.

Recommendation 5:

The Select Committee recommends that the Faith Forum advertise the activities and events of different faith groups taking place in each ward in 'The News' on a regular basis.

Recommendation 6:

The Select Committee recommends that the Faith Forum work with libraries in the borough to seek permission of the faith groups to incorporate the details of their organisations and activities into the main database.

Recommendation 7:

The Select Committee recommends that the Regeneration and Economic Department provide a briefing to all Members regarding the Council's policy for places of religious premises, including guidance on what to do if Members suspect premises are being used as places of worship outside of planning regulations, or are creating environmental nuisance to neighbours.

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Recommendation 8:

The Select Committee recommends that the Council undertake a review of the religious premises in the borough to establish where parking space is sufficient and consider whether a drop-off zone could be created to facilitate people visiting their places of worship.

Recommendation 9:

The Select Committee recommends that the Council adopt a policy of issuing parking permits to Faith Ministers registered with the Faith Forum in the borough.

Recommendation 10:

The Committee recommends that the provision of free accommodation at the Town Show for community and voluntary groups, including faith groups, be further promoted in the Third Sector via the equalities fora and CVS.

Recommendation 11:

The Select Committee recommends that the Council should encourage local businesses to support a reinvigorated carnival with the aim of achieving at least one float per ward.

Recommendation 12:

The Select Committee recommends that the Council invite schools to exhibit their extra-curricular activities and increase their presence at the Town Show and the carnival.

Recommendation: 13

The Select Committee recommends that the Council uses commemorative plaques to celebrate famous figures that were born or lived in the borough in the past as well as those currently reside in the borough.

Recommendation 14:

The Select Committee recommends that consideration be given to promoting a local history week to increase awareness of the borough's history and heritage across all ages.

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Recommendation 15:

The Select Committee recommends that the schools not yet rated 'good' or 'outstanding' be encouraged to develop plans to achieve a higher rating in building cohesion.

Recommendation 16:

The Select Committee recommends that the provision of community facilities, including the availability of community halls and church halls, should be further publicised to the community in the News, on a ward-by-ward basis, and using Community TV.

Recommendation 17:

The Select Committee recommends that a report, outlining the extent to which the community centres transferred continue to enable the whole community to access their space, be brought to the Committee in six months time.

Recommendation 18:

The Select Committee recommends that the Council encourage school governing bodies to consider opening facilities to the community in at least one school in each ward.

Recommendation 19:

The Select Committee recommends that Councillors, in their role as school governors, encourage schools to allow their facilities to be used by the community.

Recommendations 20:

The Select Committee recommends that the CVS pro-actively approach the local media to further promote the work undertaken by the local community and voluntary groups, including the publication of the activities and event organised by the groups.

Recommendation 21:

The Select Committee recommends that in nine months time, by when the new volunteering function will be up and running , a report on the impact of volunteering in the borough and plans for its promotion be presented to the Committee by the organisation delivering this commission.

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Contributors to the review

The Council:
Anne Bristow, Corporate Director of Adult and Community Services
Heather Wills, Head of Community Cohesion and Equalities
Paul Hogan, Head of Leisure, Arts and Olympics
Ray Descombes, Senior Community Development Officer
Janice Hunt, Events Manager, Leisure and Arts Division

Helen Jenner, Corporate Director of Children's Services
Meena Kishinani, Head of Children's Policy & Trust Commissioning
Jane Hargreaves, Head of Quality and School Improvement
Christine Prior, Head of Integrated Family Services
Jo Feeney, Group Manager, Integrated Youth Support Service
Erik Stein, Group Manager, Extended Schools & Engagement
Ian Starling, Acting Principal Adviser (Secondary), School Improvement
Service

Darren Henaghan, Corporate Director of Customer Services
Ruth Du-Lieu, Group Manager, Street Scene

Barking and Dagenham's Council for Voluntary Services (CVS):
Carl Blackburn, Chief Executive, CVS

Barking and Dagenham Faith Forum:
Major Nigel Schultz, Faith Forum Chair Barking and Dagenham

Schools:
Gascoigne Primary School
Sydney Russell School

Community and Voluntary Groups and representatives:
Mr Victor Roy Ferridge, Marks Gate Estate Representative
David Elliot, Dagenham Village Partnership
Rita Giles, Dageham Village Community Hall/Abscott TLA
Dave Torr, Millard Terrace Caring Association
Bill Pateman, School Governor for Valence, St Joseph Dag and All Saints
School
L.R. Phillips, School Governor, Grafton Juniors School
B. Letchford, The Becontree Residents Association
Rita Chada, RAMFEL/BAME Forum
Carl Blackburn, CVS
Judith Garfield, Eastside Community Heritage
Corina Kemp, Life after Debt Project
Philip Wood, Vicar, St Thomas Becontree/School Governor at Becontree
Primary School
Susan Cullum, Accounting for Community Enterprises (ACE)
Joan Davies, Fanshawe Community Association

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Marie Kearns, Harmony House
Alfred Komeh, Reach Africa
Thomas Musan, Diaspora
Dionne Corrodus-Kleekes, Health is Wealth Community Project
Paul Carter, Governor, Thames View Junior School
Lesley Hawes, DABD
Val Shaw, LINKs/Access
L Goldbergs, Carers of Barking and Dagenham
David Ayinne, EMPA
Joan Streete, School Governor for Marsh Green School

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Borough Wide Development Policies DPD

January 2011

Part of the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham Local Development Framework

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Chapter 1: Introduction and Context

The Barking and Dagenham Local Development Framework

1.1   This report forms part of a significant stage in the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham's work to replace the old-style Unitary Development Plan (1995) with a new Local Development Framework or LDF. The requirement to produce an LDF was established by the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, which came into force in September 2004.

1.2   The Barking and Dagenham LDF, together with the London Plan (prepared by the GLA), will provide the new "Development Plan" for Barking and Dagenham.

1.3   The LDF can best be viewed as a folder which contains a number of documents. This document contains a set of detailed policies that build upon the LDF Core Strategy (2010) and that will be of particular use in determining planning applications during the plan period 2010 - 2025.

Consultation and Sustainability Appraisal

1.4   The Core Strategy and Borough Wide Development Policies Pre-Submission Consultation Statement explains how community involvement has been undertaken and how views have been taken into account throughout the stages leading up to the submission of these two DPDs.

1.5   One of the key ingredients of the new LDF system is the recognition of the need for the earliest and fullest public involvement in the preparation of the new Plan. The Consultation Statement explains the process which has been undertaken and how comments have influenced the form of the submission Core Strategy and Borough Wide Development Policies, commencing with consultation on broad issues and options, followed by the "preferred options" for the Core Strategy and Borough Wide Development Policies which were published for discussion during March, April and May 2007.

1.6   The Borough Wide Development Policies Sustainability Appraisal or SA is a formal part of the process, and is intended to ensure that the LDF achieves sustainable development.

1.7   At the same time as the main LDF documents are prepared the Council must undertake a separate and concurrent evaluation of the sustainability of the choices considered, and the options preferred. An SA has been produced along with the Borough Wide Development Policies, the latest version of which – the Final Sustainability Appraisal

– specifically relates to the submission Borough Wide Development Policies.

1.8 Recommendations from the SA have influenced the submission Borough Wide Development Policies.

Monitoring and Implementation

1.9 As the Borough Wide Development Policies are focused on implementing the Core Strategy then their success will be measured against the comprehensive suite of indicators and targets set out in the Core Strategy Monitoring and Implementation Framework. Performance of the Borough Wide Development Policies will be reported in the Council's Annual Monitoring Report. Where it is found that a policy in the Borough Wide Development Plan Document is underperforming then the Council may take action to remedy this including:

- Preparing a more detailed Supplementary Planning Document to provide more guidance on how the policy should be implemented.
- Ensuring the policy is being properly interpreted by those involved in the development process within and outside the Council.
- Liaising with developers to understand why a particular policy is proving hard to achieve and putting in place interim measures to address this.

The Role of this Borough Wide Development Policies DPD

1.10 The Borough Wide Development Policies DPD is one of the set of LDF documents. It will provide interpretation, explanation and further detail to the LDF's Core Policies through establishing detailed Borough Wide Development Policies, pointing to where further guidance can be found, and explaining the practical means of implementing the Core Policies.

1.11 Government guidance identifies the potential for a DPD concerned with "development control" policies, which sets out the criteria against which planning applications for the development and use of land and buildings will be considered. The roles identified above include this function. However, this alone would be a narrow and overly negative view of the potential for this DPD. In the case of the Barking and Dagenham LDF, it provides the opportunity to cover matters in more detail than the broad strategy contained in the Core Strategy. Precisely for this reason, this DPD is titled "Borough Wide Development Policies" (rather than "development control policies").

1.12 This DPD seeks to fulfil a key role in developing the "spatial planning" approach intended by the Government in introducing the new LDF system. Spatial planning concerns itself with places, how they function and relate together – and its objectives should be to manage change to secure the best achievable quality of life for all in the community, without wasting scarce resources or spoiling the environment. The new process requires the local authority and other agencies to work much more closely together, and to co-ordinate their activities to achieve agreed objectives. Thus the Borough Wide Development Policies DPD includes not just development control policies, where these remain necessary, for instance, to protect residential amenity, but also positive and promotional policies that indicate how the vision and objectives set out in the Core Strategy will be taken forward.

The Format of the Borough Wide Development Policies DPD

1.13 The primary purpose of the Borough Wide Development Policies DPD is to help articulate and deliver the Core Strategy, and it thus seeks to address what guidance is necessary to help its implementation. It means that development policies are included when, and only when, they are necessary to assist in that respect, and when they add value. The relationship between the Borough Wide Development Policies and the Core Strategy Policies is shown throughout this document, which is structured by four of the themes on which the Core Strategy is organised**.**

1.14 The Proposals Map shows the boundary of the designations which arise from the Borough Wide Development Control Policies as well as the Core Strategy policies. It will also be necessary to update the Proposals Map on adoption of the Barking Town Centre Area Action Plan and the Joint Waste Plan.

Structure of this Development Plan Document

1.16 Chapters 2-5 contain a set of detailed Borough Wide Development Policies which build on the broader policies set out in the Core Strategy and which will be of particular use in the determination of planning applications. They will also help to ensure that development takes places in line with the Core Strategy Vision and Objectives.

Chapter 2: Sustainable Resources and the Environment

Sustainable Resources and the Environment Borough Wide Development Policies:

BR1:   Environmental Building Standards
BR2:   Energy and On-Site Renewables
BR3:   Greening the Urban Environment
BR4:   Water Resource Management
BR5:   Contaminated Land
BR6:   Minerals
BR7:   Open Space (Quality and Quantity)
BR8:   Allotments
BR9:   Parking
BR10:   Sustainable Transport
BR11:   Walking and Cycling
BR12:   Hazardous Development
BR13:   Noise Mitigation
BR14:   Air Quality
BR15:   Sustainable Waste Management

POLICY BR1: ENVIRONMENTAL BUILDING STANDARDS

All developments are expected to meet high standards of sustainable design and construction.

Applicants for all major and strategic developments must produce an environmental assessment such as the Building Research Establishment's Environmental Assessment Method (BREEAM) or the Department for Communities and Local Government's Code for Sustainable Homes showing the likely rating to be achieved under a formal BREEAM or Code for Sustainable Homes assessment.

The following minimum standards for housing developments are encouraged:

Assessment Method	Strategic Development	Major Development
Code for Sustainable Homes	**Level 4 – 5**	**Level 3 – 4**

The range of standards set out above reflect the fact that the Council will apply the higher minimum standards as the plan period progresses, reflecting industry advancements and expectations by regional and central government bodies.

Minimum standards for non-housing developments:		
Assessment Method	**Strategic Development**	**Major Development**
BREEAM	Excellent	Very Good – Excellent

Minor non-housing developments are encouraged wherever possible to seek and achieve very good BREEAM standards or higher,

Where there is no standard assessment procedure in place for a particular type of development, applicants for all major and strategic developments are expected to undertake a bespoke BREEAM assessment to ensure that high environmental building standards are met.

For major and strategic developments, there may be exceptional circumstances, for example due to economic viability, where achieving targets in this policy is not appropriate. In such cases applicants should liaise with the Council at an early stage to discuss a suitable strategy for ensuring high environmental building standards are maintained.

If, in the future, appropriate environmental building standards are developed at a national level (e.g. through the establishment of A Code for Industrial Buildings to replace BREEAM for offices), this will supersede relevant parts of this policy.

REASONED JUSTIFICATION

Importance of sustainable design and construction

2.1.1 The use of sustainable design and construction methods in new development reduces our impact on climate change, it helps us to adapt to climate change and to limit pollution arising through new development. For example, using building materials with low embodied energy will help reduce carbon dioxide emissions, incorporation of vegetation in and around buildings helps us to adapt to climate change and specifying a boiler with low NOx emissions will help to minimise air pollution.

2.1.2 This policy aids the implementation of Policy 4A.3 of the London Plan and Policy CR1 of the Barking and Dagenham Core Strategy. More detail is provided in the Planning Advice Note 5 - Sustainable Design and Construction.

<u>Demonstrating high environmental building standards</u>

2.1.3   A template is available from the Council which developers should follow when completing the sustainability statement to be submitted with the planning application. This is available on the Council's website.

2.1.4   To ensure successful implementation it is important that high environmental building standards are designed into projects from the outset. It is therefore important that as much information as possible is submitted together with the planning application. In the case of the Code for Sustainable Homes, applicants are strongly encouraged to submit a copy of the design stage assessment certificate at planning application stage. This has real benefits for the developer as it:

- Ensures the full design implications of complying with the Code are fully realised at the planning application stage.
- Ensures the costs of undertaking the building project are fully realised at planning application stage.
- Avoids additional costs being placed on the developer at a late stage resulting from design changes necessary to make sure the scheme will comply with the Code.

2.1.5   All major and strategic developments must provide a certificated post-construction review, or other verification process agreed with the Council confirming that the agreed standards have been met upon completion of the development.

<u>The standards</u>

2.1.6   The BREEAM and Code for Sustainable Homes assessment methods encompass a number of areas including energy efficiency, waste, water, pollution, nature conservation and sustainable urban drainage systems. The assessment systems are purposely designed to allow a developer flexibility to determine how a certain rating can be achieved. The policy establishes minimum standards to be achieved. These standards are considered to be high enough to ensure delivery of sustainable developments but also possible for developers to achieve in Barking and Dagenham. Higher standards are however achievable as demonstrated by exemplar buildings in the Borough and Greater London and developers should demonstrate that they are striving towards these.

2.1.7   Whilst remaining flexible, the Code for Sustainable Homes does include a number of mandatory standards which must be met before certain levels can be achieved.

2.1.8 The mandatory standards for achieving Code Level 3 and 4 include the following:

- Reaching a Dwelling Emission Rate which is a 25% improvement beyond the Target Emission Rate required by Building Regulations Code Level 3.
- Reaching a Dwelling Emission Rate which is a 44% improvement beyond the Target Emission Rate required by Building Regulations Code Level 4.
- Achieving water efficiency levels of no more than 105 litres of potable water per person per day.
- Ensuring three out of five key building elements achieve a good environmental rating as determined by the Green Guide (a publication based on BRE's extensive quantitative data for materials, which has been translated into simple environmental profiles for building elements.
- Ensuring run-off rates and annual volumes of run-off post development will be no greater post development that the previous conditions for the site.
- Ensuring developments provide adequate external storage facilities for recycling.
- Ensuring a construction site waste management plan is produced and implemented.

2.1.9 If, during the plan period, the Government sets higher code levels than those in this policy the Council will revert to these.

POLICY BR2: ENERGY AND ON-SITE RENEWABLES

All major and strategic development must demonstrate in an energy assessment that heating, cooling and power systems have been selected to minimise CO$_2$ emissions.

The energy assessments should demonstrate the following:

- **That energy demand is minimised through passive design, appropriate choice of building fabric, appropriate choice of building services (e.g. ventilation with heat recovery), external summer shading and vegetation on and adjacent to proposed developments.**
- **That heating and cooling elements have been designed to reflect the Mayor of London's preference for the use of decentralised energy.**
- **The expected energy and carbon dioxide emissions savings resulting from a development's energy strategy as well as its renewable energy component.**

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Developers will be expected to achieve significant carbon reduction targets on both residential and non-residential schemes aspiring to zero carbon residential buildings from 2016 and zero carbon non-domestic buildings from 2019. Wherever feasible, and subject to economic viability, major developments will be encouraged to achieve 20% saving in carbon emissions through the use of on-site renewable generation.

In exceptional circumstances, where developers can prove that physical constraints prevent them from generating energy from renewable sources on-site so as to reach the targets, a financial contribution will be required towards achieving an equivalent benefit by another means.

Electric heating will not be acceptable in new developments unless it can be demonstrated that its utilisation would not prohibit the achievement of significant carbon reduction targets and meet high environmental building standards as set out in Policy BR1.

Barking Riverside, the Barking Town Centre Energy Action Area and South Dagenham

In line with the London Plan, the Council is working with partners to maximise the opportunity to provide new networks supplied by decentralised energy. The Council will therefore expect, where feasible, all major and strategic developments that fall within the Barking Town Centre Energy Action Area, Barking Riverside and South Dagenham to be designed to be capable of linking into the district heating system currently planned as part of the London Thames Gateway Heat Network (by powering developments through decentralised energy systems and being technically compatible).

The renewables target will be reduced to 10% to reflect solar hot water systems and heat pumps will not be appropriate (due to heating and hot water being provided by a community heating network) and the difficulty in meeting the target on electricity generating renewables only.

REASONED JUSTIFICATION

Importance of minimising energy consumption in new developments

2.2.1   Minimising the need to use energy in new development reduces its impact on climate change. It will also help to address fuel poverty. This is particularly important when the Borough is expecting a significant volume of new development during the plan period, the majority of which will be housing.

<u>The Mayor of London's preference for decentralised energy systems</u>

2.2.2   Policy 4A.6 in the London Plan states that heating and cooling infrastructure should be designed to allow the use of decentralised energy and identifies the following order of preference:

- Connection to existing Combined Cooling Heat and Power /Combined Heat and Power.
- Site-wide Combined Cooling Heat and Power / Combined Heat and Power powered by renewable energy.
- Gas fired Combined Cooling Heat and Power/Combined Heat and Power or hydrogen fuel cells, both powered by renewables.
- Communal heating and cooling powered by renewable energy
- Gas fired communal heating and cooling.

<u>Carbon reduction targets</u>

2.2.3   The environmental building standards for residential and non-residential buildings set out in Policy BR1 will require meeting significant carbon reduction targets. This policy should however be read in the context of national policy to achieve zero carbon homes be 2016, as set out in the Department for Communities and Local Government's 'Building a Greener Future: policy statement' (2007), and all new non-residential buildings to achieve zero carbon from 2019, as set out in the Department for Communities for Local Government's 'Definition of Zero-Carbon Homes and Non-Domestic Buildings (2008).

<u>The Barking Town Centre Energy Action Area and the Thames Gateway Heat Network</u>

2.2.4   Barking Town Centre has been designated as an Energy Action Area under the Energy Action Areas programme launched by the GLA in 2005. An Implementation Plan for Barking Town Centre Energy Action Area includes plans for a new town centre community heating network. The Implementation Plan was developed in 2006 and provides the evidence to demonstrate that by connecting to this network, developments will achieve an immediate 22% carbon reduction beyond Building Regulations.

2.2.5   The London Development Agency (LDA) is developing a sustainable district energy system referred to as the London Thames Gateway Heat Network. It is a planned hot water transmission network which will connect homes, businesses, schools, hospitals and buildings through the London Thames Gateway. The LDA produced a map in 2008 illustrating the proposed core of the network. South Dagenham, Barking Riverside and Barking Town Centre are shown on this map as

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destinations where the network will reach and where future development proposals are to provide heatloads.

2.2.6 The Council is working with developers to ensure heating systems within developments are technically compatible with the wide community heating plans and have produced technical specifications for developers to follow. The document 'Community Heating Technical Specifications for Developers' is available to view on the Council's website.

2.2.7 The community heating network is only compatible with electricity generating renewable technologies. Heat generating renewable technologies such as solar thermal will not contribute any carbon savings because low carbon heat is already provided through the community heating network. Where developers are making their developments technically compatible by linking in with the planned community heating network, developers will be limited in their choice of renewable technology and the renewables target has been lowered to reflect this.

On-site renewable energy

2.2.8 The 20% carbon reduction target to be achieved through on-site renewable technology should not be set against Building Regulations. Instead it should be applied once all other energy efficiency measures (including the energy strategy chosen for the development) have been taken into account. The renewables contribution is calculated by comparing predicted carbon emissions from the proposed development (including emissions arising from cooking and use of household appliances) with its renewables component with the same proposal but without its renewables component.

2.2.9 Ground sourced heating and cooling pumps can create a risk of pollution to groundwater. As such, a site risk assessment and mitigation strategies will be required to accompany any planning application for a proposed development incorporating this type of energy source. For an open loop system, under the terms of the Water Resources Act 1991, an abstraction license would be required from the Environment Agency for the abstraction of water. The granting of the license would be dependent on the availability of water resources locally and on the acceptability of any resulting impact on the environment and existing protected rights.

2.2.10 Exceptions to the requirements of this policy regarding the generation of on-site renewable energy may be allowed where it can be genuinely demonstrated that this would be unviable, for example because of the proposed development type, location or design. In such cases, financial contributions will be required towards other climate change and mitigation initiatives.

2.2.11 The London Renewable Energy Toolkit is available to assist in assessing the feasibility and viability of renewable technologies.

POLICY BR3: GREENING THE URBAN ENVIRONMENT

The Council will expect, where appropriate, all development proposals to demonstrate that the sequential approach set-out below to preserving and enhancing the natural environment has been followed:

- **Retain, enhance or create features of nature conservation value and avoid harm.**
- **Mitigate for impacts to features of nature conservation value.**
- **Where there is no viable alternative, compensate for the loss of features of nature conservation value.**

Where there are no existing features of nature conservation on a site, development should seek to create nature conservation enhancements to help 'green the urban environment'.

Examples of nature conservation enhancements include the provision of green walls, bio-diverse green roofs, wildlife gardens, allotments, buffer strips, nesting, and roosting boxes and commitment to the implementation of a Habitat Management Plan.

Wildlife corridors will be promoted and encouraged in all new development, particularly through the linking of Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs).

When planting new greenery close to strategic nature conservation features or sites such as wildlife corridors or sites of nature conservation importance, native species should be used unless it can be proven that an alternative is just as, or more beneficial to, biodiversity.

Wildlife habitat creation which contributes towards targets in the London and borough Biodiversity Action Plans will also be sought.

Development should not result in excessive hard standing and parking areas. Where a proposal would result in the hard surfacing of a front garden, the choice of materials will need to be agreed with the Council.

REASONED JUSTIFICATION

2.3.1 The sequential approach ensures that opportunities to preserving and enhancing the natural environment on development sites are exhausted before allowing a negative impact on a feature of biodiversity value. If negative impacts can not be avoided mitigation

measures are then identified which can help minimise the negative impact through a change in the design or operation of a development. Lastly, where there is no viable alternative, there should be compensation for the loss of a feature of nature conservation value. When considering compensation for habitat loss, the aim should always be to replace 'like for like' or better. For development that does not involve significant new development for example, shop fronts or satellite dishes the sequential approach does not apply.

2.3.2   Native tree species include oak, ash, alder, field maple, European larch and birch. Further guidance on the impact development can have on trees will be set out in the Supplementary Planning Document 'Trees and Development'.

2.3.3   The Council's Supplementary Planning Document 'Biodiversity, How biodiversity can be protected and enhanced in the development process' will provide additional guidance to applicants on how biodiversity should be protected and enhanced in the Borough.

2.3.4   Further guidance on design measures which may be appropriate for ecological enhancement, mitigation or compensation can be found in:

- Green Roofs – Planning Advice Note 1 (2005), London Borough of Barking and Dagenham.
- Biodiversity by Design, A Guide for Sustainable Communities (2004), Town and Country Planning Association.
- Building Green – A guide to using plants on roofs, walls and pavements (2004), Greater London Authority.
- Design for Biodiversity, A Guidance Document for Development in London, The London Development Agency.

2.3.5   The Mayor and the London Biodiversity Partnership have identified targets for the creation and restoration of priority habitats. These targets are in the London Biodiversity Action Plan. In consultation with the Local Biodiversity Partnership (the Local Wildlife Partnership), the London Biodiversity Partnership and Natural England, the Council will identify borough wide targets for the creation of new habitats and will set these out in future Local Biodiversity Action Plans.

POLICY BR4: WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Development proposals which would pose an unacceptable threat to the quantity or quality of the Borough's water resources will not be permitted. This includes pollution caused by water run-off from developments into nearby waterways.

Proposals which seek to maintain or improve the quality of watercourses and groundwater, to create new lakes and ponds, will be permitted, provided the proposal is acceptable in relation to all other

relevant LDF policies.

Development must ensure that greenfield surface water run-off rates are achieved, where possible, through the use of Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS).

The Council will expect new development to achieve a high standard of water efficiency, by incorporating appropriate measures to minimise the use of water by reduction, reuse and recycling. It is expected that major and strategic housing developments will not exceed the maximum usage of 105 litres of potable water per person per day.

REASONED JUSTIFICATION

2.4.1   The chemical and biological water quality of the Borough's rivers is in need of improvement. River water quality is affected, among other things, by urban run-off and polluted surface water outfalls.

2.4.2   For new development, ensuring that greenfield surface water run-off rates are achieved where possible, will help to minimise impacts on water contamination and will also have benefits in reducing the risk of local flooding.

2.4.3   London is amongst the driest capital cities in the world with water shortages happening quite regularly. In the Thames Water Region there has been a water shortage because, since November 2004, there has been below-average rainfall in every month except three. In 2006, it was the first time in 15 years that a ban on the use of hosepipes or sprinklers had occurred. The effects of climate change are likely to further reduce supply of water and increase demand.

2.4.4   Designs for buildings and landscaping should incorporate measures to avoid water wastage. Appropriate specification of bathroom and kitchen appliances can help to achieve major savings in water consumption throughout the life of the building. The standard of a maximum of 105 litres of potable water per person per day for new residential developments has been established in order to address the fact that drinking water is becoming an increasingly limited resource. It is also one of the mandatory standards required to meet Code Level 3 and 4 in the Code for Sustainable Homes. An array of measures may be needed to achieve this standard. Examples include the specification of taps and showers with a low flow rate, the utilization of rainwater harvesting and the use of greywater for flushing toilets.

2.4.5   Further guidance on how to manage water resources is set out in Planning Advice Note (PAN) 5: Sustainable Design and Construction.

POLICY BR5: CONTAMINATED LAND

A risk based approach will be applied to development and land contamination.

Development on or near land that is known to be contaminated or which may be affected by contamination will only be permitted where:

- **an appropriate site investigation and risk assessment (agreed by the local planning authority) has been carried out as part of the application to identify any risks to human health, the natural environment or water quality; and**
- **where contamination is found which would pose an unacceptable risk to people's health, the natural environment or water quality, the Council will impose a condition to ensure the applicant undertakes the remedial measures agreed as necessary by the Council to ensure that the site is suitable for the proposed end use and the development can safely proceed.**

Development will not be permitted if it would lead to the future contamination of the land on the site or elsewhere.

REASONED JUSTIFICATION

2.5.1 This policy is expected to apply to land within a 50 m buffer zone of contaminated land but it may vary on a site by site basis depending on the type of contamination and is therefore subject to the Council's discretion.

2.5.2 In line with national and regional trends, the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham receives a large number of applications for re-use of previously developed land. In some cases previous uses of these sites have resulted in contamination which can affect people's health, the natural environment and water quality. New development presents an opportunity to remediate this.

2.5.3 The Council's priorities in dealing with contaminated land are listed in the Contaminated Land Strategy (2001). The priorities are to protect human health, controlled waters and ecosystems; to prevent damage to property; to prevent any further contamination of land; to encourage the voluntary clean up of contaminated land by owners, occupiers or developers; and to encourage the re-use of brownfield land for redevelopment. The strategy also ensures that when development is planned on land that may be contaminated, a full site inspection and risk assessment is carried out to enable the land to be made fit for its proposed use. When determining whether a site is potentially contaminated, liaison with the Environmental Protection Team will be required. Where a site is known to be potentially contaminated, the Environmental Protection Team will determine whether the site

investigation, risk assessment and remediation of land strategy have been carried out to acceptable standards. Applications for development on sites with known or suspected contamination will be referred to the Environment Agency and other key agencies where appropriate.

POLICY BR6: MINERALS

Planning permission for recycling (construction and demolition waste), aggregates bagging, concrete batching plant and minerals processing at Marks Warren Farm will only be granted if no significant adverse impacts are caused to the environment or human health. This includes ensuring:

- **Environmental disturbance for the periods of the operation are minimised by means of, for example, tree planting and land grading schemes, visual screens, acoustic baffles, siting of plant and buildings, limitation of working hours, direction of working and by relating excavation to progressive restoration to minimise the extent of the area open at any one time.**
- **Subject to part 19 of the General Development Plan Order 1995, ancillary buildings, structure, plant or equipment in the Green Belt are essential to the operation and preserve the open nature of the Green Belt, and that their materials are sympathetic to the landscape and their impact is minimised by appropriate siting and screening where necessary.**
- **There are no significant adverse effects on sites of protected or priority species or habitats in line with the Council's Biodiversity Action Plan; sites of historical, geological or archaeological importance; or the Chadwell Heath Gun Site Conservation Area.**
- **There are no significant long term adverse effects on the landscape.**
- **Particle emissions meet EC and UK standards.**
- **There are no adverse noise and dust impacts with regard to Annexes 1 and 2 of MPS2: 'Controlling and Mitigating the Environmental Effects of Minerals Extraction in England-Noise'.**
- **There is no significant adverse effect on safety and amenity from vehicular traffic. When considering the traffic implications the Council will not only consider the effect on roads, but also along routes leading to the site.**
- **It does not create land instability.**
- **There is no significant adverse effect on ground or surface waters, flooding, and air quality.**
- **The processing will assist in the restoration of the minerals extraction site.**

Following completion of extraction, processing and other associated operations, the site should be restored to the highest standards and secure a beneficial and acceptable use in line with Green Belt objectives.

> **As Barking and Dagenham is not required to meet the London Plan apportionment for land won aggregates, permission will not be granted for the opening of further sites.**

REASONED JUSTIFICATION

2.6.1 Barking and Dagenham is not one of the London Boroughs required by Policy 4A.32 of the London Plan to meet an additional apportionment for land won aggregates. This policy will be reviewed if regional demand and policy changes.

2.6.2 The Borough does, however, have an existing reserve outside of the apportionment – the Brett Lafarge site at Marks Warren Farm. In accordance with Minerals Planning Statement 1: Planning and Minerals, impacts on the environment and human health arising from the extraction, processing, management or transportation of minerals should be prevented or reduced as far as possible. Policy 4A.31 of the London Plan similarly identifies that DPDs should adopt the highest environmental standards for minerals working.

2.6.3 Any proposals for minerals processing at this site should be submitted following discussions with the Council and other organisations whose interests may be affected.

> **POLICY BR7: OPEN SPACE (QUALITY AND QUANTITY)**
>
> **In areas of existing open space deficiency, the Council will require strategic and major housing developments to make provision (either on-site or in the vicinity of the proposed development) to assist in overcoming the deficiency. Such provision may include (but is not limited to):**
>
> - **Creation of new open space.**
> - **Improvements to the accessibility of open space including green linkages (as set out in the Landscape Framework Plan contained within the Urban Design Framework Supplementary Planning Document).**
> - **Improvements to the quality, character, historic and biodiversity value of existing open spaces.**
>
> **Areas of open space deficiency will be determined by quantitative, qualitative and accessibility standards. When identifying appropriate improvements, the following should be taken into account:**
>
> - **Additional needs for more open space arising from the proposed development.**
> - **Identified needs in the locality for parks and open space, outdoor**

> **sports facilities, open space for community use, play areas and equipment for children, facilities for young people and teenagers, and allotments.**
> - **Additional impact and demand which the proposed development will have on existing open spaces.**

REASONED JUSTIFICATION

2.7.1 In line with PPG17 the Council has undertaken an assessment of existing and future needs for open space, sport and recreation. This assessment shows that overall the Borough has a relatively good quantity of public open spaces at present but that this will come under increasing pressure as projected population increases are realised. The assessment also shows that there are existing quantitative deficiencies in specific parts of the Borough and that the accessibility of the parks themselves can be improved. The assessment also shows that there is a need to improve quality in our parks and open spaces. Qualitative assessments reveal that parks score poorly for their range of facilities and poorly for their quality. In terms of play provision for children and young people, the assessment shows there is an existing deficit of play provision for children and young people in a number of wards and that with projected population increases it is paramount that these shortages are addressed as new development comes on board. Sports standards are covered in BC5.

2.7.2 Quantitative, qualitative and accessibility provision standards for play, open space, natural greenspace, sport and recreation provision will be established as part of the Council's Supplementary Planning Document on Community Benefits.

POLICY BR8: ALLOTMENTS

The Council has reviewed all allotments in the Borough to confirm whether any should be reallocated for development. The allotments the Council has resolved to afford protection to are set out in the Site Specific Allocations DPD. These are allocated as local open space and protected under Core Strategy Policy CM3.

REASONED JUSTIFICATION

2.8.1 Allotments are an important component of open space which provide recreational value, support biodiversity, and contribute towards healthy lifestyles through physical exercise and the chance to grow fresh produce.

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2.8.2 As an outer London Borough, Barking and Dagenham must, if it believes there is a demand, provide a sufficient quantity of plots and to lease them to people living in its area. This is a statutory requirement.

POLICY BR9: PARKING

Parking Standards

The car parking standards set out in the London Plan will be used as maximum parking standards for new developments. TfL's cycle parking standards, will be used as minimum parking standards for new developments.

Final levels of provision for each development will be agreed having taken the following issues into consideration:

- **The local environment and accessibility of the site.**
- **On-street parking availability.**
- **Access and amenity impacts.**
- **Road network capacity constraints.**
- **Traffic flows.**
- **Development type.**
- **Existing and planned public transport provision.**

These considerations should form part of the overall Transport Assessment for each development.

Car Free Housing Developments

The Council welcomes car free housing developments, but only where the potential impact on on-street car parking can be managed. Areas most suitable for such developments are areas of higher public transport accessibility levels (such as Barking Town Centre) and Controlled Parking Zones (CPZs).

Managing the Impact of Street Parking

The design of on-street car parking can impact on safety, street activity and the visual attractiveness of urban environments.

Car parking on residential streets should be designed so that:

- **Car parking does not inconvenience pedestrians and cyclists. It should be designed so that the street is easily and safely crossed at many points by pedestrians, including people using wheelchairs.**
- **The design of the street prevents footway parking and parking that obstructs pedestrians, in particular people with visual impairments.**
- **Car parking does not dominate the street. Residential streets should be designed to encourage social activity in a safe place. The design of car**

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> **parking should fit into this overall aim.**
> - **Car parking improves safety for all road users. This can be achieved through the design of the street and ensuring the layout of car parking encourages other drivers to drive with caution.**

REASONED JUSTIFICATION

2.9.1   This policy is consistent with Barking and Dagenham's Local Implementation Plan (LIP). The LIP seeks to reduce car parking dependence in the most accessible locations (town centres and areas of high PTAL). It also recognises that development schemes can vary greatly within a use class and that transport assessments are necessary in order to determine the appropriate level of parking provision, as well as whether sufficient transport capacity exists in the transport network for the particular scheme.

<u>Managing the impact of street parking</u>

2.9.2   This policy applies both to the design of new development and the re-design of existing streets.

2.9.3   Where courtyard parking is allocated, the street should be designed to minimise on street car parking except for disabled car users and car club users.

2.9.4   Every effort should be made to minimise the detrimental impact that on-street parking can have on safety, street activity and the visual attractiveness of urban environments.

2.9.5   Guidance on managing on-street car parking can be found in the Department for Transport's Manual for Streets 2007.

> **POLICY BR10: SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT**
>
> **The Council is committed to reducing the need to travel and encourage modal shift away from the private car towards healthy and sustainable transport initiatives and choices in the following ways:**
>
> - **Supporting the retention of local shops, community services and facilities within walking distance of residential neighbourhoods, particularly where this supports the town centre hierarchy.**
> - **Directing new development towards locations that are easily accessed by public transport, pedestrians and cyclists (or where new sustainable transport infrastructure is planned and which will be in place when the proposed development takes place).**
> - **Encouraging improved interchange facilities and north-south transport links (for example a high quality bus route connecting Marks Gate to Dagenham Dock station) and expecting proposals to**

demonstrate how new areas of development are linked to key facilities.

- **Seeking developer contributions for sustainable transport improvements where this is made necessary by the new development either in itself or as part of the cumulative impact of proposals in the area.**

In accordance with Policy 3C.2 of the London Plan, developers will be required to submit a transport statement together with a planning application where there are any identifiable transport impacts or a transport assessment and a travel plan where there are significant transport implications.

Proposals for new development or changes of use will be assessed subject to their potential impact on the surrounding transport and road network. Existing or planned transport capacity must be sufficient to allow for travel generated by a proposed development.

Impacts on the following will be considered when assessing new roads, alterations to existing roads and development proposals:

- **Public transport.**
- **Pedestrian and cycling infrastructure.**
- **Road network capacity.**
- **Road safety.**
- **The natural environment.**
- **The economy and areas designated for regeneration.**
- **Accessibility to amenities.**

Traffic management measures designed to improve or facilitate vehicular movement will also be expected to provide a safe, convenient, and pleasant environment for pedestrians and cyclists and to accommodate public transport wherever appropriate.

REASONED JUSTIFICATION

Transport Assessments and Travel Plans

2.10.1 Planning Policy Guidance 13 Transport advises that a Transport Assessment (TA) should be submitted as part of any planning application where the proposed development has significant transport implications. The coverage and detail of the TA should reflect the scale of the development and the extent of the transport implications of the proposal. For smaller schemes the TA should simply outline the transport aspects of the application, while for major proposals, the TA should illustrate accessibility to the site by all modes of transport, and the likely modal split of journeys to and from the site. It should also give

details of proposed measures to improve access by public transport, walking and cycling, to reduce the need for parking associated with the proposal, and to mitigate transport impacts.

2.10.2 Guidance on preparing Transport Assessments can be found in the Department for Transport's Guidance on Transport Assessments (March, 2007). This provides guidance on undertaking both a Transportation Statement – 'for developments with minor transportation impacts' and a Transportation Assessment – 'for developments with significant transportation impacts'; and

- Transport for London. Transport Assessment Best Practice Guidance. 2010 http://www.tfl.gov.uk/businessandpartners/commercialopportunities/6010.aspx
(this applies to all applications that are referred to the Mayor)

- Transport for London. Guidance for Workplace Travel Planning. 2008

- Transport for London. Guidance for Residential Travel Planning. 2008

2.10.3 A Travel Plan is required to accompany all TA's and, where appropriate, be provided as a condition or section 106 agreement on planning permissions to mitigate any negative impacts on the transport network. Otherwise, the thresholds for Travel Plans contained within Transport for London's *"Guidance for Residential Travel Planning in London"* and *"Guidance for Workplace Travel Planning for Development"* should be followed.

The road network

2.10.4 The Local Implementation Plan states that the Council will manage the roads in the Borough within a hierarchy of Transport for London Road Network (TLRN), trunk, principal and local/access roads while fully considering economic, social and local environmental needs. The category of the roads within the road hierarchy will dictate its function and character. This includes trunk and principal roads (linking trunk roads, strategic centres and being the main bus routes) where major travel generating uses and/or areas of regeneration that rely on car or lorry use should ideally be located; and minor roads, where there is a presumption in favour of access and amenity, particularly for residents, pedestrians and cyclists. The following trunk roads have been designated as Priority Red Routes: the A406 Barking Relief Road, the A13 Newham Way – Ripple Road – New Road, and the A12. In addition, the A13, A12 and A406 have been designated as part of the Transport for London Road Network (TLRN).

2.10.5 Government guidance (Planning Policy Guidance 13: Transport) seeks to promote travel safety for all modes of transport. This seeks to provide for the safety of pedestrians, cyclists and occupants of vehicles through the design and layout of footpaths, cycleways and roads. Planning can also influence road safety through its control of new development and the adaptation of existing development to match the needs and safety of all in the community from the outset. A range of traffic management tools are available to local government in order to improve the quality of the public environment by improving safety, amenity, attractiveness for all users (including pedestrians and cyclists) and nearby residents. Traffic management measures such as Home Zone designations for local streets can help lower the speed of vehicle traffic and improve the safety for people of all ages and abilities. Often such measures can be drawn up in consultation with the local community.

POLICY BR11: WALKING AND CYCLING

The Council will protect and improve conditions for cyclists and for pedestrians, including those with visual and mobility impairment and will expect the design and layout of new developments to contribute to a high quality, integrated footpath and cycle network.

Where appropriate, new pedestrian routes should link up with designated local and long distance walking routes identified in the Barking Town Centre Movement Strategy, Dagenham Heathway Public Realm Strategy, the eight 'Just Walk' routes identified by the local Primary Care Trust and the Council's Sport Development Unit, and the six strategic walking routes identified by the Mayor of London. New cycling routes should link up with the London Cycle Network, the local cycle network as well as Green Corridors identified in the Local Implementation Plan.

The design and layout of new development should take account of the needs of cyclists and walkers, for example by providing:

- **Safe, secure, convenient, accessible and direct access for pedestrians and cyclists to, from and within development.**
- **High quality pavement surfaces, attractive landscape design and architecture providing for minimal disruption from noise, fumes and associated nuisances caused by proximity to motor traffic.**
- **High quality cycle routes, segregated, where possible, from motorised and pedestrian traffic.**
- **High quality riverside walks and cycle paths.**
- **Public access to riverfronts.**
- **Sufficient, convenient, safe and secure cycle parking facilities and where possible integrated.**

- **Showers and changing room facilities within appropriate development (e.g. offices and places of education).**
- **Well signed, lit and maintained pedestrian and cycle paths.**

REASONED JUSTIFICATION

2.11.1 The Borough is working with TfL and Sustrans to design a stretch of National Cycle Network Route 13 through the Dagenham Dock area. This is a long term project which it is hoped will kick start development of the route within the Barking and Dagenham.

2.11.2 Further information and guidance on the Council's policy on walking and cycling is found in the Local Implementation Plan (LIP) published in 2008. Chapter 5 sets out a five year programme that the Council will seek to undertake between 2006/07 and 2010/11. Following the publication of the Mayor's Transport Strategy in 2010, the Council is in the process of producing a new LIP to cover the period 2011/12 – 2013/14. The revised LIP will also provide information and guidance on waling and cycling in the Borough.

2.11.3 The LIP provides a number of priorities for walking and cycling in the Borough. The Council intends to provide links to some of the Mayors six strategic walking routes. The eight 'Just Walk' routes (identified by the local Primary Care Trust and the Council's Sport Development Unit), use footpaths in the Borough's parks and provide opportunities for the community to improve their health and fitness. In relation to cycling, the Council will improve conditions for cycling and cycling facilities including off-highway cycle routes through parks and green spaces (referred to in the LIP as 'Green Corridors'). Also, a series of local and long distance walking routes have been designated in the Barking Town Centre Movement Strategy (adopted in July 2005), and the Dagenham Heathway Public Realm Strategy (adopted in May 2005).

2.11.4 Pedestrians and cyclists will also benefit from many other policies including those on urban design and environmental quality.

POLICY BR12: HAZARDOUS DEVELOPMENTS

The Council will resist development proposals where the actual or potential effects of hazardous or other activities are likely to be detrimental to public health or amenity.

In considering proposals for hazardous development account will be taken of the following:

- **The nature and scale of the proposed hazardous development.**

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- **The need to keep hazardous activities separate from other uses likely to be sensitive, in order to prevent potential conflicts and to protect the health, safety and amenity of the general public.**
- **The movement of hazardous substances in association with the proposed hazardous development.**
- **The need for special precautions to protect future users of the site and any other affected land.**

Proposals for the development of land within the vicinity of establishments where hazardous substances are present, will only be approved where the Council is satisfied that the development can be safely constructed and occupied.

REASONED JUSTIFICATION

2.12.1 A hazardous development is defined by the presence of a dangerous substance listed in Schedule 1, Column 1 of the Control of Major Accident Hazard Regulations 1999.

2.12.2 The Health and Safety Executive provides guidance on understanding the risks involved in locating hazardous development within urban environments. It is not the role of the planning system to control the processes involved in hazardous development but it is the role of planning to focus on whether the development itself is an acceptable use of land as well as the impacts related to it.

2.12.3 The purpose of this policy is to ensure that any hazardous development in the Borough will not adversely affect other uses of land.

POLICY BR13: NOISE MITIGATION

Any new developments likely to generate harmful levels of noise will be directed away from existing noise sensitive locations, or areas allocated for noise sensitive developments .

Where it is not possible to fully separate noise sensitive and noise generating land uses, planning permission will only be granted if there will be no exposure to noise above an acceptable level. To achieve this, measures should be taken to minimise noise and mitigate its impact in accordance with Policy 4A.20 of the London Plan.

New noise-sensitive development (such as housing, schools and hospitals) will not normally be permitted in the vicinity of existing noisy developments such as those included in the noise exposure category D in PPG24.

REASONED JUSTIFICATION

2.13.1 Housing, hospitals and schools are generally regarded as noise-sensitive developments and land uses. Major sources of noise include road, rail and air transport and certain types of industrial development. To determine whether noise is likely to be a determining factor in the consideration of applications for residential development, reference should be made to the Noise Exposure Categories set out in government guidance Planning Policy Guidance Note 24 Planning and Noise.

2.13.2 The purpose of this policy is to protect existing and new residents from unacceptable levels of noise as well as to ensure that continuing vital employment and industrial uses are not compromised.

2.13.3 The Mayor's Ambient Noise Strategy aims to minimise the adverse impacts of noise through better management of transport systems, better town planning and better design of buildings. Sound-conscious urban design techniques are therefore suggested. These include façade continuity and 'quiet side'; spaces between buildings; side streets and 'side on' buildings; façade reflectivity; noise and height; dual facades and window design; shallow floor plates, ventilation and cooling; vehicle access and parking; maintenance and cleaning; and features of soundscape interest. The guidance also recommends the inclusion of a 'source-pathway-receptor' sequence. This is in accordance with the widely-accepted 'polluter pays' principle in which the responsibility for noise is, in the first instance, given to the noise-maker.

POLICY BR14: AIR QUALITY

Where development is likely to have a significant negative impact on air quality, the Council will request the submission of an air quality impact assessment. The Council will have regard to national air quality strategy objectives and consider whether the development is expected to:

- **Lead to a breach or worsening of a breach of an EU Limit Value (this can include introduction of new exposure to cause a breach).**
- **Lead to a breach or worsening of a breach of an Air Quality Objective, or cause a new Air Quality Management Area to be declared.**
- **Interfere with or prevent the implementation of actions within an Air Quality action plan.**
- **Interferes with the implementation of a local Air Quality Strategy.**
- **Leads to an increase in emissions, degradation in air quality or increase in exposure below the level of a breach of an Air Quality Objective.**

Permission will only be granted where mitigation measures are introduced which bring the levels of air pollution to an acceptable level. Mitigation should include:

- **Transport related measures – these should include reducing the need to travel by car.**
- **Non- transport related including the contribution to the Council's air quality action plan and monitoring programme.**
- **Building design - incorporating sustainable design and construction techniques (including planting schemes such as vegetated walls and appropriate trees).**

REASONED JUSTIFICATION

2.14.1 This policy ensures that in line with Policy 4A.19 of the London Plan, air quality is taken into account when developing and assessing planning applications.

POLICY BR15: SUSTAINABLE WASTE MANAGEMENT

Sustainable waste management will be achieved by:

- **Producing less waste.**
- **Using waste as a resource, including for the generation of energy, wherever possible.**
- **Prioritising waste management according to the following hierarchy: reduction, re-use, recycling and composting, energy recovery and disposal.**
- **Ensuring all waste is handled in the most sustainable manner, without endangering human health or harming the natural environment.**
- **Ensuring sufficient and timely provision of waste management facilities in appropriate locations, including for waste disposal, to meet the needs of communities and accommodate waste management capacity requirements for at least the next 10 years.**
- **Ensuring new waste management facilities do not detract from the quality or character of distinct areas.**
- **Ensuring the design and layout of new development supports sustainable waste management, taking into consideration the guidance outlined in Planning Advice Note 3: Refuse and Recycling Provisions in New and Refurbished Residential Developments.**

For major and strategic development before construction commences a construction site waste management plan must be submitted.

Where the development proposal involves demolition, developers are encouraged to maximise the recovery of materials from the demolition

site for reuse or recycling, by applying the Demolition Protocol methodology.

REASONED JUSTIFICATION

2.15.1 A more sustainable approach to waste management is being driven by the European Union (EU) through key legislation such as the Waste Framework Directive. A key principle of the Waste Framework Directive is the waste hierarchy, requiring strategies primarily to prevent the generation of waste and to reduce its harmfulness. This principle is reflected in Planning Policy Statement 10: Planning for Sustainable Waste Management and again in Policies 4A.21, 4A.22 and 4A.23 of the London Plan.

2.15.2 The four East London Waste Authority boroughs (the London Boroughs of Newham, Barking and Dagenham, Havering and Redbridge) are preparing a Joint Waste Development Plan Document for East London. This identifies the need for new waste management facilities (including disposal) up to 2020 in appropriate locations and safeguards sites for such facilities where appropriate.

2.15.3 The Council also has its own Waste Strategy produced in 2006. This strategy determines how the Council plans to dispose of and recycle the Borough's waste for the next 15 years.

2.15.4 Guidance on how residential developments can be designed to be easily integrated into the Council's refuse and recycling collections is set out in the Council's Planning Advice Note 3: refuse and recycling provisions in new and refurbished residential developments.

2.15.5 The Demolition Protocol is a methodology for maximizing waste recovery from demolition works which has been put together by the Institute of Civil Engineers (ICE). Further information on the Demolition Protocol and Site Waste Management Plans can be found in Chapter 5 of the Council's Planning Advice Note 5: Sustainable Design and Construction.

Chapter 3: Creating a Sense of Community

Creating a Sense of Community Borough Wide Development Policies:

BC1:   Delivering Affordable Housing
BC2:   Accessible and Adaptable Housing
BC3:   Gypsies and Travellers Accommodation
BC4:   Residential Conversions and Houses in Multiple Occupation
BC5:   Sports Standards
BC6:   Loss of Community Facilities
BC7:   Crime Prevention
BC8:   Mixed Use Development
BC9:   Live-Work Units
BC10:   The Health Impacts of Development
BC11:   Utilities
BC12:   Telecommunications

POLICY BC1: DELIVERING AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Developers will normally be expected to provide their affordable housing on site. However, in the following exceptional circumstances consideration will be given to allowing partial off-site provision and / or commuted payments as an alternative:

- **Where this will better contribute to the goal of creating mixed and balanced communities.**
- **Where physical or other constraints or circumstances would make on-site provision unpractical or undesirable.**
- **Where off site provision would result in a better overall mix of dwelling types and sizes.**

If any of the above circumstances are established the developer must also demonstrate that there will be no net reduction in the amount of affordable housing provided across the 2 or more sites involved.

Affordable housing should be 'pepper potted' within schemes and not concentrated in one part of the development, unless it can be demonstrated to the Council's satisfaction that this will create unacceptable management difficulties.

In areas with a high proportion of social rented accommodation more focus will be placed on the provision of other forms of affordable housing such as shared equity, intermediate tenancy, or discounted sale.

REASONED JUSTIFICATION

Preference for on-site provision

3.1.1   Planning Policy Statement 3 sets out a presumption in favour of affordable housing being provided on the application site so that it contributes towards creating a mix of housing (paragraph 29). The London Plan SPG for Housing reiterates this position by saying that affordable housing should normally be provided as an 'integral element of residential provision'.

3.1.2   The Council considers that where affordable housing can be effectively met on-site there is little justification for an off-site provision. However, there may be exceptional circumstances where even though an element of affordable housing is appropriate in principle, provision on the site itself would not be the best solution. The marketability of private housing will not be taken into account as a material consideration that should result in affordable housing being provided off-site.

3.1.3   The Council will carry out an assessment of the suitability and planning status of such alternative sites and whether they would be available for development within an appropriate timescale. The affordable housing should be provided at the same time as the facilitating development and may require an appropriate legal agreement to ensure how and when it is provided.

Pepper potting

3.1.4   The Council will resist attempts to create segregated areas of market sale and affordable housing, as this works against the principles of creating sustainable, mixed housing developments. Instead developers should plan for an even distribution of affordable housing throughout developments, avoiding concentrations of tenures in particular locations.

3.1.5   Exceptions to this general may need to be made in relation to developments involving flats as for ease of management and to minimise service charges for the residents of the affordable units it may be preferable to group different tenures around individual stairwells and circulation areas.

Tenure

3.1.6   PPS3 states that affordable housing should 'meet the needs of eligible households, including availability at a cost low enough for them to afford, determined with regard to local incomes and local house prices'.

3.1.7 However, in areas with unusually high proportions of affordable housing, for example Barking Town Centre, increasing the proportion of intermediate tenure, shared equity or discounted sale provision could help achieve more mixed and balanced communities.

<u>Further guidance in relation to affordable housing</u>

3.1.8 The Council will produce an Affordable Housing SPD. This will provide more detailed guidance on how affordable housing is to be delivered in the Borough. Further guidance in relation to the provision of affordable housing in Barking and Dagenham is also set out in the Council's Planning Advice Note 8 - Affordable Housing.

POLICY BC2: ACCESSIBLE AND ADAPTABLE HOUSING

In addition to requiring developers to meet the London Plan targets on Lifetime Homes and wheelchair accessible homes, the Council encourages major and strategic housing schemes to incorporate a proportion of 'super-flexible housing'.

Examples of components of super-flexible housing include (but are not limited to):

- **Open plan or flexible floor plates.**
- **Foundations to attached garages to accommodate potential first floor extensions.**
- **Garage space which can easily be converted into living space.**
- **Open truss roof structures designed to facilitate future dormer/upwards extensions dwellings to be built with basements which can be easily converted to living space.**
- **Construction with integral wall lintels to allow, for example, two 3 bed units to be co-joined together to create one 6 bed unit.**
- **Provision for interchange between employment and residential space (e.g. live-work units).**

REASONED JUSTIFICATION

3.2.1 The London Plan requires that all new housing built in the region meets Lifetime Homes standards and that 10% is wheelchair accessible.

3.2.2 Super flexible housing is encouraged in recognition of the 2005 Barking and Dagenham Housing Needs Study's indication that 17.2% of households in the Borough include people with special needs. Designing housing which is more adaptable to changing needs will lead to a greater stock of housing to meet special needs households. It will

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also lead to less waste creation through reduced building disassembly/demolition.

3.2.3 Super flexible housing is defined as housing which is built to allow for easy extension or adaptation over time in order to accommodate diverse needs and trends and future requirements that are not necessarily foreseeable. This could include changing live-work patterns or the needs of specific ethnic groups.

POLICY BC3: GYPSIES AND TRAVELLERS ACCOMMODATION

The Council will safeguard the existing gypsy and traveller site at Eastbrookend Country Park.

Proposals for new gypsy and traveller sites, or extensions to the existing one, will only be permitted where:

- **The proposed development would meet an identifiable local need which cannot be accommodated by existing provision.**
- **The site will not be isolated from the wider community and has ease of access to a range of leisure and community facilities (such as shops, schools and health facilities).**
- **The site will not be located in areas of high flood risk, including functional floodplains.**
- **The provision of adequate recycling facilities is catered for;**
- **Residential amenity will be safeguarded by minimising the potential for noise, movements and other disturbance to, from and within the site.**
- **The site does not detract from or damage the quality or character of open spaces.**
- **The site has safe access to and from the main road network and has satisfactory parking and turning space for all vehicles;**
- **The site will not detract from or damage historic or cultural sites or Conservation Areas.**
- **The site layout is appropriate in terms of the configuration of pitches, amenity buildings, hardstandings and open spaces.**
- **The site has appropriate means of enclosure and comprehensive landscaping.**

REASONED JUSTIFICATION

3.3.1 The provision of adequate and suitable accommodation for gypsies and travellers will help promote the peaceful and integrated co-existence among the residents of Barking and Dagenham. The Council has a statutory responsibility to ensure that the accommodation needs of gypsies and travellers are met.

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3.3.2 Following national government announcements in the summer of 2010, there is no longer a regional requirement to set targets for Gypsy and Traveller pitch provision. In addition, the Government announced in September 2010 that it intends to revoke Planning Circular 01/06 and replace this with guidance outlining councils' statutory obligations. The Mayor of London is (as at September 2010), also proposing to remove regional targets for Gypsy and Traveller pitch provision. This is being taken forward as a minor alteration to the consultation draft Replacement London Plan and will be subject to examination in December 2010. If the need for pitch provision is to be determined at the local level, the Council will use the Gypsy and Traveller Needs Assessment (GTANA) completed by the GLA in 2009 as a starting point for determining any additional need in the Borough. Where additional need is determined, this will be identified through a dedicated Gypsy and Traveller DPD.

3.3.3 Until the additional need for pitches in the Borough has been established, any forthcoming windfall applications will be judged against the criteria contained in this policy.

3.3.4 This policy accords with London Plan Policy 3A.14 which requires development plan policies to protect existing gypsies and travellers sites, set out criteria for assessing proposals for new sites, and identify land for new sites where shortfalls occur.

POLICY BC4: RESIDENTIAL CONVERSIONS AND HOUSES IN MULTIPLE OCCUPATION

Changes of Use from Housing and Subdivision of Larger Homes

The Council is seeking to preserve and increase the stock of family housing in the Borough. Consequently, when planning permission is required, the Council will resist proposals which involve the loss of housing with three bedrooms or more.

Other proposals for flat conversions or homes in multiple occupation (HMOs) will only be considered acceptable provided that:

- **The number of houses that have been converted to flats and / or HMOs in any road (including unimplemented but still valid planning permissions) does not exceed 10% of the total number of houses in the road. No two adjacent properties apart from dwellings that are separated by a road should be converted.**
- **No significant loss of character or amenity occurs to the area as a result of increased traffic, noise and/or general disturbance.**
- **Regard is had to the appropriate design, transportation, and internal and external amenity space standards policies.**

> - **The internal space standards required by Policy BP6 can be met for all of the proposed new dwelling units.**
> - **Adequate space is provided to store refuse and recycling ready for collection.**
>
> **Changes of Use from Other Uses to Residential**
>
> **Conversions from non-residential to residential uses are generally acceptable in buildings in areas which are not specifically allocated or safeguarded for another purpose (such as employment use, retail use or community use). In primary and secondary retail frontages in designated town centres conversions to residential uses will generally be acceptable above ground floor shopping frontages.**

REASONED JUSTIFICATION

3.4.1   The Council recognises that conversions to flats can provide a valuable source of housing for smaller households and can contribute to meeting housing need in the Borough. As well as this, the conversion to flats of space above retail units can help bring activity to town and District Centres and increase their vitality and viability.

3.4.2   However, in terms of the subdivision of existing housing into flats, the Council needs to balance these advantages against the need to protect and increase the supply of family housing. Consequently, a strict approach to preserving family housing and particularly 4 bedroom homes has been adopted given the current shortage in Barking and Dagenham (as highlighted in the Barking and Dagenham Housing Strategy 2007 - 2010) as well as in London as a whole.

3.4.3   The preferred policy helps to address the loss of family homes and aims to ensure that the current deficit is not worsened by further flat conversions and HMOs.

3.4.4   Restricting the number of flat conversions and HMOs is also important for residential character and amenity.

3.4.5   As at 1 October 2010, the General Permitted Development Order was amended so that planning permission is not required for a change of use between Class C3 (dwelling houses) and Class C4 (Houses in multiple occupation occupied by up to 6 residents). The Borough is vulnerable to high concentrations of HMOs. Too many shared homes in a neighbourhood can cause problems and adversely affect the residential amenity of an area. Homes are also often let to short term tenants who have limited stake in the community. Therefore, an overconcentration of HMOs would work against the Core Strategy's vision where "New communities will be integrated with existing communities so that Barking and Dagenham will be a sought after

place to live, comprised of a constellation of neighbourhoods each with their own distinct character and offer." The over concentration of HMOs in the Borough could also lead to a significant loss of much needed family housing in the Borough. Where neighbourhoods are identified as being vulnerable to the adverse affects of too many HMOs the Council will respond by using an Article 4 direction to remove these permitted development rights and require planning applications for such changes of use.

POLICY BC5: SPORTS STANDARDS

The Council will resist development proposals which involve the loss of existing pitch and outdoor sports facilities in the Borough, unless replacement facilities are provided to the Council's satisfaction within the development or in the immediate vicinity.

The Council will also ensure that new pitch and outdoor sports facilities are provided to accommodate population growth by:

- **Requiring all proposals for strategic residential development to be accompanied by an assessment of the need for additional sports provision.**
- **Requiring any identified need to be met through the provision of financial contributions and/or additional sports provision as part of the development scheme.**

Where it is not possible to provide additional provision as part of the development scheme or in close proximity, a suitable alternative in an accessible location may be acceptable.

In assessing need, the following should be taken into account:

- **Indicative standards of provision established by the Barking and Dagenham Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sports Facilities Strategy:**
  a) Playing Pitches: 0.75 ha of playing pitches per 1,000 people
  b) Multi-Use Games Areas: one MUGA per 1,500 under 16's
  c) Tennis Courts: one tennis court per 2,500 10 to 45 year olds
  d) Bowling Greens: one bowling green per 9,500 over 40's
- **Existing provision or shortage of sports facilities within the vicinity of the proposed development.**
- **Existing provision or shortage of parks and open space (for informal recreation opportunities) within the vicinity of the proposed development.**
- **Projected population profile of the proposed development.**

REASONED JUSTIFICATION

3.5.1 This policy fits in with national, regional and local legislation. By adopting the recommendations of the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sports Facilities Strategy (2005), the policy will help ensure that provision of sports facilities is considered in relation to new and existing communities.

3.5.2 The Community Benefits SPD will look at how sports provision from development can be maximised. Sport England guidance on how to develop locally relevant criteria for sports provision is available and will inform the SPD.

POLICY BC6: LOSS OF COMMUNITY FACILITIES

Planning permission that will result in the loss of a community facility will only be permitted where one of the following criteria is met:

- **The facility is replaced within the new development.**
- **The facility is relocated or a better facility is provided in a more appropriate building or location on another site which improves its accessibility for its users in terms of proximity, walking and public transport, safety (real and perceived) and physical accessibility.**
- **The Council is satisfied that the facility is no longer needed and there are no reasonable prospects of reuse by an alternative community use despite attempts (over a minimum period of 12 months) to market it.**

REASONED JUSTIFICATION

3.6.1 As outlined in the reasoned justification for Core Strategy Policy CC2, the provision of social infrastructure to support new and existing communities is vital if Barking and Dagenham is to continue to function and grow in a sustainable manner.

3.6.2 Where exceptional circumstances exist that do potentially warrant the loss of a community facility in a particular building or location it is important that adequate recompense is made so as to sustain a sufficient range and amount of social infrastructure in a given locality and across the Borough as a whole.

POLICY BC7: CRIME PREVENTION

Planning permission will only be granted for schemes where the developer can demonstrate to the Council's satisfaction that full account has been taken of the principles and practices of Secured by Design in order to assist in reducing the opportunity for crime, minimising fear of crime, and creating a safer and more secure environment. Applicants should liaise with the Council and take account of its Planning Advice Note 6 Crime Prevention through Environmental Design in order to assist in incorporating Secured by Design principles.

The design of development must address the means of reducing the opportunities for crime and anti-social behaviour (improving safety and security) in the development itself and for neighbouring properties, Development must also seek to reduce the potential for the fear of crime.

Police shops are encouraged within the designated hierarchy of town centres, subject to Policy BE1, and in other locations such as employment areas where this would help with crime prevention and where they would remain secondary to the dominant uses in the area.

REASONED JUSTIFICATION

3.7.1   The Council wishes the Borough to become a place where people feel safe and secure and where crime and disorder, or the fear of crime, does not undermine the quality of life or community cohesion.

3.7.2   Crime is a very important issue locally, the consultation responses to the Preferred Options Report clearly indicate that people feel that there is too much crime, vandalism and graffiti within the Borough and that measures should be introduced to decrease the fear of crime, particularly amongst the elderly.

3.7.3   Whilst the Council recognises that tackling crime requires a multi-agency approach on many fronts, it believes that the design of the physical environment can make an important contribution. Consequently, developers will need to demonstrate that they have taken this policy into account in their proposals as well as of the Planning Advice Note 6 Crime Prevention through Environmental Design.

POLICY BC8: MIXED USE DEVELOPMENT

Mixed use development (development for a variety of activities on single sites or across wider areas) is encouraged in the centres identified in the Borough's retail hierarchy and sites with good public transport accessibility.

Such mixed use development should comply with the following criteria:

- The resultant range of uses (either within an individual development or across a particular locality) should be compatible with each other. For example, by taking account of servicing requirements and the relationship with any noise sensitive uses.
- The mix of uses does not undermine other key policies within the plan (e.g. the prime retail function of areas within primary retail parades).

Sites considered particularly suitable for mixed use development are set out in the Barking Town Centre Area Action Plan and the Site Specific Allocations DPD.

REASONED JUSTIFICATION

3.8.1 This policy is designed to specifically promote mixed use development comprising an appropriate and complementary mixes of uses which will help the vitality and viability of our town centres, and encourage a sustainable mix of uses across the Borough in general.

POLICY BC9: LIVE-WORK UNITS

The provision of live-work accommodation within the Borough is encouraged providing that the following criteria are complied with:

- The nature and scale of the proposed work space will not undermine the character or amenity of the surrounding area.
- The introduction of residential uses within safeguarded employment areas complies with Core Strategy employment policies and does not prejudice or limit current or future employment provision.
- No more than two bedrooms should be included in each unit as live-work uses are not considered suitable for family accommodation, particularly within a defined employment area.
- Where live-work units are to be located close to B2 industrial uses particular care will be needed to ensure an acceptable level of residential amenity for the occupants of the development.
- Live-work units should comply with the internal space standards set out in Policy BP6, as well as providing a reasonable area of definable

functional workspace; each live-work unit will have a purpose built employment generating floorspace with a capacity for a number of employees and should not simply include operations which can take place within a normal dwelling without the need for planning permission.

- **Provision should be made for the proper servicing and sufficient floor loading for each unit (including goods lifts to upper floors). Within conversion schemes provision should also be made for adequate servicing and any existing service facilities should be retained and re-used.**
- **Live-work units should have access to external amenity space.**

To ensure that live-work unites are used as intended, the Council will attach planning conditions/legal agreements to the planning permission.

REASONED JUSTIFICATION

3.9.1 Working from home is becoming increasingly common whether this be traditional home-working or more modern forms involving new technologies i.e. teleworking. However, in these cases the work use is small scale and usually secondary to the domestic.

3.9.2 A live-work unit is a building that is designed and used flexibly so that it can perform both a residential and a business function. It is different from ordinary home working in its nature and in the intensity of business use that may be involved. This may be in terms of the amount of space devoted to the work use or that the work element is designed to accommodate more workers than just the resident and may be designed in a flexible form to encourage business expansion.

3.9.3 Live-work developments can play an important role in creating sustainable communities and mixed areas, reducing the need to travel by car, aiding the development of small businesses and providing local investment.

3.9.4 As well as contributing to Borough's employment offer by providing increased opportunities for new small business start-ups, live-work units also help to reduce the need to travel to work and generally help contribute to sustainable urban living.

3.9.5 Live-work units do however present unique design and amenity challenges. The criteria listed in this policy are intended to ensure live-work units are able to fulfil their purpose, whilst ensuring that the needs of both residents and businesses are met.

3.9.6 Live-work is a hybrid planning use that encompasses both C3 and B1 use classes. This type of accommodation is difficult to classify under a single class within the Use Classes Order and are therefore usually deemed to be sui generis.

3.9.7 Detailed drawings of internal layout should be submitted with any planning application for live-work unit, illustrating clearly the extent of the residential and employment components of the proposed live-work unit(s).

Planning conditions/legal agreements

3.9.8 Particularly in safeguarded employments areas planning conditions/legal agreements will be applied to prevent live-work units from being converted to purely residential use. This may include the agreement of access arrangements for the purpose of inspection of units to ensure they continue to be used for employment generating purposes on an ongoing basis. Proof of employment generating use will also need to be provided.

POLICY BC10: THE HEALTH IMPACTS OF DEVELOPMENT
The Council will work in partnership with NHS Barking and Dagenham and other relevant agencies to improve the health of the local population and reduce health inequalities.

Sufficient, accessible health facilities will be provided to meet the needs of residents', and projects and programmes initiated by NHS Barking and Dagenham and other agencies will be supported to improve the efficiency of health service provision.

The health impacts of major developments should be considered from the outset and planning applications should show how the development will address these impacts and contribute to improving public health and wellbeing within the Borough.

As with other community facilities, where a loss or relocation of a health facility is proposed, the replacement use should demonstrate compliance with Core Strategy Policy CC3.

The Council will promote the objectives of the Mayor's Food Strategy and encourage developments and other initiatives to provide fresh fruit and vegetables in the Borough, particularly in Barking Riverside and locations with existing deficiencies. This will include support for the continuation and improvements of the Borough's markets, and the retention and expansion of allotments in the Borough.

REASONED JUSTIFICATION

3.10.1 The Council is determined to ensure that the regeneration and development of Barking and Dagenham has a positive impact on health and wellbeing.

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3.10.2 This policy is designed to complement Policy 3A.23 of the London Plan which requires Health Impact Assessments for major developments, and consideration of the health impacts of development to ensure major new development promotes public health within our Borough.

3.10.3 Improving standards of health in Barking and Dagenham is essential for tackling poor heath and social deprivation in the Borough.

3.10.4 Early consultation with the local planning authority, the Primary Care Trust and, if relevant, the licensing authority is recommended as this will help to ensure the aims of this policy and Policy 3A.23 of the London Plan are met, and that any Health Impact Assessment is appropriate in scope and scale.

3.10.5 Proposals in-line with the policies set out in the Government's Our Heath, Our Care, Our Say' White Paper, the Strategic Services Development Plan for Barking, Dagenham and Havering, North East London Estates Strategy, and NHS London's 'Healthcare for London' Strategy for the provision and improvements to health and social care will generally be supported.

3.10.6 Health is a vitally important cross cutting theme that relates closely to many of the policies and proposals found elsewhere in the Local Development Framework. Examples include the Core Strategy and Borough Wide Development Policies relating to open spaces, walking and cycling, town centres, community facilities and air quality. The Barking Town Centre Area Action Plan's support for the street market will help ensure continuing access to fresh produce. The Site Specific Allocations Development Plan Document allocates land for the provision of new and improved health facilities. The Joint Waste Development Plan Document will ensure public health and amenity are taken into account when new waste management facilities are planned. In addition to these DPDs, the Supplementary Planning Document, Saturation Point: Addressing the health impacts of hot food takeaways, aims to reduce the risk of obesity amongst the Borough's population and in particular children by setting out measures to reduce the prevalence and clustering of hot food takeaways. The Community Benefits Supplementary Planning Document will consider how new development can contribute to the provision of important social infrastructure including health facilities.

3.10.7 Healthy Urban Development Unit guidance and the Council's own Social Infrastructure (SIF) model will both inform the development of the Site Specific Allocations DPD and the Community Benefits SPD. The appropriate authorities will be invited to input into these documents from the outset.

POLICY BC11: UTILITIES

Proposals for new development must be able to demonstrate that existing or planned services can accommodate them, whether these services are provided by the utility companies or by the development itself, and that connection to these services will be in place before the development is occupied or used.

Development will not be permitted if it would harm existing systems or lead to the existing community receiving worse services. These services will include off-site service infrastructure, sewage disposal, water and sewerage facilities, flood risk defences and control facilities, power, and any other public services.

To minimise the need for additional infrastructure or services, existing and future facilities should be shared where appropriate. The provision of on-site renewable energy provision and/or connection to the planned Community Heating Network in accordance with Policy BR2 can also help.

The provision of additional utility infrastructure will normally be permitted where this is consistent with the principles of sustainable development, including where such provision will have no adverse impact on the environment and will be compatible with other land uses.

REASONED JUSTIFICATION

3.11.1 Barking and Dagenham will experience very significant levels of development throughout the lifetime of this plan, most notably but not exclusively within Barking Town Centre and at Barking Riverside. These levels of development will place significant pressure on existing utilities and infrastructure and are almost certain to generate the need for further provision.

3.11.2 This policy seeks to ensure that no development can proceed unless adequate utility connections and infrastructure are in place to service it without adversely impacting on the levels of service experienced by existing homes and businesses.

POLICY BC12: TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Telecommunication development will only be permitted where:

- **The siting does not adversely affect the character or appearance of the surrounding area, does not result in an unacceptable level of clutter and is not visually intrusive in the street scene.**

- **Screening and planting associated with the proposal is provided where appropriate.**
- **The applicant has certified that the development will operate within the International (ICNIRP) Guidelines for public exposure.**
- **It can be demonstrated that the amount of equipment/apparatus being proposed has been minimised through (wherever possible) sharing facilities and sites with other operators, reusing existing facilities, and considering existing and future demand for telecommunications in the area.**
- **The applicant removes the installation as soon as it becomes obsolete.**

If the telecommunications development is part of a proposal for a new building, the Council will require that it should (if possible) be an intrinsic part of the overall building design and layout rather than an afterthought.

Careful consideration will be given to proposals with regard to the Green Belt, conservation areas and listed buildings where the architectural quality of buildings and townscapes may be particularly sensitive to the intrusion of badly sited and designed telecommunications equipment.

REASONED JUSTIFICATION

3.12.1 Effective telecommunications are an essential and beneficial element in the working of the local community and the national economy. As such, the Council recognises the need to accommodate/facilitate the placing of new telecommunication equipment within the Borough.

3.12.2 Telecommunication equipment does, however, raise unique design, environment and health issues and the purpose of the policy is to ensure that any such impacts are kept to an acceptable minimum.

Chapter 4: Ensuring a Vibrant Economy and Attractive Town Centres

Ensuring a Vibrant Economy and Attractive Town Centres Borough Wide Development Policies:

BE1:   Protection of Retail Uses
BE2:   Development in Town Centres
BE3:   Retail Outside of Town Centres
BE4:   Managing the Evening Economy
BE5:   Offices – Design and Change of Use

POLICY BE1: PROTECTION OF RETAIL USES

Proposals for a change of use from A1 uses along protected shopping frontages (both primary and secondary) should demonstrate that they comply with the following:

Barking Town Centre

In Barking Town Centre, a maximum of 15% of the measured primary shopping frontages and 30% of the measured secondary shopping frontages will be permitted for A2-A5 uses. The shopping frontages are defined in the Barking Town Centre Area Action Plan

District Centres

In District Centres, a maximum of 30% of the measured primary shopping frontages and 60% of the measured secondary shopping frontages will be permitted for A2-A5 uses. The shopping frontages are defined in the Site Specific Allocations DPD.

Neighbourhood Centres

In Neighbourhood Centres, A2-A5 uses are restricted to a maximum of 35% of the measured frontage (as defined in the Site Specific Allocations DPD).

Exceptions

Exceptions may be made to this policy where it can be shown that the A1 unit in question is no longer viable for retail purposes (and there is no reasonable prospect of reuse) despite attempts (over at least 12 months) to market it at values prevailing in the centre. The alternative use must demonstrate that a local need exists for the proposed

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alternative use. Community uses will, generally, be considered favourably.

Hot Food Take Aways

In relation to all retail centre classifications, hot food takeaways (A5 Use Class) are restricted to a maximum of 15% of the measured frontage.

Basis for Calculations

All % calculations will be based on measured frontage. The % is based on both:

- **the proportion of non-A1 uses in each identified primary or secondary frontage; and**
- **the proportion of non-A1 uses across the entire primary frontages secondary frontages or neighbourhood frontages in question.**

For Neighbourhood Centres, the % calculation is solely based on the proportion of non-A1 uses in the entire neighbourhood shopping area.

The location and proposed boundaries of the Major, District and Neighbourhood Centres and the primary and secondary shopping frontages within them will be detailed in the forthcoming Barking Town Centre Area Action Plan DPD and the Site Specific Allocations DPD, and will be shown on the Proposals Map.

Particular emphasis will be placed on retaining shops selling fresh fruit and vegetables and the provision of farmers' markets and new shops selling fresh fruit and vegetables.

REASONED JUSTIFICATION

4.1.1 Although retail must remain the dominant use in the Borough's shopping centres, other service uses such as, for instance banks, building societies and restaurants, have a key role in meeting the needs and expectations of the local community. Consequently, achieving the right balance of retail and non-retail uses in our centres is vitally important to ensuring their vitality and viability. The Supplementary Planning Document, Saturation Point: Addressing the health impacts of hot food takeaways (July 2010), provides further guidance on the location of hot food takeaways in the Borough. It aims to reduce the prevalence and clustering of hot food takeaways, especially those in proximity to primary and secondary schools.

4.1.2   The definition of primary and secondary shopping frontages helps to achieve this. Retail must be the dominant use within the primary shopping frontages of the Borough's centres and this is why a stricter

control over changes of use from retail is justified. Outside of the primary shopping frontages, and in line with PPS4, there is more scope to allow the sorts of non-retail uses which are appropriate to a shopping centre. Consequently the policy takes a more liberal view of changes of use in the secondary shopping frontages.

POLICY BE2: DEVELOPMENT IN TOWN CENTRES

The Council will welcome development in town centres that provides vitality, viability and regeneration benefits. Such development should provide a function or service compatible with prime retail function of the area and achieve a high degree of street activity and pedestrian movement. In addition to meeting the requirements of Policy BE1, all development should also meet the following design criteria:

- **Be orientated so that the building fronts the street and maximises the amount of street frontage which is active at the ground floor level and which contains no significant breaks.**
- **Respect the building lines of the existing urban environment and, where appropriate, build up to the edge of the curtilage or provide outside stalls.**
- **Be integrated with the surrounding public space and provide level access.**
- **Be compatible with the Core Strategy design principles and in addition within Barking Town Centre the Barking Town Centre Area Action Plan Urban Design Guidance SPD.**
- **Where appropriate, provide opportunities for mixed-use housing and/or office schemes above ground floor level.**
- **In edge of centre locations, provide good pedestrian access to the centre.**
- **Not be detrimental to the visual and/or environmental character and amenity of the area (i.e. noise, fumes and smell, litter, traffic, general disturbance).**

The Council will also encourage shops, (A1 uses) over 2,500 sq m (26,910 sq.ft) gross floor space, accessible public toilet facilities and baby changing facilities; secure and sufficient cycle parking facilities (see parking standards); recycling facilities; and public seating.

REASONED JUSTIFICATION

4.2.1   Urban design can play a very important role in promoting the vitality and viability of our town centres. If designed properly, new development can improve the accessibility, appearance and character of the area. Whereas inward design (e.g. blank walls) which does not create street activity or a pleasant environment may encourage anti-

social behaviour and fear of crime which may lead to the deterioration of shopping areas.

4.2.2 Barking and Dagenham's Neighbourhood Centre Health Check (2006) found many developments within retail centres to be in a poor state of repair. A general absence of seating was also noted, along with the lack of cycle parking facilities.

4.2.3 In line with 'Planning Policy Statement 4: Planning for Sustainable Economic Growth' this policy is intended to encourage high quality design in order to make the shopping experience more environmentally pleasant, safe and welcoming, particularly for pedestrians. The ultimate goal being that investment in high quality design will encourage increased investment and footfall contributing to more dynamic, competitive and innovative town centres.

4.2.4 Further guidance is set out in the Barking Town Centre Area Action Plan Urban Design Guidance SPD and the Barking Code, the latter of which contains design guidelines for public spaces in Barking Town Centre. Additional design codes may be drafted for other areas of the Borough.

POLICY BE3: RETAIL OUTSIDE OR ON THE EDGE OF TOWN CENTRES

Proposals for New Edge of Town/Out of Town Retail Development

New retail development is expected to be located in the town centres set out in Core Strategy Policy CM5. Edge-of-centre or out-of-centre proposals will be considered against the sequential test set out in national policy. Planning permission will only be granted for such proposals if, in addition to the sequential test, they can demonstrate that they will have no adverse impacts on the vitality and viability of existing centres and show how the proposed development would benefit our existing community, how it fits in with our overall LDF vision, policies and objectives, and what contribution it would make to a sustainable borough.

Existing Local Shops Outside of the Town Centre Hierarchy

The Council will seek to retain existing individual shops that are located outside centres in the town centre hierarchy in Policy CM5), particularly those that sell fresh food. Applications for changes-of-use to non-retail (non-A1) uses will normally be refused, although exceptions may be made where it can be shown that the unit is no longer viable for retail purposes and that it has remained un-let for at least 12 months, despite attempts to let it on reasonable terms. Where this occurs, the Council's preference will be for premises to be used as a beneficial community facility.

REASONED JUSTIFICATION

4.3.1 The Council believes that new shopping should be located within the centres defined in the retail hierarchy and that, following the creation of the new District Centre at Barking Riverside, there will be sufficient capacity within the designated shopping centres to accommodate the levels of additional retail floor space likely to be required. For this reason and in the light of the sequential test criteria set out in PPS4, the Council expects any major retail proposals to be located within these shopping centres. No provision for out of centre retail is made within the LDF.

4.3.2 Consequently any proposals for significant retail development outside of the designated centres will be viewed unfavourably unless applicants are able to demonstrate that their proposals are able to meet the criteria set out in the policy and make a positive contribution to the creation of sustainable communities within the Borough.

4.3.3 Whilst the Council recognises that small local shops providing a service to the neighbouring community are a vital component of local community cohesion, it also acknowledges that, as a Local Planning Authority, it has no powers to secure the continued trading of any shop. The policy does, however, seek to resist changes of use from retail unless it is clearly demonstrated that there is no prospect of establishing a shopping use. In such cases, the Council will reluctantly grant permission for a change of use since the alternative is long term vacancy with adverse effects on the character of the area.

POLICY BE4: MANAGING THE EVENING ECONOMY

The Council will promote the diversification of the evening economy through, in preference to alcoholic drinking establishments, the encouragement of restaurants, shops, cafes, galleries, libraries, museums and other cultural venues which remain open after regular business hours to reduce and /or avoid anti-social behaviour and threats of crime.

Planning permission will only be granted for new proposals that can demonstrate that:

- **There will be no significant individual or cumulative adverse effect on the surrounding residential amenity due to noise, traffic, parking or general disturbance.**
- **Arrangements for mitigating pollution including ventilation equipment, refuse disposal, grease traps and noise insulation is provided in a way that minimises visual and environmental impact.**
- **Access requirements for people of all ages and abilities are provided.**
- **Adequate levels of parking and public transit will be available during the hours of operation.**

> - **The design of development particularly focuses on public safety, crime prevention and the reduction of anti-social behaviour.**
> - **The day-time use does not detract from the character and amenity of the surrounding shops and services (i.e. providing a blank frontage due to closure during the day rather than maintaining an active street frontage).**

REASONED JUSTIFICATION

4.4.1 The Council acknowledges that food, drink and evening economy uses, particularly pubs and nightclubs, contribute to the vitality and viability of the Borough's shopping centres. However, a concentration of these uses in a particular location or street can detract from the amenity and character of an area through excessive noise, crime and anti social behaviour.

4.4.2 Consequently, the Council wishes to diversify the evening economy and encourage more family oriented uses so that the needs of all sections of the community are addressed.

4.4.3 However, the Council, in line with PPS4, will wish to ensure that all new evening and night time economy uses will not give rise to anti-social behaviour and have adverse impacts, either individually or cumulatively on the character and function of a centre and the amenities of nearby residents.

4.4.4 The Council will liaise with the Metropolitan Police regarding such proposals to enable them to provide advice relating to crime and anti-social behaviour issues that may be associated with a proposal.

4.4.5 The evening economy is particularly important to Barking Town Centre and, consequently, the Barking Town Centre Area Action Plan contains a specific policy for its area.

> ## POLICY BE5: OFFICES – DESIGN AND CHANGE OF USE
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> **New office (B1) developments in Barking Town Centre and the District Centres should:**
>
> - **Contain active street frontages.**
> - **Not conflict with or adversely affect the primary retail/service use function of centres.**
> - **Not be located at ground floor level within primary or secondary shopping frontages.**
> - **Not involve a net loss of housing.**

In out-of-centre locations, new office (B1) developments should not conflict with or adversely affect the predominant existing land use

Any net loss of office space (whether in use or vacant) will only be considered acceptable if all of the following criteria are met:

- There is evidence that the possibilities of re-using, refurbishing or otherwise improving the site to encourage continuing B1 office use have been fully considered and explored over a period of time.
- The alternative scheme will contribute significantly to wider regeneration initiatives.
- The alternative scheme will help to achieve a higher quality of design and / or improvements to the public realm.
- If possible, employment and training opportunities are retained or created as part of the new development.

The Council's preferred use will be community based and before other new uses are proposed, the possibility of provision of a beneficial community facility must have been fully and genuinely explored.

REASONED JUSTIFICATION

4.5.1   Although there is currently little demand for office development in the Borough, any proposals for new offices in the Borough are directed by Core Strategy Policy CE2 to Barking Town Centre and the District Centres in order to ensure that they sustain and create accessible employment opportunities with good public transport links.

4.5.2   London Plan Policy 3B.2 states that a variety of type, size and cost of offices should be provided to meet the needs of all sectors, including small and medium enterprises.

4.5.3   The Council will welcome office development because of its positive impacts on the vitality and viability of the Borough's centres but is not prepared to permit schemes which would conflict with or prejudice the primary retail function of the centre or result in a net loss of housing. The Barking Town Centre Area Action Plan contains a specific policy for office development in its area (Policy BTC3).

Chapter 5: Creating a Sense of Place

Creating a Sense of Place Borough Wide Development Policies:

BP1:   Culture and Tourism
BP2:   Conservation Areas and Listed Buildings
BP3:   Archaeology
BP4:   Tall Buildings
BP5:   External Amenity Space
BP6:   Internal Space Standards
BP7:   Advertisement Control
BP8:   Protecting Residential Amenity
BP9:   Riverside Development
BP10:   Housing Density
BP11:   Urban Design

POLICY BP1: CULTURE AND TOURISM

Proposals for new or enhanced cultural facilities (including leisure) and tourist attractions will be encouraged in town centre or other areas with good public transport, walking and cycling links. Leisure facilities will be particularly welcome in areas where there is an identified local need and, where possible, tourist accommodation should be located in close proximity to tourist attractions. Proposals which would improve access to the Borough's rivers for recreational purposes, for example for canoeing or angling will be supported

Proposals that will result in the loss of cultural facilities (including leisure) will normally be resisted unless an appropriate replacement facility is provided within or in the vicinity of the development or, alternatively, the developer can produce evidence to the Council's satisfaction that there is no longer a need for the facility.

REASONED JUSTIFICATION

5.1.1   The availability of cultural and tourist provision makes an important contribution to the vitality and viability of town centres. As set out in PPS4: Planning for Sustainable Economic Growth, the availability of complementary cultural, leisure and tourism uses, during the day and in the evening can reinforce each other, making town centres more attractive to local residents, shoppers and visitors. The Council wishes to promote uses which appeal to a wide range of ages and social groups. Areas with good public transport accessibility such as town centres are the preferred locations for such facilities as this will ensure they are accessible for the most amount of people.

5.1.2 Making better use of our rivers is a goal of both the Council and the Mayor of London. They represent a valuable natural resource that can provide settings for sport, leisure, recreation and quiet spaces for the benefit of people and wildlife.

5.1.3 The river also acts as an important cultural resource with opportunities to recapture its historic maritime identity. Along with cultural facilities developed elsewhere in the Borough, such provision can help build social cohesion and promote a strong local identity.

POLICY BP2: CONSERVATION AREAS AND LISTED BUILDINGS

Conservation Areas

The Council will seek to conserve or enhance the significance and special character and appearance of each Conservation Area, and their setting.

The Council has produced and continues to update Conservation Area Appraisals and management proposals for each of the Borough's four Conservation Areas to help increase understanding of and respect for their significance, special character, context, appearance and historical importance.

There will be a general presumption in favour of conserving buildings, spaces and structures (whether listed or not) that have significance and which can be identified as making a contribution to a Conservation Area's special character or appearance. Where such buildings are vacant or underused, the Council will encourage their restoration and/or reuse.

New regeneration initiatives and development proposals in or affecting the setting of a Conservation Area will be expected to:

- **Have full regard to the conservation and enhancement of all those buildings, groups of buildings, trees and other features which have significance and make a contribution to its special character, including its setting.**
- **Take advantage of opportunities to positively change any negative factors which detract from the significance and special character of the area, and / or enhance any neutral areas.**

Conservation Area Appraisals should be followed when preparing or determining any planning application in or affecting the setting of a Conservation Area. Where any uncertainty arises in relation to the contribution made by unlisted buildings to the significance including the special architectural or historic interest of a Conservation Area the advice contained in English Heritage's 'Guidance on Conservation Area

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Appraisals (2005) Appendix 1 and Planning Policy Statement 5 and its Practice Guide should be followed.

Listed Buildings

Compared to many other local authorities, Barking and Dagenham is home to relatively few statutorily listed buildings and structures. As such they are a precious resource, and we will operate a general presumption in favour of their preservation and where possible enhancement. In particular where buildings are identified on the Heritage at Risk register, the Council will support their appropriate restoration and/or reuse.

Proposals to alter, change the use of and or extend any listed building, or for development in the vicinity of a listed building, must demonstrate that there will be no adverse impact (individual or cumulative) on the significance including its special architectural or historic interest of the building and its setting.

Development proposals and regeneration initiatives which affect a listed building or its setting will be expected to demonstrate that any social and economic benefits of the scheme are balanced to ensure the development is in keeping with its significance including its special architectural and historic interest.

The Council will ensure that the list of locally listed buildings is periodically reviewed and updated, and will wherever practicable and reasonable afford a high level of protection in line with its approach to statutorily listed buildings.

Other Heritage Assets and the wider Historic Environment

Aside from the four conservations areas, other areas which are locally distinctive and historically important (such as the Becontree Estate) will be identified, celebrated and promoted. The preservation, reinstatement and enhancement of their locally distinctive and historically important features will be encouraged. This includes other heritage assets, buildings, spaces, parks and gardens and other elements of the historic environment that contribute to the distinctiveness of a place.

Development within or affecting any heritage feature should respect its local context and avoid materially detracting from its significance including its archaeological, architectural, historic, landscape or biodiversity interest, or harming its setting.

The Council will positively encourage development which would improve access to and public understanding and enjoyment of heritage assets, provided the development is consistent with its character and appearance and the detailed considerations outlined above. In areas undergoing significant change and redevelopment, heritage features

should be regarded as assets to be preserved and enhanced and capitalised upon, and their potential to contribute towards regeneration and encourage high standards of building design should be fully explored.

REASONED JUSTIFICATION

5.2.1 The national planning policy context in relation to the conservation of the historic environment is set out in PPS5 (Planning and the Historic Environment) and supporting Planning Practice Guide. This states that local authorities should set out a positive and proactive strategy for the conservation and enjoyment of the historic environment. This includes consideration of the qualities and local distinctness of the historic environment and how best to conserve individual group or types of heritage assets and their significance. When considering development proposals it is the responsibility of the applicant to provide a description of the significance of the heritage asset affected. The level of detail required should be proportionate to its importance. When considering applications the Council will take into account the relative significance of the heritage asset.

Conservation Areas

5.2.2 Conservation Area Appraisals have been produced for the four Conservation Areas in Barking and Dagenham.

5.2.3 Conservation Areas are:
- Abbey and Barking Town Centre Conservation Area.
- Abbey Road Riverside Conservation Area.
- Chadwell Heath Anti-aircraft Gun Site Conservation Area.
- Dagenham Village Conservation Area.

In addition there are, 'other features' which can positively contribute to the special character or appearance of Conservation Areas including, but not limited to, spaces, street patterns, views, vistas, uses and trees.

5.2.4 Where Conservation Area designations coincide with areas earmarked for significant development and change (such as Barking Town Centre and to a lesser extent Abbey Road), development proposals and regeneration initiatives should respect and enhance those features which make a positive contribution to the area's significance including its special character and appearances

Listed Buildings

5.2.5 Local Planning Authorities are required by statute to protect buildings and structures which are of historical and or architectural interest and which have been awarded listed building status. The Council is

committed to their continued conservation and enhancement, especially those listed buildings on the English Heritage's Heritage at Risk Register.

5.2.6   Listed buildings do or have the potential to make a positive contribution towards the overall character and appearance of the wider area within which they sit, and are also important in maintaining visible links with the past and a sense of local distinctiveness.

5.2.7   There are relatively few buildings and structures in Barking and Dagenham which have been given statutory listed building status. However, Barking and Dagenham does have a rich local heritage which belies this fact, and as such we have produced a local list of additional buildings and structures which we think are of local historical importance. We will take their contribution into account when assessing planning applications.

Other heritage assets and the wider historic environment

5.2.8   As well as our four Conservation Areas there are other parts of Barking and Dagenham which are of importance locally. Whilst these do not meet the appropriate requirements for Conservation Area status they nevertheless deserve to be recognised and to have responsive appraisals and guidance produced which are sensitive to their character and history. Where such areas are identified we will produce Planning Advice Notes aimed at promoting high design standards and highlighting buildings or features which we would particularly like to see preserved, enhanced and or reinstated. In addition to areas of local importance the Council values open spaces of heritage value that contribute to the distinctiveness of an area.

5.2.9   An example of such an area is the Becontree Estate, which was built by the then London County Council between 1921 and 1934. This area is of historic importance because it was the largest public housing scheme ever undertaken in Britain and, at the time of its planning, the world.

POLICY BP3: ARCHAEOLOGY

The conservation or enhancement of archaeological remains and their settings will be secured by:

(a)   Requiring an appropriate assessment and evaluation to be submitted as part of the planning application for any developments in areas of known or potential archaeological interest.

(b)   Operating a presumption in favour of the conservation of scheduled ancient monuments and other nationally important archaeological sites and their settings.

> **(c)   Requiring the conservation in situ of other archaeological remains or, where this is not justifiable or feasible and the need for the development and or other material considerations outweigh the importance of the remains, making provision for their excavation, recording and dissemination.**
>
> **Where appropriate, access to and interpretation of in-situ archaeological remains should be provided, if this is possible without having a detrimental impact on the site.**

REASONED JUSTIFICATION

5.3.1   Barking and Dagenham's Heritage Strategy (2000) states that historic records, archaeological excavations and stray finds have illustrated that the Borough contains potential archaeological sites of all periods of local, national and international significance. Barking and Dagenham is largely urban in character and, apart from the local parks and playing fields, significant areas of undeveloped land remain in only two areas; the marshes bordering the Thames and the agricultural land to the north-east at Marks Gate. Where there are likely to be remains of historical interest below ground level, English Heritage, pursuant to the provisions of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979, may recommend to the Secretary of State the designation of an archaeological area. All important historical sites are recorded on the Greater London Historic Environment Record (GLHER). The local authority must then be notified prior to any works being undertaken within a designated area. The local authority must maintain a register of land included within an archaeological area. The Borough has one scheduled ancient monument site - The Barking Abbey Ancient Monument Site.

5.3.2   The national planning policy context in relation to archaeology is set out in PPS5 (Planning and the Historic Environment) and supporting Planning Practice Guide, which states a preference that local authorities should conserve archaeological remains. It is the responsibility of the applicant to provide a description of the significance of the heritage asset affected including its archaeological interest. The level of detail required should be proportionate to its importance. When considering applications the Council will take into account the relative significance of the remains.

5.3.3   London Plan Policy 4B.15 states that local authorities should have policies for the preservation of archaeological assets and scheduled ancient monuments.

5.3.4   The Greater London Historic Environment Record (GLHER) provides a computerised record of information regarding London's archaeological

and historic fabric. The information assists with the early identification of the archaeological and historic interest of an area or site when development is proposed. English Heritage maintains the GLHER for London.

5.3.5 When any development is proposed on sites of archaeological significance or considered to have the potential to include heritage assets of archaeological interest (including ancient monuments – both scheduled and unscheduled), a detailed, fully analytical assessment of the site is required and should be set out in the application.

5.3.6 In situ preservation of archaeological remains is favoured where possible. Where preservation of archaeological remains by record is agreed to be appropriate, the applicant will be required to arrange and fund the excavation, investigation, recording of those remains and publication of the findings to an acceptable professional standard.

5.3.7 Archive deposition is an essential part of appropriate excavation recording procedure.

POLICY BP4: TALL BUILDINGS

A tall building is defined as any building which is significantly taller than its neighbours, and/or which significantly changes the skyline.

Location of Tall Buildings

For tall buildings to be considered acceptable they should be located in areas of high public transport accessibility (PTAL) levels or as set out in the Site Specific Allocations DPD or Barking Town Centre Area Action Plan.

Design of Tall Buildings

Tall buildings are expected be of the highest quality design and layout. They should make a positive contribution to the character and amenity of the surrounding area and contribute to sustainable development. Their design should:

- **Be suited to the wider context in terms of proportion and composition and in terms of their relationship to the historic context, other buildings, pathways, streets, public and private open spaces, rivers and other townscape elements. In particular, buildings should contribute to the diversity, vitality, social engagement and 'sense of place' with its surroundings at ground/street level. The provision of a mix of uses on the ground floor will be encouraged.**
- **Not cause harm to the significance of heritage assets and their settings.**

- **Not significantly harm the skyline or any important views. The design of the top of a building will be of particular importance when considering the effect on the skyline.**
- **Be of high architectural quality through its scale, form, massing, proportion and silhouette, and facing materials.**
- **Maintain the permeability of the site in relation to the surrounding area.**
- **Have an acceptable relationship to aircraft, navigation and telecommunication networks.**
- **Avoid any microclimatic effects such as sun, reflection, wind and overshadowing.**
- **Incorporate adaptable design measures.**

Where a tall building is proposed adjacent to a watercourse the following criteria should also be met:

- **The buildings should be configured to ensure that they minimise shading of the watercourse or any riverside buffer strip; and**
- **The type and direction of lighting should take the potential impact on the environment of the watercourse into account.**

REASONED JUSTIFICATION

5.4.1   A properly located and designed tall building can provide a local landmark or catalyst for regeneration. However because of its scale and prominence it has the potential to significantly harm local character, the historic environment, sustainability and amenity if sited and designed poorly.

5.4.2   Details how the design and location of tall buildings address the criteria should be set out in a design and access statement. The English Heritage/ CABE Guidance on Tall Buildings (2007) 'criteria for evaluation' should also be addressed.

5.4.3   The Council's Urban Design Framework SPD (2007) sets out further information and guidance in relation to local views, vistas and landmarks. The Barking Town Centre Area Action Plan DPD provides additional guidance on the location of tall buildings in the town centre. The Council is producing a Station Masterplan SPD which will give further detail with regards to the location of tall buildings in the Barking Station area (BTCSSA3).

5.4.4   Because of their scale, tall buildings must be sensitively sited and designed. The possible adverse effects of tall buildings sited too close to a waterway (particularly if the development is on the south side of the watercourse) are as follows:

- Visually, tall buildings close to a river convey a disregard for the river as a key landscape feature (an exception is water-related buildings).
- Some wildlife is less likely to use a river corridor constrained by tall buildings e.g. birds that fly low to avoid predation, and butterflies that fly low to avoid strong air currents.
- An increase in artificial lighting related to the new building will have a negative impact on the ecology of the river corridor by affecting life-cycles of wildlife.
- Shading of watercourses and river corridors limits biological diversity and productivity by limiting areas in which plants can grow and so making these areas uninhabitable or less attractive to birds and other wildlife.

POLICY BP5: EXTERNAL AMENITY SPACE

The Council will only grant planning permission for new dwellings where they provide appropriate external private and/ or communal amenity space to meet the needs generated by the development.

This amenity space will normally be expected to, at least, meet the following minimum standards:

1 bedroom flat   20 sqm
2+ bedroom flat   40 sqm
2 bedroom house 50 sqm
3 bedroom house 60 sqm
4+ bedroom house 75 sqm

Rear gardens of houses should have a minimum depth of 12 metres

Amenity space for all new dwellings should be:

- **Private, useable, functional and safe.**
- **Easily accessible from living areas.**
- **Orientated to maximise sunlight.**
- **Of a sufficient size to meet the needs of the likely number of occupiers.**

Where a site adjoins countryside or extensive parkland and the scheme is designed to benefit from the open aspect then there may be scope for a reduction in the provision of amenity space. In this instance, the Council may seek a contribution towards the improvement of an existing open space through a Section 106 agreement.

Where developments in town centre locations and strategic regeneration sites are not able to provide external amenity space on site the applicant should demonstrate that suitable alternatives such as

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useable roof terraces, roof gardens and balconies have been considered and incorporated wherever possible. The qualitative criteria set out above will still need to be met. Again in these instances, the Council may seek a contribution towards the improvement of an existing open space through a Section 106 agreement.

REASONED JUSTIFICATION

5.5.1   The policy combines both quantitative and qualitative standards in order to ensure that there remains a degree of flexibility but with certain minimum quantitative benchmarks that are expected to be achieved. Together this is intended not only to provide a minimum amount of space per dwelling, but to ensure the delivery of high quality, usable amenity space that is accessible to all residents.

5.5.2   This policy refers only to external private and/or communal amenity space and is separate from the provision of open space covered by Policy BR7 and the forthcoming Community Benefits SPD.

5.5.3   The Council's Parks and Green Spaces Strategy (2004) indicates that there is a general lack of quality open space in the Borough. Delivering sufficient amounts of good quality external amenity space as part of new housing will positively impact upon liveability in the Borough.

5.5.4   Providing an exception to these standards for both flats in town centres and in regeneration sites (where development contributions are accepted in its stead) will help the Council achieve its housing targets set out by the GLA and help achieve the most efficient/sustainable use/re-use of land in the Borough.

POLICY BP6: INTERNAL SPACE STANDARDS

The Council will seek to ensure that new dwellings (including converted flats) provide adequate internal space.

The following list sets out the minimum space standards for the aggregate of the cooking, eating and living areas (CEL areas):

Number of Bed Spaces	CEL Minimum Floor Area (sqm)
2 persons (bed space)	22
3 persons (bed space)	24
4 persons (bed space)	27
5 persons (bed space)	30
6 persons (bed space)	33
7 persons (bed space)	36

It is expected that each new dwelling will provide at least 1 double bedroom (2 bed spaces).

Cooking, eating and living (Kitchen / Dining / Living) areas exclude any utility area or space taken up on plan by staircases or hallways/corridors connecting these areas.

Aggregate bedroom areas should be no less than 7 sqm per single bedroom and 12 sqm per double/twin bedroom provided.

Each bedroom should have a minimum internal floor area of 6.5 sqm for a 1 person bedroom, and 10 sqm for a 2 person bedroom.

Storage cupboards should be provided to the following standard: 1sqm floor area for 2 person dwelling plus 0.25 sqm per additional person.

REASONED JUSTIFICATION

5.6.1   Minimum standards for internal space provision have been included in the LDF as there is concern locally that the internal space of new dwellings are getting smaller and that less family housing is being provided. This has implications for both accessibility and for sustainability and for quality of life including health.

5.6.2   The London Plan, while establishing general design principles (including Lifetime Homes and wheelchair provision), does not give specific guidance on internal space standards.

5.6.3   To ensure that good quality housing is provided to create a suitable and sustainable living environment for present and future generations, and to mitigate against the risk of overcrowding the Council considers that internal space standards are necessary.

5.6.4   In 2005 a study into housing space standards was commissioned by the GLA as part of the review of the London Plan. The study was commissioned partly in response to growing concern that internal space within both family and non-family homes may be reducing and the implications of this for accessibility, sustainability and quality of life including health (HATC report on Housing Space Standards August 2006).

5.6.5   Following from this, the Mayor produced a Housing Design Guide for London (August 2010) which incorporates internal space standards. The standards set out in this policy are broadly consistent with those set out in the Mayor's Housing Design Guide. Should these standards be adopted as supplementary planning guidance to the London Plan, it is considered acceptable for developers to follow the Mayor's approach instead of that set out under Policy BP6.

5.6.6 Space standards for studio flats have not been provided as the Borough is not seeking to encourage any growth to its supply of this type of accommodation. Any proposals for studio flats will expected to provide at least 1 double bedroom (i.e. 2 person bed-spaces), and will be judged against the standards set out in this policy for a 2 person dwelling.

5.6.7 The minimum floor area requirements for single and double / twin bedrooms are consistent with Housing Act 1985 and in particular Section 326.

POLICY BP7: ADVERTISEMENT CONTROL

Advertisement consent will not be granted for outdoor advertisements which detract from the character and amenity of the area, and/or compromise public safety as set out in the Town and Country Planning (Control of advertisements) (England) Regulations 2007.

Fascia Signs
Fascia signs should be an appropriate size and depth in relation to the building front and the design of the building. The depth of the fascia signs will generally be restricted to a maximum depth of one metre. Exceptions would be made in the case of buildings with particularly wide frontages which could stand a deeper sign.

Projecting Signs
Advertisements should normally be located at ground floor fascia level and shall not normally be permitted on flank walls or walls that do not contain a display window. Only one hanging or projecting box sign will be allowed per business. Where illuminated signs are acceptable they should normally only be statically illuminated.

Advertisement Hoardings
Permission for outdoor advertisement hoarding will only be granted subject to the following criteria:

• **They are not within or harm the visual amenity of residential areas, Metropolitan and Local Open Space, Conservation Areas, areas of nature conservation value or the Green Belt;**
• **They complement the visual appearance of the commercial area in which they are displayed and, where appropriate, relate properly to the appearance of any building upon which they are displayed; and**
• **They are positioned so that they do not present a safety hazard to pedestrians or traffic.**

Conservation Areas
Where outdoor advertisements are acceptable in conservation areas they should be properly related to the design of the building where they

are displayed, or if free standing to that of adjacent buildings or other significant features.

<u>Listed Buildings</u>
Proposals for alterations to a listed building must not result in the building being defaced by alien materials and advertising must respect their original design characteristics and must not obscure or damage the architectural or historic character.

REASONED JUSTIFICATION

5.7.1   Whilst the Council accepts the need for advertising on commercial premises and within commercial areas, it considers that such material must be limited if adverts are not to dominate buildings or detract from the appearance of the location. Excessive number of advertisements and signs in close proximity can lead to visual clutter in the street scene. The Council wishes to avoid this by restricting the number of advertisements and signs to a level appropriate to the character of the area.

5.7.2   This is particularly important within environmentally sensitive locations such as in conservation areas and adjacent to listed buildings.

POLICY BP8: PROTECTING RESIDENTIAL AMENITY

All developments (including alterations, extensions, conversions and infill developments) are expected to:

- **Have regard to the local character of the area and help to create a sense of local identity, distinctiveness and place.**
- **Not lead to significant overlooking (loss of privacy and immediate outlook) or overshadowing (loss of daylight and sunlight).**
- **Ensure existing and proposed occupiers are not exposed to unacceptable levels of pollution that may arise from the development. This can include noise, smoke, fumes, refuse and/or lighting during construction and occupation.**
- **Ensure existing and proposed occupiers are not exposed to unacceptable levels of general disturbance arising from the development, through such activities as traffic movements to, from and within the site during construction and occupation.**

REASONED JUSTIFICATION

5.8.1   To achieve good quality design and protect amenity, a development must provide high quality living conditions for future conditions for

future occupiers. The development proposal must also carefully consider how it contributes to local character and the impact it has on surrounding developments.

5.8.2 Guidelines for the extension and alteration of dwellings will be set out in a Supplementary Planning Document.

5.8.3 The Council's Planning Advice Note 3 – Refuse and Recycling Provisions in New and Refurbished Residential Developments provides further guidance on location, design and management considerations for waste and recycling facilities in new and refurbished residential developments.

POLICY BP9: RIVERSIDE DEVELOPMENT

Development along rivers should respect the character, opportunities and constraints of the specific site and surroundings. Riverside development is expected to:

- **Where appropriate, provide access to the river and provide riverside pedestrian and cycle paths that are high quality, convenient, and safe (provided these are landward of any existing flood defence).**
- **Provide open space for recreation and conservation which can also be used to store excess floodwater.**
- **Protect and enhance biodiversity (important species and habitats) in and along the river and banks and provide, preserve and enhance wildlife corridors where appropriate.**
- **Orientate buildings towards the riverside.**
- **Incorporate clear signage, information and lighting to promote the use of waterside spaces by all.**
- **Preserve and enhance the waterway's heritage.**

A minimum of an 8 metre buffer strip is required between a proposed development and the top bank of any fluvial main river, 16 metres on any tidal watercourse and 5 metres for any ordinary watercourse unless fully justified, mitigated and compensated.

REASONED JUSTIFICATION

5.9.1 The riverside along the Roding and Thames has traditionally been a major location for manufacturing and employment. However, in recent years industry has declined and there is now an opportunity to open up these river and the areas adjacent for new homes, jobs and leisure activities.

5.9.2 It is expected that new development in and adjacent to the Borough's rivers will enhance its amenity, transportation, heritage, educational,

economic, recreation, landscape and nature conservation value, while ensuring that risks are minimised to people and property from flooding. Improved opportunities in and alongside the rivers will assist the Borough's regeneration and improve its quality, accessibility and vitality.

5.9.3　Any development in and adjacent to rivers will need to take into account navigational, environmental and river regime considerations in order to prevent any detrimental impacts.

5.9.4　The requirement for a buffer strip alongside rivers has been included at the express request of the Environmental Agency. Further guidance on riparian biodiversity will be provided in the Council's Supplementary Planning Document 'Biodiversity, How biodiversity can be protected and enhanced in the development process'.

5.9.5　Further details regarding site allocations along the River Roding, particularly for the Fresh Wharf Estate, Abbey Retail Park, London Road/A406 Junction, Cultural/Creative Industries Quarter, and Town Quay, are set out in the Barking Town Centre Area Action Plan.

POLICY BP10: HOUSING DENSITY

In light of the high levels of identified housing need, the Council will wish to see the optimum use made of all suitable sites in the Borough, subject to accessibility, design requirements, site size and capacity, the provision of physical and social infrastructure and sustainability requirements.

Development proposals will only be approved where the developer can demonstrate to the Council's satisfaction that the above key elements have been considered and that the proposal is in-line with the density matrix contained in the London Plan and the Council's Urban Design Framework Supplementary Planning Document.

REASONED JUSTIFICATION

5.10.1 In order to meet housing need and to deliver the levels of housing that is required of the Borough by the London Plan, it is important that efficient use is made of sites which are or which become available for housing development.

5.10.2 To enable this, applicants should follow the density matrix set out in the London Plan and the Council's Urban Design Framework Supplementary Planning Document. The matrix identifies the density ranges which apply across the Borough according to the Public

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Transport Accessibility Level (PTAL) of the area within which it is set. Because PTAL levels change with the implementation of new transport schemes, existing PTAL levels are not shown within the LDF. Developers should liaise with the council as to the PTAL level which should be used for their scheme at the earliest stage of their design.

5.10.3 The Council would still encourage developers to take a design led approach to determining the specific densities for their schemes within the ranges set out in the London Plan.

POLICY BP11: URBAN DESIGN

Having regard to their layout and function, the design of buildings and layout of new development should comply with the following principles:

- **Protect or enhance the character and amenity of the area.**
- **Maintain residential amenity.**
- **Avoid segregation and provide integrated public spaces for physical activity and recreation.**
- **To provide attractive, high quality architecture and landscaping.**
- **To provide accessible and inclusive features in the development (including access to the site and access to and through the building) so that all potential users, regardless of disability or age can use them easily.**
- **To provide durable, flexible and adaptable buildings.**
- **To encourage design that improves health.**
- **To provide safe environments that reduce the fear of crime and improve crime prevention (please refer to Borough Wide Development Policy BC7: Crime Prevention for further details).**
- **To incorporate sustainable design and construction features as an intrinsic part of the design of new development (please refer to Core Strategy Policy CR1: Climate Change and Environmental Management for further details).**
- **To sensitively balance sustainable development considerations with the need to preserve and enhance the Borough's historic environment.**
- **To provide waste facilities (including recycling and composting facilities) in appropriate locations on-site with appropriate access to these locations for site-servicing.**
- **To protect views, vistas and landmarks in relation to buildings.**
- **To configure site and building design and layout to minimise and mitigate any impact on flood risk and water quality (please refer also to Core Strategy Policy CR4: Flood Management and Borough Wide Development Policy BR4: Water Resource Management for further details).**
- **Renewable energy features should wherever possible be an intrinsic part of the overall building design and should be located so as to anticipate any likely or potential future developments on adjacent sites, in order to ensure long term effectiveness.**

- **Wherever possible, new development should avoid having a negative impact on the ability of surrounding properties to capture natural light and airflow for renewable technology purposes. However, this will be balanced with wider social, economic and environmental objectives that the development will contribute to reducing the impacts of climate change.**

The design of the public realm should comply with the following principles:

- **To avoid segregation and provide integrated public spaces for physical activity and recreation within and external to development.**
- **To provide public spaces and public routes that are attractive, uncluttered and work effectively for all in society, regardless of disability or age.**
- **To promote accessibility and local permeability by making places that are easy to move through and connect with one another. A priority of pedestrian-oriented modes over automobile use and an integration of land use and transport is key.**
- **To naturalise and green the urban environment through an interconnected network of parks, open spaces, tree-lined streets, wildlife corridors, woodlands, pedestrian and cycle routes (please refer to Core Strategy Policy CM3: Public Open Spaces for further details).**
- **To provide attractive, useable, durable, flexible and adaptable public spaces (includes facility provision such as seating, public art, lighting, cycle stands and signage).**
- **To provide a 'sense of place' in appropriate locations by creating landmarks, gateways and places that are a focus for community civic activity.**
- **To protect views, vistas and landmarks in relation to buildings.**
- **To provide safe environments that improve crime prevention and reduce 'fear of crime'.**
- **To encourage active frontages at ground level to public spaces.**
- **To respect the local context, historic environment, and urban and landscape character of the area as set out in the Urban Design Framework SPD and the Barking Town Centre Area Action Plan Urban Design Guidance SPD and Conservation Area Appraisals/Management Plans.**
- **To provide, where practical, tranquil spaces where the impact of noise is minimised and mitigated (for example through the use of low-noise road surfaces, and guiding late-night activities to suitable areas).**

REASONED JUSTIFICATION

5.11.1 Barking and Dagenham has a very diverse character with a Major Town Centre, significant areas of suburban housing, industrial areas south of the A13 and some open countryside.

5.11.2 New development represents an opportunity to improve the quality of the existing environment. It is, however, essential that developments should respect and enhance the quality of the particular environment within which they will be set. For example, Barking Town Centre is a busy shopping centre with big buildings and a variety of different uses. The sort of development which would be appropriate there would not be appropriate, for example, in the heart of the Dagenham Village Conservation Area.

5.11.3 For this reason, the Council has produced the Urban Design Framework SPD. This divides the Borough into a set of character areas, which are described and design policies specific to them are set out. Developers should take full account of this and where appropriate the following SPDs and PANs when designing their schemes:

- Biodiversity, How biodiversity can be protected and enhanced in the development process, SPD (Target adoption 2011).
- Trees and Development SPD (Target adoption 2011).
- Barking Town Centre Area Action Plan Urban Design Guidance SPD (Target adoption 2011).
- Barking Station Interchange Masterplan SPD (Target adoption 2011).
- Green Roofs PAN (2005).
- Sustainable Design and Construction PAN (2007).

Appendix 1
Superseded UDP Policies

Saved UDP Policy	Status
STRATEGIC POLICY B HOUSING	Superseded Core Strategy
STRATEGIC POLICY C HOUSING	Superseded Core Strategy
STRATEGIC POLICY E EMPLOYMENT	Superseded Core Strategy
STRATEGIC POLICY F EMPLOYMENT	Superseded Core Strategy
STRATEGIC POLICY G SHOPPING	Superseded Core Strategy
STRATEGIC POLICY H SHOPPING	Superseded Core Strategy
STRATEGIC POLICY I ENVIRONMENT	Superseded Core Strategy
STRATEGIC POLICY J ENVIRONMENT	Superseded Core Strategy
STRATEGIC POLICY K ENVIRONMENT	Superseded Core Strategy
STRATEGIC POLICY L ENVIRONMENT	Superseded Core Strategy
STRATEGIC POLICY M ENVIRONMENT	Superseded Core Strategy
STRATEGIC POLICY N ENVIRONMENT	Superseded Core Strategy
STRATEGIC POLICY O ENVIRONMENT	Superseded Core Strategy
STRATEGIC POLICY X TRANSPORT	Superseded Core Strategy
STRATEGIC POLICY Y TRANSPORT	Superseded Core Strategy
STRATEGIC POLICY Z TRANSPORT	Superseded Core Strategy
STRATEGIC POLICY AA TRANSPORT	Superseded Core Strategy
STRATEGIC POLICY BB TRANSPORT	Superseded Core Strategy
STRATEGIC POLICY CC TRANSPORT	Superseded Core Strategy
POLICY H2 HOUSING	Superseded Borough Wide Development Policies
POLICY H3 HOUSING	Superseded Borough Wide Development Policies
POLICY H5 HOUSING	Superseded Borough Wide Development Policies
POLICY H7 HOUSING	Superseded Borough Wide Development Policies
POLICY H8 HOUSING	Superseded Core Strategy
POLICY H9 HOUSING	Superseded Borough Wide Development Policies
POLICY H10 HOUSING	Superseded Borough Wide Development Policies
POLICY H11 HOUSING	Superseded Borough Wide Development Policies
POLICY H12 HOUSING	Superseded Borough Wide Development Policies
POLICY H14 HOUSING	Superseded Borough Wide Development Policies

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POLICY H15	HOUSING	Superseded Borough Wide Development Policies
POLICY H16	HOUSING	Superseded Borough Wide Development Policies
POLICY H18	HOUSING	Superseded Borough Wide Development Policies
POLICY H19	HOUSING	Superseded Borough Wide Development Policies
POLICY H22	HOUSING	Superseded Borough Wide Development Policies
POLICY E1	EMPLOYMENT	Superseded Core Strategy
POLICY E2	EMPLOYMENT	Superseded Core Strategy
POLICY E3	EMPLOYMENT	Superseded Core Strategy
POLICY E4	EMPLOYMENT	Superseded Core Strategy
POLICY E6	EMPLOYMENT	Superseded Core Strategy
POLICY E7	EMPLOYMENT	Superseded Borough Wide Development Policies
POLICY E8	EMPLOYMENT	Superseded BTC AAP
POLICY E9	EMPLOYMENT	Superseded BTC AAP
POLICY E10	EMPLOYMENT	Superseded BTC AAP
POLICY E12	EMPLOYMENT	Superseded BTC AAP
POLICY E14	EMPLOYMENT	Superseded BTC AAP
POLICY S2	SHOPPING	Superseded Borough Wide Development Policies
POLICY S3	SHOPPING	Superseded Borough Wide Development Policies
POLICY S4	SHOPPING	Superseded Borough Wide Development Policies
POLICY S5	SHOPPING	Superseded Borough Wide Development Policies
POLICY S6	SHOPPING	Superseded Borough Wide Development Policies
POLICY S7	SHOPPING	Superseded Borough Wide Development Policies
POLICY S8	SHOPPING	Superseded Borough Wide Development Policies
POLICY S9	SHOPPING	Superseded Borough Wide Development Policies
POLICY S11	SHOPPING	Superseded Borough Wide Development Policies
POLICY S12	SHOPPING	Superseded Borough Wide Development Policies
POLICY S13	SHOPPING	Superseded Borough Wide Development Policies
POLICY S14	SHOPPING	Superseded Borough Wide Development Policies
POLICY S15	SHOPPING	Superseded Borough Wide Development Policies
POLICY S16	SHOPPING	Defunct
POLICY S17	SHOPPING	Defunct

POLICY S19 SHOPPING	Defunct
POLICY B.T.C. 1 BARKING TOWN CENTRE	Superseded BTC AAP
POLICY B.T.C. 2 BARKING TOWN CENTRE	Superseded BTC AAP
POLICY B.T.C. 3 BARKING TOWN CENTRE	Superseded BTC AAP
POLICY B.T.C. 4 BARKING TOWN CENTRE	Superseded BTC AAP
POLICY B.T.C. 6 BARKING TOWN CENTRE	Superseded BTC AAP
POLICY B.T.C. 8 BARKING TOWN CENTRE	Superseded BTC AAP
POLICY B.T.C. 10 BARKING TOWN CENTRE	Superseded BTC AAP
POLICY B.T.C. 12 BARKING TOWN CENTRE	Superseded BTC AAP
POLICY B.T.C. 9 BARKING TOWN CENTRE	Superseded BTC AAP
POLICY BR1 BARKING REACH	Superseded SSA DPD
POLICY BR2 BARKING REACH	Superseded SSA DPD
POLICY BR4 BARKING REACH	Superseded SSA DPD
POLICY BR6 BARKING REACH	Superseded SSA DPD
POLICY BR7 BARKING REACH	Superseded SSA DPD
POLICY BR8 BARKING REACH	Superseded SSA DPD
POLICY BR9 BARKING REACH	Defunct
POLICY BR10 BARKING REACH	Superseded Core Strategy
POLICY BR11 BARKING REACH	Superseded SSA DPD
POLICY BR12 BARKING REACH	Defunct
POLICY G1 ENVIRONMENT	Superseded Core Strategy
POLICY G2 ENVIRONMENT	Superseded Core Strategy
POLICY G3 ENVIRONMENT	Superseded Core Strategy
POLICY G4 ENVIRONMENT	Superseded Core Strategy
POLICY G5 ENVIRONMENT	Superseded Core Strategy
POLICY G6 ENVIRONMENT	Superseded Borough Wide Development Policies
POLICY G7 ENVIRONMENT	Defunct
POLICY G8 ENVIRONMENT	Superseded Core Strategy
POLICY G9 ENVIRONMENT	Superseded Core Strategy
POLICY G11 ENVIRONMENT	Superseded Core Strategy
POLICY G12 ENVIRONMENT	Superseded Core Strategy
POLICY G13 ENVIRONMENT	Superseded Core Strategy
POLICY G14 ENVIRONMENT	Superseded Borough Wide Development Policies

POLICY G15	ENVIRONMENT	Defunct
POLICY G16	ENVIRONMENT	Superseded Borough Wide Development Policies
POLICY G17	ENVIRONMENT	Superseded Core Strategy
POLICY G19	ENVIRONMENT	Superseded Core Strategy
POLICY G20	ENVIRONMENT	Superseded Core Strategy
POLICY G21	ENVIRONMENT	Superseded Borough Wide Development Policies
POLICY G22	ENVIRONMENT	Superseded Borough Wide Development Policies
POLICY G27	ENVIRONMENT	Defunct
POLICY G28	ENVIRONMENT	Superseded Borough Wide Development Policies
POLICY G29	ENVIRONMENT	Saved
POLICY G30	ENVIRONMENT	Saved
POLICY G31	ENVIRONMENT	Saved
POLICY G32	ENVIRONMENT	Superseded Borough Wide Development Policies
POLICY G33	ENVIRONMENT	Superseded Core Strategy
POLICY G34	ENVIRONMENT	Superseded Core Strategy
POLICY G35	ENVIRONMENT	Superseded BTC AAP
POLICY G36	ENVIRONMENT	Superseded Borough Wide Development Policies
POLICY G37	ENVIRONMENT	Superseded Borough Wide Development Policies
POLICY G38	ENVIRONMENT	Superseded Borough Wide Development Policies
POLICY G39	ENVIRONMENT	Superseded Borough Wide Development Policies
POLICY G42	ENVIRONMENT	Superseded Core Strategy
POLICY G43	ENVIRONMENT	Superseded Core Strategy
POLICY G44	ENVIRONMENT	Superseded Borough Wide Development Policies
POLICY G46	ENVIRONMENT	Superseded Borough Wide Development Policies
POLICY G47	ENVIRONMENT	Superseded Borough Wide Development Policies
POLICY G48	ENVIRONMENT	Superseded Borough Wide Development Policies
POLICY G49	ENVIRONMENT	Superseded Borough Wide Development Policies
POLICY G50	ENVIRONMENT	Superseded Borough Wide Development Policies
POLICY G51	ENVIRONMENT	Superseded Borough Wide Development Policies
POLICY G53	ENVIRONMENT	Superseded Borough Wide Development Policies
POLICY G54	ENVIRONMENT	Superseded Borough Wide Development Policies

POLICY G56 ENVIRONMENT	Superseded SSA DPD
P0LICY G57 ENVIRONMENT	Superseded Core Strategy
POLICY G58 ENVIRONMENT	Superseded Core Strategy
POLICY G59 ENVIRONMENT	Superseded Core Strategy
POLICY G60 ENVIRONMENT	Superseded Core Strategy
POLICY G61 ENVIRONMENT	Superseded Core Strategy
POLICY G62 ENVIRONMENT	Superseded Borough Wide Development Policies
POLICY G63 ENVIRONMENT	Superseded Borough Wide Development Policies
POLICY G64 ENVIRONMENT	Superseded Core Strategy
POLICY G65 ENVIRONMENT	Superseded Borough Wide Development Policies
POLICY G67 ENVIRONMENT	Superseded Borough Wide Development Policies
POLICY G68 ENVIRONMENT	Superseded Borough Wide Development Policies
POLICY G70 ENVIRONMENT	Superseded Borough Wide Development Policies
POLICY G71 ENVIRONMENT	Superseded Borough Wide Development Policies
POLICY G73 ENVIRONMENT	Superseded Borough Wide Development Policies
POLICY G74 ENVIRONMENT	Superseded Borough Wide Development Policies
POLICY G75 ENVIRONMENT	Superseded Borough Wide Development Policies
POLICY G76 ENVIRONMENT	Superseded Borough Wide Development Policies
POLICY G77 ENVIRONMENT	Superseded Borough Wide Development Policies
POLICY DE1 DESIGN	Superseded Core Strategy
POLICY DE2 DESIGN	Superseded Borough Wide Development Policies
POLICY DE3 DESIGN	Superseded Borough Wide Development Policies
POLICY DE6 DESIGN	Superseded Borough Wide Development Policies
POLICY DE7 DESIGN	Superseded Borough Wide Development Policies
POLICY DE8 DESIGN	Superseded Core Strategy
POLICY DE9 DESIGN	Superseded Core Strategy
POLICY DE11 DESIGN	Superseded Borough Wide Development Policies
POLICY DE12 DESIGN	Defunct
POLICY DE13 DESIGN	Superseded Borough Wide Development Policies
POLICY DE14 DESIGN	Superseded Borough Wide Development Policies
POLICY DE15 DESIGN	Superseded Borough Wide Development Policies

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POLICY DE16 DESIGN	Superseded Borough Wide Development Policies
POLICY DE17 DESIGN	Superseded Borough Wide Development Policies
POLICY DE19 DESIGN	Defunct
POLICY DE20 DESIGN	Defunct
POLICY DE22 DESIGN	Superseded Borough Wide Development Policies
POLICY DE23 DESIGN	Superseded Borough Wide Development Policies
POLICY DE24 DESIGN	Superseded Borough Wide Development Policies
POLICY DE25 DESIGN	Superseded Borough Wide Development Policies
POLICY DE26 DESIGN	Superseded Borough Wide Development Policies
POLICY DE27 DESIGN	Superseded Borough Wide Development Policies
POLICY DE28 DESIGN	Superseded Borough Wide Development Policies
POLICY DE30 DESIGN	Superseded Borough Wide Development Policies
POLICY DE31 DESIGN	Superseded Borough Wide Development Policies
POLICY DE32 DESIGN	Superseded Borough Wide Development Policies
POLICY DE33 DESIGN	Superseded Borough Wide Development Policies
POLICY DE35 DESIGN	Superseded Borough Wide Development Policies
POLICY DE36 DESIGN	Superseded Borough Wide Development Policies
POLICY DE37 DESIGN	Superseded Borough Wide Development Policies
POLICY DE40 DESIGN	Superseded Borough Wide Development Policies
POLICY DE42 DESIGN	Superseded Borough Wide Development Policies
POLICY DE44 DESIGN	Superseded Borough Wide Development Policies
POLICY DE45 DESIGN	Superseded Borough Wide Development Policies
POLICY C2 COMMUNTY FACILITIES	Superseded Core Strategy
POLICY C3 COMMUNTY FACILITIES	Superseded Core Strategy
POLICY C4 COMMUNTY FACILITIES	Superseded Core Strategy
POLICY C5 COMMUNTY FACILITIES	Superseded Core Strategy
POLICY C6 COMMUNTY FACILITIES	Superseded SSA DPD
POLICY C9 COMMUNTY FACILITIES	Superseded Core Strategy
POLICY C11 COMMUNTY FACILITIES	Superseded Core Strategy
POLICY C13 COMMUNTY FACILITIES	Superseded Core Strategy
POLICY C14 COMMUNTY FACILITIES	Superseded Borough Wide Development Policies

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POLICY C15 COMMUNTY FACILITIES	Superseded Core Strategy
POLICY C16 COMMUNTY FACILITIES	Superseded Borough Wide Development Policies
POLICY C17 COMMUNTY FACILITIES	Superseded Core Strategy
POLICY A.T.3 ARTS AND TOURISM	Superseded Core Strategy
POLICY A.T.6 ARTS AND TOURISM	Superseded Borough Wide Development Policies
POLICY A.T.8 ARTS AND TOURISM	Superseded Borough Wide Development Policies
POLICY T 3 TRANSPORT	Defunct
POLICY T 5 TRANSPORT	Superseded Core Strategy
POLICY T 7 TRANSPORT	Superseded BTC AAP
POLICY T 8 TRANSPORT	Superseded BTC AAP
POLICY T 9 TRANSPORT	Superseded BTC AAP
POLICY T 10 TRANSPORT	Superseded Borough Wide Development Policies
POLICY T 12 TRANSPORT	Superseded Borough Wide Development Policies
POLICY T 16 TRANSPORT	Superseded Borough Wide Development Policies
POLICY T 17 TRANSPORT	Superseded Borough Wide Development Policies
POLICY T 19 TRANSPORT	Superseded Borough Wide Development Policies
POLICY T 20 TRANSPORT	Defunct
POLICY T 21 TRANSPORT	Superseded Borough Wide Development Policies
POLICY T 23 TRANSPORT	Superseded SSA DPD
POLICY T 24 TRANSPORT	Superseded Borough Wide Development Policies
POLICY T 25 TRANSPORT	Superseded Borough Wide Development Policies
POLICY T 26 TRANSPORT	Superseded Borough Wide Development Policies
POLICY T 27 TRANSPORT	Superseded Borough Wide Development Policies
POLICY T 30 TRANSPORT	Superseded BTC AAP
POLICY T 31 TRANSPORT	Superseded Borough Wide Development Policies
POLICY T 32 TRANSPORT	Superseded Borough Wide Development Policies
POLICY T 33 TRANSPORT	Superseded Core Strategy
POLICY T 34 TRANSPORT	Superseded Core Strategy
POLICY T 36 TRANSPORT	Superseded Borough Wide Development Policies

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