Tower Hamlets Development & Renewal (Housing)

Tower Hamlets Housing Service Plan 2004/5



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1 Our Vision

The Council's vision is to improve the quality of life for everyone living and working in Tower Hamlets. This involves helping to create a thriving, achieving community in which people feel at ease with one another, have good learning and employment opportunities, experience an increasing standard of living and good health and enjoy a safe and an attractive environment, as well as a wide range of cultural and leisure opportunities.

This Service Plan sets out the key projects through which the Housing Division of the Development and Renewal Directorate will help the Council to achieve its vision, taking as its framework for development the priorities identified in the borough's Community Plan and Housing Strategy.

2 Our Priorities

Tower Hamlets is one of the most deprived areas in the country and accordingly faces more challenges than most - challenges which must be addressed if we are to make Tower Hamlets a better place to live and work.

Our broad priorities have been identified through widespread consultation over our Community Plan, which together with corporate Strategic Plans and our Housing Strategy are important vehicles for providing local vision whilst supporting regional and national priorities, such as the Mayor's strategic plan and the development of the Thames Gateway Partnership. The framework for our priorities, then, is set by the themes of our Community Plan, which seeks to make Tower Hamlets: **A Better Place for Living Safely** - reducing crime, making people feel safer and creating a more secure and cleaner environment;

A Better Place for Living Well - improving housing, health and social care and promoting healthy living;

A Better Place for Creating and Sharing Prosperity - bringing investment into the borough and ensuring that all our residents and businesses are in a position to benefit from growing economic prosperity;

A Better Place for Learning, Achievement and Leisure - raising educational aspirations, expectations and achievement, providing the widest range of arts and leisure opportunities for all and celebrating the rich diversity of our communities;

A Better Place for Excellent Public Services - improving public services for local people to make sure they represent good value for money and are provided in ways that meet local needs.

The Housing Division of the Development and Renewal Directorate has a skilled and dedicated workforce with the abilities to meet the challenges facing Tower Hamlets and help create a future of opportunity for everyone. Each of us can make a difference, can contribute and can help to shape the future.

This Service Plan sets out the Housing Division of the Development and Renewal Directorate's key targets, their relationship to our Community Plan objectives and the steps we need to take over the coming year to achieve them.



3 Our Planning Framework

Planning is important in enabling the Council to develop strategic goals which meet the diverse needs of the diverse communities we serve. Our annual planning cycle involves: setting objectives and priorities which help deliver those goals; turning policy decisions into actions; deciding how best to allocate resources; identifying the risks associated with not progressing our key activities or achieving our targets; and reviewing the impact of what we do so that learning feeds back into the decisionmaking process. An effective planning framework also reflects the role of each organisation and its services - and also of each individual within those services - in achieving those goals, as well as setting out how our performance will be judged.

This Service Plan sits within the broad and increasingly complex planning framework facing local authorities. It is one of a series of plans, interconnected at different levels, each of which informs the other and each of which has identified mechanisms for monitoring and evaluating progress - see *Section 8*.

Type of Plan

Community Plan A strategic document prepared in partnership with local agencies and local residents.

The Council's Strategic Plan The Council's corporate aims, objectives and key activities to achieve them.

Best Value Performance Plan Corporate performance and targets.

Equalities Action Plan Corporate document that sets out the Council's progress in translating equalities policies (following the broad areas set out in the National Equalities Standard) into operational practice. To mainstream equalities objectives in Housing's planning framework, we have fully integrated the actions set out in the Equalities Action Plan into Housing's Service Plan (the relevant key activities set out in *Section 6* have been highlighted).

Service and Resource Plans These link operational aims and objectives for services to resource use. Each of the services provided by the Council has its own Service Plan, through which it seeks to implement the overarching objectives of the Strategic Plan. Our Service Plan shows how the things we do contribute to the achievement of the Council's strategic objectives. It includes targets against which the performance of our service can be judged and information that will feed into the Housing Strategy, Best Value Performance Plan and the Strategic Plan.

Team Plans Set out operational objectives for each team working within the housing service. Our services are generally organised into different teams or sections focusing on specific areas of service delivery. Each team has its own set of Team Plans, which describe routine activities, as well as service improvement projects.

Team Plans show the strategic goal the activity is linked to, as well as whether it is an equality activity that helps deliver community cohesion. Team Plans are on the intranet to make sure that everyone can access them and that they remain living documents guiding the work of the team. Routine activities are measured by performance indicators and team performance can be judged against the degree to which objectives are met and best value provided.

1:1s Every member of staff should have a 1:1 with their manager or supervisor at least 4 times a year. These set out key performance targets and activities drawn from the team plans, equality and diversity objectives, service standards, as well as things that are specific to that service. 1:1s identify specific training or professional development required to support the staff member in further improving their skills and knowledge to do their job more effectively. This focus on training is particularly important at the beginning of the year when new team plans are signed off and the training strategy for the year is being planned.



TOWER HAMLET

4 Use of Resources

Introduction and Background

During the financial year 2004/5, Housing will spend some £383 million providing a wide range of vital local services. Of this, £174 million is Housing Revenue Account (HRA) spending, and £209 million General Fund.

Financial Context

Tower Hamlets HRA Business Plan, assessed as Fit for Purpose by the Government Office for London, sets out the financial context for Housing. This shows a huge need for investment to bring our stock up to a decent level and an increasing HRA deficit unless significant levels of new finance are found. The Housing Directorate faces a number of major strategic and service issues during the lifetime of this Service Plan. Together, these set a massively challenging agenda for staff working in Housing. Some of the key issues are set out below.

Housing Choice 36 of our Estate Steering Groups have selected partner RSLS to develop investment and service priorities for their estate. If tenants vote to transfer to a new social landlord it will enable significant levels of investment to be brought into those estates. The first ballot, in Mile End, saw residents vote by a significant margin in favour of transferring to EastEndHomes and an estimated £40 million will be able to be invested in improving homes and the estate. If tenants continue to support Housing Choice, the reduction in the number of dwellings directly managed by the Council will have a significant impact on the Council as a whole. The need to adjust our support services and infrastructure to reflect lower levels of activity is being addressed Corporately.

Future of Housing Although the number of homes the Council directly manages will reduce it will remain a significant landlord in the medium term. Helping to separate strategic and operational functions, as required by the Government, there is now a distinct Housing Management division within Development and Renewal and over the lifetime of this Plan, the work of local housing offices, rents, caretaking and estate

strategy, repairs, major works and leasehold services will become a inclusive "landlord" function. Opportunities to integrate service areas within Development and Renewal, particularly options for the delivery of support services, will be identified to maximise service efficiency and ensure future service provision.

Other core housing services, i.e. benefits advice and payments, lettings and homeless services, housing advice and grants to improve homes in the private sector will continue to be needed by anyone living in the borough. Improving the services we provide to all of our partner landlords will be a priority, as will working with 3rd sector agencies and health and social care staff to make sure they know how to get the best from us for their clients.

With Housing Choice contributing to the growth of the RSL sector in Tower Hamlets, one of our main strategic goals is to ensure the spread of best practice and consistent standards across the whole social housing sector and to help develop a strong voice for everyone living in the borough.

Service Improvements Providing professional, customer focused services that people need is our overriding aim and our Service Improvement Programme is informed by the following principles:

- resident involvement in designing the service's they receive;
- staff involvement in designing the service's they deliver;
- consistent, well disseminated project planning;
- assessing the impact of the improvement on all of our communities;

♦ testing improvements before and after implementation. Achieving value for money in the services we deliver remains a key priority. Continued use of Housemark, the performance improvement service for Local Authorities and Housing Associations, will assist us to achieve better cost effectiveness through comparison of cost and quality with our peers and the ability to model the relationship between cost, resources and performance will help inform decisions about future service delivery.



In addition to the focus on improving service delivery, resources will also be targeted at our Estate Improvement Programme. The Programme will be managed through Local Housing Office Estate Improvement Plans, drawn up in consultation with local residents. These bring together all the works planned for the area - from better refuse and recycling arrangements, improved facilities for young people, better safety and security measures and improved access for older and disabled people through to a range of initiatives to improve the visual environment.

5 Key Performance Indicators

This section details the key indicators through which we measure the performance of each of our service areas. These indicators represent a mixture of national and local indicators, most of which are also identified in the Council's Best Value Performance Plan and Local Public Service Agreement (PSA), which are shown to the left of the relevant indicators.

A selection of Housing's performance indicators, along with those of other Directorates, makes up the Tower Hamlets Index, which enables us to judge Tower Hamlets overall performance and improvement compared with other local authorities against a single indicator. Indicators, which go to make up the Index, are shown to the left of relevant indicators, the Index also incorporates all PSA targets. The monitoring and evaluation processes used to measure progress against our performance indicators are set out in *Section 8*.



ndicator Meeting CRE code of practice & Good Practice Standards on harassment. Setter Place for Living Well ndicator Overcrowding in Council stock Number of private sector vacant dwellings returned into	Actual 2000/01 Actual 2000/01	Actual 2001/02 Yes Actual 2001/02	Actual 2002/03 Yes Actual 2002/03	Target 2003/04 Yes Target	Actual 2003/04 Yes Target met Actual	Target 2004/05 Yes Target no	Target 2005/06 Yes	Target 2006/07 Yes
on harassment. Setter Place for Living Well Indicator Dvercrowding in Council stock Number of private sector vacant dwellings returned into		Actual 2001/02	Actual		Target met	Target no		Yes
<mark>ndicator</mark> Dvercrowding in Council stock Number of private sector vacant dwellings returned into		2001/02					t met	
Overcrowding in Council stock Number of private sector vacant dwellings returned into		2001/02		Target	Actual			
Number of private sector vacant dwellings returned into			2002/03	2003/04	2003/04	Target 2004/05	Target 2005/06	Target 2006/07
		135	139	133	130	133		
occupation of demonshed as a result of action by the LA	13.64%	1.33%	71	75	520	100	125	135
% of unfit private sector dwellings made fit or demolished	2.69%	1.96%	2.17%	4.94%	5.54%	5.60%	5.92%	5.95%
A homes which were non-decent			80.01%	77.4%	74.55%	79.30%	76.10%	72.30%
Change in proportion on non-decent homes			6.82%	-3.80%	-3.96%	-2.49%	4.08%	4.99%
nergy Efficiency – average SAP rating of LA dwellings.	46.97	47.56	47.61	47.97	48.46	49.32	50.20	51.10
Average re-let times for dwellings (days)		23.53	34.33	28	36.37	33	30	28
Percentage of urgent repairs completed in government time	78.51%	83.93%	94.5%	95.0%	93.90%	94.0%	95.0%	95.5%
% of responsive repairs, which the LA both made and kept appointment		87.00%	86.22%	88%	85.71%	89.00%	91.00%	92.00%
Percentage of urgent repairs completed in government time	78.51%	83.93%	94.5%	95.0%	93.90%	94.0%	95.0%	95.5%
Average stay in bed and breakfast accommodation (weeks)		11	11.75	11.00	12.59	11.00	10.50	10.00
Average length of stay in hostel accommodation (weeks)			0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Number of people sleeping rough on a single night						New		
Percentage change in the number of families placed in temporary accommodation under homelessness legislation compared with the average the previous year						New		
A Ch En Av Pe Av Pe Av	homes which were non-decent hange in proportion on non-decent homes ergy Efficiency – average SAP rating of LA dwellings. erage re-let times for dwellings (days) rcentage of urgent repairs completed in government time of responsive repairs, which the LA both made and kept pointment rcentage of urgent repairs completed in government time erage stay in bed and breakfast accommodation (weeks) erage length of stay in hostel accommodation (weeks) unber of people sleeping rough on a single night rcentage change in the number of families placed in temporary commodation under homelessness legislation compared with	of unfit private sector dwellings made fit or demolished homes which were non-decent2.69%homes which were non-decent hange in proportion on non-decent homes46.97ergy Efficiency – average SAP rating of LA dwellings. erage re-let times for dwellings (days) rcentage of urgent repairs completed in government time of responsive repairs, which the LA both made and kept pointment rcentage of urgent repairs completed in government time78.51%erage stay in bed and breakfast accommodation (weeks) erage length of stay in hostel accommodation (weeks) umber of people sleeping rough on a single night rcentage change in the number of families placed in temporary commodation under homelessness legislation compared with2.69%	of unfit private sector dwellings made fit or demolished homes which were non-decent ange in proportion on non-decent homes ergy Efficiency – average SAP rating of LA dwellings. erage re-let times for dwellings (days) recentage of urgent repairs completed in government time of responsive repairs, which the LA both made and kept pointment recentage of urgent repairs completed in government time of responsive repairs, which the LA both made and kept pointment recentage of urgent repairs completed in government time recentage change in hostel accommodation (weeks) unber of people sleeping rough on a single night recentage change in the number of families placed in temporary commodation under homelessness legislation compared with	of unfit private sector dwellings made fit or demolished homes which were non-decent ange in proportion on non-decent homes ergy Efficiency – average SAP rating of LA dwellings. erage re-let times for dwellings (days) rcentage of urgent repairs completed in government time of responsive repairs, which the LA both made and kept pointment rcentage of urgent repairs completed in government time of responsive repairs, which the LA both made and kept pointment rcentage of urgent repairs completed in government time rcentage of urgent repairs completed in government time pointment rcentage of urgent nepairs completed in government time rcentage of urgent repairs completed in government time rcentage of urgent repairs completed in government time rcentage in the number of families placed in temporary commodation under homelessness legislation compared with	of unfit private sector dwellings made fit or demolished homes which were non-decent ange in proportion on non-decent homes ergy Efficiency – average SAP rating of LA dwellings. erger e-let times for dwellings (days) recentage of urgent repairs completed in government time of responsive repairs, which the LA both made and kept pointment recentage of urgent repairs completed in government time of responsive repairs completed in government time pointment recentage of urgent repairs completed in government time recentage of urgent repairs completed in government time pointment recentage of urgent repairs completed in government time recentage of urgent repairs completed in government time arge length of stay in hostel accommodation (weeks) umber of people sleeping rough on a single night recentage change in the number of families placed in temporary commodation under homelessness legislation compared with	of unfit private sector dwellings made fit or demolished homes which were non-decent ange in proportion on non-decent homes ergy Efficiency – average SAP rating of LA dwellings. 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Target met Target not met

Housing Service Plan 2004/5

5.3 A Better Place for Creating & Sharing Prosperity

0.0	better ruce for creating a sharing rosperty					rurget met	rarget not		
<mark>BVPI</mark> PSA20	Indicator	Actual 2000/01	Actual 2001/02	Actual 2002/03	Target 2003/04	Actual 2003/04	Target 2004/05	Target 2005/06	Target 2006/07
BV 76a	Number of claimants visited/1000 caseload				12.5	3.11	14.00	166.90	200.00
BV 76b	Number of fraud investigators/1000 caseload				0.13	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17
BV 76c	Number of fraud investigations/1000 caseload				6.84	13.79	15.00	20.00	25.00
BV 76d	Number of prosecutions and sanctions/1000 caseload				0.66	0.51	1.00	1.30	1.50
BV 78a	Average time for processing new claims (days)	37.12	40.72	47.03	45	40.16	39.00	36.00	35.00
BV 78b	Average time for processing notifications of changes of circumstances (days)	6.59	6.49	6.71	6.5	8.04	6.50	6.00	5.50
BV 78c	Percentage of renewal claims processed on time	67.70%	69.87%	69	70	69.22%	Deleted	Deleted	Deleted
BV 79a	Percentage of cases for which the calculation of the amount of benefit due was correct on the basis of the information available for the determination for a sample of cases checked post-determination	95.60%	97.33%	98.41	98.5	99.24%	99.25%	99.26%	99.27%
BV 79b	The percentage of recoverable overpayments (excluding Council Tax Benefit) that were recovered in the year.	44.45%	47.81%	45.50%	48	31.37%	48.00%	50.00%	52.00%
	Amount of additional benefit and tax credit take-up			£1.245m	£700		£500	£500	£500
BV 80	User satisfaction survey								
BV 80a	Overall I am satisfied with the facilities to get in touch with the benefits office: strongly agree/agree – all	75.49%			77.49%	72.92%	78.49%	78.49%	78.49%
BV 80b	Overall I am satisfied with the service in the actual office: strongly agree/agree – all	71.53%			73.53%	68.48%	74.60%	74.60%	74.60%
BV 80c	Overall I am satisfied with the telephone service: strongly agree/agree – all	56.03%			58.03%	51.91%	59.03%	59.03%	59.03%
BV 80d	Overall I am satisfied with the staff in the benefits office: strongly agree/agree – all	71.82%			73.82%	66.9 1%	74.82%	74.82%	74.82%
BV 80e	Overall I am satisfied with the clarity and understandability of the forms, leaflets and letters: strongly agree/agree – all	68.75%			70.75%	68.84%	76.10%	76.10%	76.10%
BV 80f	Overall I am satisfied with the amount of time it took them to tell me whether my claim was successful: strongly agree/agree – all	64.11%			66.11%	66.20%	70.20%	70.20%	70.20%
BV 80g	Service overall: strongly agree/agree – all	Na			70.1%	75.47%	80.00%	80.00%	80.00%



5.4 A Better Place for Learning, Achievement & Leisure

Not applicable

5.5 A	Better Place for Excellent Council Services					Target met	Target no	t met	
BVPI	Indicator	Actual 2000/01	Actual 2001/02	Actual 2002/03	Target 2003/04	Actual 2003/04	Target 2004/05	Target 2005/06	Target 2006/07
BV 66a	Proportion of rent collected	96.01%	96.04%	96.34	96.50%	96.07%	96.50%	96.60%	96.70%
BV 74a	Satisfaction of tenants with the overall service: all tenants Confidence interval (646)	53.40% 3.07%	53.40% 3.07%	53.40% 3.07%	64.00%	52.01% +/-3.80	64.00%	70.00%	76.00%
BV 74b	Satisfaction of tenants with the overall service: black and minority ethnic tenants Confidence interval (196)		5.03%	47.61% 5.03%	64.00%	49.49% +/-7.00	64.00%	70.00%	76.00%
BV 74c	Satisfaction of tenants with the overall service: non-black and minority ethnic tenants Confidence interval (442)		3.97%	57.43% 3.97%	64.00%	53.17% +/-4.60	64.00%	70.00%	76.00%
BV 74x	Year of survey			2000/01		2003/04			
BV 75a	Satisfaction of tenants with opportunities for participation: all tenants Confidence interval (551)				50%	49.18% +/-4.10	60.00%	66.00%	72.00%
BV 75b	Satisfaction of tenants with opportunities for participation: black and minority ethnic tenants Confidence interval (168)				50%	50.60% +/-7.50	60.00%	66.00%	72.00%
BV 75c	Satisfaction of tenants with opportunities for participation: non-black and minority ethnic tenants Confidence interval (374)				50%	48.66% +/-5.00	60.00%	66.00%	72.00%
	Year of survey					2003/04			
BV2	Equality Standard for local Government			Level 3	Level 4	Level 4	Level 5	Level 5	
BV11a	A workforce to reflect the community: % of top 5% earners that are women			37.27	40	41.2	42.5	45	-
BV11b	A workforce to reflect the community: % of top 5% earners that are from minority ethnic communities			16.15	17	14.62	16	17	-
BV12	Proportion of working days lost due to sickness absence			10.81	10	11.74	9.23	9	-
BV17A	A workforce to reflect the community: % of employees from minority ethnic communities compared with % of the economically active minority ethnic community population			33.92	36	36.60	37	38	_
BV157	Types of (housing) interaction delivered electronically (% of possible)			49.1	70	81	100	100	-



6 Housing's Service Plan: April 2003 - March 2004

This section sets out the Housing's key activities to be pursued in the current year in order to achieve the council's strategic goals. The key activities to be carried out to achieve those objectives are summarised and the key steps provided so that progress can be effectively monitored and evaluated. A glossary of abbreviations used appears on page 23.

6.1 A Better Place for Living Safely: Priorities for 2004-05

Objective	Ref	Key activity	Key Steps	Date	Team
Reduce Anti-Social Behaviour	01	 Improve response to and reduce ASB incidents. 	 Develop partnership arrangements with 6 RSLs for the delivery of ASB services. 	Mar 05	Corporate
			• Develop LHO role in tackling ASB. (SIP)	Mar 05	Area Housing
			Improve co-ordination of work between LHOs, ASB Control Unit	Mar 05	Area Housing/
			and Crime Reduction Team to monitor ASB trends and identify perpetrators of ASB. (SIP)		ASB Control Unit /Police Estates
			• Review Rapid Response Team Service; consult ASB unit.	Jul 04	Serv.
			• Tackling noise nuisance with Environmental Health	Mar 05	
	02	• Facilitate third party reporting of	• Make arrangements with Police and ASB Team.	May 04	Strategy
		hate crimes motivated by disability Equalities Action Plan	• Revise publicity and train 3rd sector reporting agencies.	Mar 05	Strategy
Improve community	03	• Improve security on estates and in	• Provide at least 50 properties with Door Entry Schemes.	Mar 05	Tech. Serv.
safety by improving		private sector homes	• Provide at least 35 additional properties with CCTV schemes.	Mar 05	Tech. Serv.
security on streets &			• Provide Home Repair Grants for security works to 100 homes.	Mar 05	Private sector
estates			 Spend £200k on improving safety and security (EIP) Support the Council's Cleaner, Safer Places Best Value Review. (EIP) 	Mar 05 Mar 05	Area Housing Area Housing
			- support the council's cleaner, saler mades best value neview. (LIP)		
	04	 Involve residents in review of concierge contract Equalities Action Plan 	• Carry out resident satisfaction surveys of all blocks with concierge to assess satisfaction with new arrangements.	Aug 04	Estate Strat.



Objective Ensure options to maximise investment in Council housing are fully explored in order to meet the Decent Homes standard	Ref 05	 Key activity Continue Stage 2 of the Housing Choice Programme, consulting with each estate on detailed options to provide service improvements and increased investment. 	 Key Steps Provide estate profiles and stock condition for estate steering groups. Help establish remaining steering groups. Arrange and facilitate training, information, publicity, presentations and selection process. Agree works proposals with selected RSLs for valuations. Submit transfer applications to ODPM. 	to sep.	Team NPI/Strategy NPI/CPT NPI/CPT NPI NPI
	06	• Develop consultation proposals with Council residents for stage 3 of the Housing Choice Programme.	 Support EastEndHomes to Housing Corporation registration. Agree consultation programme with each estate steering group and their RSL partner to ballot stage and work with RSL to prepare formal offer document and supporting business plans. Agree timetables for transfers after any positive ballots. 	Sep 04 According to timetable	NPI NPI/CPT NPI
	07	• Implement proposals and further develop contingency planning for the future of the housing service.	 Develop communications strategy for Members, staff and residents. Complete TUPE mapping according to Stage 3 results. Continue financial modelling impact study. Continue to develop initial options for future housing service strategic/operational split. Continue to finalise options for delivery of housing service as Stage 3 develops. Continue corporate impact assessment. 	Sep 04 Sep 04 Sep 04 Sep 04 Sep 04	BPR BPR BPR BPR Corp/BPR/HR
	08	 Monitor progress of RSLs in meeting Decent Home Standard. 	 Distribute RSL Performance monitoring questionnaire. Analyse RSL's questionnaire responses. 	May 04 Sep 04	Social Hsg Social Hsg
	09	 Continue to support TMO development 	 Carry out feasibility study of TMO development for Digby/Greenways Estate within Housing Choice context. Draw up development programmes if successful. 	Mar 05	СРТ



Objective	Ref	Key activity	Key Steps	Date	Team
Improve access to affordable homes	10	 Build new homes in partnership with RSLs 	 Build 400 new homes through Social Housing Grant. Regeneration of Teviot and Aberfeldy (SRB4): demolish David 119 homes under construction 	Mar 05 Mar 05	Soc.Hsg NPI / Regen.
			 Regeneration of Tarling (SRB5): 120 homes under construction 	Mar 05	NPI / Regen.
			 Regeneration of Crossways (SRB6): Development of stock transfer regeneration proposal with RSL 	Mar 05	NPI / Regen.
			partner and residents groups.Regeneration of Ocean NDC:Development of housing redevelopment & stock transfer proposal.	Mar 05	NPI / Regen.
	11	 Provide priority housing to teachers, nurses, police officers, fire fighters and paramedics 	 Develop and consult on Key Worker Strategy. Amend lettings and affordable housing policy as necessary. Minimum of 50 eligible applicants given additional housing priority during year. 	Sep 04 Mar 05 Mar 05	Social Hsg Let/Soc.Hsg Lettings
	12	 Promote new Empty Homes Stratgey and bring back into use empty private sector homes for rent 	 Publish the Private Sector Empty Property Strategy. Bring at least 100 private sector homes back into use or demolish. Approve 10 Empty Property Grants. 	Jul 04 Mar 05 Mar 05	Priv. Sector Priv. Sector Priv. Sector
	13	• Help residents to buy a home of their own in the private sector.	 Maximise spend of allocated funds for homeownership grants for Council & RSL tenants. 	Mar 05	Lettings
		their own in the private sector.	 Review affordable housing targets in light of the London Plan. Facilitate HomeBuy grants & 40 challenge fund HomeBuy units Develop 50 shared ownership units. Make 100 referrals from shared ownership publicity. Develop Home Ownership Handbook for residents. 	Mar 05 Mar 05 Mar 05 Nov 04 May 04	Social Hsg Social Hsg Social Hsg Social Hsg Social Hsg
	14	• Review affordable housing targets in light of the London Plan	 Draft affordable housing policy being developed and consulted on. 	Nov 04	Social Hsg/ Planning



Objective	Ref	Key activity	Key Steps	Date	Team
Improve the quality of	15	• Undertake a programme of major	 Invest £30m by Mar 05 	Mar 05	Tech.Serv.
the housing stock		repair and improvement on Council estates	 Formulate 2004/5 - 2007/08 Housing Investment Programme and agree with Members and residents. 	Jul 04	Strategy/ Tech.Serv.
			 Inform and consult 100% of residents affected by major works schemes for 2005/06. 	Nov 04	Tech.Serv.
			 Remedy any works defects as quickly as possible and 100% within the liability period. 	Mar 05	Tech.Serv.
	16	 Carry out responsive repairs in 	• Complete 95.5% of repairs within target	Mar 05	Tech.Serv.
		accordance with Government targets	 90% pass rate for all works inspected. 	Mar 05	Tech.Serv.
		-	• 89% of all repairs appointments made to be kept.	Mar 05	Tech.Serv.
			 Increase resident satisfaction with service to 85% 	Mar 05	Tech.Serv.
	17	 Develop £5.1m Estate Improvement Programme (EIP). 	 Identify priority areas for estate improvements using LAP, crime, ASB & estate inspection data. 	May 04	Estate Strat/ Area Hsing/
			 Draw together schemes into an Estate Improvement Plan for each LHO. 	Jun 04	Strategy Area Hsing
			 Project management training for staff involved in EIP. 	Jul 04	HRD
			• Develop Turning Around Turin model for tenant involvement in estate improvements.	Jul 04	Area Hsing
			• Ensure £5.1m spend achieved.	Mar 05	Asst. Director
	18	Help reduce the number of unfit	• Review and promote the Private Sector Renewal Strategy.	Apr 04	Priv.Sector
		homes in the private sector	• Number of Private Sector unfit homes reduced by 110.	Mar 05	Priv.Sector
	19	 Use all available mechanisms to reduce overcrowding 	 Develop individual re-housing plans for 15 severely overcrowded households (lacking 3 or more bedrooms). 	Mar 05	Lettings
		Equalities Action Plan	 Rehouse 180 under-occupying social tenants. 	Mar 05	Lettings
			 Rehouse 250 overcrowded social tenants. 	Mar 05	Lettings
			• Reduce the number of overcrowded social tenants by 130 over		
			the previous year by March 2005	Mar 05	Lettings
			• Carry out a minimum of 12 knockthroughs to create larger homes	Mar 05	Tech.Serv.



Objective	Ref	Key activity	Key Steps	Date	Team
Support vulnerable adults & children in need	20	 Complete 5-year Supporting People Strategy to help match support needs to service availability Equalities Action Plan 	 Undertake analysis of: supply need Finalise 5-year Supporting People Strategy. Complete 30% of (approx 164) service reviews. Develop Commissioning Strategy. 	Jun 04 Sep 04 Feb 05 Mar 05 Feb 05	Soc Hsg Soc Hsg Soc Hsg Soc Hsg Soc Hsg
	21	• Develop working practices to deliver supporting people objectives Equalities Action Plan	 Implement piloted sign up procedure to ensure vulnerable tenants have schedule of visits. Help 250 vulnerable tenants sustain their tenancy: Better Care Higher Standards training for staff Participate in the roll out of SAP referrals 	Apr 04 Mar 05	Strat/Area Hsg Tenancy Support Team
			 Participate in the foil out of SAP referrais Ensure homeless applicants are linked into appropriate support services and key information follows to sign-up. Evaluate Vulnerability Panel. 	Sep 04 Mar 05	Homeless/ Area Hsg Rents
	22	 Help older and disabled people remain independent in their own homes Equalities Action Plan 	 Survey wheelchair users & single person households over 70 Develop individual rehousing plans for 30 vulnerable households Decorate 400 homes of disabled and older residents Process 100 DIY payments for decorating disabled and older residents homes Significantly adapt 200 council properties Target and approve 100 disabled facilities grants to private sector available. 	Mar 05 Mar 05 Mar 05 Mar 05 Mar 05 Mar 05	Lettings Lettings Strategy Strategy Tech.Ser/OT Priv.Sect/OT
	23	 Ensure appropriate supported housing provision. 	residents • Agree programme of bids with partners. • Agree development timetable.	Oct 04 Jan 05	Soc Hsing Soc Hsing



Objective	Ref	Key activity	Key Steps	Date	Team
	24	• Develop and implement Housing's Domestic Violence Action Plan.	 Carry out self-assessment of frontline services against the GLA minimum standards. 	Jun 04	Area Hsing/OSS /Homeless/Lettings
			 Incorporate any actions necessary to achieve the standards and monitor progress against targets. 	Mar 05	Strategy
			 Map pathways to domestic violence services. 	Sep 04	Strategy
			• Distribute publicity and best practice about local domestic violence services to all Housing Service points and RSLs.	Oct 04	Strategy
			• Work with RSLs to raise awareness of GLA minimum standards on domestic violence.	Mar 05	Strategy/ Soc Hsing
Help prevent and deal with homelessness	25	• Deliver key stages of the Homeless Strategy Action Plan.	 Evaluate implementation of the cross-sector Homelessness Partnership Board. 	Mar 05	Homeless
			 Implement plans with intervention initiatives addressing: 		
			 research findings on causes of homelessness & rehomelessness 	Mar 05	Homeless
			 Needs and Services Assessments. 	Mar 05	Homeless
			 Trend towards homelessness disproportionately affecting young people and BME communities. 	Mar 05	Homeless
	26	 Eliminate the use of B&B for households with children 	 No families with children or pregnant women to exceed six weeks occupancy in B&B hotels. 	Mar 05	Homeless
	27	Improve service delivery to	 Introduce a Customer Liaison function. 	Mar 05	Homeless
		homeless households.	Service Users Forum established.	Oct 04	Homeless
			• Periodic Exit Poll (min. of four a year) carried out for all applicants.	Mar 05	Homeless
	28	• Speed up the assessment for households presenting as homeless	80% of all homeless applications to be assessed within 33 working days.	Mar 05	Homeless



6.3 A Better Place for Creating and Sharing Prosperity: Priorities for 2004-05

Objective Help reduce poverty	Ref 29	Key activity Increase the take-up of benefit entitlement through the Claim the Max campaign with a focus on minority ethnic communities, low-income households & older people 	 Produce booklet on benefits for families. Three sheltered accommodation blocks for the elderly targeted for entitlement promotion. Value of benefits take-up increased by £500K 	Date Mar 05 Mar 05 Mar 05 Jun 04 Mar 05 Mar 05	Team Benefits/ Corporate Benefits/LHOs Corporate Corporate Corporate
			 Welfare awareness courses delivered for frontline workers of Benefits, Rents, LHOs, OSSs. 	Mar 05	Corporate
	30	• Tackle fuel poverty Equalities Action Plan	 Work with health professionals, RSLs and other agencies to target advice and assistance with energy use, using the warm up toolkit achieving 20% increase in referrals. 	Mar 05	Energy Efficiency
			 Increase the uptake of Energy Efficiency Home Repair Grants to homes not meeting the thermal comfort standard of decent homes. from 25 grants in 03/04 to 40 in 04/05 	Mar 05	Priv. Sector
	31	 Provide training and employment opportunities 	 Provide 20% BME training and employment opportunities through Local Labour in Construction. 	Mar 05	Regeneration
		Equalities Action Plan	 Undertake Construction Challenge with 16 pupils. Achieve 20% local labour in construction projects. 	Mar 05 Mar 05	Regeneration Regeneration

6.4 A Better Place for Learning, Achievement and Leisure: Priorities for 2004-05

Objective	Ref	Key activity	Key Steps	Date	Team
None applicable to Hou	sing.				

1



Objective	Ref	Key activity	Key Steps	Date	Team
More effective staff	32	• Develop a high performance culture by investing in staff.	• Develop programme of staff and team rewards to recognise exceptional performance and suggestions for service improvements.	Mar 05	Comms
		culture by investing in stan.	• Provide and support at least one half day for service development	Mar 05	Director
			• Ensure exit interviews are conducted by a manager from another team and use results to inform staff retention proposals.	Mar 05	Area Housing/ HRD
	33	• Co-ordinate and support Service Managers on skills programme	 Report to DMT on trainee placements and numbers for 2003/04 and Corporate information on trainee programmes for 2004/05. 	Jun 04	HRD
		trainee placements Equalities Action Plan	 Develop with Service Managers and finalise for use of trainee placements: 	Nov 04	HRD
			 Induction process guide Learning modules for all trainee schemes to meet core competencies Service-related learning modules Mentoring tips. 		
			 Develop a clear process for ensuring a list of placements is maintained and used to invite applications for suitable posts. 	Mar 05	HRD
Improve value for money in providing services	34	 Improve budgetary control and transparency 	 Identify budgetary control training for 10% of 4th tier and above based on previous years performance. 	Aug 04	Finance/HRD
			Review re-chargeable repairs process.	Oct 04	Tech Services
			 Implement process for public access and inspection of accounts. 	Mar 05	Tech Services/ Home Ownership
	35	• Ensure costs are recovered wherever possible.	 Carry out feasibility study into recovering the Council's cost when disposing of land. 	Jul 04	Soc Hsing
			• Review administration charges to ensure costs are recovered.	Mar 05	Finance
	36	• Tackle benefit fraud.	Min of 9 prosecution files to Legal services.Min of 28 sanctions obtained.	Mar 05 Mar 05	Benefits Benefits
		I	l l		



Objective	Ref	Key activity	Key Steps	Date	Team
Improve the quality of strategic planning and	37	• Establish a strategic framework for housing within the Corporate vision.	 Start preparation work for Producing a Housing Strategy Statement 2005/06 - 2006/07. 	Dec 04	Strat/Soc Hsing
evaluation			• Agree Benefits Service Strategy Statement with Members, and incorporate into the Housing Strategy Statement.	Mar 05	Benefits
			 Contribute to development of East London Affordable Housing Investment Framework. 	Sep 04	Strat/Soc Hsing
			• Contribute to development Thames Gateway Housing Framework.	Mar 05	Strat/Soc Hsing
	38	 Ensure robust analysis underpins our planning. 	 Review targets for 2005-06 Strategy, Service Plan and budget round. Revise business plan assumptions. 	Nov 04 Jul 04	Strategy Strategy
		Equalities Action Plan	• Carry out Equality Impact Assessments into new policies and practises.	,	ALL
			• Carry out Annual Diversity Audit (see Ref 45).	Nov 04	Strategy
			Carry out Annual Health Check Process (See Ref 54)	Sep 04	Strategy
			 Develop BME Housing Strategy. 	Mar 05	Soc Hsing
			• DMT to consider Work Force to Reflect Community progress on a quarterly basis to review progress against Corporate and BV targets.	Mar 05	HRD
	39	 Review systems to ensure all aspects of performance are captured and meaningful 	 Revise performance management framework to ensure corporate and directorate planning cycles are aligned, and to facilitate staff and resident involvement in target setting. 	Jun 04	Perf Review
		Equalities Action Plan	• Devise customer orientated Performance Indicators in consultation with residents (as well as Local Performance Indicators)	Sep 04	Perf Review
			• Develop monitoring systems to assess TMO performance.	Mar 05	BPR
	40	• Embed performance in team planning	 Ensure 1:1s incorporate performance targets from team plans, service standards and Equalities Action Plan objectives. 	May 04	Strategy/ALL
		Equalities Action Plan	 Use half-year evaluation of 04/05 Service Plan to start team planning process (& annual business planning cycle) for 2005/06. 	Oct 04	Strategy/ALL
		I			



Objective	Ref	Key activity	Key Steps	Date	Team
Use new technology to support the delivery of	41	 Implement the Tower Hamlets Integrated Housing Management 	 Implement and go live with the Sx3 iWorld integrated Housing Management and Benefits system. 	Sep 04	ALL
excellent services		and Benefits system (IHMS) and • Maintain existing applications and	 Implementation of stage 1 rents and benefits "go live" Migrate property, people, rents and benefit data. Staff trained 	Sep 04	Housing IT
		systems until replaced by the IHMS.	• Interface to existing legacy systems (eg Finance, Council Tax)	c 0.4	
			Pilot iWorld customer service module.	Sep 04	Housing IT
			 Design and implementation of management information system. 	Sep 04	Housing IT
			 Implementation of benefits DIP and workflow. 	Nov 04	Housing IT
			 Implementation of Major Works, Home Ownership and tenancy management "go live" 	Dec 05	Housing IT
			Migrate Major Works, Home Ownership and tenancy		
			management data and any remaining applications.	05/06	Line and the second
			 Implementation of repairs, lettings, homelessness & voids "go live" migrate repairs, lettings, homelessness and voids data. Upgrading of Repair Help Centre 	05/06	Housing IT
	42	• Expand electronic delivery of	• Maximise service work that can be delivered electronically (BV157):		
	72	services to improve communication and efficiency.	 introduce alternative methods of paying rents: replace rent-books with swipecards; 	Dec 04	Rents
		, i	• Lettings target of 90% of services delivered electronically;	Mar 05	Lettings
			 Set up LHO email address for queries. 	Mar 05	Area Housing
			 Develop email and web housing repair-reporting options. 	Oct 04	Tech Serv/HRC
			 Introduce online ordering of housing leaflets for landlords and Third Sector Groups. 	Oct 04	Strategy/SIP
			 Implement new telephony systems and develop closer integration for Housing Repair Centre Telephone Service with non-housing service Telephone Helpdesks. 	Oct 04	Tech Serv/HRC
			 Pilot email based housing advice line for Health & Social practitioners, professionals and advocates. 	Mar 05	Strategy



Objective	Ref	Key activity	Key Steps	Date	Team
Ensure services operate to the highest standard of Health & Safety policy and procedures	43	Carry out a programme of work-based health and safety inspections.	 Commence programme of inspections in accordance with 12-month timetable. Work with Service Heads to ensure processes are in place to address health and safety issues identified in the workplace: inclusion of H&S activities and targets in Team Plans and relevant staff 1:1s. Report to DMT on any building/Service not inspected. 		Health & Safety Health & Safety Health & Safety
Ensure services operate to the highest standard of equalities	44	• Embed equalities objectives and targets in planning, monitoring and evaluation processes. <i>Equalities Action Plan</i>	 Team Plans to identify the need for Equality Impact Assessments. Carry out Equality Impact Assessments according to schedule. Include explicit diversity targets in 1:1s of 4th tier staff and above. 	Apr 04 Mar05	Strategy/ALL Strategy/ALL Strategy/ALL
	45	 Undertake an Annual Diversity Audit of Housing Services. Equalities Action Plan 	 Desk top analysis of information from new integrated system Report to DMT showing service take-up, customer satisfaction, workforce and trainees. Inclusion in team planning guidance for 2005-06. 	Oct 04 Nov 04 Dec 04	Strategy Strategy Strategy
Ensure local people have access to high quality interpretation & translation services to facilitate equal access to services		 Implement high quality interpretation & translation services. Equalities Action Plan 	 Introduce automated multi-lingual auto-bidding housing phone line. Incorporate translation of key service leaflets on to the intranet and website. Review performance on Sylheti phone line to improve performance to match English phone line. Pilot dedicated Sylheti phone enquiry line. Improve ratio of bi-lingual staff, particularly support workers and liaison roles. 	Jun 04	Lettings Strategy Tech Serv/HRC Home Own. Heads/HRD
Improve access to Council buildings for people with disabilities	47	• Continue to make Housing Service's buildings DDA compliant.	 Agree programme with CESG. Report to DMT showing which buildings are publicly accessible, fully accessible and not possible to make accessible. Complete DDA work programme for LHOs: Redcoat/Spitalfields/South Poplar/Mile End LHOs Spend £300k on programme. 	Apr 04 Aug 04 Oct 04 Mar 05	Facilities Mgt/ Accomm.



Objective	Ref	Key activity	Key Steps	Date	Team
Improve our customer care & services to residents	48	• Develop and roll out the projects and pilots in the Service Improvement Programme (SIP).	 Review new tenancy services, and tenancy audit process. Review access to services and produce better information for residents (see ref 49) Better estate-parking management. Develop the role of ECO/Rapid Response Team Improve major works consultation. Make better pre-inspection repairs. Pilot LHO easy repairs reporting Review the approach to decoration allowances. Improve void process and re-let times. Review the approach to Homeless payments. 	Jul 04 Nov 04	SIP Group
	49	 Review access to key housing services & implement new methods for conveying information to residents. 	 Introduce information notice boards on all estates. Review Service opening hours to make sure they are convenient for residents and standard across services. Produce a minimum of twelve new information leaflets explaining available services. Publish all standards and service information leaflets on the Council website. 	Jun 04 Oct 04 Oct 04 Nov 04	SIP Group
	50	• Work with partners to develop a consistent & customer-focused service. Equalities Action Plan	 Make available/market appropriate training courses to our Contractors, SLA providers, RSL staff, appropriate 3rd sector agencies and residents. Carry out annual survey of Third Sector agencies. Review SLA with: Benefits Agency RSLs Rent Officer Service 	Mar 05 Mar 05 Apr 04 May 04 Jun 04	HRD Strategy Benefits
			 Implement Home Ownership Third Sector Partnership Agreement. Develop and agree with residents a Code of Conduct for contractors carrying out repairs. 	May 04 May 04	Home Own Tech Service



Objective	Ref	Key activity	Key Steps	Date	Team
			 Develop and agree principle-based housing strategies for social housing landlords for: gay & lesbian tenants disabled tenants older residents Carry out joint briefing sessions for Housing & Health staff to promote Better Care Higher Standards. 	Sep 04 Nov 04 Jan 05 Jun 04	Strategy HRD/Area Hsing
Improve participation and involvement of	51	• Involve residents in designing the services they receive.	 All Housing Services to carry out customer satisfaction surveys and publish the results. 	Mar 05	Section Heads
local communities		Equalities Action Plan	 Develop a programme of independent Mystery Shopping exercises, which will monitor performance against the Service Standards set out in Brochure T1 for what customers can expect when contacting the service in person, by phone or in writing. 		SIP
			• Introduce Customer Comment cards for residents to give feedback on service.	Jun 04	SIP/CPT
			• Work with the Boroughwide Tenant Compact Group to test readability and comprehension of service information and to test service improvements prior to implementation.	Mar 05	SIP/CPT
			 Actively promote a menu of resident involvement activities within TPC framework. 	Mar 05	SIP/CPT
	52	• Work with residents to encourage wider participation and involvement within the Tenant Participation Compact (TPC) framework.	 Affiliate service improvement groups to Boroughwide Compact Group (BCG) Bengali & Somali community focus group; Housing information community focus group. 	May 04	Strategy/CPT
		Equalities Action Plan	• Ensure resident involvement in design of service improvement pilots.		Area Housing
			 Facilitate elections to Area Resident Panels (ARP). Develop TPC/BCG accreditation for Tenant Resident Associations to offer access to premises, resource centre & training opportunities. 	Sep 04 Mar 05	CPT Strategy/CPT



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Objective	Ref	Key activity	Key Steps	Date	Team
	53	• Work with Boroughwide Compact Group (BCG) to develop the Tenant	 Review TPC framework and the roles of the BCG and ARP in light of the Housing Choice Programme. 	Sep 04	СРТ
		Participation Compact (TPC) framework to provide a strong	 Develop links and relationship between BCG and Local Area Partnerships. 	Oct 04	СРТ
		voice for all residents.	 Consider feasibility and funding options of a resident group for all social tenants. 	Mar 05	СРТ
	54	• Develop, with residents, our annual	• Report to Tenant Compact.	May 04	Perf Review
		health check process to provide for (initially) 6-monthly Performance	 Consideration of targets (and diversity information) by affiliate Service Improvement Community Focus Group. 	Sep 04	Perf Review
		Bulletins. Equalities Action Plan	• First bulletin for the Tenant Compact, Members and staff.	Sep 04	Perf Review

6.5 A Better Place for Excellent Public Services: Priorities for 2004-05 contd.

Glossary of terms

- ASB Anti-social behaviour team
- BPR Business Process Re-engineering
- CPT Consultation and participation team
- EIP Estate Improvement Programme
- HRD Human Resources and training
- LLiC Local Labour in Construction
- NPI New Partnerships and Initiatives
- OSS One Stop Shops
- SIP Service Improvement Programme
- Soc. Hsg. Social Housing Group
- Tech.Serv. Technical Services (repairs and major works)



7 Supporting Organisational Change, Team 8 Monitoring & Evaluation & Staff Development

The Housing Service is committed to developing and providing relevant training for all our staff to ensure they are equipped to carry out the roles required of them and the emerging challenges we all now face. Resources are targeted to meet our goal of providing excellent public services to our residents. A key focus is providing tailored solutions to support the aims and objectives of individual service areas, identified through the Service and Team planning process. Our Staff Development Strategy is based at three levels, each with three objectives:

Housing Service Level

- To provide development opportunities that support organisational change and improve service standards.
- To provide leadership and professional development opportunities to help Managers to thrive in the future Housing Service.
- To support strategic projects, providing high quality cost-effective services and a workforce to reflect our community.

Team Level

- To meet the development needs of Teams in achieving high service standards and performance and deal effectively with change.
- To provide relevant and team based opportunities identified by Service Managers through the Team Planning process.
- To provide timely, relevant and tailored IT training for more than 800 staff on the i-World integrated computer system.

Individual Level

- To develop the skills of staff providing demanding Housing frontline services to support improved service standards.
- To equip staff to manage the transition process, enabling them to maximise the opportunities available through Housing Choice.
- To increase the professionalism of Housing staff to improve the guality of service and provide career development support.

Monitoring and evaluation of the Service Plan takes place at a number of levels:

Team level

Monitoring and evaluation takes place through regular 1:1s and team meetings which monitor individual and team progress in the achievement of Team Plans and identify any impediments, or training requirements necessary, to achieve the key steps.

Service level

Monitoring and evaluation takes place through the Directorate's Management Team, which considers Annual Health Check reports each year from each service area. The Lead Member for Housing also considers these summaries of each service's performance, which also inform reports on our overall performance to Scrutiny Panels.

Directorate level

Monitoring and evaluation takes place through two monitoring reports produced at 6 months and at 12 months. The half-yearly review will include half year performance against agreed targets (April-Sept) and take place prior to the budget round for 2005-06 (Nov). A more evaluative Annual Review will be produced within 2 months of the year-end. Key performance indicators are also reported in the Annual Report.

In addition, some Service Plan targets and activities also appear in other Council Plans such as the Housing Strategy, Strategic Plan, Equalities Action Plan and Crime and Disorder Reduction Strategy and performance information is also reported on these through the appropriate mechanisms. Progress against the Tower Hamlets Index performance indicators is reported to Cabinet at two-monthly intervals.

Housing's Business Risk Register identifies risks associated with failure to adequately progress or complete activities and targets in Housing's Service Plan and the Council's Strategic Plan. The register - which records the actions for mitigating the likelihood of occurrence and impact of those risks - is regularly reviewed by Housing's Risk Champion and ADMT, and reviewed quarterly by DMT and the Corporate Risk Group.





If you have any comments on this document please e-mail us: housing.publicationscomment@towerhamlets.gov.uk

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