

London Borough of Barking and Dagenham

Notice of Meeting

THE EXECUTIVE

Tuesday, 7 September 2004 - Civic Centre, Dagenham, 7:00 pm

Members: Councillor C J Fairbrass (Chair); Councillor C Geddes (Deputy Chair); Councillor J L Alexander, Councillor G J Bramley, Councillor H J Collins, Councillor S Kallar, Councillor M A McCarthy, Councillor M E McKenzie, Councillor L A Smith and Councillor T G W Wade

Also Invited: Councillor J R Denyer for Agenda Item 7.

Declaration of Members Interest: In accordance with Article 1, Paragraph 12 of the Constitution, Members are asked to declare any direct/indirect financial or other interest they may have in any matter which is to be considered at this meeting

27.8.04

Graham Farrant
Chief Executive

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AGENDA

1. **Apologies for Absence**
2. **Minutes - To confirm as correct the minutes of the meeting held on 17 August 2004 (Pages 1 - 3)**

Business Items

Public Items 3 to 6 and Private Items 14 to 17 are business items. The Chair will move that these be agreed without discussion, unless any Member asks to raise a specific point.

Any discussion of a Private Business Item will take place after the exclusion of the public and press.

3. **Corporate Monitoring Group Membership (Page 5)**
4. **Attendance at the Collaborative Action Research Network 2004 Annual Conference (Pages 7 - 9)**

5. **Warren Comprehensive OFSTED Inspection (Pages 11 - 13)**
6. **Citizenship Ceremonies (Pages 15 - 20)**

Discussion Items

7. **Draft Final Report of the Leisure Facilities Scrutiny Panel (Pages 21 - 28)**
8. **Food Safety Business Plan (Pages 29 - 31)**

The Food Safety Business Plan has been circulated to all Members separately. Please bring your copy with you to the meeting.

9. **Health and Safety Business Plan (Pages 33 - 34)**

The Health and Safety Service Business Plan has been circulated to all Members separately. Please bring your copy with you to the meeting.

10. **Third Annual Report of the Regeneration Strategy - An Urban Renaissance in East London (Pages 35 - 58)**
11. **Any other public items which the Chair decides are urgent**
12. **To consider whether it would be appropriate to pass a resolution to exclude the public and press from the remainder of the meeting due to the nature of the business to be transacted.**

Private Business

The public and press have a legal right to attend Council meetings such as the Executive, except where business is confidential or certain other sensitive information is to be discussed. The list below shows why items are in the private part of the agenda, with reference to the relevant legislation (the relevant paragraph of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972).

Discussion Items

13. **Sustainable Communities Fund Bids (Pages 59 - 70)**

Concerns a Contractual Matter (paragraphs 7 and 9)

Business Items

14. **Procurement Spend to Save - Progress Report (Pages 71 - 74)**

Concerns a Contractual Matter (paragraphs 1, 7 and 8)

15. **Corporate Communications - Packaging of Support Services Contract with regard to the Distribution of Citizen Magazine (Pages 75 - 76)**

Concerns a Contractual Matter (paragraphs 8 and 9)

- 16. Managing the Conclusion of Shape Up for Homes (Pages 77 - 82)**
Concerns a Contractual Matter (paragraph 7)
- 17. Major Adaptations - Disabled Facilities Grant Application (Pages 83 - 85)**
Concerns an Individual Resident (paragraph 4)
- 18. Any other confidential or exempt items which the Chair decides are urgent**

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THE EXECUTIVE

Tuesday, 17 August 2004
(7:00 - 8:50 pm)

Present: Councillor C J Fairbrass (Chair), Councillor C Geddes (Deputy Chair), Councillor J L Alexander, Councillor G J Bramley, Councillor H J Collins, Councillor M A McCarthy, Councillor M E McKenzie, Councillor L A Smith and Councillor T G W Wade

Also Present by invitation: Councillor W F L Barns, Councillor M A R Fani and Councillor Mrs V M Rush

Also Present: Councillor B M Osborn

Apologies: Councillor S Kallar

83. Minutes (3 August 2004)

Agreed.

84. The Experiences of Lesbian, Gay Men, Bisexuals and Transgender (LGBT) People in Barking and Dagenham

Received a report based on a survey carried out in the Borough in 2002 / 2003 exploring the experiences of LGBT people living and working in the Borough and identifies key issues and concerns which will help to inform policy and service planning.

Agreed, in order to respond proactively to the European Union Directive on sexual orientation and deliver on existing policy commitments in the Council's Corporate Equalities and Diversity Policy Framework, to:

1. Approve the contents of the report;
2. the LGBT Strategic Statement of Intent; based upon the recommendations contained in the 'Breaking the Silence' Report;
3. Endorse the establishment of an LGBT consultative mechanism and proposals to continue work with the local LGBT communities through the Council and the Partnership; and
4. Recommend that the Report and its Executive Summary be formally referred to the Barking and Dagenham Partnership.

85. East London Transit

Received a report seeking the Council's endorsement of proposals by Transport for London (TfL) to develop the first phase of the East London Transit (ELT) as a bus based Intermediate Mode System from Ilford, via Barking Town Centre, to Barking Riverside and Dagenham Dock. The report also outlined TfL's proposed route and technology as well as highlighting issues for consideration.

Agreed, in order to contribute to the Council's Community Priorities of "Regenerating the Local Economy" and "Making Barking and Dagenham Cleaner, Greener and Safer", to the principle of the East London Transit, subject to the following conditions:

1. TfL must ensure that any bus based system developed is capable of being upgraded to a tram within 10 years subject to increasing demand.
2. In developing a bus based system, TfL must ensure that no works compromise a future upgrade to tram.
3. TfL must ensure that the bus technology used is constantly upgraded to remain leading edge.
4. TfL must fund and work with the Council, using all available technology to enforce parking restrictions along the route.
5. TfL must ensure that the frequency of service is at least every five to eight minutes to ensure that a modal shift from private cars to public transport is achieved.
6. TfL must fund the relocation of part of the Barking Town Centre Street Market to London Road including the costs of any revised traffic management scheme and alterations to the public highway in line with the Barking Town Centre Public Realm Town Code.
7. In implementation of the ELT route from Fanshawe Avenue Roundabout through the pedestrianised parts of Barking Town Centre as far as the former Westbury Public House TfL must design and implement any revisions to the Public Realm (public highway) in line with the Barking Town Centre Public Realm Town Code.
8. In the detailed design of the scheme in and around Barking Town Centre TfL must take account of the major regeneration schemes.

86. Performance Monitoring

Received the Best Value Performance Plan monitoring report for the first quarter 2004 / 2005. The Management Team gave a presentation on, and we discussed, performance against a range of key Performance Indicators within the Plan.

Agreed to receive further reports on the following two areas:

1. The proposed recycling pilot scheme to take place on the Harts Lane Estate; and
2. The performance of schools in the Borough in relation to school exclusions and Local Education Authority provision for excluded pupils.

87. Budget Monitoring Report 2004 / 2005 - April to June 2004

Noted a report providing an update on the Council's revenue and capital position from the beginning of April to the end of June 2004. The report also highlighted continuing pressures on Education, totalling about £0.6 million, some pressures in Corporate Strategy and the current position of the Housing Revenue Account

Agreed, as a matter of good financial practise, that:

1. The Director of Education, Arts and Libraries is to present to the Executive a detailed report on the 2004 / 2005 Education Budget position with a proposed Action Plan;
2. The Director of Education, Arts and Libraries is to ensure continued delivery of this proposed Action Plan and that the Director of Corporate Strategy similarly identifies and delivers an Action Plan; and
3. Further updates on their progress be presented in future budget monitoring reports.

88. * Ethnic Monitoring

Noted a report providing an update on the continued refinement of the Council's ethnic monitoring systems.

89. Private Business

Agreed to exclude the public and press for the remainder of the meeting, as the business was confidential.

90. * Olympic Bid 2012

Received a report detailing a request from the London 2012 Organisation (which is organising the submission of London's Bid for the 2012 Olympics), which will allow Barking and Dagenham to take an active part in supporting the Olympics in line with the Executive's decision of 1 June 2004 (Minute 9 refers).

Agreed, in order to assist the Council in achieving the Community Priorities of "Promoting Equal Opportunities and Celebrating Diversity", "Raising General Pride in the Borough" and "Regenerating the Local Economy", to accede to the request, as detailed in the report, in the event that the forthcoming 2012 Olympic Bid is successful and subject to the Council's full costs being recovered.

* Items considered as a matter of urgency with the consent of the Chair under Section 100 (4)(b) of the Local Government Act 1972.

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THE EXECUTIVE**7 SEPTEMBER 2004****REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE STRATEGY**

CORPORATE MONITORING GROUP (CMG) MEMBERSHIP STRUCTURE	FOR DECISION	
<p><i>This report sets out a recommendation from the Corporate Monitoring Group for decision by the Executive</i></p> <p><u>Summary</u></p> <p>Last year the Executive (27 May 2003) agreed that “the Corporate Monitoring Group (CMG) should also be responsible for overseeing the Council’s relations with the external Auditors.”</p> <p>PriceWaterhouseCoopers (PWC), as part of their Audit Plan for the year ending 31 March 2005, presented to the CMG Audit Committee, advised expanding the Membership of the CMG Audit Committee from two to three Members in order to fulfil its role as an audit committee. Furthermore, PWC strongly advised that the additional Member be from one of the minority parties.</p> <p><u>Recommendations</u></p> <p>The Executive is asked to recommend the Assembly to appoint another Member to the Corporate Monitoring Group Audit Committee.</p> <p><u>Reason</u></p> <p>To help the CMG to undertake the role of an audit committee.</p>		
Contact Officer: Paul Kutasi	Democratic Services Officer	Tel: 020 8227 2370 Fax: 020 8227 2171 Minicom: 020 8227 2685 E-mail: paul.kutasi@lbbd.gov.uk

Background Papers – None.

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THE EXECUTIVE**7 SEPTEMBER 2004****REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, ARTS AND LIBRARIES**

ATTENDANCE AT THE COLLABORATIVE ACTION RESEARCH NETWORK 2004 ANNUAL CONFERENCE	FOR DECISION	
<i>This paper seeks the approval of the Executive for attendance at the Collaborative Action Research network Conference 2004 in accordance with the Council's Conferences, Visits and Hospitality Rules which states that the Executive must approve such attendance.</i>		
<u>Summary</u>		
The Executive is asked to agree to at the Collaborative Action Research (CARN) International Conference, to be held on 5 – 7 November 2004 to present a joint paper on their work with gifted and talented students.		
<u>Recommendation / Reason</u>		
The Executive is asked to approve the attendance of the Borough's Strand Co-ordinator for Gifted and Talented students and the Gifted and Talented Co-ordinators from Barking Abbey, Dagenham Priory, Eastbrook and Eastbury schools at the CARN Conference on 5 – 7 November 2004, at a cost of be £1,530 plus travel costs, in order to present a joint paper on their work with gifted and talented students in their schools.		
Contact Officer: Jenny Crossley	Head of Policy and Management Services	Tel: 020 8227 3507 Fax: 020 8227 3275 e-mail: jenny.crossley@lbbd.gov.uk

1. Background

- 1.1 The Collaborative Action Research Network (CARN) supports and promotes practitioner research in a range of professional practice contexts. The conference provides a forum for those working in schools, colleges, universities and other settings to present and discuss research findings, ideas and work in progress and to contribute to the growth of professional knowledge and theory.
- 1.2. The teachers from the above schools have each carried out a small scale action research study in their school into an aspect of provision for gifted and talented students. They have written their findings as case studies. These have formed the basis for a jointly-authored paper on the value and impact of teachers working as researchers in their schools. A proposal for a presentation based on their work has been submitted to CARN and accepted for the conference programme in November.
- 1.3. The work done by the teachers represents a departure from the usual practice of teachers researching their practice in that it was not done for an accredited course but as part of the continuing professional development programme provided by

the Borough for the Gifted and Talented Co-ordinators. In each case the research has resulted in a positive impact on provision in the school. A presentation on this project was given at the recent Beacon Council Open Day. The opportunity to present a paper about work in the Borough's schools in an international forum will be of value, not only to the teachers in terms of their professional development, but also to the Borough in terms of informing the wider professional community about the work in its schools. One of the teachers has already extended his case study into a dissertation for a Master's degree. Publication of a jointly authored article in an international journal will follow the conference presentation.

- 1.4. The conference will enable us to engage in dialogue and receive critical feedback on our work. It will also provide opportunities to hear Keynote speakers, to participate in seminars and workshops and to meet peers and colleagues from schools, universities and other professional contexts.

2. Financial Implications

- 2.1 The CARN conference is being hosted by the International University of Andalucia and will be held in Malaga from 5 – 7 November. The cost is £306.00 for each delegate including meals and accommodation. The total cost for four teachers and the Gifted and Talented Co-ordinator will be £1,530 plus travel costs, not yet known but estimated at £100.00 for each delegate. The costs of attending the conference can be met from the Gifted and Talented (Excellence in Cities) training budget.

Background Papers

- i.) Abstract of conference paper proposal (attached as appendix 1)
- ii.) Information about CARN: at the Institute of Education, Manchester Metropolitan University: email: <http://www.did.stu.mmu.ac.uk/carn/>

"Case Studies provide a realistic and practical view."

The process and impact of teachers writing case studies in the field of Gifted and Talented Education in the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham

*Janet Dyson, Andy Gray, Anthony Moloney,
Debbie Rider, Lisa Rowley & Chris Sullivan*

This paper reports on a case study writing project with teachers in the area of Gifted & Talented education in nine secondary schools. Each teacher selected an aspect of their provision and carried out a small scale action research study, the results of which were written up as case studies. Areas covered include:

- raising the level of challenge in lessons;
- tackling underachievement of gifted and talented pupils;
- providing effective support for talented pupils.

The paper has a dual focus. It highlights the areas of gifted and talented education which provided the focus for the case studies. The teachers will present brief synopses of their findings and their experiences of the project and its impact. In addition, there is a focus on approaches to facilitating and supporting action research and case study writing with busy teachers and an exploration of the value of case studies as a means of developing practice, both for the writers and their colleagues.

The writing process is outlined. A writing day provided time and space, away from the demands of school, allowing teachers time to discuss, read, reflect and write up examples of practice in their schools which they felt had been significant. They were asked to identify strengths, weaknesses, factors contributing to success, and ideas for extending and sharing practice. Advance preparation included collection and analysis of data, reading from the theoretical framework for gifted and talented education and familiarisation with case study practice. The aim was to produce a series of varied case studies which could be used by others as a basis for developing their practice. The paper draws on literature relating to case study and practitioner action research, including Bassey (1999) and Elliott (1991), and explores a link with Ontario College of Teachers where a similar case study project is being developed, (Smith and Goldblatt, 2004).

References

- Bassey, M. (1999) *Case Study Research in Educational Settings*, Open University Press: Buckingham & Philadelphia
- Elliott, J. (1991), *Action Research for Educational Change*, Open University Press: Buckingham & Philadelphia
- Smith, D. & Goldblatt, P. (2004) *Cases as Catalysts*, paper given at AERA Annual Conference, San Diego, April 2004.

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THE EXECUTIVE**7 SEPTEMBER 2004****REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, ARTS AND LIBRARIES**

WARREN COMPREHENSIVE OFSTED INSPECTION		FOR INFORMATION
<p><i>This report sets out actions in response to the OFSTED inspection of Warren Comprehensive School.</i></p> <p><u>Summary</u></p> <p>This report informs Members of the findings of the recent OFSTED inspection of Warren Comprehensive School and actions in response to the findings.</p> <p><u>Ward Affected</u> - Whalebone</p> <p><u>Recommendations</u></p> <p>The Executive is asked to note the contents of the report.</p> <p><u>Reasons</u></p> <p>To support the school in making rapid progress to come out of Special Measures.</p>		
<p>Contact Officer: Jane Hargreaves</p>	<p>Head of Literacy and Cultural Services</p>	<p>Tel: 020 8270 4818 Fax: 020 8270 4860 E-mail: jane.hargreaves@lbbd.gov.uk</p>
<p>Steve Rowe</p>	<p>Principal Inspector</p>	<p>Tel: 020 8270 4820 Fax: 020 8270 4886 E-mail: steve.rowe@lbbd.gov.uk</p>

1. Background

- 1.1 Warren Comprehensive School was inspected by OFSTED during the week of May 10 – 14. The inspection was carried out under a pilot scheme designed to trial a new approach to inspection. The main body of the inspection was carried out by a small team of Her Majesty's Inspectors (HMI) over a three day period. At the end of the inspection the school was placed in Special Measures. HMI were not confident that the school had the capacity to improve over the short and medium term.
- 1.2 The Local Education Authority (LEA) has a period of 40 working days from this date to agree the school's action plan and to determine its own actions and programme to support the school. The 40 day period ends on September 20th 2004.

2. Main Body of the Report

- 2.1 Inspectors identified a number of key issues for action in relation to the need to improve the quality of teaching in Key Stage 3, literacy across the curriculum, the behaviour of some pupils, levels of attendance and senior management monitoring arrangements. Weaknesses in the overall leadership capacity of the school was identified as an important contributory factor.
- 2.2 The process of supporting the school has begun and a number of actions have been taken. These include:

In relation to the governing body:

- A preparatory meeting with the Chair of Governors (8 June) attended by 3 senior (Community Inspection and Advisory Service) CIAS inspectors
- An emergency meeting of Governing Body convened (15 June). 3 senior CIAS inspectors in attendance, to brief governors and begin the process of writing an Action Plan;
- The creation of a small governors' sub-group convened to oversee the writing of the action plan – (first meeting 29 June). The CIAS is represented on this sub-group;
- A special staff meeting was convened (June 29) to enable governors to brief staff about the implications of the Special Measures ruling and their role in bringing about improvements. A CIAS Principal Inspector gave the keynote address to this briefing;
- Attendance at an OFSTED seminar on special measures action planning – (July 12). A CIAS representative attended with the Chair of Governors and a representative senior manager;
- In addition the Director is taking steps to appoint additional governors to strengthen the Governing Body.

In relation to the senior management of the school:

- The Headteacher has resigned.
- The Headteacher of Robert Clack School (Paul Grant) has agreed, from 31st July 2004, to work in direct support of Warren bringing with him an excellent track record in school improvement.
- Bernadette Lloyd, currently Deputy Head at Warren, has been appointed acting Headteacher as from August 1st 2004.
- The post of Headteacher will be advertised in September 2004.
- A designated School Improvement Adviser (SIA) has been allocated to the school. The SIA has attended three School Leadership Team Meetings (SMT) meetings to date and held several additional meetings with Chair of Governors and headteacher;
- SIA will be a key member of all future SMT planning and monitoring activities.
- SIA has helped SMT to plan a 2 day middle managers' conference – July 2/3 to train middle managers for their role in implementing the action plan.

In relation to future support plans:

- The Director has spoken to staff and has underlined his commitment to strengthening leadership and management to enhance the school's capacity to improve;
- An additional Warren staff training day is planned for September prior to the start of term – 20 newly appointed staff to be inducted;
- A CIAS/DEAL Support and Monitoring Group has been established (including input from Human Resources and Finance.);
- An LEA Commentary and Statement of Action will be written and will accompany the school's action plan when it is presented to OFSTED;
- In mid-September the CIAS will carry out a cross-departmental review against each of the school's key issues for action to establish a baseline for future monitoring activities;

3. Consultations / financial and other implications

- 3.1 The Director has consulted with OFSTED and with DfES advisers over plans to strengthen the leadership of the school.
- 3.2 Additional LEA support for the school will be provided from within the existing resources of the CIAS and the other LEA services and will include allocations from Standards Fund and Transitional Support Grant funding where appropriate.
- 3.3 The quality of the school building is being improved through a £2.7m project within the capital programme which will provide a new teaching block and toilets (which were specifically criticised in the OFSTED report) and improvements to a number of existing facilities.

4. Conclusion

- 4.1 Although two years is technically the timescale suggested for coming out of Special Measures, the LEA intends to work with the school to set a target date of around 15-18 months. The view of the Director, supported by OFSTED is that this is entirely feasible.

Background papers (used in preparation of the report)

- Inspection report – The Warren Comprehensive School

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THE EXECUTIVE**7 SEPTEMBER 2004****REPORT FROM THE DIRECTOR OF REGENERATION AND ENVIRONMENT**

CITIZENSHIP CEREMONIES	FOR DECISION
<p data-bbox="151 450 1471 555"><i>To report back the review of the Citizenship Ceremonies and the proposed Fees and Charges for in accordance with Executive Minute362, 13 April 2004. The setting of fees and charges is reserved to the Executive.</i></p> <p data-bbox="151 595 300 629">Summary</p> <p data-bbox="151 669 1465 813">Under the Nationality, Immigration and Asylum Act 2002, all local authorities are required to provide Citizenship ceremonies for all successful applicants for naturalisation or registration as a British citizen, aged 18 or over, whose application has been received and processed by the Home Office from 1 January, 2004.</p> <p data-bbox="151 853 1422 996">On 13 April 2004, The Executive agreed that group Citizenship ceremonies be held in the Civic Centre Council Chamber from 26 April, but asked that a review be undertaken after some ceremonies had taken place to examine the suitability of the accommodation and costs associated.</p> <p data-bbox="151 1037 1449 1214">No problems have been experienced with the running of these ceremonies and participants surveyed have expressed their satisfaction with the overall ceremony experience. Regular payments are being received from the Home Office for each citizenship certificate issued and costs associated with the Citizenship process are well within the level of payments received.</p> <p data-bbox="151 1254 1449 1397">Following a slow start, increased numbers of citizenship notifications are being received from the Home Office. With new citizens encouraged to bring up to two guests, this highlights the importance of holding the group ceremonies in suitably large accommodation to keep pace with demand and costs to a minimum.</p> <p data-bbox="151 1438 1414 1581">In addition, local authorities may provide and set the fee for non standard ceremonies for prospective citizens who request an individual ceremony to include their own guests. To cater for the limited demand that is expected from this, it is suggested that this could be provided at Arden House for a fee of £100 per ceremony.</p> <p data-bbox="151 1621 440 1655">Recommendations</p> <p data-bbox="151 1695 775 1729">The Executive is recommended to agree to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="151 1769 1422 1843">i) Citizenship ceremonies continuing to be held at the Civic Centre Council Chamber and at other suitable premises as may be required in the future. <li data-bbox="151 1883 868 1917">ii) A fee for non standard ceremonies of £100. 	

Reason		
To comply with requirements of the Nationality, Immigration and Asylum Act 2002 and assist the Council in achieving its Community Priority of <i>“Raising General Pride in the Borough”</i> .		
Contact Valerie Harding	Business Continuity Manager	Telephone: 020 - 8227 3222 Fax: 020 – 8227 3288 Minicom: 020 – 8227 3040 E-mail: val.harding@lbbd.gov.uk

1. Background

- 1.1 The Nationality, Immigration and Asylum Act 2002 includes provisions that require all successful applicants for naturalisation or registration as British Citizens, aged 18 or over, to take an oath and pledge at a Citizenship Ceremony. These provisions came into operation on 1 January 2004 for all successful applications received and processed by the Home Office from that date.
- 1.2 The ceremony must take place within 3 months of the applicant being advised by the Home Office that their application for citizenship has been successful.
- 1.3 The applicant pays a fee of £68 for the ceremony to the Home Office with the other fees for naturalisation or registration as a British citizen and the Home Office then remits the ceremony fee to the local authority. The fee is intended to cover the full cost of ceremony provision.
- 1.4 Under the Act each local authority
- Must provide or make arrangements for premises where Citizenship Ceremonies may be held.
 - Must arrange for ceremonies to be conducted with sufficient frequency to enable applicants in their area to undertake a ceremony within the 3 month period.
 - May provide additional facilities or make additional arrangements for which a charge not exceeding the extra cost may be made.
 - And the ceremony must be conducted by a Superintendent Registrar or Deputy Superintendent Registrar from the Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration service.
- 1.5 The Executive on 13 April agreed that in order to comply with the requirements of the Act and assist the Council in achieving its Community Priority of *“Raising General Pride in the Borough”* that Citizenship Ceremonies be held in the Council Chamber at the Civic Centre from 26 April 2004 and at other suitable premises as may be required in the future. The Executive also agreed to a review being undertaken after a few ceremonies had taken place to look into the suitability of the location and costs associated.

2. Group Citizenship Ceremony - Operating Arrangements

- 2.1 Based on Home Office figures on past successful citizenship applications by Borough residents, the expectation was that there would be an annual need for around 600 persons to attend group Citizenship Ceremonies.
- 2.2 Ceremonies have been held fortnightly since 26 April. At first, few citizenship notifications were being received from the Home Office, but since late June over 20 notifications are being received each week and at mid July over 370 applications were known to be waiting to be processed by the Home Office.
- 2.3 Use of the Civic Centre Council Chamber for these ceremonies has proved to be very successful. The setting gives dignity and meaning to the ceremony which is intended to celebrate the significance of becoming a British citizen and welcome the new citizen into his or her community. There is suitable waiting space outside the Chamber for the registration staff to receive new citizens and check documentation. This same area is then used after the ceremony for refreshments and for the Mayor or Deputy Mayor and staff to chat with the citizens and their guests and for any additional photographs to be taken. All new citizens are consulted on their impression of the ceremony and all responses received have been very favourable.
- 2.4 The Chamber itself is able to hold at least 25 citizens plus children and up to two guests each. With the increased number of citizenship notifications being received it is important to use a large venue to minimise the number of ceremonies needed and avoid additional costs.
- 2.5 The Mayor is scheduling certain monthly meetings at the Civic Centre to follow on from the Citizenship Ceremony. The new Deputy Lieutenant, Major Tony O'Hagan DL, has also indicated his wish to participate in a future ceremony.
- 2.6 It has been suggested that these ceremonies could be held at Arden House Register Office. The Registration service is located on the ground floor of a double fronted detached house in Longbridge Road. The accommodation comprises 3 office areas, a hallway and the Marriage Room. Daytime office hours would not be practical for large numbers of people to attend the Register Office for a citizenship ceremony as this would conflict with the general public using the office for a wide range of registration services. It would also reduce the time available for taking notices of and registering marriages with a consequent reduction in income.
- 2.7 The Marriage Room is laid out to seat 28 people with a wide aisle to allow space for the bridal party. The room could accommodate up to 40 people if extra furniture was purchased. There is no large ante room for citizens and their guests to assemble or have refreshments other than the hallway which would be a cramped arrangement. The public toilet is accessed from the rear garden where there is no external lighting, which would be required in winter and only limited on street parking is available. In addition, based on current citizenship notifications use of the smaller accommodation provided at Arden House would necessitate additional ceremonies being held to keep pace with demand, which would increase costs.

2.8 Taking the above into account the Civic Centre Council Chamber is still considered to be the preferred location for holding group Citizenship Ceremonies.

3. Financial Implications

3.1 The administrative process associated with citizenship is very straightforward and the costs are negligible. The Home Office supplies the documentation to the Registration Service and the prospective citizen is required to make contact with the Service within a defined timescale. The Registrar goes through a Home Office checklist with the person, books the ceremony date and confirms this in writing. This work is being carried out within existing budgeted staff resources.

3.2 The Home Office is paying the local authority £68 for every Citizenship certificate issued with £5,712 received by 6 July which represents 84 certificates.

3.3 There are staffing, refreshment and photography costs for each group ceremony. The Superintendent Registrar and two registration staff deal with all aspects of the ceremony and casual staff have been employed specifically to be used for this additional work, to ensure sufficient staff availability and to reduce additional staffing costs.

3.4 The cost of a ceremony based on 25 Citizens is estimated as follows:

Staff Costs: Registrars (2 hours attendance per ceremony - at appropriate overtime rate plus on costs) SO2 x 1 = £19.77 per hour – planned overtime SC6 x 1 = £20.95 per hour SC4 x 1 = £17.12 per hour	£ 39.54 £ 41.90 £ 34.24
Porters / Security on attendance till 8.00 p.m. therefore no additional costs at present.	£ 00.00
Photographer Attendance (cost of photos in holder is £4 each)	£ 50.00 £100.00
Refreshments Order - only for 40 people (£1.25 per head)	£ 50.00
Postage and Stationary (based on two sets of mailings to applicants)	£ 23.25
Telephone calls and processing – estimates as exact timings difficult to quantify. Estimate cost at 4 hrs per ceremony (£11.42 per hour). No additional costs (covered by current staffing levels and budgets).	£ 68.52
Total Estimated Cost per Ceremony	£407.45
Estimated cost per Citizen (based on 25 at ceremony)	£ 16.30
Income per Citizen	£ 68.00

With income of £5,712 already received, this provides a surplus of approximately £4,340 at that stage in the financial year. The Revenue budget for 2004/05 assumes that the income received will equal the costs incurred.

- 3.5 All the above refers to group citizenship ceremonies. There is also provision within the Citizenship Guidance for local authorities to provide a non standard ceremony for those prospective citizens who request an individual ceremony with a number of their own guests.
- 3.6 In such cases, the local authority may set the fee to recoup the additional costs incurred. This fee would be in addition to the £68 already paid via the Home Office. No such requests have been made to date, but in order that the occasional request may be accommodated it is suggested that it would be appropriate to use Arden House Marriage Room at a convenient time during the week for this purpose. The suggested charge is £100 per ceremony. Care would be taken to ensure that the size of the ceremony would not conflict with other users of the Registration service. The cost of an individual Citizenship Ceremony at Arden House is follows:

Staff Costs: (Registrars - 2 hours attendance per ceremony - at appropriate overtime rate plus on costs)	
SO2 x 1 = £19.77 per hour – planned overtime	£ 39.54
SC6 x 1 = £20.95 per hour	£ 41.90
SC4 x 1 = £17.12 per hour	£ 34.24
SC3 x 1 - £ 15.20 per hour	£ 30.40
Total Cost	£146.08
Income: Payment from Home Office (£68) Proposed Individual Citizenship Ceremony Fee (£100)	£168.00

As there are no porters / security personnel at Arden House, the additional member of staff is required for security/safety reasons. As for weddings, the Citizen will be required to arrange and pay the full cost of a photographer themselves. It is not possible to provide any refreshments at Arden House. Processing costs and other overheads are marginal and will be covered by the £22 surplus.

4. Consultation

The following people have seen this report and are happy with it as it stands

Councillor Fairbrass, Leader's Portfolio (Accommodation).

Councillor Collins, Portfolio Holder for Developing Rights and Responsibilities with the Local Community and Providing Equal Opportunities and Celebrating Diversity (Income and Charging).

Councillor Wade, Portfolio Holder for Raising General Pride in the Borough (Registrars Service).

Bob Cooper, Interim Head of Finance, DRE.
Laura Williams, Management Accountant, DRE

Background Papers

- Nationality, Immigration and Asylum Act 2002; Home Office Guidance on Citizenship Ceremonies for Local Authorities and Superintendent Registrars.
- Executive Minute 362 - 13 April 2004 re: Citizenship Ceremonies

EXECUTIVE

7 SEPTEMBER 2004

DRAFT FINAL REPORT OF THE LEISURE FACILITIES SCRUTINY PANEL

LEISURE FACILITIES SCRUTINY PANEL	FOR DECISION
<p><i>Final Reports of Scrutiny Panels are submitted to the Executive in accordance with Paragraph 11 of Article 5B of the Constitution for consideration and, if necessary, response in a separate report or verbally to the Assembly.</i></p>	
<p><u>Summary</u></p> <p>This report outlines the work of the Leisure Facilities Scrutiny Panel, for comment by the Scrutiny Management Board and The Executive and for decision by the Assembly.</p> <p>It details the action taken to meet the wide scope of the Panel's terms of reference, having regard to the timescale for the work of the Panel and the limited resources available, initially to focus on gathering information for the production of a Leisure Activities Directory, which would show the amount and variety of leisure provision in the Borough and enable the Panel to then consider an ongoing programme, focussing on specific key issues, and having due regard to equalities and diversity.</p> <p><u>Recommendations</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To note that the work being done on <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (a) the provision for leisure within the Borough for the future and the possible options that could deliver that to meet the needs of the community (b) the possible impact of the 2012 Olympics on the Borough and the legacy that will give the residents of the Borough <p>will effectively complete the work of the Panel. It is therefore proposed that the Panel be discontinued, with the proviso that Members are encouraged to attend the London Olympic bid roadshows and discuss how to get the best from the bid for local people, and that the work continues throughout the current financial year and beyond, namely:</p> 2. To establish an electronic recreational/leisure activities directory, similar to the best practice example used at Medway Borough Council; 3. For Council officers to work closer in the preparation of recreational activities, fees and charges for all Council owned and managed facilities, particularly dual-use sports centres and those facilities managed by the Leisure and Community Services Division to ensure that an approach is adopted to encompass the principle to reduce barriers to participation; 4. For the Council to give full support, raise awareness and recognise the importance that culture, in its broadest sense, contributes to improving residents' quality of life within the Borough and visitors' perceptions of the Borough; 	

5. For the Council to ensure that, through the Master Planning process associated with regeneration opportunities within the Borough, due consideration is given to recreational/leisure facilities under the Central Government's Sustainable Communities guidelines;
6. That, through the process of attaining self management by the Community Associations of the Community Halls, the lease agreement ensures greater diverse use of the facilities by the community groups under-represented in the Borough; and
7. To actively endorse and take part in, when the opportunity arises, the Pan-London initiative which allows free swimming to take place in school holiday periods.

Reason

To support as champions, sport, leisure and recreation and raise the awareness of the impact of an active life style within the community.

Contacts: Councillor J R Denyer	Lead Member	Tel: 0208 227 2116 E-mail: john.denyer@lbbd.gov.uk
Valerie Dowdell	Democratic and Electoral Services	Tel: 0208 227 2756 Fax: 020 8227 2171 E-mail: valerie.dowdell@lbbd.gov.uk

1. Introduction

- 1.1 At its meeting on 20 November 2002, the Scrutiny Management Board (SMB) agreed to set up a Scrutiny Panel to examine the provision of leisure facilities within the Borough.

2. Membership

- 2.1 The membership of the Panel comprised Councillors J R Denyer (Lead Member), B Cook, Mrs D Hunt, Mrs C T Osborn and L R T Waker.
- 2.2 Ian Brown, independent leisure consultant, was appointed as the Panel's external representative.
- 2.3 Allan Aubrey, Head of Leisure and Community Services, was the lead client officer, Lawrence Ashelford, Policy Manager, Social Services Department was the independent support officer and Valerie Dowdell, Democratic and Electoral Services, supported the Panel.
- 2.4 Other officers who have attended the Panel included:
 - Teresa Parish, Group Manager, Leisure Community Services, Leisure and Environmental Services Department
 - Elaine Bevis, Group Manager, Leisure Centres Management, Leisure and Environmental Services Department

- Fiona Bevan, General Inspector-PE, Inspection and Advisory Service, Education, Arts and Libraries Department
- Stephanie Goldsmith, Procurement Officer, Finance Department
- Mick Beackon, Community Development Manager, Corporate Strategy Department

2.5 Because of her interest in sport, particularly swimming, the late Councillor Mrs Cridland attended a number of the Panel meetings as an observer. The Panel paid tribute to Mrs Cridland's enthusiasm for, and promotion of, sport within the Borough.

3. Terms of Reference

3.1 The terms of reference of the Panel were:

- (i) To investigate the range and provision of leisure facilities across the Borough (both Council and private) and whether these offer residents adequate choice and availability
- (ii) In doing so, to examine costs and usage of facilities and consider any areas of duplicated provision
- (iii) To explore any opportunities for better value, perhaps through joint ventures
- (iv) To have regard to equalities and diversity issues
- (v) To report back with findings and any recommendations

4. Work Programme

4.1 The Panel met on the following dates – 7 May, 11 June, 16 July, 3 September, 3 October and 6 November 2003 and 27 April 2004.

4.2 At the initial meeting of the Panel on 7 May 2003, the Head of Leisure and Community Services gave a verbal report, setting the scene for leisure and recreation and highlighting some historic points decided upon by the Council which have influenced the way leisure has developed in the Borough. He also gave information about work that has been, or is being, carried out within his Division, such as:

- Long term options for managing leisure centres within the Borough
- Fees and charges review
- Equalities and diversities, impact on the service and the way it is delivered

It was noted that the Council provides a limited amount of services, a reasonable amount being provided by the private and voluntary sector.

4.3 At its meeting on 11 June 2003 the Panel received a report from the Head of Leisure and Community Services setting out options for the panel to consider with regard to the scope of their investigations into leisure facilities within the Borough. The Panel considered the options, bearing in mind the timescale for the work of the Panel and resource implications within departments, and decided to proceed with the following:

'The Scrutiny Panel, together with officers, explores the diversity of Council facilities offered within the Borough with a view to comparing the quality and cost of each facility.

The aim being to submit a report to the Executive to highlight good practice in the public sector related to management of activities within the buildings, and fees and charges that align with the principles of equalities and diversity.'

The Panel decided initially to focus on gathering information relating primarily to leisure/recreational activities that take place in Council owned buildings, such as leisure centres, including dual-use facilities and community halls. The aim would be to bring this information together in a directory to be used by staff and the public and then produce a report that would highlight possible shortfalls or duplication of specific sports or activities within the Borough.

As part of its work, the Panel wanted to look at information relating to the needs and requirements of local people, particularly for certain groups such as young people, the over 50s, black and minority ethnic groups and disabled people.

Issues relating to the need for a common approach/standards for both Department of Leisure and Environmental Services and the Department of Education, Arts and Libraries facilities were discussed, for instance standard opening times for all the facilities.

- 4.4 Mick Beackon, Community Development Manager, attended the meeting held on 16 July 2003 to present a report outlining the positive action being taken to actively promote equalities and diversity in Community Halls, commenting on pricing arrangements and setting out the activities taking place in community halls. Mention was also made of a report seeking to accelerate the Community Strategy which aimed to pass the management and cost of running Community Halls to Community Associations. It was felt that the terms of the lease agreement with the Community Associations should be used to ensure a greater diverse use of the facilities by the community groups under-represented in the Borough.

The Panel also received a progress report on the Leisure Activities Directory, which gave an update on the actions taken by officers to gather information and set out the cost implications relating to internet/hard copy versions of the directory. It was pointed out that there was no budget for the directory and it would have to be paid for out of existing budgets. The cost could be reduced if the circulation was reduced to an electronic format, which would be available in the libraries and on the web site.

- 4.5 After receiving an update on the work of the Leisure Facilities Scrutiny Panel, the Scrutiny Management Board at its meeting on 23 July 2003 re-iterated that the Panel's original terms of reference must be adhered to, in that it was asked to look at all leisure activities across the Borough, including both Council and private facilities, and consider leisure in the widest sense, including activities such as arts, crafts, sports, dressmaking, horseriding, archery, bridge, etc. The Board acknowledged that this was a large task and gave the Panel an extension of time for their work.
- 4.6 At their meeting on 3 September 2003, the Panel received a draft interim report for submission to the Scrutiny Management Board which outlined the background to the Panel's decision to gather information to produce a Leisure Activities Directory, actions to date and actions planned for the next six months. As part of the process

around this, discussions had been held with Corporate Communications officers, who strongly advocated an electronically produced directory, which would greatly reduce the cost and could be easily maintained. This could be accessed from all Borough Libraries and downloaded from the Council's website. 'Hot links' from the directory to other sites could also be introduced. Again, the major concern was that there was no dedicated budget for the directory.

The Panel were advised that information for the directory would be sought using advertisements and free editorial in the local press for clubs, as well as the sports local league officials that did not use Council facilities, to give information to the Council about their facilities and activities. By using the media to gather information from all sources, it was hoped to attract contact from clubs outside the mainstream, details of which could be fed into the directory. This would address the Scrutiny Management Board's directive that the Panel looked at all leisure activities across the Borough, including both Council and private facilities, and consider leisure in its widest sense, including arts, crafts, horseriding, bridge, etc. Once the information was collected, it was proposed to carry out a desktop exercise of all the information received, which would provide a gap analysis and highlight any overlap/duplication of activities in the Borough.

One of the main pieces of work related to the way the directory would be constructed and it was thought that it would be useful for the Panel to see some examples of best practice web sites from other Boroughs.

Councillor Porter, then Lead Member for Leisure, attended the meeting and expanded on the focus of the Panel and the direction it should be taking.

The Panel felt that their first step should be the production of the Leisure Activities Directory, which would show the amount and variety of leisure provision in the Borough and enable them to then consider an ongoing programme, focussing on all groups, with particular emphasis on social inclusion.

- 4.7 The Panel met on 3 October 2003 to view Council websites from Medway, Camden, Hertfordshire, Birmingham, Croydon, Devon, Waltham Forest, Waverley, West Sussex and Brent, in order to analyse the way they had set out information relating to leisure and recreational activities, which would be of assistance when considering the style and format for the proposed Leisure Activities Directory. Medway was considered the best site overall.

It was confirmed that it was not proposed to charge organisations initially for putting information on the website as the aim was to make people active and make it as easy as possible to be active.

The Panel was advised that it had not proved possible to get free editorial from the local press, so the cost for the advertisements to gather information for the directory would be paid for out of the Head of Leisure and Community Services' budget. However, all the information was now available from community halls and information was awaited from schools. It was hoped that the information from the desk top analysis would be available for the next meeting.

4.8 At their meeting on 6 November 2003, the Panel was advised that there had been a very poor response to the advertisements for information, so it was proposed that the Club Liaison Officer would contact clubs in the existing Sports Development Directory to ask for permission to place their details on the Council's internet directory, which could form the base of the Leisure/Recreational Directory. An article would also be placed in the December 2003 edition of the Citizen. Because of the lack of response to the advertisements, the desktop analysis had not taken place and, in view of the work that still needed to be done, it was proposed that the next meeting of the Panel be arranged early in the new year. It was noted that information was still awaited from schools.

It was brought to the Panel's attention that:

- Consultants commissioned by the Council had produced a Leisure Needs Assessment for the Borough, which provided information with regard to the provision of the leisure centres now and into the future and outlined aims and policies for officers to work with to achieve this. The report covered both facilities in the Borough and those in neighbouring authorities that impact on the Borough.
- A meeting had taken place with managers from the dual use educational facilities within the Borough. A general discussion took place about the adoption of the policy that the Council has agreed, the main points of the policy being:

'All Council operated Education Dual Use Leisure Facilities must actively promote and positively encourage community use of their facilities. This should be reflected and clearly demonstrated within:

- Relevant business plans for the facility and its operations
- Pricing structures
- Programmes of use
- Grant Applications'

The managers were keen to work closely with the Council but needed to address concerns about the policy and issues around their business plans and income targets.

- Work was being undertaken on a new Leisure Development Plan to replace the Leisure Activities Strategy. This would highlight if there was a shortfall in leisure provision, what sort of shortfall and how much it would cost to fill that gap.

4.9 The Panel met on 27 April 2004 and considered a report bringing together the work done to analyse the provision of leisure and recreational activities within the Borough and outlining possible ways forward for the Borough's facilities and activities to be made more accessible by all sections of the community.

The potential impact on the Borough of the 2012 Olympics was noted and issues relating to raising the profile of the Borough and publicising local talent through this were discussed.

Members expressed concerns about the difficulties with regard to transport in relation to the changes within Community Halls, highlighting the fact that people often did not have a problem going elsewhere, but with the transport to get them there.

5. Equalities and Diversity

- 5.1 Equalities and diversity issues have, and continue to be, given a high priority in the work being done by the Council on recreational/leisure facilities. The Panel, when deciding how to take their work forward, agreed that they would explore the diversity of Council facilities within the Borough and compare the quality and cost of each facility. They also considered the positive action being taken to actively promote equalities and diversity in Community Halls. The Panel consistently emphasised the need for the provision of facilities for the disabled and considered issues relating to the needs of different groups within the community, including young people, the over 50s and black and minority ethnic groups.

It was felt there is a need for Council officers to work closer in the preparation of recreational activities, fees and charges for all Council owned and managed facilities, particularly dual-use sports centres and those facilities managed by the Leisure and Community Services Division, to ensure that an approach is adopted to encompass the principle to reduce barriers to participation.

In relation to the Mayor of London's Strategy, the Panel considered a proposal that the Borough should take part, when the opportunity arises, in the Pan-London initiative, first piloted in the Boroughs of Newham, Tower Hamlets, Waltham Forest, Haringey and Greenwich, to allow free swimming to take place in the school holidays.

6. Conclusions

- 6.1 The Members of the Panel agreed that it was a useful exercise and the recommendations made will give a clear focus to the way the development of recreation and leisure activities can be managed over the next few years.
- 6.2 Key issues are:
- Although it proved more difficult than anticipated to gather the information for the Leisure Activities Directory, it was agreed that officers should continue in their efforts to do this to produce the directory. It was recognised that there is a need to overcome the reluctance of independent organisations to provide details of their activities, establishing trust and understanding that the Council wishes to help, not interfere, with their clubs.
 - The need to inform the regeneration strategy to ensure that recreational facilities are included.
 - The need to work closer with Education and engage more with headteachers to raise awareness of the benefits of shared facilities. However, it was noted that it is against the law for schools to use their education funds to support community activities.
 - The need to break down barriers and encourage self-ownership of Community Halls.

- If London's 'Candidate City Status' bid for the 2012 Olympics is successful it will have a substantial impact on the Borough over the next eight years. Mayesbrook Park athletics track and Goresbrook Leisure Centre have been identified as possible training facilities.
- The Leisure Facilities Scrutiny Panel expressed concerns about lack of funding for this Scrutiny Panel and Scrutiny Panels generally. Members felt that there should be sufficient funding available for Panels to carry out their work efficiently and that there were many other suitable topics for scrutiny if the money was available to establish them.

Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:

Public copies of agendas and minutes of the Leisure facilities Scrutiny Panel meetings held on 7 May, 11 June, 16 July, 3 September, 3 October and 6 November 2003 and 27 April 2004.

DRAFT

THE EXECUTIVE**7 SEPTEMBER 2004****REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF HOUSING & HEALTH**

FOOD SAFETY BUSINESS PLAN 2004 / 2005	FOR DECISION	
<p><i>All Local Authorities are required by the Food Standards Act 1999 to produce a Food Safety Service Business Plan. The Act requires Food Safety Service Business Plans to be submitted to members for approval to ensure local transparency and accountability.</i></p> <p><u>Summary</u></p> <p>This report sets out the Food Safety Service Plan for the year 2004/05. The plan follows guidance given by the Food Standards Agency in the 'Framework Agreement on Local Authority Food Law Enforcement'. The plan forms the basis on which the Food Safety Service will be delivered.</p> <p><u>Ward Affected</u> - All wards</p> <p><u>Recommendation</u></p> <p>The Executive is asked to approve the plan prior to its submission to the Assembly on the 6 October 2004 for formal adoption.</p> <p><u>Reason</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To give clear details of the Council's Food Safety service; • To describe how it will operate in the coming year; and • To show how it contributes to and supports others in delivering the Corporate Objectives to the community as a whole. 		
<p>Contact: Anne Cowdry</p>	<p>Team Leader Commercial Inspections</p>	<p>Tel: 020 8227 5640 Fax: 020 8227 5699 Minicom: 020 8227 5755 E-mail: anne.cowdry@lbbd.gov.uk</p>

1. Background

- 1.1 2003/04 has been a busy year for the Food Safety Service. The Plan, which has been forwarded to Members before this meeting, includes a review of the year's performance and describes how the service will be provided over the coming year.
- 1.2 The Plan details how the Food Safety Service in Health and Consumer Services, contributes to and supports others in delivering the Corporate Objectives to the Community as a whole. We realise that we have a unique position in the Council by visiting around one thousand business owners each year and we strive to use our time with these businesses to the best effect.

- 1.3 During these visits we promote the reputation of the Council, advise them about recent changes in their legal responsibilities and tell them about training opportunities we may be offering and of course inspect, tackling any deficiencies found where they may be putting the wellbeing of consumers at risk.
- 1.4 This is the fourth annual Food Safety Service Business Plan and marks the end of another successful year for the food team. We have achieved our key performance indicator by completing 100% of our high-risk food hygiene and food standards inspections.
- 1.5 The food team achieved 86% of the planned food hygiene inspections and 90% of the planned food standards inspections. One of the major factors for not completing 100% was that staffing levels dropped. This was due to two experienced members of the team leaving, maternity leave and major illness. This year the Team is fully staffed again and hopefully no further major illnesses will occur.
- 1.6 The Food Team has firmly established a partnership arrangement with Barking College of Further Education to provide low cost easy access food hygiene training that is carefully tailored to meet the needs of the participants. This year we successfully trained members of the community with Bengali and Urdu as their first language.
- 1.7 The White Paper "The Food Standards Agency – A Force for Change" identified the need for stronger links between central and local government on food law enforcement. It also identified the Food Standards Agency (the 'FSA') as having a key role overseeing local authority enforcement activities. It envisaged the FSA setting and monitoring standards and auditing local authorities' food law enforcement activities to ensure that work is effective and consistent. The Food Standards Act 1999 empowers the FSA to monitor and audit local authorities.
- 1.8 In September 2000, after a period of consultation, the FSA issued a "Framework Agreement on Local Authority Food Law Enforcement". This document provides the framework for closer liaison between the FSA and the Council. It includes the following components:
- service planning guidance;
 - enforcement standards setting out key aspects of the enforcement approach to be used by local authorities;
 - an enhanced enforcement monitoring scheme. (The Council has measures in place to ensure that any information requested by the FSA can be provided.); and
 - an audit scheme providing in depth qualitative information on enforcement activity.
- 1.9 The plan set out in this report follows the guidance in the Framework Agreement (as required by the FSA).

2. Food Standards Agency Audit

- 2.1 The food Team received an Audit from the Food Standards Agency in March 2004. The audit team attended for three days and examined the procedures and work that the team have done over the last five years.

- 2.2 The audit report is currently in draft form but has highlighted that the team's procedures were in line with their requirements and also gave examples of good practice. However they have said that further development of the Services' quality management systems and internal audit schemes is required.
- 2.3 An action plan approved by the Food Standards Agency has been produced to address those items highlighted in the report. A revisit by the Agency is not envisaged.

3. General Guidelines

- 3.1 The plan covers the following areas:

Service Aims and Objectives, including the clear link made by the Balanced Scorecard between the Council's Community Priorities and 2020 vision and the objectives set by the Food Safety Service;

- Background, including a description of the Borough and it's political structure;
- Service Delivery, including the policy the Council adopts when inspecting food businesses, dealing with food complaints and advising and educating food business owners and staff;
- The resources we will put into the Food Safety Service;
- How we ensure that we consistently provide a high quality, easily accessible service that is relevant to all service users; and
- How we will review our performance over the year and how we will use this information to plan again next year.

4. Conclusions

- 4.1 The Food Safety Business Plan 2004/05 sets out the expected performance and service delivery for the coming year.

5. Consultation

- 5.1 Consultation has been carried out with:

Councillor McKenzie – Portfolio holder for Cleaner, Greener, Safer
Health Protection Agency
Primary Care Trust

The following Background Papers were used in the preparation of this report:-

- Barking & Dagenham Food Safety Service Business Plan 2004/05 - London Borough of Barking & Dagenham, April 2004.
- Framework Agreement on Local Authority Food Law Enforcement - Food Standards Agency, September 2000.
- The Food Standards Agency - A Force for Change - Government White Paper, January 1998.

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THE EXECUTIVE**7 SEPTEMBER 2004****REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF HOUSING AND HEALTH**

HEALTH AND SAFETY BUSINESS PLAN 2004 / 2005	FOR DECISION	
<p><i>All Local Authorities are required by statutory guidance issued under the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 to produce a Health and Safety Service Business Plan. The Act requires that the Health and Safety Service Business Plans are approved by members, to ensure local transparency and accountability.</i></p> <p><u>Summary</u></p> <p>This report sets out the Health and Safety Service Plan for the year 2003/04. The plan follows guidance given to all Local Authorities by the Health and Safety Commission in their statutory guidance document "Health and Safety in Local Authority Enforced Sectors". The plan forms the basis on which the Health and Safety Service will be delivered.</p> <p><u>Ward Affected:</u> All wards.</p> <p><u>Recommendation</u></p> <p>The Executive is asked to approve the plan.</p> <p><u>Reason</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To give clear details of the Council's Health and Safety service; • To describe how it will operate in the coming year; and • To show how it contributes to and supports others in delivering the Corporate Objectives to the community as a whole. 		
<p>Contact: Anne Cowdry</p>	<p>Team Leader Commercial Inspections</p>	<p>Tel: 020 8227 5640 Fax: 020 8227 5699 Minicom: 020 8227 5755 Email: anne.cowdry@lbbd.gov.uk</p>

1. Background

- 1.1 This is the third annual Health and Safety Service Business Plan and follows statutory guidance issued by the Health and Safety Commission (the 'HSC'). In recent years a number of high profile national safety issues, most notably on the railways, have brought into focus the need for a new emphasis in Health and Safety Enforcement.
- 1.2 Chair of the HSC, Bill Callaghan, and the Deputy Prime Minister launched the *Revitalising Health and Safety Strategy Statement* in June 2000. It includes a 44-point action plan designed to achieve a 20% reduction in cases of work related ill health and a 10% reduction in fatal and major accidents at work.

- 1.3 2003/04 has been an excellent year for the Health and Safety Service. We have completed 94% of our scheduled inspections and 100% of all notifiable accidents investigated.
- 1.4 More partnership working took place this year. In March the team worked closely with the Health and Safety Executive on a workshop on slips, trips and falls within the workplace. Further work is planned for the coming year.

2. General Guidelines

- 2.1 The plan, which has been previously circulated to members, covers the following areas:
- Service Aims and Objectives, including the clear link made by the Balanced Scorecard between the Council's Community Priorities and 2020 vision and the objectives set by the Health and Safety Service;
 - Background, including a description of the Borough and its political structure;
 - Service Delivery, including the methods the Health and Safety Team will use to contribute, at a local level, to the delivery of the HSCs National Priorities;
 - The resources we will put into the Health and Safety Service;
 - How we ensure that we consistently provide a high quality, easily accessible service that is relevant to all service users; and
 - How we will review our performance over the year and how we will use this information to plan again next year.

3. Conclusions

- 3.1 The Health and Safety Business Plan 2004/05 sets out the expected performance and service delivery for the coming year.

4. Consultation

- 4.1 Consultation has been carried out with:
Councillor McKenzie – Portfolio holder for Cleaner, Greener, Safer
Health and Safety Executive

Background papers used to prepare this report:

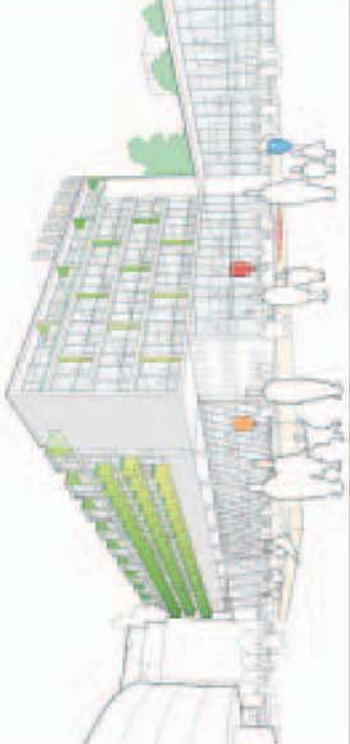
- Barking and Dagenham Health and Safety Service Business Plan 2004/05 – London Borough of Barking and Dagenham, April 2003.
- Revitalising Health and Safety Strategy Statement - Health and Safety Commission, June 2000

THE EXECUTIVE**7 SEPTEMBER 2004****REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF REGENERATION AND ENVIRONMENT**

THIRD ANNUAL REPORT OF THE REGENERATION STRATEGY, AN URBAN RENAISSANCE IN EAST LONDON	FOR DECISION	
<p><i>This report presents the third Annual Report on 'The Regeneration Strategy, An Urban Renaissance in East London' as previously requested by the Executive</i></p> <p><u>Summary</u></p> <p>In November 2001 the Council's regeneration strategy, An Urban Renaissance in East London was published. The strategy set out a number of key actions, based on the Community Priorities, to regenerate the Borough. Attached is the third Annual Report of the strategy. It sets out what steps have been taken to achieve the targets set out in the regeneration strategy, during the year from 1 April 2003 to 31 March 2004.</p> <p>Key achievements include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dagenham Dock roads acquired by the London Development Agency • A new Joint Venture Company was set up to ensure delivery at Barking Riverside and announced by John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister • Childcare spaces have continued to increase since 2001 with well over 800 new places to date. • The new Charlecote Road housing development has won four separate Best New Development awards. • Eastbrookend Country Park and the Chase Nature Reserve have gained Local Nature Reserve Designation. • All targets for smoking cessation were met this year <p><u>Recommendation</u></p> <p>The Executive is recommended to agree the Annual Report.</p> <p><u>Reason</u></p> <p>The Executive requested annual reports on progress.</p>		
Contact Officer: Jeremy Grint	Head of Regeneration	Tel: 020 8227 2443 Fax: 020 8227 3231 E-mail: jeremy.grint@lbbd.gov.uk

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Annual Report of An Urban Renaissance in East London 2003-04



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Introduction by Councillor Kallar

I am pleased to introduce the third Annual Report of Barking and Dagenham's Regeneration Strategy, An Urban Renaissance in East London. It sets out the steps we are taking to achieve the Council's Community Priorities and reach our overall 2020 vision for the borough.

We have taken some significant steps forward in the last year. The Council has increased resources for regeneration and entered into new partnership arrangements to take forward our plans. Work began on key sites in Barking and we made good progress with the Dagenham Dock project. The borough is also becoming known for good design, with award winning developments like the John Perry Nursery and Charlecote Road housing scheme.

I would like to thank all those working for regeneration in Barking and Dagenham for their efforts in the last year. I look forward to working with the community and all our partners to build on further achievements over the coming year.

Councillor Sid Kallar
Lead Member for Regeneration
June 2004



Introduction

This is the third Annual Report of An Urban Renaissance in East London, the regeneration strategy for the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham. This report sets out the work that has been done in the past year (2003/04) to implement the strategy.

Our key objectives are:

- Raising educational attainment
- Encouraging the development of skills and lifelong learning and improving the employability of local people
- Widening employment opportunities in the borough and attracting well paid jobs
- Widening the choice of housing available within the borough
- Providing new transport links both within the borough and to areas of growth outside
- Building closer and more effective partnerships to deliver regeneration within and the borough.

We have taken a number of important steps towards these objectives in the last year:

- A new Joint Venture Company was set up to ensure delivery at Barking Riverside and announced by John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister
- Childcare spaces have continued to increase since 2001 with well over 800 new places to date.
- The new Charlecote Road housing development has won four separate Best New Development awards.
- Eastbrookend Country Park and the Chase Nature Reserve have gained Local Nature Reserve Designation.
- All targets for smoking cessation were met this year

Our key aim for regeneration in Barking and Dagenham is to increase the prosperity of local people. We are delighted that there has been a 14.6% increase in average income in the Borough between 2000 and 2002, which is the biggest increase in any London Borough.

Leading and Managing an Urban Renaissance in East London

During the last year, the Council has undertaken a major cross-cutting Best Value Review of Regeneration. This has resulted in significant changes to the way we manage and lead regeneration in the Borough, in order to achieve the objectives of our Regeneration and Neighbourhood Renewal Strategies.

As a result of the Best Value Review, we have:

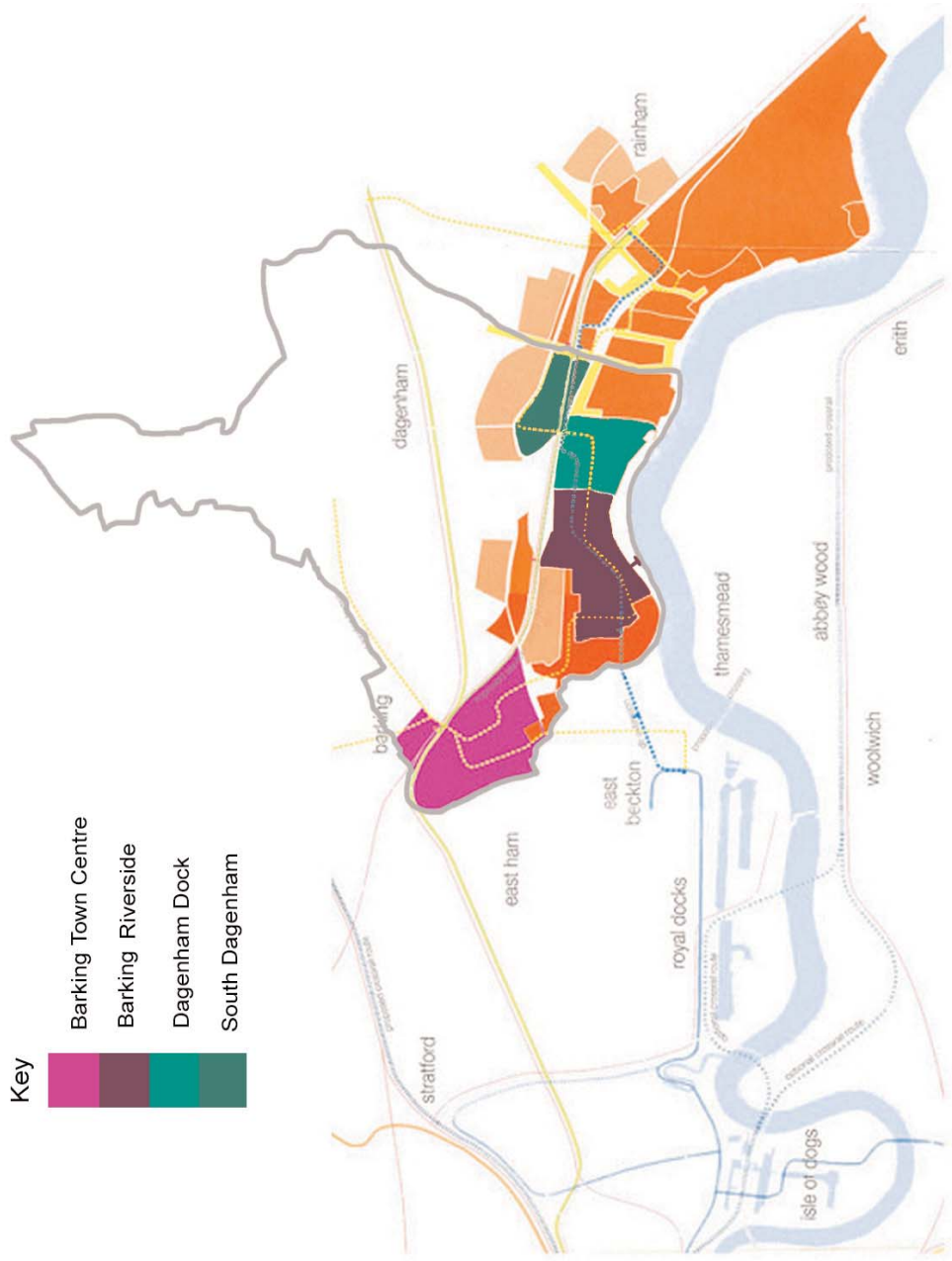
- Created a Regeneration and Environment Department to take forward and lead the creation of sustainable communities
- Invested £700,000 over two years in additional staffing resources in two new divisions
- Established strong and robust oversight and governance arrangements for regeneration in Barking and Dagenham, including the establishment of the Regeneration Board
- Established a governance structure and a Statutory Partners Board, both Chaired by the Chief Executive
- Actively participated in Regional and national policy debates and been critically influential in a number of policy debates. In particular, we have liaised closely with the ODPM (Office of the Deputy Prime Minister), the Greater London Assembly (GLA) and the Thames Gateway London Partnership over the establishment of an Urban Development Corporation (UDC) for the Thames Gateway

Major Successes in the Areas of Opportunity

London Riverside

London Riverside extends across six square kilometres along the Thames from Barking Creek to the edge of Greater London.

It contains some of London's most important development sites including, Dagenham Dock, South Dagenham and Barking Riverside.



Dagenham Dock

Progress in the development of Dagenham Dock as a 'Sustainable Industrial Park' (SIP) continued throughout 2003/04. The Park will be an innovative cluster of environmental businesses and a show case for tackling London's environmental challenges, while delivering a good range of jobs and physical regeneration.

Dagenham Dock's privately owned and poorly maintained roads have long been a barrier to investment. A major leap forward in the regeneration of Dagenham Dock was the purchase by the London Development Agency of a number of these roads. The Agency is working with the Council on delivering a £7 to £9 m upgrade of Dagenham Dock's infrastructure during 2004/05.

The Centrepiece of the Sustainable Industrial Park is the Environmental Technology Resource Centre for London. Last year, expressions of Interest were sought from consortia interested in building and running the centre. These are currently being assessed and partnerships formed.



Barking Riverside

In November 2003 John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, announced the creation of a new Joint Venture Company, which will see English Partnerships and Bellway Homes sharing the cost of investment in the Barking Riverside development and ensuring its delivery.

2003 also saw the appointment of Maxwan, a firm of Dutch Masterplanners, by English Partnerships, the London Development Agency and Bellway Homes. They have been tasked with bringing forward a new Masterplan for Barking Riverside to deliver 10,700 new homes, working in partnership with the Council, the Greater London Assembly and other lead agencies.

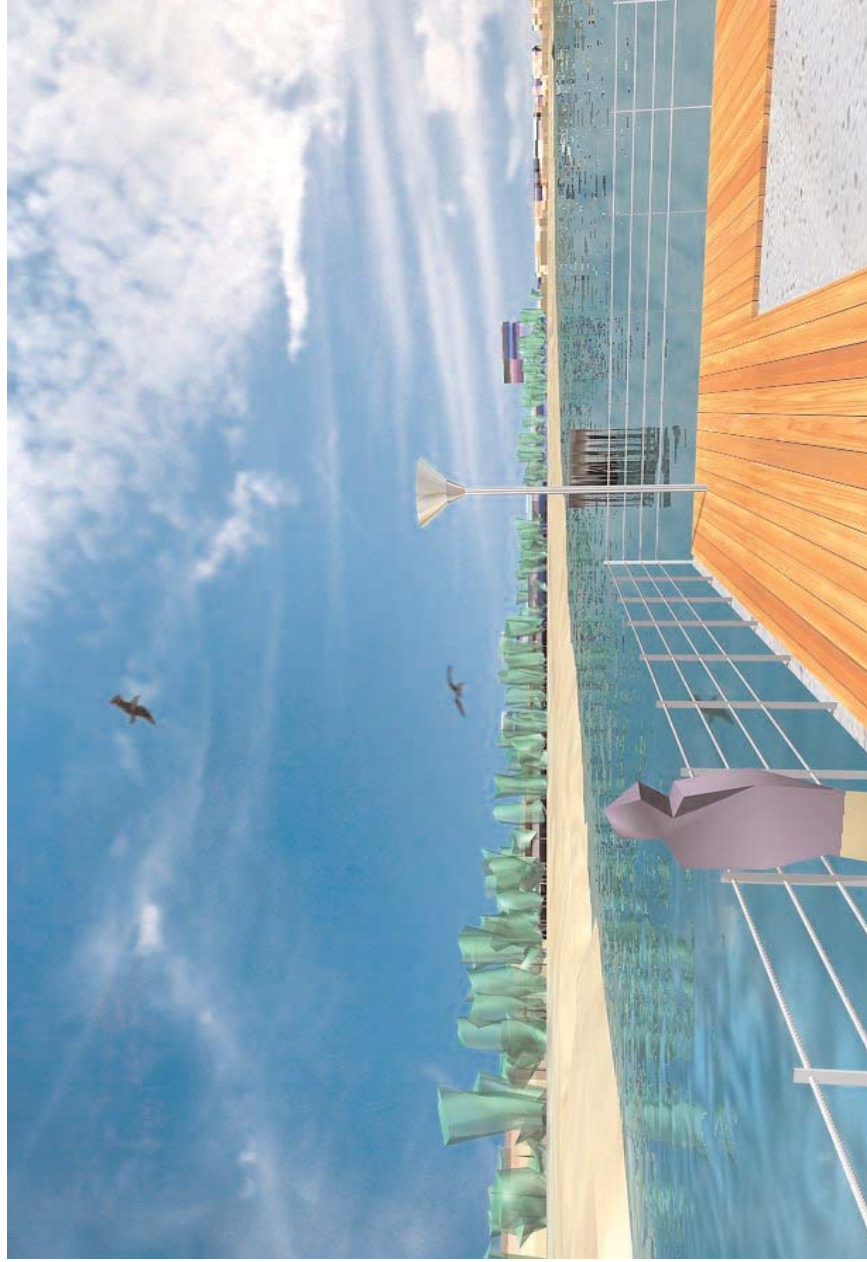
An initial public consultation on the development of the Masterplan took place in January 2004. It was overwhelmingly positive, with strong support for the plans to open up the river-front, build a mix of houses and introduce a range of new community facilities. An Outline Planning application for the development is anticipated in the Autumn of 2004.

The Council and English Partnerships have also commissioned consultants to look at the land surrounding Barking Riverside and investigate opportunities to better link the

new development with existing residential and industrial areas.

Construction work on the new Jo Richardson Community Complex, Castle Green, started on site in

January 2004 with completion anticipated in September 2005.



Concept of proposals for Barking Riverside

South Dagenham

The Council has made steady progress towards its ambition of creating a new urban centre on the land in South Dagenham released by Ford.

The LDA appointed West 8 to masterplan the eastern part of the site and studies have been completed looking at the infrastructure needs of the site. These include the formation of a new lake as the centre piece of the development, as well as to provide flood storage capacity.

The LDA continued to purchase properties at Chequers Corner in advance of the Compulsory Purchase of the site and a public inquiry date was announced for autumn 2004.

Demolition of the Paint Trim and Assembly Plant was completed starting the transformation of the area.

The Council commissioned architects to investigate the redevelopment of the block of shops and flats at the junction of Goresbrook Road and Ripple Road.



A concept drawing of South Dagenham

Barking Town Centre and the River Roding Area

The Council has established a Strategic Public Agencies Partnership, with English Partnerships (EP), the London Development Agency (LDA) and GLA Housing Corporation, to take forward the regeneration of the Town Centre.

Interim Planning Guidance, based on the Barking Town Centre Framework Plan is being developed. An extensive Public Consultation exercise on the new guidance will be undertaken during the summer of 2004.

Construction of the mixed tenure St. Ann's housing development on Gascoigne Estate has commenced. First nominations have been requested by the Housing Authority and the development is due to be completed in Spring 2005.

The Bloomfields, Cleveland, Wakerings/Tanner Street site was sold to East Thames Housing. Demolition will commence in May 2004 and the Jestico and Whiles designed scheme will be implemented in the coming year.

Planning permission was granted for the Furlong Homes development on Abbey Road. Construction is due to begin in Spring 2005.

Redevelopment of Broadway Theatre has been ongoing. The theatre is due to open in December 2004

The Town Square project was granted outline permission. Stage one of the scheme, including the new Lifelong Learning Centre has been given detailed planning consent and is due to start on site in November 2004. This has attracted £3m of ODPM funding

Jestico and Whiles designed scheme for the Bloomfields, Cleveland and Wakerings site



and is a partnership between UEL (University of East London), Barking College and the Council and private sector developer Urban Catalyst.

The Council won £2m from the Sustainable communities fund (administered by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister) to improve the public realm in Barking Town Centre. To guide improvements to the public realm, we are developing a Barking Code for Street furniture and paving and four pilot areas for implementation.

£8m of ODPM Funding was awarded for land assembly to enable sites to be brought forward for regeneration.

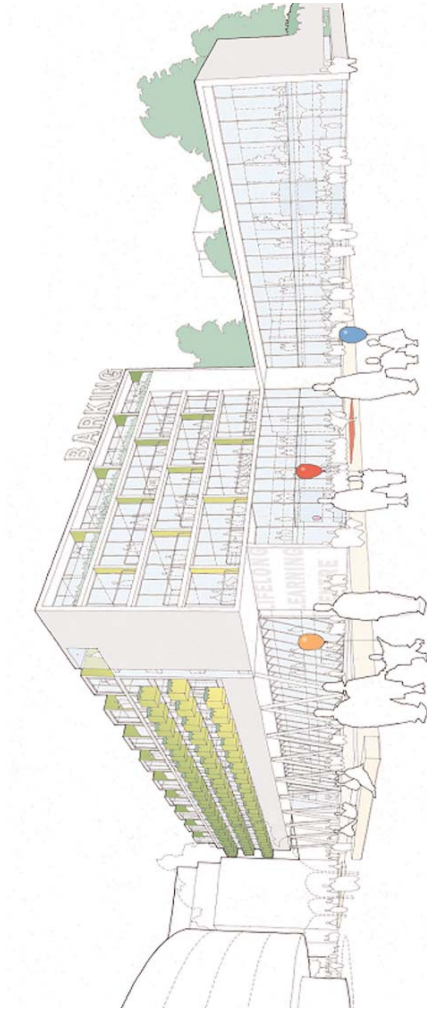
Studies have commenced on the retail capacity of the town centre. This is jointly funded by the Council, EP and the LDA.

A study into the links between Barking Riverside and Barking Town Centre has been commissioned as well as a Business Plan for the Town Centre project. These are jointly funded by EP, the LDA and the Council.

Education and Skills

Our mission statement for education identifies education as the key to the borough's future. We want high levels of achievement to be the norm supporting the higher aspirations of residents, particularly in terms of their employability and earning power.

From our mission statement for education.



Barking Life Long Learning Centre

Basic Skills

The Adult Basic Skills Initiative continues to build capacity in literacy, numeracy and ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) to meet the Skills for Life agenda.

LifeLong Learning

UK Online centres and Learndirect provision is expanding across the borough, bringing learning opportunities to residents in local communities.

The Council has supported the establishment of a Voluntary Sector Training Providers Network with a key aim of securing mainstream funding for providers.

Gateway to Industry continued to build the capacity of manufacturers through training initiatives.

A partnership between UEL (University of East London), Barking College and the Council is taking forward development of Barking Lifelong Learning Centre which will maintain a UEL presence in the borough.

A curriculum development group of the Lifelong Learning Centre is working to develop training for careers in health care, education

and public administration at all levels.

Access to Jobs

The Gateway to Health and Social Care project has been established, looking to create routes into employment and promote careers in the sector for adults and young people.

The London Development Agency funded Heart of Thames Gateway JobNet project has helped local people into jobs.

The Council has made a commitment to explore the use of the planning system and its procurement procedures to promote local recruitment.

Further Learning Opportunities

Welfare to Work for Disabled People project secured for a further two years through Neighbourhood Renewal Funding.

Indicators

There has been a 14.6% increase in average income between 2000 and 2002. This is the biggest rise of any London borough.

Economic activity of females has risen from 60% in 2000, to 63.2% in 2002/03.

Local Jobs and Businesses

“The Borough is striving to create a 21st century economy providing the appropriate space and environment for new and existing business to flourish.”

From our mission statement our mission statement for local jobs and business.

In 2003–04 we undertook a major exercise involving all Council departments and external partners, to develop an Economic Development Strategy for the borough. The strategy will enable us to coordinate economic development in Barking and Dagenham much more effectively.

Social Enterprise

A Social Enterprise Network has been established with one new enterprise at its core. A Social Enterprise Champion has been appointed to assist groups to work towards achieving enterprise status.

Green Business

The Council has become part of the Green Mark scheme, which encourages businesses to be more environmentally aware.

The Council is working with the London Development Agency (LDA) to establish the Environmental Technology Resource Centre for London,

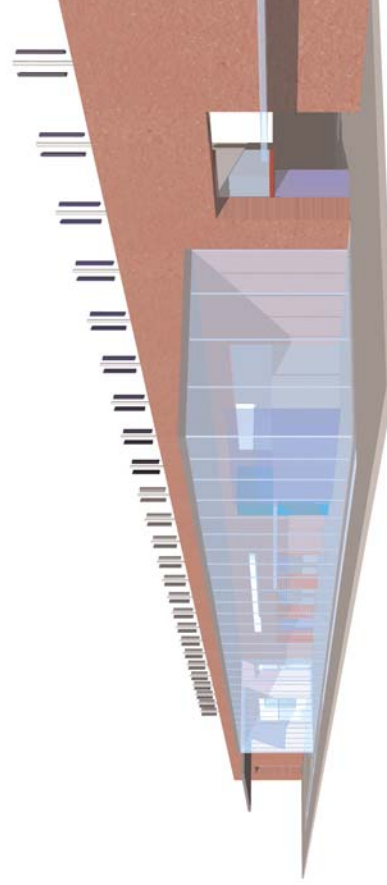
which will form the centrepiece of the Sustainable Industrial Park.

Business Development

The LDA, with the Council’s support, has launched an Innovation Development Project for the businesses in the London Riverside.

Discussions with developers commenced with the expectation that development of new business starter units, will take place in the coming financial year (2004).

The Council has begun funding top-up activity with the East London Small Business Centre to provide start-up training.



Environmental Technology Resource Centre for London

Creative Industries

A Business Plan for the Malthouse is currently being developed.

Work is ongoing with the LDA to develop the borough as one of London's Creative "hubs".

Infrastructure

The LDA has purchased a number of poorly maintained roads at Dagenham Dock and is working with the Council on delivering a £7 to £9m upgrade of the infrastructure there.

An application has been submitted for European Regional Development Funding (ERDF) for repair of the roads at Dagenham Dock.

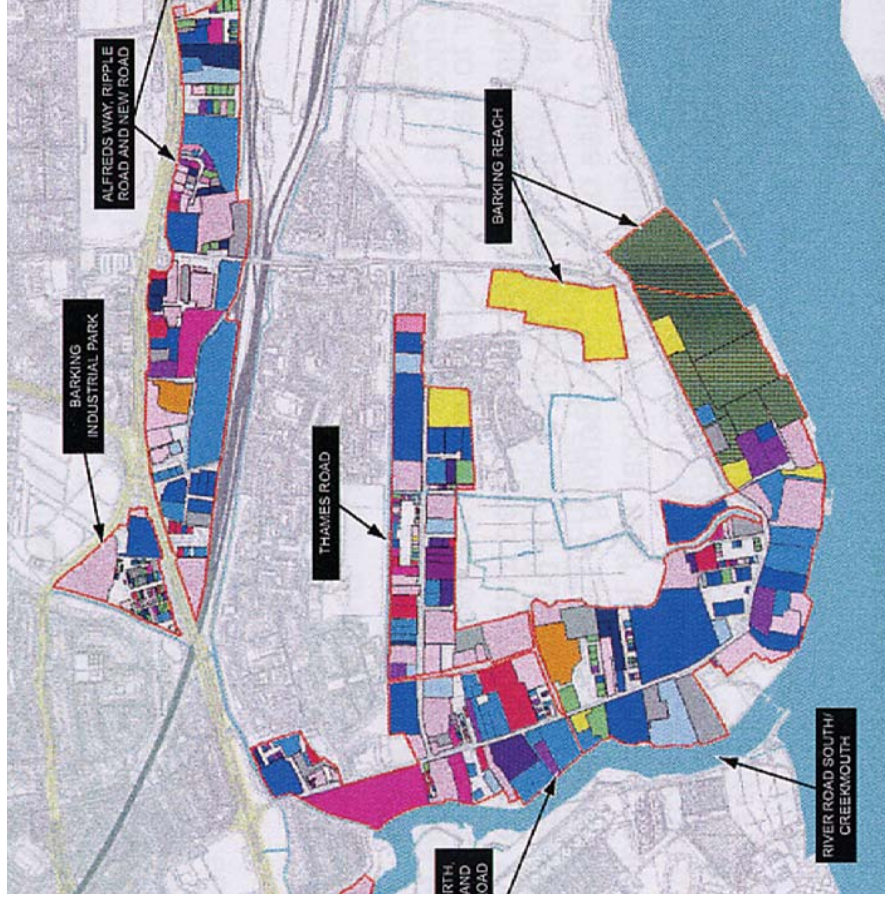
Monitoring

An Industrial Business Survey was undertaken of all employment areas in the Borough. The study will be used as a monitoring and evaluation tool to plan for change.

Childcare Provision

Provision of childcare spaces continued. Since 2001, the

number of out-of-school places has increased from 1008 in 2001 to 1513 places in 2004. Pre-school places have increased from 856 places in 2001 to 1200 places in 2004.



Industrial Business Survey

Housing

“ The borough intends to improve the quality and availability of housing opportunities which are available to all sections of the community. This will ensure that all residents have a decent home and living environment which will support Barking and Dagenham’s social and economic regeneration.”

From our mission statement for housing.



Charlecote Road development

Strategic Plans

The Council will carry out further work this year to achieve flexible tenure on future housing sites.

The Council aims to reach the Lifetime Homes Standard and achieve 'secure by design' status on new affordable schemes and estate renewal where possible. In 2004-5, this will also include eco-housing.

The Council is committed to ensuring that 10% of new homes will have disabled wheelchair access.

A Housing Futures Forum was set up in January 2004 to guide strategic development in the borough. The forum includes the Chief Executive of the Council, the Government Office for London, residents, Registered Social Landlord (RSL) representatives and officers.

A Housing Futures Residents Forum is to be set up with Independent Tenant Advisor shortly.

The formal process to appoint Preferred RSL partners has been completed this year.

New and Aspirational Homes

Our focus for new housing will be on key worker homes as well as increasing the number of one bedroom and four bedroom properties.

The Council is continuing to work with RSLs and developers to incorporate designated 'space for learning' in new properties, this is the next stage of the original lofts for learning project.

Improving Existing Stock

Stock Options Appraisal Consultant, Beha Williams Norman and Independent Tenant Advisor, PPCR Associates have been appointed by the Housing Futures project team.

Charlecote Road won four awards this year, including, Best New Development at the National Affordable Homeownership awards and Best New Development by a Housing Association at the Evening Standard Awards.

Environment

“One of our key ingredients of this strategy is to create an environmentally distinct area where accessibility is seen as a high priority and Barking and Dagenham is recognised as an area with high standards of design and architecture.”

From our mission statement for a distinct environment.

Strategic Planning

The Council adopted a Management Framework for parks and green spaces in October 2003. It has been recognised as best practice by CABE (Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment).

A Local Public Service Agreement (LPSA) target for woodland planting was secured with the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM). New park woodland areas will be planted in the coming year.

Management Plans have been produced for Ripple Nature Reserve and St Peter and St Paul’s Churchyard.

Funding

Funding for Phase 3 of the Beam Valley project has been secured.

Funding of £400k has been gained from the New Opportunities Fund, for “Transforming Your Space” – three projects to improve parks in close consultation with residents.

A Project Planning Grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund has been secured for Barking Park.

New Planting

King George Recreation Ground has been refurbished under Phase 1 of the Parks and Green Spaces Strategy. This was supported by funding of £70k from London Riverside Ltd.

Half a hectare of planting was completed at the Leys.

Awards

Ten park playgrounds meet the NEAP (Neighbourhood Equipped Areas for Play) standard.

Eastbrookend Country Park and the Chase Nature Reserve have gained Local Nature Reserve Designation.

Green Flags have been awarded to Eastbrookend Country Park and St Peter and St Paul’s Churchyard.

A13 Artscape

Phase 1 of Gorsebrook Park is completed.

The Pump House at Movers Lane junction is now completed. It houses the pump equipment for the underpass and lighting equipment for artistic lighting across the building.

The Rep-Tile earthworks at Movers Lane were completed with new paths and lighting also installed.

The Y-Joules earthworks and lighting at Lodge Avenue roundabout was completed.

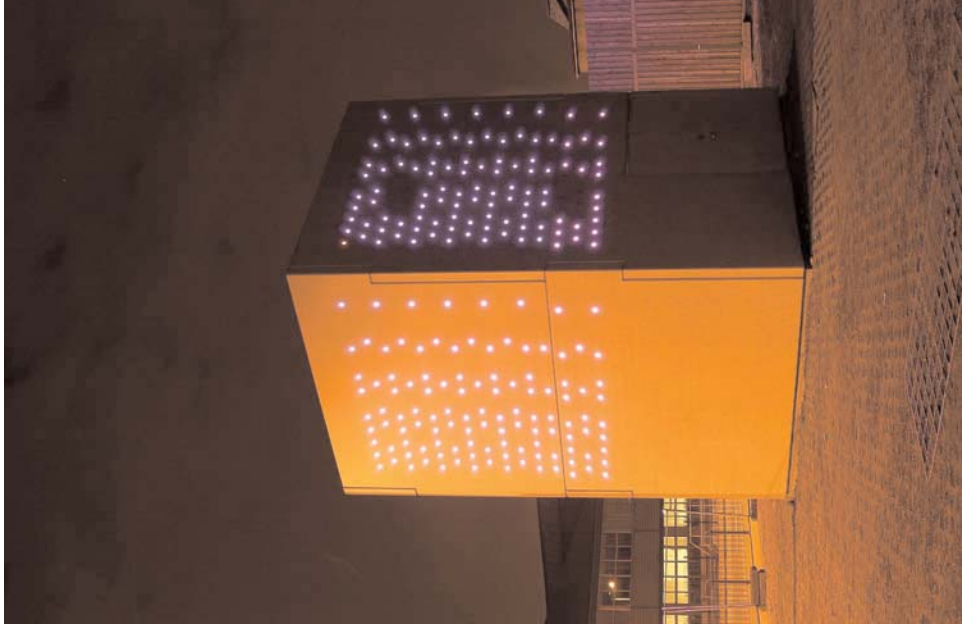
The tree line at Movers Lane and Castle Green, and the Railway Tree Line have been completed.

Work has begun on Gale Street and Charlton Crescent Subways and is due to be completed in July 04.

Public Artwork

A public artwork has been commissioned for Hanover Housing at Saywood Lodge, sheltered accommodation in Dagenham. Work is set to start in summer 2004.

A public artwork and new landscaping has been commissioned for a temporary housing scheme by Look Ahead Housing.



The new Pump House at Movers Lane

Transport

“A variety of good efficient clean transport is a key driver in regeneration and economic success as well as improving the local environment.

Improving and extending the borough’s transport infrastructure is a key driver for regeneration, economic development and environmental improvement.”

From our mission statement for transport.

Highway Improvements

Dagenham Dock’s privately owned and poorly maintained roads have long been a barrier to investment. A major leap forward in the regeneration of Dagenham Dock was the purchase by the London Development Agency of a number of these roads. The Agency is working with the Council on delivering a £7 to £9 m upgrade of Dagenham Dock’s infrastructure during 2004/05.

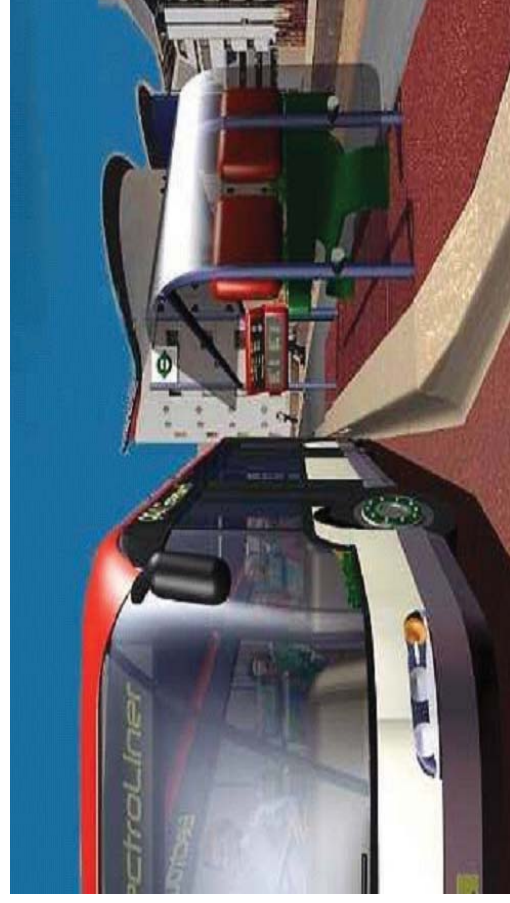
We have submitted an application for European Regional Development Funding (ERDF) for repair of the roads at Dagenham Dock.

Improving Public Transport

The Council has continued to work with Transport for London (TFL) to bring forward transport improvements.

We have lobbied TFL for a state-of-the-art “bendy bus” service, capable of being upgraded to a tram, to connect Barking Riverside with Barking Town Centre and Ilford.

We have also continued to highlight with TFL the importance of an early extension of the Docklands Light Rail, eastwards to Barking Riverside and Dagenham Dock, to support the development of London Riverside.



East London Transit

Neighbourhood Renewal

“Our citizens have the right to expect high quality health and social care when they need them. Our vision is for people to live as long and healthy lives as possible.”

From our mission statement for health and social care.

Healthy Living

The pilot SureStart Nutrition Project has been very successful and is being rolled out to all of the borough's Sure Starts. It aims to improve knowledge on nutrition and diet for parents as well as offering ways to obtain more affordable healthy food and provides training to improve cookery skills.

Improving Services

The LIFT programme, which aims to improve primary care and GP facilities in the borough is progressing well. The first phase of construction has started at Thames View and Phase 2 is

underway at Morland Road.

New structural changes in the management of the borough's substance abuse team have been put in place. This should improve the co-ordination of services around reduction of smoking. All targets for the year have been achieved and new initiatives are being implemented.

We have undertaken research to assess the needs and experiences of Primary Care Trust (PCT) service provision for Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) and other hard to reach groups. We have used the information to identify gaps and service needs and provide increased outreach work particularly with older people.



Reducing Teenage Pregnancy

We are continuing to implement the Teenage Age Pregnancy Strategy. We have achieved our targets for 2004 and the borough is now aiming for a reduction to 30% under 18 conception rates by 2006/7. We are continuing to improve Projects to improve the accessibility of advice and services.

A concept drawing of the new health facility on Thames View estate

Neighbourhood Renewal

“In order for regeneration to be a success and for residents to optimise the benefits that may occur, we need a flourishing community where many people are supported to be active.”

From our mission statement for community initiative.

Community Capacity

We have established a Community Empowerment Network to support local community capacity building.

We have established a Barking and Dagenham Voluntary Training Providers Network to enable voluntary organisations to access funding for learning and training opportunities.

Launched in September 2003 the Community Champions Programme was exclusively offered to Abbey, Gascoigne and Thames residents who already serve on Partnership Boards. The programme ran over six months, comprising of three modules covering personal development, skills for being an active citizen and gaining knowledge and understanding. Residents played a part in designing the programme and eleven individuals successfully completed the course.

Due to the success of the first programme a follow up programme has been designed and will be offered to each of the three Sure Start Programmes in Abbey, Gascoigne and Thames Wards aimed at the parent representatives.



Learning and training opportunities

Community Strategy Review

Last year, the Barking and Dagenham Partnership reviewed its procedures and the delivery of the Community and Neighbourhood Renewal Strategies.

As a result, the Community Strategy was comprehensively reviewed and renewed in consultation with sub-groups of the Borough Partnership, partner organisations and local community representatives.

The new Strategy was delivered to every household in the borough.

The Partnership was restructured to improve focus on key priorities. The number of sub-groups was halved and the sub-groups were given a bigger role in setting priorities for Neighbourhood Renewal Funding (NRF) that will help achieve the targets set out in the Community Strategy.

The results will be managed through a new Performance Management system.

Neighbourhood Renewal Funding

AS part of its Annual Review of Local Strategic Partnerships, the Government Office for London (GOL) reviewed the performance of the Neighbourhood Renewal Programme. In 2003/04, we achieved an outturn spend of only 3.7% underspend, well within the governments permitted limits.

GOL praised our NRF funded projects for improving the health of people with mental illness, "Walking Buses" and anti-social behaviour patrols as examples of good practice.



Related Articles

An Urban Renaissance in East London

Annual Report of An Urban Renaissance in East London 2001–2002

Annual Report of An Urban Renaissance in East London 2002–2003

These can be found on–line at:

www.barking-dagenham.gov.uk

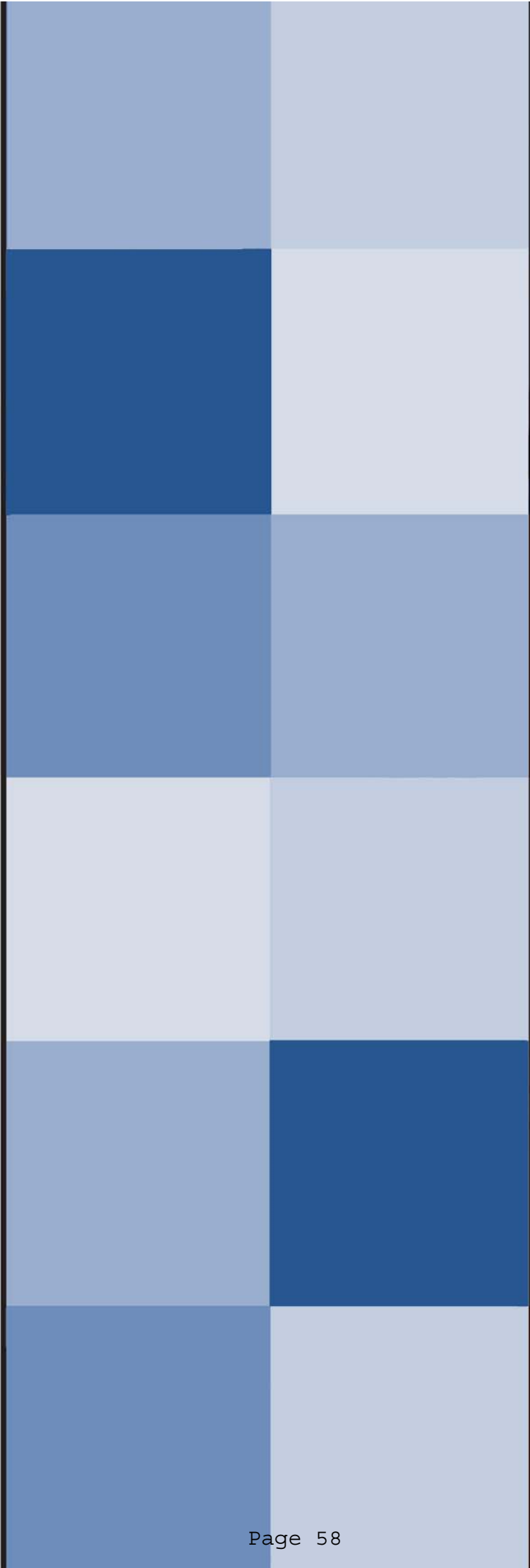
This report was compiled by the Regeneration Implementation Division.

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