

## Housing, Environment, Transport and Community Safety Scrutiny Sub-Committee

Monday 25 February 2013

7.00 pm

160 Tooley Street, London SE1 2QH

### Membership

Councillor Gavin Edwards (Chair)  
Councillor Graham Neale (Vice-Chair)  
Councillor Chris Brown  
Councillor Michael Bukola  
Councillor Lorraine Lauder MBE  
Councillor Tim McNally  
Councillor Martin Seaton

### Reserves

Councillor James Barber  
Councillor Patrick Diamond  
Councillor Darren Merrill  
Councillor Michael Situ  
Councillor Geoffrey Thornton

### Co-opted Members

Cris Claridge, Tenants' Council  
Miriam Facey, Tenants' Council  
John Nosworthy, Homeowners' Council  
Jane Salmon, Homeowners' Council

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### Contact

Shelley Burke on 020 7525 7344 or email: [shelley.burke@southwark.gov.uk](mailto:shelley.burke@southwark.gov.uk)

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Members of the sub-committee are summoned to attend this meeting

**Eleanor Kelly**

Chief Executive

Date: 15 February 2013



# Housing, Environment, Transport and Community Safety Scrutiny Sub-Committee

Monday 25 February 2013

7.00 pm

Ground Floor Meeting Room G01B - 160 Tooley Street, London SE1 2QH

## Order of Business

Item No.	Title	Page No.
	<b>PART A - OPEN BUSINESS</b>	
1.	<b>APOLOGIES</b>	
2.	<b>NOTIFICATION OF ANY ITEMS OF BUSINESS WHICH THE CHAIR DEEMS URGENT</b>	
	In special circumstances, an item of business may be added to an agenda within five clear working days of the meeting.	
3.	<b>DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS</b>	
	Members to declare any interests and dispensations in respect of any item of business to be considered at this meeting.	
4.	<b>MINUTES</b>	1 - 12
	To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the open section of the meeting held on 17 December and 2012 and 21 January 2013.	
5.	<b>DRAPER HOUSE</b>	To follow
6.	<b>SUB-LETTING OF COUNCIL PROPERTIES</b>	13 - 19
7.	<b>SCRUTINY OF TENANTS HALL - DRAFT REPORT</b>	20 - 62

**DISCUSSION OF ANY OTHER OPEN ITEMS AS NOTIFIED AT THE START OF THE MEETING.**

**Item No.**

**Title**

**Page No.**

**PART B - CLOSED BUSINESS**

**DISCUSSION OF ANY CLOSED ITEMS AS NOTIFIED AT THE START  
OF THE MEETING AND ACCEPTED BY THE CHAIR AS URGENT.**

Date: 15 February 2013



## **HOUSING, ENVIRONMENT, TRANSPORT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY SCRUTINY SUB-COMMITTEE**

MINUTES of the Housing, Environment, Transport and Community Safety Scrutiny Sub-Committee held on Monday 17 December 2012 at 7.00 pm at 160 Tooley Street, London SE1 2QH

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**PRESENT:** Councillor Gavin Edwards (Chair)  
Councillor Graham Neale (Vice-Chair)  
Councillor Chris Brown  
Councillor Michael Bukola  
Councillor Lorraine Lauder MBE  
Councillor Martin Seaton

**CO-OPTED MEMBERS PRESENT:** John Nosworthy, Homeowners' Council

**OTHER MEMBERS PRESENT:** Councillor Ian Wingfield, Deputy Leader & Cabinet Member for Housing Management

**ALSO PRESENT:** Ian Ritchie, Chair, Tenants Halls Working Party

**OFFICER SUPPORT:** Stephen Douglass, Head of Community Engagement  
Gerri Scott, Strategic Director, Housing & Community Services  
Peter Roberts, Scrutiny Project Manager

### **1. APOLOGIES**

1.1 Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Tim McNally.

### **2. NOTIFICATION OF ANY ITEMS OF BUSINESS WHICH THE CHAIR DEEMS URGENT**

2.1 There were none.

### 3. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS

- 3.1 Councillors Michael Bukola, Graham Neale, Martin Seaton and Lorraine Lauder made disclosures of interests as council tenants.

### 4. MINUTES

#### RESOLVED:

That, subject to the addition of Councillor Lorraine Lauder to apologies, the minutes of the sub-committee held on 11 September 2012 be agreed as a true and accurate record.

### 5. CABINET MEMBER INTERVIEW - COUNCILLOR IAN WINGFIELD, DEPUTY LEADER, HOUSING MANAGEMENT

- 5.1 The chair of the sub-committee asked the cabinet member for his overview of tenants' and residents' association (T&RA) halls and how he saw the sub-committee's current review feeding into this issue. Councillor Wingfield replied that this issue had been neglected for some time, although it had been raised by the previous administration. Many halls were in a bad condition and in need of repairs. Funding of over £3 million had been allocated to investment in at least nineteen halls. In Councillor Wingfield's view, the council also needed to look at the usage, management and rents of halls. He stressed that halls were a public resource that should be available to the estates and neighbourhoods that they served and welcomed the scrutiny review and the participation of tenants and residents.
- 5.2 In response to questions, Councillor Wingfield explained that the disparity in rents had arisen over time and needed to be looked at with a view to developing a genuine minimum rate. The finances of all halls needed to be clear and transparent. Councillor Wingfield also reported that a number of people had notified him of halls which they considered to be under-used. He gave an example in Camberwell of a room built as part of an estate which over the years had fallen into disuse, had subsequently been let to various community groups and had finally been turned into a flat. The T&RA was now meeting in another council flat on the estate. Councillor Wingfield felt that flats should be lived in by tenants and that alternative premises should be provided for T&RAs, such as converted garages. He welcomed suggestions from members as to where such situations existed and how they could be improved. The chair commented that he hoped to follow up his recent survey of tenants with a survey of councillors.
- 5.3 Councillor Wingfield gave an update on the housing repairs contract. The key change in the previous year had been the end of the Morrisons contract and the employment of Mears as an interim contractor. Councillor Wingfield believed that Mears had hit the ground running and was providing positive competition for SBS. He stated that there had been marked improvements since the scrutiny of housing repairs two years previously, including the ongoing repairs core group which met on a monthly basis and plans to move the call-centre in-house. In response to

questions, Councillor Wingfield indicated that payment to Vangent depended on various milestones being met and that payment had been reduced accordingly in the last month. Members asked whether payment to Morrisons had been withheld as a result of under-performance. Councillor Wingfield confirmed that this had been the case and that negotiations were still taking place in respect of the final payment.

- 5.4 In respect of the procurement of the longer-term repairs contract, Councillor Wingfield reported that fifty-three organisations had expressed an interest at the end of July and that the council had shortlisted three companies who had been invited to tender by 16 October. The expectation was that the council would award the contract in May. The chair asked the cabinet member's view of a recommendation in the Housing Commission report that the council look at an external body determining the key performance indicators for the housing repairs service. Councillor Wingfield indicated that he was happy to explore this.
- 5.5 Councillor Wingfield reported that customer satisfaction with the repairs service had increased to 84% over the last twelve months. Officers were confident that the satisfaction rate would rise to close to the target of 90% by the end of the year. The chair highlighted issues with carrying out repairs to leaseholder properties, in particular relating to access when the property had been let. Councillor Wingfield stated that problems did not often arise when leaseholders were resident but occurred when leases were owned by companies or people no longer living in the borough. The residents of the properties in question did not necessarily have any commitment to the property or the area. The council often did not know who was living in a property or the number of residents. Councillor Wingfield gave an example of properties on the Four Squares estate which had been converted into homes of multiple occupation. The council had raised its concerns with leaseholders and with the local MPs with a view to leaseholders being required to inform the council who their tenants were.
- 5.6 The vice-chair asked how the council was addressing the issues of over-crowding and houses in multiple occupation (HMOs). Councillor Wingfield explained that these were outside the housing portfolio as the council's powers were largely in the areas of planning and building control. The strategic director of housing added that the licensing of HMOs was carried out within the environment and leisure department. Some HMOs were small and did not fall under licensing guidelines. The housing sector working party was looking at ways to increase council responsibility. Councillor Wingfield explained that there was an ongoing process of tenancy checking for the entire housing stock. The thrust of housing management was to have more direct contact with tenants.
- 5.7 In response to questions, the strategic director of housing and community services stated that she would circulate members to confirm the number of disrepair cases that were outstanding.
- 5.8 Members asked for details of the number of members' housing enquiries. Councillor Wingfield reported that in the period June to November in the current year there were 1,701 enquiries covering a variety of areas, the majority concerning housing options and transfers but also including repairs. Members also

made enquiries outside the specific members' enquiries portal. The vice-chair was concerned at Councillor Wingfield's recent correspondence in the press which had suggested that he, the vice-chair, had only made five enquiries in June when this did not take account of enquiries possibly made outside the portal.

- 5.9 The chair asked for an update in respect of the warm, safe and dry programme and the prospect of any major works being brought forward. Councillor Wingfield stated that, following the ending of the Wates contract, Apollo had continued works on the Hawkstone, Abbeyfield and Four Squares estates. Some of the work on the smaller estates had been delayed while the council looked for a new contractor. There was also a question over works at Draper House. A danger under the partnership contract arrangements was that the council could be left with only one or two contractors able to undertake work. Councillor Wingfield emphasised that the fire safety programme was a key element of the works that were underway. By the end of the current financial year, bar one which would run slightly into the next year, all necessary fire safety works would have been completed on every block in the borough. In terms of the five year major works programme, all schemes scheduled for 2012/13 would be on site by March. Some schemes scheduled to start later in 2014/15 would be brought forward. Councillor Wingfield stated that the council was not as far ahead as it wanted to be because of contractual hold-ups but that now the pace of work would quicken.
- 5.10 In response to a question from the chair, Councillor Wingfield confirmed that he was satisfied with the works being done. When work began on site it often revealed new issues which required a reassessment of the works and budget for each estate. Four Squares was a classic example of this. By and large the wishes of residents were being accommodated and the consultation process seemed to be working well. A member reported the concerns of some elderly residents that fire doors were not easy to open and close. Councillor Wingfield indicated that this issue had been raised with him and that officers were looking at possible solutions. The strategic director of housing and community services added that it would be useful to have any further details of doors which were a particular problem.
- 5.11 The chair asked whether the cabinet member was happy with the involvement of tenants and leaseholders at the design stage, before work was begun. Councillor Wingfield stated that a number of estates were visited as part of the pre-works discussions. The majority of leaseholders did not support the most expensive options and there were always queries about the schedule of work with a view to bringing costs down. In general, residents wanted investment in order to improve their quality of life, to improve security and to make homes warm, safe and dry. There would always be differences of opinion but Councillor Wingfield was confident in the twenty-seven step consultation programme that the council had developed. Members asked what flexibility there existed when TRAs asked for additional works to be done. Councillor Wingfield explained that flexibility related to whether any health and safety issue was involved. The stock condition survey had covered only 10% of properties and issues came up when work began on site. Additional works depended on whether there was a demonstrable need and that works needed to be contained within the overall budgeting. These works could be in response to health and safety risks or to individual demonstrable needs such as adapting a flat to the needs of an infirm resident.

- 5.12 The chair asked for details of the consultation planned on the recommendations of the Housing Commission report. Stephen Douglass, head of community engagement, explained that there were three strands to the consultation which would begin in January with the intention to report to cabinet in July. Tenants and leaseholders were very important and the council would be working through the existing structures, including the Tenants' and Homeowners' Councils. Consultation would be as broad as possible with a series of community conversations involving all ward councillors and young people targeted through the Youth Council and SpeakerBox. The third strand would be other key stakeholders at a regional and national level. The head of community engagement outlined the three key questions for consultation – who was council housing for and for how long, how much council housing and to what standard of quality, and what management models. In response to questions, the head of community engagement stated that there was already a page on the council's website inviting people's details and views and that this would be followed by other publicity and a communications campaign.
- 5.13 The chair asked the cabinet member for any initial thoughts on the various options outlined in the Housing Commission report. Councillor Wingfield emphasised the cabinet's position that it had wanted an independent assessment of the choices facing the authority in respect of its housing stock. The report set out various options for investment and management and the consultation on these was a genuine exercise. The council wanted to talk to everyone in the borough about the housing stock. Councillor Wingfield stressed the current housing crisis and that Southwark could be bearing the full brunt of the government's housing and benefits policies. In response to further questions, Councillor Wingfield emphasised that all political parties had participated in the work of the Housing Commission, that there was consensus in some areas and that it was important to ensure that residents got the best deal possible.
- 5.14 Members were concerned that, in order to receive a meaningful response to the consultation, the council needed to think carefully about what questions to ask and how to ask them. Councillor Wingfield responded that the council had gained valuable experience from the consultation following the recent riots. It was important to make use of new media, to put things in the context of what was happening in London generally and to ensure that there was no political bias. The head of community engagement added that the budget consultation had also provided useful lessons and had been on similarly complex and difficult choices. Creative ways could be found to provide the background which informed choices around housing and to set out the consequences of choices.
- 5.15 In response to questions, Councillor Wingfield informed the committee that the new billing and accounts receivable (BAR) system relating to leaseholders' bills had been up and running since February. The major change was that there was now one account per property with each invoice on the account having its own invoice number. The second phase, from March 2013, would provide an online services portal to allow leaseholders to inspect their accounts online. A third phase, also commencing in March, would enable leaseholders to interrogate each element of their service charge. Councillor Wingfield was aware that the warm, dry and safe



programme could result in large bills to leaseholders and that the council needed to look into ways of assisting them through the process.

- 5.16 A member asked for details of any evictions arising out of the riots. Councillor Wingfield underlined his view that confidence needed to be restored in public order and that he hoped that the council had contributed to this. He was very pleased with the way that officers had dealt with cases in the weeks and months that had followed the riots. In a number of cases tenancies had been relinquished and evictions had not been necessary. Some evictions had been made in response to rent arrears. Councillor Wingfield provided figures for other actions between April and September, including seven anti-social behaviour orders in relation to criminal offences and another four lodged and the serving of eleven notices seeking possession. Councillor Wingfield reported that the council was working a lot more closely with the police and the UK Borders Agency in joint operations across the borough. The council was particularly concerned about anti-social behaviour and the amount of illegal sub-letting and needed to be seen as a responsible landlord.
- 5.17 The vice-chair asked whether there was any reason that a number of properties did not appear on the allocations bidding system. The strategic director of housing and community services replied that a small number of properties were pre-allocated, for instance in cases of severe over-crowding or for specific management reasons. However, most properties went into the bidding system. She asked the vice-chair to let her have details of any concerns. Councillor Wingfield added that management reasons would include cases where a tenant's life was at threat, whether because of a particular domestic situation or perhaps for gang related issues, or that referrals for transfers could come from Social Services. The lettings review report would be issued for consultation at the same time as the Housing Commission report.

## 6. HOUSING COMMISSION REPORT

- 6.1 The chair highlighted issues in the Housing Commission report, including illegal sub-letting and several suggestions relating to housing repairs. He proposed that the sub-committee begin to look into the issue of illegal sub-letting with an officer presentation to its next meeting.
- 6.2 Members drew out other issues from the report:
- the potential for the council to borrow more in order to invest in its housing stock
  - whether specifications for new build are sufficient in order to limit repairs and maintenance in the future
  - whether financial incentives could be offered to tenants to take up TMOs
- 6.3 The chair indicated that he would take these issues up with officers with a view to reporting back to a future meeting.

## 7. TENANTS HALLS SURVEY

- 7.1 The chair reported the results of his survey of TRA halls and that he would be inviting comments from councillors. He had also received a large amount of information from officers. The chair would bring a draft scrutiny report to the next meeting of the sub-committee.

The meeting ended at 9.05 pm



## **HOUSING, ENVIRONMENT, TRANSPORT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY SCRUTINY SUB-COMMITTEE**

MINUTES of the Housing, Environment, Transport and Community Safety Scrutiny Sub-Committee held on Monday 21 January 2013 at 7.00 pm at 160 Tooley Street, London SE1 2QH

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**PRESENT:** Councillor Gavin Edwards (Chair)  
Councillor Graham Neale (Vice-Chair)  
Councillor Chris Brown  
Councillor Michael Bukola  
Councillor Lorraine Lauder MBE  
Councillor Tim McNally  
Councillor Martin Seaton

**OTHER MEMBERS PRESENT:** Councillor Barrie Hargrove

**OFFICER SUPPORT:** Deborah Collins, Strategic Director of Environment and Leisure  
Ian Smith, Head of Sustainable Services  
Des Waters, Head of Public Realm  
Peter Roberts, Scrutiny Project Manager

### **1. APOLOGIES**

1.1 There were no apologies.

### **2. NOTIFICATION OF ANY ITEMS OF BUSINESS WHICH THE CHAIR DEEMS URGENT**

2.1 There were no additional items.

### **3. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS**

3.1 Councillors Graham Neale, Lorraine Lauder and Martin Seaton made declarations of interest as council tenants.

#### **4. CABINET MEMBER INTERVIEW - COUNCILLOR BARRIE HARGROVE, TRANSPORT, ENVIRONMENT & RECYCLING**

- 4.1 Councillor Barrie Hargrove, Cabinet Member, Transport, Environment & Recycling, highlighted areas within his portfolio. He reminded the sub-committee of the cuts in central government grant that had resulted in cuts of £90 million and that further savings would be necessary over the next two years. Despite this, a survey had recorded public satisfaction of 93% with the borough's parks. £8 million had been invested in Burgess Park to widespread acclaim and Southwark parks had been awarded fourteen green flags. Councillor Hargrove also reported improvements in recycling rates and the successful introduction of food waste recycling and mixed dry recyclables. The council also intended to expand recycling on estates. Expenditure on street cleaning had to be reduced following the cuts in grant but standards and satisfaction were still good.
- 4.2 Councillor Hargrove updated the sub-committee on the development of a comprehensive cemetery strategy and of a tree strategy. In addition, the deficit on the markets budget had been reduced and progress was being made with cycling initiatives and flood prevention. Councillor Hargrove also reported on progress on the SELCHP heat programme which would provide cheap heat to five estates in the Rotherhithe area. It would also significantly reduce carbon and nitrous oxide emissions.
- 4.3 In response to questions, Councillor Hargrove stated that the council was clearly making enormous strides in terms of recycling and was now in the top third of league tables in terms of residual waste. The recycling rate had been increased from 20.49% in May 2010 to 33.44% in November 2012.
- 4.4 Members also asked for the cabinet member's view on the possibility of extending the number 63 bus route to terminate at Honor Oak Park Station. Councillor Hargrove reported the Mayor of London's policy that if a bus route was extended then another route needed to be shortened. Councillor Hargrove indicated that there was a possibility that the bus route could be extended one stop, to bring the termination point nearer the top of the hill. He had made clear to Transport for London the benefit of linking the bus route to the rail system. Members were also concerned at how the impact of the loss of the South London Line could be assessed. Councillor Hargrove stressed that he had strongly opposed the loss of the South London Line loop but hoped that there was still an opportunity to argue for trains from Bromley stopping at Peckham Rye on their way to Victoria.
- 4.5 In respect of street cleaning, a member asked whether some areas of the borough were cleaned to a better standard than others. Councillor Hargrove reported that he and the head of sustainable services had inspected Rye Lane and as a result the service dealing with collection of bulk waste had been extended with more frequent visits and enforcement action taken in respect of dumping. The lay-out of the public realm had also been altered. Councillor Hargrove also commented that the Peckham and Nunhead Community Council had allocated revenue funding from Cleaner Greener Safer towards street cleaning. Ian Smith, head of

sustainable services, explained that, in line with the previous National Indicator 195, three inspections of street cleaning were carried out during the year. These were undertaken in conjunction with colleagues from Lambeth and Lewisham in order to ensure continued impartiality in terms of the findings.

- 4.6 Members were concerned at what the council could do to address the problem of dog-fouling in the borough. Councillor Hargrove reported that there were 486 dog waste bins in the borough and a twenty-four hour response to reports of dog fouling. All street cleaners had tools to deal with dog waste and were instructed to do so by management. Councillor Hargrove stated that the number of reports of dog fouling had peaked at 3732 in 2010 and that the figure for 2011 was 1642. He explained that the issuing of penalty notices had to be based on evidence. The head of sustainable services added that if a hot spot was identified then reminder letters would be sent to all properties on the road. The reducing number of reports perhaps reflected a cultural shift in behaviour. In response to further questions, Councillor Hargrove explained that the department also worked closely with community wardens. Some members of the sub-committee were concerned about dog-fouling in parks and wondered about the value of creating dog only areas, for instance in Burgess Park. Des Waters, head of public realm, pointed out the difficulties in introducing these in Burgess Park as it had a large open perimeter. Councillor Hargrove emphasised that introducing such areas would also require consultation with the community and friends of the park.
- 4.7 Members asked what action the council could take in respect of fly tipping on private land. Councillor Hargrove explained that the wording of the relevant legislation required the council to demonstrate adverse effect of fly tipping. It was however possible to take steps where the fly tipping affected the amenity of the area. Councillor Hargrove stressed that officers took this issue very seriously and had taken action on Peckham Road where rear gardens had been used for storage and in November 2012 had acted in response to allegations of illegal dumping in the Russia Dock Woodland area. A member raised a particular issue on Keetons Estate, Jamaica Road, of over-flowing bins and fly tipping. The head of sustainable services responded that there was a particular problem on this estate where there was not the storage capacity for refuse bins. Meetings had been held with residents to find a solution to this issue and a plan had been agreed. Another member referred to East Street and Trafalgar Road and asked whether there were regulations to control the space left between paladin bins and buildings. Councillor Hargrove asked to be supplied with more details so that this could be properly explored.
- 4.8 In response to members' questions, Councillor Hargrove gave details of the number of proposed cycle cut-throughs, contra-flows and complimentary measures. He indicated that he could look again at Newcomen Street. He spoke about how works to improve walking and cycling along Greendale were progressing and that a bid has been submitted to extend these to Ruskin Park, which could join up with a planned cycle route through Lambeth to the River Thames. Councillor Hargrove reported that he met regularly with the Southwark Cyclists' group, and that these meetings included joint ones with other stakeholders such as Transport for London and the police. Councillor Hargrove also clarified the situation in respect of the plane trees on Rotherhithe New Road,

which would be lost due to alternative measures not being feasible. He added that the council was actively looking at alternative nearby sites and discussing with the local community options for the planting of new trees.

## **5. SUB-LETTING OF COUNCIL PROPERTIES**

- 5.1 This item was deferred as there was not a council officer available to present it. The chair expressed his disappointment at this and stressed that it delayed the work programme of the sub-committee. He would take this issue up with officers the following day.

## **6. SCRUTINY OF TENANTS HALLS - DRAFT REPORT**

- 6.1 Some members had not received a copy of the draft report until that morning and the sub-committee agreed to discuss any initial views and consider a revised draft more fully at its next meeting.

- 6.2 The sub-committee agreed that the following recommendations were in need of revision:

Recommendation 5

- 6.3 Some members took the view that bars should not be available at any T&RA hall and other members felt that decisions about this should be made on individual merit. Some members felt that it would be useful to have sight of the regulations in respect of the two bars currently in operation. It was also suggested that there could be equality issues, for instance relating to religion. In view of the difference of opinion amongst it was proposed that this recommendation be deleted.

Recommendation 6

- 6.4 The chair explained that a tenancy at will agreement was not possible in respect of an organisation and that the recommendation needed to be amended to take account of this.

Recommendation 7

- 6.5 Members of the sub-committee agreed to the principle of halls with greater revenue potential demanding higher rent but were of the view that the detail of this required further thought and officer advice. Account should also be taken of the size of T&RAs and of whether T&RAs were newly formed.

Recommendation 9

- 6.6 A member suggested an addition to the recommendation with a view to new residents automatically receiving information about their local T&RA.

Recommendation 13

- 6.7 Members emphasised that the whistle blowing process needed to be very clear and to specify the role of officers and to include a role for councillors.

Recommendation 14

- 6.8 It was agreed that this recommendation be amended to specify a maximum number of key-holders.

Recommendation 15

- 6.9 Members suggested that a threshold for single signature be recommended, above which multiple signatures would be required.

Possible Examples of Fraud

- 6.10 The chair reported that he was awaiting advice on the best way to reflect the examples of fraud that the sub-committee had considered in evidence.

**7. MINUTES**

- 7.1 The minutes were deferred to the next meeting for consideration.

Meeting ended at 9.10 pm

<b>Item No.</b>	<b>Date:</b> 21 January 2013	<b>Meeting Name:</b> Housing and Community Safety Scrutiny Sub-Committee
<b>Report title:</b>	<b>Briefing on Illegal and Legal Subletting</b>	
<b>From:</b>	Shade Simmons, Investigations Manager Housing and Community Services	

## PURPOSE

1. This briefing provides an update on the work currently taking place in the housing and community services department to tackle illegal sub-letting.

## BACKGROUND SUMMARY

2. The definition of illegal sub-letting for secure tenancies is as follows:

A secure tenant is in breach of their tenancy agreement if they sublet, or part with possession of the whole property, or ceases to occupy the property as their main and principal home.

There are a number of reasons why a legal tenant may no longer be living in a property, for example:

- The tenant has moved out or died and their family members believe that they have a right to remain in the property without checking with the landlord;
  - The tenant has moved out or died and the key has been passed on to a family member or friend who remains in the property;
  - The tenant has moved out specifically to sublet the property, probably for the purpose of raising income. This could be by letting the home as a whole or in separate rooms.
3. There is a common perception that many tenants sub-let their council homes but the extent to which this happens is largely unknown. The Audit Commission in 2009 conservatively estimated that there at least 2.5% of a London authority's stock is subject to some form of tenancy fraud.
  4. Southwark's current tenancy agreement requires our tenants to satisfy the council that they are occupying their home. We monitor this by carrying out a rolling cycle of tenancy checks which means that every tenancy is checked once every 2 years. This exercise is completed by Resident Officers carrying out programmed tenancy checks. To support the Resident Officers, the department has a specialist team to investigate allegations of tenancy fraud and recover properties that have been illegally occupied and/or obtained by deception. The team consists of a manager and two permanent officers. A further two officers in the team work primarily with our Registered Social Landlord partners and that funding is provided by the Department of Communities and Local Government.



5. The council has historically attempted to tackle illegal subletting by relying on referrals from the public, other sections within the council and external agencies. In 2002, the council introduced photo identification for all new tenancy agreements following a successful pilot exercise carried out by the Special Investigations Team. Random tenancy checks were carried out and photographs taken of the tenant/s when occupation was verified.
6. This has proved to be successful and the numbers of properties recovered by the department in 2011-2012 was 132. This was a good level of performance compared to other London councils; Lambeth Council recovered 64, Greenwich recovered 72 and Lewisham recovered 27 during the same period.
7. Legal subletting takes place in leasehold properties. Subletting a tenancy is a breach of the tenancy conditions but subletting of a leasehold property is not a breach of the lease. Therefore, the council, as the freeholder, has no control over the leaseholder's choice to sublet. There may however be a requirement for leaseholders to notify their respective mortgage lenders. Increasingly, there is concern about the multiple sub-division of leasehold properties, the health and safety implications of this and the impact on tenants and resident leaseholders living in the vicinity of these multiple households. The council's response to this and the action which the council might take moving forward is currently being explored.

## **OUR APPROACH**

8. The Special Investigations Team currently uses the following methods for discovering cases of illegal subletting:
  - Fraud Hotline: advertised at various points on the council's website and included in mail shots – members of the public contact the team with information that is followed up by the team
  - Referrals from other officers within the housing and community services department, such as an Income Officer highlighting a tenant who is difficult to contact
  - Referrals and joint working with the corporate fraud team
  - Annual gas servicing programme or forced entries for non-access for the annual gas check – operatives report cases where no keys are collected or problems identified with the legal tenant
  - Key fob reconfiguration: alerted to non-occupation by the legal tenant as illegal occupiers come forward to collect the keys
  - Joint working with Council Tax recovery: cases highlighted due to high level of debt suggesting non-residence
  - Data-matching (Call Credit technology) to identify anomalies that require further investigation.
  - Joint working with Registered Social Landlords via the South East London Housing Partnership: Family Mosaic, Amicus Horizon, Peabody, Hyde and L&Q. This has achieved in 19 properties being recovered which the council has nomination rights to for the Housing List.
  - Joint partnership with multi-agencies (Police, UKBA, DWP) as tenancy fraud is associated with other types of fraud or criminal activity.

- Communications: reporting our successful cases to the press so that both the legal and illegal tenants are aware of the actions we are taking and the consequences.
9. The department's preventative measures include the following:
- Photographs on all new tenancy agreements
  - Settling-in visits on all new tenants to confirm occupancy
  - Increased requirement on proof of identification and residency documents for applying for and signing for a new tenancy
  - Document verification training to increase staff awareness
  - Better use of technology to identify fraudulent documents being produced in all departments
  - Improved liaison/awareness with other sections across the council
  - Better communication with colleagues about the work that is being undertaken and the joint effort that is needed to achieve the department's target
  - Joined the London Hub which enables data sharing amongst member authorities which helps to track tenants/applicants who may approach other authorities.
  - Communications: reporting our successful cases to the media and in-house produced literature so that both the legal and illegal tenants are aware of the actions we are taking and the consequences.
10. A number of new initiatives for 2012/13 within the council are currently underway. These include Operation Bronze, Operation Silver, and the introduction of a new tenancy visit procedure for Resident Officers to capture a number of issues whilst also verifying the legal tenant is in occupation. A new target has been set for each of the 81 Resident Officers to recover four properties every year.

### **Operation Bronze Update**

11. As a result of Operation Bronze identifying the use of false documents to obtain tenancies, 21 properties have so far been recovered and returned to the council. Of these, 17 have already been re-let to individuals and families who were previously living in temporary accommodation and other priority applicants awaiting a property allocation from the council's housing waiting list. There are currently 24 cases going through the criminal court process and 2 in the civil courts.

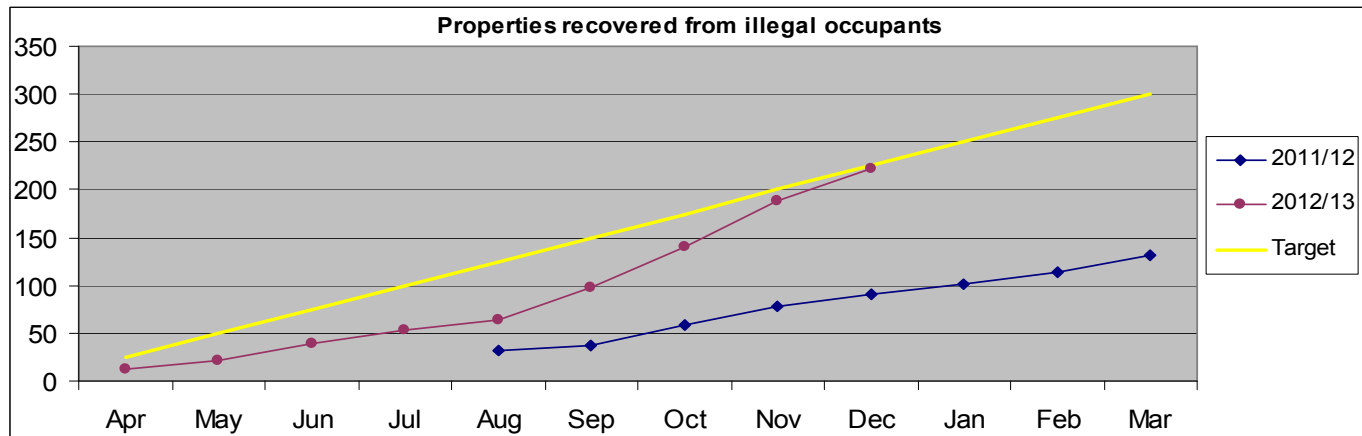
### **Operation Silver Update**

12. Operation Silver, which involves data matching using a credit agency database has, to date, seen the return of 60 properties recovered and now available for local people on the waiting list or families housed in expensive temporary accommodation.
13. In 2012 we supplied Call Credit, a credit reference agency, with 41,000 records of our tenants and waiting list applicants and matched the data against the financial footprint of both the individual and the property to determine who is in residence based on financial accounts and electoral roll information.
14. As previously reported to the Audit and Governance Committee on 9 January 2013, there were over 2,000 leads that required investigation. This is

- approximately split 40:60 between red leads and amber with 748 classed as good quality matches (red) indicating a higher risk of subletting.
15. Following a full investigation of the good quality matches, which commenced in August 2012, the project has already led to the recovery of 60 properties, and a further 16 have agreed to return the keys. 303 cases are still under investigation.
  16. This project has also been successful in the area of right to buy. Since the rate of discount was increased to £75,000 earlier this year, the number of applications received by Southwark Council has increased, and the council has been quick to respond to this emerging fraud risk. Through the Operation Silver project, 16 right to buy housing applications are being investigated. Three of these have already been stopped with all three applicants agreeing to return the keys.
  17. Due to the amount of leads this initiative has generated, the specialist team's staffing resources has increased by three fixed-term officers with a further four fixed-term officers due to be appointed by the end of the financial year. This will bring the team to a total of one manager and ten investigating officers.
  18. The council further employed the services of an external partner, RSM Tenon, to work jointly with the team to investigate a selection of red leads and to filter the high number of amber leads. The contract has a target for them to recover 75 properties by the end of the financial year. RSM Tenon started working with the team in August 2012 and will remain until 31 March 2013.
  19. The amber leads have been filtered by the team (including RSM Tenon). Some leads have been retained for further investigation and the remaining have been passed to the Resident Officers to incorporate into their current tenancy visit programme. This will not only make use of the officer's local knowledge and existing relationships but will also direct them to targeted properties of a low risk that nevertheless have been matched.
  20. The information provided was also used to identify a block to be targeted for a multi-agency action day. This was conducted on the morning of Saturday 1 December 2012. The unannounced visits took place at over 100 addresses in Layard Square, SE16 and involved over 30 plain clothed and uniformed officers from the team, police, UKBA, SASBU and RSM Tenon. Whilst no significant issues were found, the majority of tenants were pleased to see the council taking action. Some follow-up action to this action day is also being undertaken with one tenant terminating her tenancy as she had parted with possession and resides in another property that she purchased.
  21. The Call Credit one off data-matching exercise is a new tool in the box of initiatives to tackle illegal occupancy in the borough. It has allowed the team to save time by focussing enquiries on a specific alternative address. The team was then able to gather the evidence and visit the linked address to confirm the current residency much more quickly. These visits were carried out in the early morning or evenings or weekends out of the borough to owner-occupied properties in places such as Dartford and Romford. In many cases, this has resulted in tenancies being terminated voluntarily without the need for expensive and prolonged legal action and has therefore shortened the recovery process. This data has also provided useful information for the department to update our

existing records to reflect the current circumstances in a household and brought to our attention a number of historical outstanding tenancy matters that have now been resolved. This has reduced the length of time an investigation can take because the information has already been provided and directs our enquiries to the relevant facts. The combination of additional staffing resources and quality data has improved our performance for the current year.

22. The following table presents the stats for current and previous years and shows the effect of the Operation Silver initiative on performance.



## Performance

23. 249 properties have been recovered to date from a mixture of Operation Bronze, Operation Silver, joint partnership working with RSLs (19) and normal referrals. We are on course to recover over 300 properties which is the highest recovery of illegally sublet properties to date.
24. A recent report by the Audit Commission shows that 1,209 tenancy frauds were detected (and properties recovered as a result) in all London Councils in 2011/12. This clearly shows that Southwark is a top quartile performer on tackling illegal occupancy and has been recognised as such in the recent Audit Commission publication Protecting the Public Purse.

	SIT	RSM Tenon	Resident officers	<b>Total properties recovered</b>	<b>tenanted</b>	RSLs	<b>All properties recovered</b>
<b>Apr12-Dec12</b>	95	30	105	<b>230</b>		19	<b>249</b>
<b>2011/12</b>	57	n/a	75	<b>132</b>		68	<b>200</b>

## Communications

25. The department has commenced a communications plan, designed to both raise awareness of the work we are undertaking amongst residents of the borough, as well as to encourage residents of Southwark to report any suspected tenancy fraud.

26. The campaign will take the form of press adverts, posters and potentially leaflets included in the monthly rent / council tax statements which are sent out and will be ongoing throughout the year. A poster is placed on the front door of every recovered property so that neighbours and the community are aware of the work being done to tackle illegal subletting on their estate and provides a contact telephone number to report suspected tenancy fraud.



### HR Issues

27. Our database is being shared with corporate fraud for them to check against staff data to identify any potential issues. If, as a result, there are staff that are considered a risk they will be investigated appropriately with the assistance of the HR team.

### Data Protection

28. There is a data-sharing protocol agreement in place between Southwark Council and Call Credit and the London Hub. The Call Credit database has been password protected and encrypted to ensure that all activity is compliant with the relevant legislation. Internally only a limited number of staff has access to the data and this will remain controlled throughout the process.

### Financial Implications

29. Properties used fraudulently are not available for those in genuine need. This means that homeless families and individuals are often placed in temporary accommodation whilst they wait for an appropriate home to become available. The value of each recovered property is £18,000 (as set by the Audit Commission) representing the average cost to the Council of placing a family in temporary accommodation for one year. The National Fraud Authority has identified tenancy fraud as the largest area of fraud loss across local government.

### **The Future**

30. New legislation, The Prevention of Social Housing Fraud Bill, is due to take effect in 2013. This will give the council more powers and remedies to tackle tenancy fraud and makes illegal subletting a criminal offence. This should be seen as a valuable deterrent.
31. Currently the department recovers the property but the new legislation would allow the council to prosecute offenders who if convicted could face a term of imprisonment or receive a fine. We may also be entitled to receive financial compensation from the offender if they profited from the tenancy fraud.

### **Overview**

32. A Tenancy Fraud Meeting is held monthly to review the progress and monitor the statistics and performance. The group is chaired by the strategic director of housing and community Services and is attended by senior staff from the anti-fraud team, operations, and revenues and benefits.

# **Report into TRA Halls and Communal Rooms**

Report of the Housing, Environment, Transport &  
Community Safety Scrutiny Sub-committee

Draft February 2013



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## Part 3 – Conclusions and Recommendations



## Introduction

1. Southwark Council currently has 113 properties with a primary use registered to providing space for Tenants & Residents Associations (TRAs) to carry out their activities and provide space for other community activities. The breakdown of the different types of halls/rooms is in table 1 below. For the rest of this report these facilities will be referred to generically as “TRA Community Halls”.

### Categories and number of Southwark TRA Community Halls

Category	Number of Halls/Rooms
Community centre, self financing	41
Medium hall, some income	26
Meeting room/flat. No/low income	25
Closed	8
TMO office	4
Unsure	1
In use	8
<b>Total</b>	<b>113</b>

2. In most cases TRAs have responsibility for day-to-day management of the properties. There are a wide range of arrangements in place including licenses, leases, tenancies at will, sub-lets and in most cases no formal arrangements. Officers estimate that rent is currently charged on fifty-three of the halls. In 2010/2011 the income generated by this was approximately £47k.
3. A September 2012 Senior Management Team paper concluded, “While some TRAs are clearly well managed, others need support in ensuring that premises are accessible and their management is accountable. Work has therefore started with the halls working party to agree a model set of terms of hire. Other key documents will also be developed, backed with training for halls managers and committee members.” Details of the Tenants Halls Working Party are covered in the next section.
4. The council has taken a number of actions in the past year to address weaknesses in the way TRA community halls have been managed. This is being co-ordinated centrally by the Resident Involvement Team (now merged with Community Engagement). This work includes:
  - Engineering Services has agreed to manage an ongoing compliance regime for the key services and utilities including electrical testing, gas checks, water system management and asbestos management.
  - The compliance team has agreed to work to support tailored training and advice for TRAs and management committees on their responsibilities in managing health and safety. This is likely to be delivered externally because of issues with capacity within this team.
  - The Repairs Team has agreed to manage day to day repairs of the halls within the £300,000 per annum budget for both reactive and planned maintenance.

- The Investment team has agreed to manage planned preventative maintenance and capital investment.
  - Capital investment: A capital sum of £3.1 million has been established for the hall portfolio within the Housing Investment five-year programme. A dedicated repairs and maintenance budget of £500k per annum has also been set up.
  - A full stock condition survey has been carried out to inform the capital investment programme.
5. The Housing, Environment, Transport and Community Safety Scrutiny Sub-Committee decided to look into this issue whilst setting up its work programme in June 2012. The Sub-Committee was aware of the on-going work set out above and the formation of the Tenants Halls Working Party. The Sub-Committee felt that it was important for councillors to provide an external perspective on this work and to make other contributions which could improve the way the council approaches the issue of TRA Community Halls.
6. Nevertheless the sub-committee has also been eager to dovetail our work with that of the Working Party to ensure that duplication does not occur and that this scrutiny could benefit from investigatory work which had already been carried out. The sub-committee agreed to make recommendations regarding TRA Community Halls in the following areas:
1. A fair rents policy – proposing a fair and equitable system of rents for TRA Community Halls
  2. Stock condition and capital investment – adding to the work of the Tenants Working Party to make recommendations on guiding principles on the ongoing investment programme
  3. Usage of Halls – members of the sub-committee have received anecdotal evidence of some halls being “taken over” by individual uses and other halls being less than welcoming to newcomers. Members of the sub-committee also wanted to investigate the possible under-use of some halls
  4. Provision across the borough – clearly there are some parts of the borough where tenants and other residents are better served than others by the provision of TRA Halls. The sub-committee wishes to make recommendations which might address under-provision in some parts of the borough
  5. Oversight and transparency in the management of halls – issues to be covered here are the prevention of fraud, the prevention of small cliques in the running of halls and the level of council support provided to TRAs
  6. Conversions and sharing of resources – there are a small number of halls/rooms which are not being used at all and others which are used rarely. In particular the sub-committee is interested in the possibility of unused and acutely under-used halls being converted into new homes or where possible any under-utilised halls being used by the wider voluntary and community sector

### **The Tenants Halls Working Party**

7. As noted above, the Tenants Halls Working Party has been set up to:
- Provide an overview of the halls portfolio
  - Discuss current issues/problems and resolve these

- Exchange information
- Support training on good practice for hall management committees
- Give advice on lettings and activities permitted in halls
- Help develop a suite of reference materials for TRAs running premises
- Provide intelligence of what activities are taking place in community premises (both TRA halls and the wider estate)
- Investigate opportunities to provide match-funding for halls from the Tenants Fund

8. The membership of the Working Party is as follows:

<b>NAME</b>	<b>AREA FORUM</b>
Ian Ritchie (Chair)	Tenants' Council//Nunhead & Peckham Rye
Carol Vincent (Vice Chair)	Aylesbury
Jean Attridge	Home Owners' Council
Maureen Baker	Tenants' Council//Peckham
Dean Chandler	Borough
Cris Claridge	Tenants' Council//Nunhead/Peckham Rye/ Southwark Group of Tenants' Organisation
Miriam Facey	Nunhead/Peckham Rye
Wayne Gilbert	Camberwell East
Colin Harrison	Tenants' Council//Walworth West
Steve Hedger	Tenants' Council//Camberwell East
Kathy Henessey	Rotherhite
Pat Hickson	Rotherhite 2
Kim Jones	Tenants' Council//Camberwell West
Frances Kodjie	Home Owners' Council
Kevin Lewis	Tenants' Council/
Bill Newman	Dulwich
Michael Orey	Peckham/ Home Owners' Council
Kiri Pieri	Tenants' Council/Rotherhithe
Mike Tyrer	Camberwell West

Fran Wyndham	Bermondsey West
Suzanne Webb	Bermondsey East

9. During the course of this scrutiny, the chair of the sub-committee has met with the chair of the Tenants Working Party on three occasions and has attended a Working Party meeting. In addition, the chair of the Working Party has regularly attended meetings of the scrutiny sub-committee, and contributed to them. All of these meetings and other communications have been very constructive and positive. The scrutiny sub-committee would like to congratulate the working party on the quality of their ongoing work and thank them for their input into this scrutiny process.

## Section 2 – Scrutiny of TRA Community Halls in Southwark

### TRA Community Hall Case Studies

10. The sub-committee asked officers to provide case studies which showed some of the problems and positive stories which can arise through the current model of managing TRA Community Halls. The case studies below are anonymised versions of the information provided by officers.

#### TRA Community Hall Case Study 1

The Stock Condition Survey identifies work required in the region of £80,000 to make this hall compliant and to a good standard of decoration. It is a large, stand-alone building with a large hall and a smaller room which is used for smaller meetings. It is currently subject to an enquiry from an elected representative as it is understood residents have complained about a lack of access to the facilities. Officers have visited the facility and interviewed the key holder about the reasons for the lack of access. They are twofold: Firstly, the TRA is ageing and has a small number of volunteers meaning it struggles to open the building when people wish to hire. Secondly many of the requests for hire are for church groups and parties which can if not well managed cause a nuisance to local neighbours. The TRA Committee has made a conscious decision not to hire to these groups out of respect to the local residents.

Another TRA use a small room in the neighbouring block which is not on their estate. Given this situation, it would make sense to investigate a sharing arrangement.

From a resident involvement perspective this is a classic case of an underused hall under the care of a keen but struggling TRA. They are overcoming the loss of their previous, very effective, chair and getting to grips with matters. However it is also a large hall that the wider community could be benefitting more from. Diplomacy and support are key. There is also a good opportunity for a pensioners group to use the hall and office Tuesday to Friday and pay rent and manage it during the day.

#### TRA Community Hall Case Study 2

The TRA Hall is occupied by a (service provider to the local community) during the week. It is also used for worship by church groups during the weekend. It is understood that the TRA does not use the hall. It is unclear if the service provider or churches pay rent, to whom and if they have any occupation agreements. Nearby is another small meeting room. This is used to host TRA meetings and Council and non Council meetings. It is a small room and has potential to be converted into a new home. Currently, if a group wishes to use the meeting room they approach the Estate Concierge who opens the room for them. They are then left unattended. Although this is less than ideal it is considered a small risk as the concierge seems to know everyone and polices its use

through common sense. However, it is unclear whether he has been briefed in what actions to take in the event of an incident and whether he has the training to be considered the 'responsible person' for both the hall and the meeting room. The meeting room requires around £15k of works. The hall requires £23K.

The TRA Committee is dominated by the chair who has managed things their own way for a long time. Officers are supporting the committee as a whole to challenge some of this behaviour. The use of the hall means that coach trips are regularly organised but now members of the local community are questioning why they cannot use the hall for family/social functions.

This is a good example of what happens when a powerful personality is willing to do all the opening/closing/etc and the association acquiesces in this.

### **TRA Community Hall Case Study 3**

A TRA success story. Resident involvement reformed a seriously failing TRA and it is in the hands of a committee dedicated to maximising use of the hall. The secretary ensures that the association avails itself of every project and money opportunity that it can. The reputation of the TRA has soared in the eyes of the tenant movement.

### **TRA Community Hall Case Study 4**

The TRA collapsed for some years under the impact of tenure and social change. This is an area that needs a modern community engagement strategy as the TRA model simply does not appear to be working. A local society or representative community group would probably provide a better vehicle for the council to engage with the community and deal with issues relating to the TRA Community Hall. The stock condition survey reveals it needs £120k of repairs. It is possible that this hall could be converted into new homes. There is a suitable nearby hall on an adjoining estate.

### **TRA Community Hall Case Study 5**

This is the last hall and TRA in the borough that gives rise to concerns about it allegedly being a social drinking club for a limited section of the community. Ways have been tried to reform the association but they resist all efforts and have successfully delayed due to constantly changing staff. The new staff structure of the community engagement team will be eminently suited to problem solving here. The building is in a deprived area and should be available to a variety of local groups.

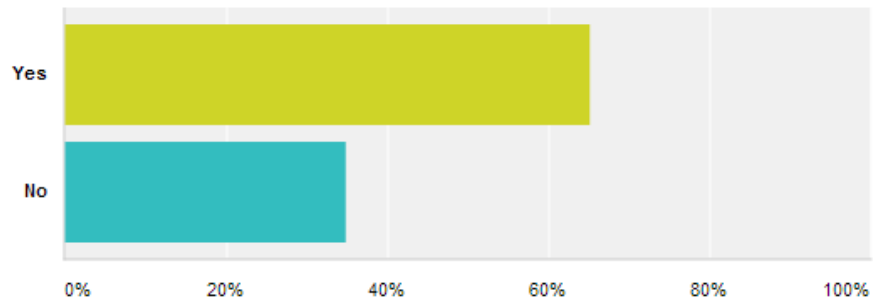
11. These case studies highlight the fact that there are on-going issues at a small number of halls with under-use and with the management practice. The sub-committee believes that these issues would need to be addressed before large amounts of money were spent up-grading and re-developing halls.

## **Tenants Survey**

12. In October, November and December 2012, the scrutiny sub-committee carried out an electronic survey of tenants and residents of council estates regarding TRA Community Halls. The survey was sent via email to approximately 4000 email addresses held by the council. 622 people responded, providing a huge amount of useful information which has informed this scrutiny. The basic outline of the results from the main survey questions is set out in the charts below.

### Do residents on your estate have access to a hall or communal room(s)?

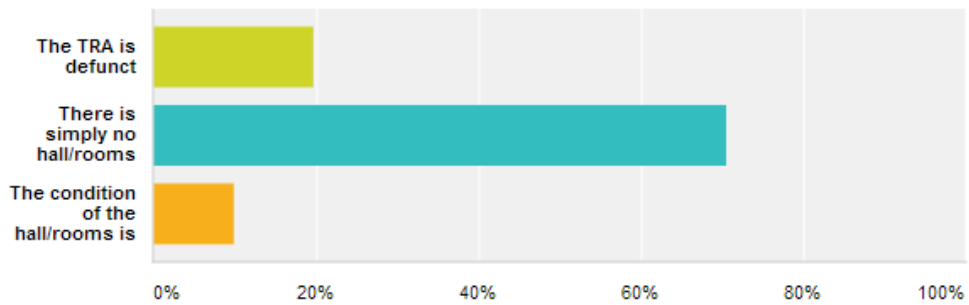
Answered: 608 Skipped: 14



Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	65.13%	396
No	34.87%	212
Total		608

### If you do not have access to a hall or communal room(s), is this because:

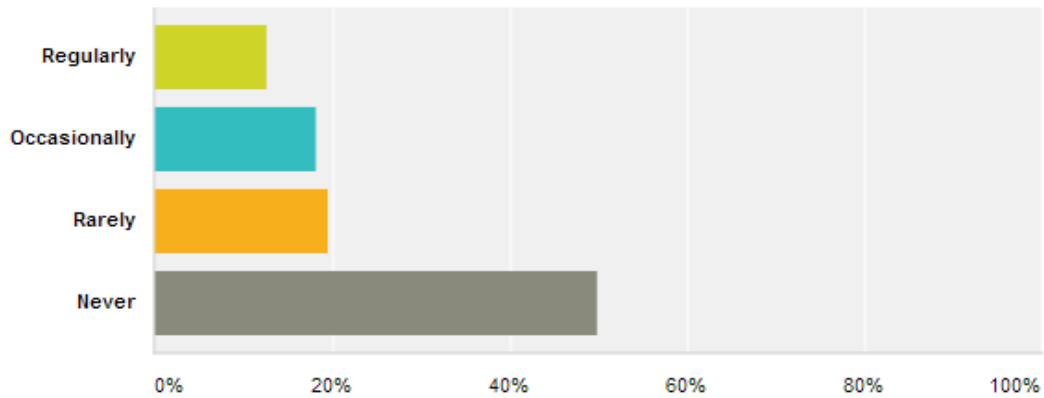
Answered: 112 Skipped: 510



Answer Choices	Responses	
The TRA is defunct	19.64%	22
There is simply no hall/rooms available in our area	70.54%	79
The condition of the hall/rooms is very poor and can no longer be used	9.82%	11
Other (please specify) ( 53 ) <a href="#">Expand</a>		
Total		112

### Do you use the hall/communal facilities on offer...

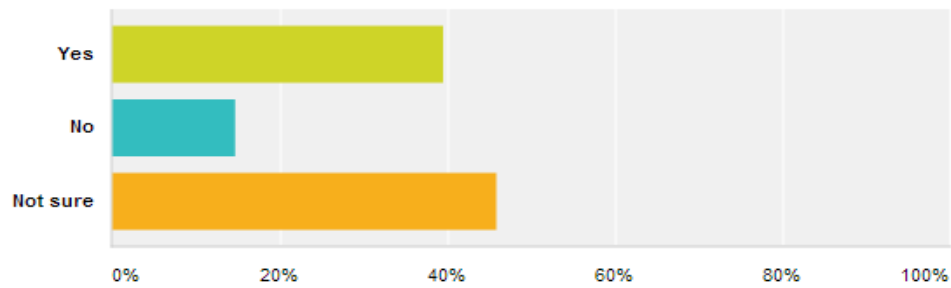
Answered: 359 Skipped: 263



Answer Choices	Responses
Regularly	12.53% 45
Occasionally	18.11% 65
Rarely	19.50% 70
Never	49.86% 179
Total	359

### Do you think everyone living on the estate is made welcome at the TRA Hall/room(s)?

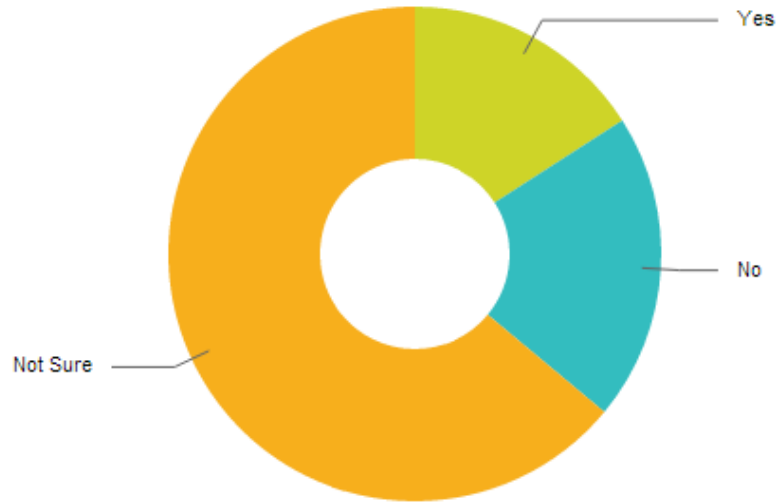
Answered: 362 Skipped: 260



Answer Choices	Responses
Yes	39.50% 143
No	14.64% 53
Not sure	45.86% 166
Total	362

### Is the use of your hall/room(s) ever over-taken or dominated by one particular use or group?

Answered: 358 Skipped: 264



Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	15.92%	57
No	20.11%	72
Not Sure	63.97%	229
Total		358

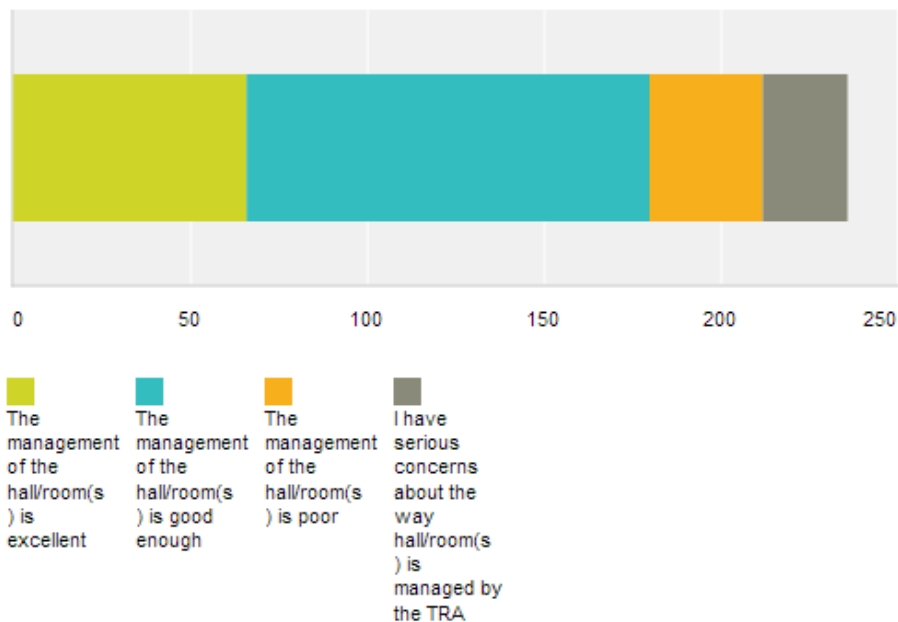
If yes, what is the activity which dominates the use of your hall/room(s)?

Word used	in % of responses
Parties/birthdays/weddings	16%
Church/religious	13%
Meetings	8%
Bingo	5%
Tenants	3%
Youth/young people	5%
Estate management	2%
Children's activities	2%
School activities	2%
Clique	2%



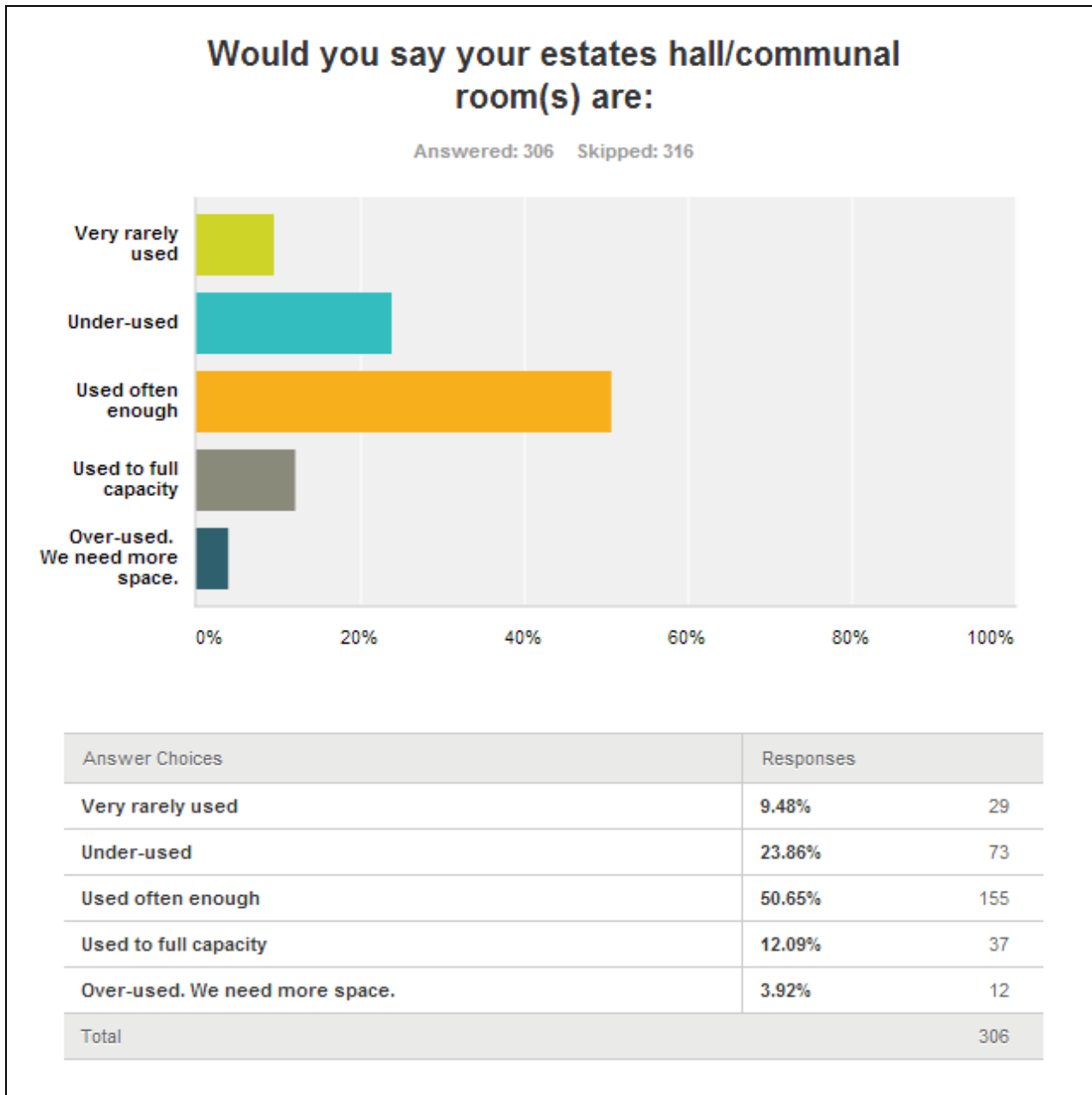
**Tenant and Resident Associations often manage the use halls and communal facilities. TRAs are run by volunteers in their spare time and with a limited budget. How would you describe the management of your hall/room(s)?**

Answered: 236 Skipped: 386



Answer Choices	Responses
The management of the hall/room(s) is excellent	27.97% 66
The management of the hall/room(s) is good enough	48.31% 114
The management of the hall/room(s) is poor	13.56% 32
I have serious concerns about the way hall/room(s) is managed by the TRA	10.17% 24
Other (please specify) ( 110 ) <a href="#">Expand</a>	
Total	236

13. The overall picture for TRAs from the responses given to this question is very positive. 76% of respondents said that management of their hall was either good enough or excellent. The responses did show that there were a number of people with concerns about the TRA on a particular estate. This information will be passed to council officers to see if more support or training can be offered.



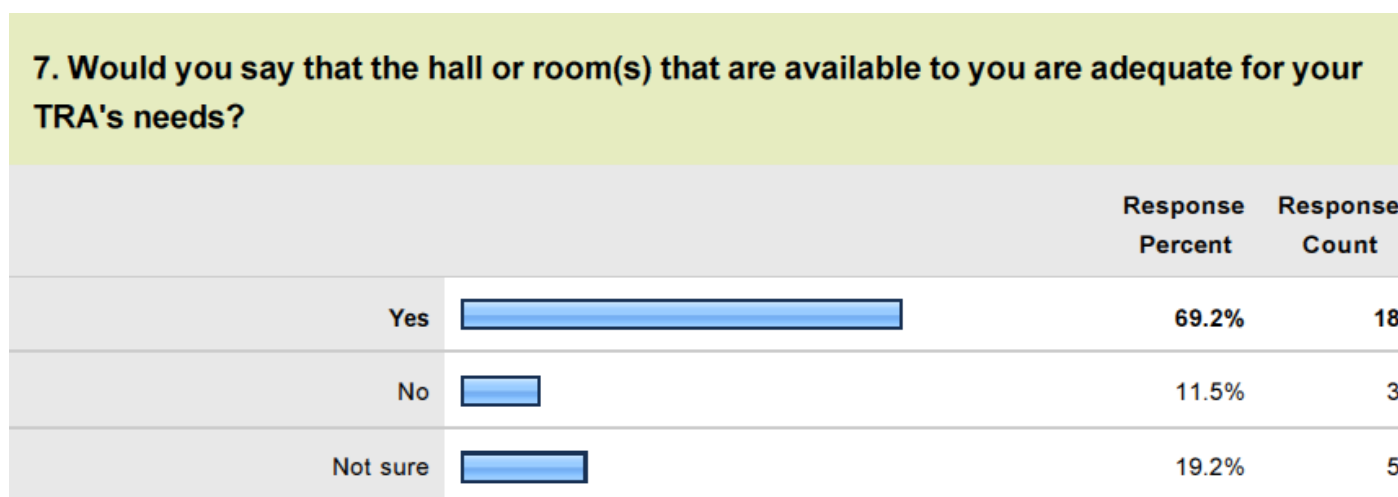
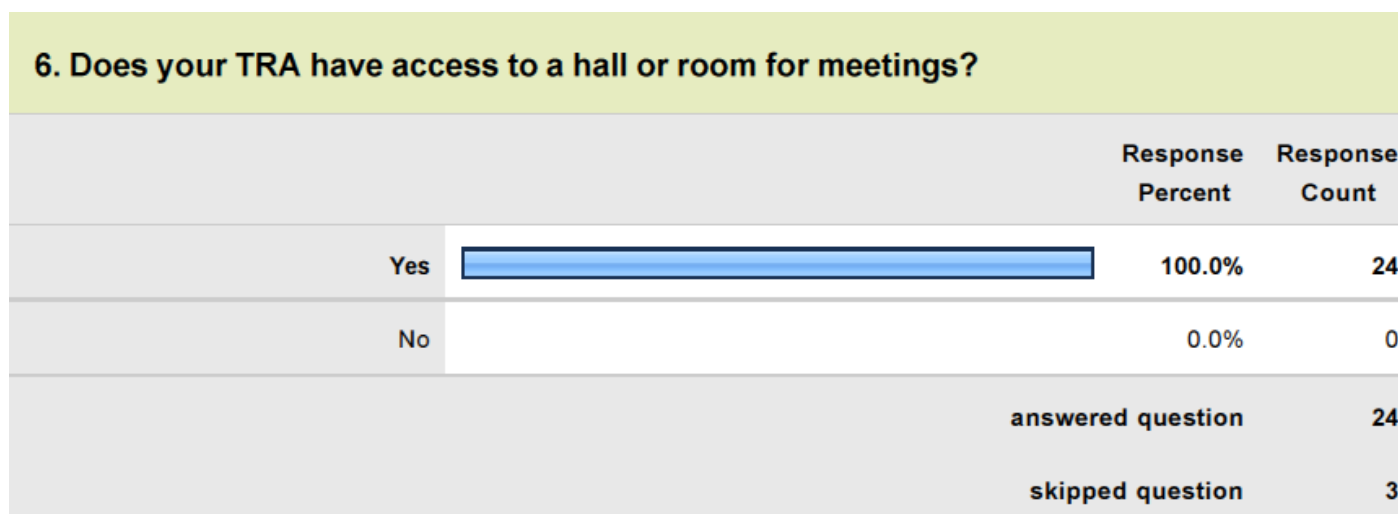
14. Main conclusions and findings of note:

- Usage of halls is not high. Almost 50% of respondents with access to a TRA Community Hall say that they never make use of this facility. A further 20% say that they rarely make use of it.
- 76% of respondents said that management of their hall was either good enough or excellent.
- There is a perception that a small number of TRA Community Halls (16%) are being dominated by one activity in particular. Bookings for parties and religious ceremonies were the two most often cited activities.
- A significant minority of respondents stated that they thought their hall was either under-used or rarely used (34%). Two estates in particular were mentioned most regularly as having halls in these categories.

- "If you could change one thing about the way in which your hall/room(s) are managed, what would it be?" The need for more advertising and information about what goes on in the hall was mentioned by 23 different people. The need for cleaning and decorating was mentioned by 13 people.
- When asked, "If you had concerns about mismanagement or fraud relating to your TRA Hall or room(s), would you know who to go to report these concerns?" 62% of people said they did not know who they would report it to.

## Survey of TRAs

15. During the same period of 2012, the sub-committee also carried out an electronic survey of Tenants and Residents Associations. 27 of them responded and the charts below show the results of this survey.



### 8. How would you describe the amount of use which is made of the hall or room(s)?

		Response Percent	Response Count
They are rarely used		4.2%	1
They are used infrequently		8.3%	2
<b>They are used regularly</b>		<b>54.2%</b>	<b>13</b>
They are constantly in use		33.3%	8
Comments:			8

### 9. If your Hall/room is under-used, would you consider sharing facilities with another estate or organisation, so that the council can make better use of resources?

		Response Percent	Response Count
Yes		17.6%	3
<b>No</b>		<b>58.8%</b>	<b>10</b>
Not Sure		23.5%	4

If you have any other comments on the possibility of sharing facilities, please give them below:

17

#### Comments on sharing:

As long as they contribute to the upkeep and water/electric bills etc

If it was under-used then that could be an option but we are not.

It's used by 3 TRAs, councillors surgeries, elections, and various community activities

N/A our halls are in constant use by all.

Not practical with the Brandon estate as it would create more problems as our room is within the Jack Hobbs club which is leased to C.A.SP. and would create both key holding and insurance problems.

The venue could be used by other groups.

Several other halls have the same problems we do. In some cases the issue is that 1 untrained/unqualified people are 'running' the halls. 2 some TRAs are under the control of a small group of volunteers who are of a particular group and thus excluded other users, often not deliberately but due to time and exclusivity of the group outsiders find it very hard to join in

Sometimes it's hard for the TRA's to get residents to come to a meeting on its own estate to expect residents to go to other estates would not work.

The hall is in constant use, however we would be happy to (and do) make it available for use by neighbouring estates

The use of the hall is maximised because it is also available to and used by other users

They would have to respect, the rules, pay towards the cost. Keeping the place clean. Anything broken must be replaced. Communicate so there will be no double bookings. No body who comes in does not take over, they have to confront with us, about everything that goes on in our Hall. If they do not work we have the right to ask them to leave, and find somewhere else.




This sounds sensible in theory but I would have to put this to the committee. It would depend on the degree of choice we would have over occupancy, ability to charge for use of the rooms or at least cost sharing and avoiding timetable clashes.

We are too busy we would like to enable the swan road TRA to use the hall as they are having problems setting up there TRA again

We have sub groups such as the Better Living Group for the Blind and visually impaired. We also have the Friends of Brayards Estate which involves the wider community. The gardening group the computer group and encourage other groups to link in.

We use our local community centre.

## 11. Is the hall or room(s) over-used for one purpose or by one group?

		Response Percent	Response Count
Yes		16.7%	4
No		79.2%	19
Not Sure		4.2%	1

If yes, what use or group dominates the hall/room(s)?

6

### 13. How would you describe the support your TRA receives from Southwark Council?

		Response Percent	Response Count
The level of support is very poor		12.0%	3
The level of support is poor		28.0%	7
The level of support is adequate		36.0%	9
The level of support is good		12.0%	3
The level of support is excellent		12.0%	3

### 16. Currently, some TRA pay no rent at all for the hire of their hall, whilst others pay a regular amount. Do you think this situation should be left as it is, or should the rents be standardised?

		Response Percent	Response Count
Standardised		22.2%	4
Left as it is		77.8%	14

If you have any comments on rent levels, please give them here:

14

#### Comments:

But remembering the TRA is for the community so rates appropriate.

Have no views. We don't have to pay currently but might in future

I don't think any TRA should pay rent they pay enough out and do enough

I think there should be a overarching policy with variations where appropriate

It would depend on the level of engagement of the TRA - our volunteers are very committed and give a considerable amount of time to the hall, opening and closing for groups, taking bookings, organising and running themselves social events such as community parties, children's events, an annual event for senior citizens etc, as well as running the bar twice a week.

Not sure

Peppercorn rents could be paid from TFMC budget but not from TRAs
Rent should not be charged to TRAs
Some halls are too expensive the hire e.g. Bells and Albrighton for small TRAs who only have £1,100 pa. Halls across LBS should be able to produce income by a scale of charges set on rate of ability to pay this increasing revenue
The level of rent should be looked on for each hall
The ones that pay rent are the bigger ones, which makes sense
This is currently being reviewed by the Tenants Halls Working Party and it would be presumptive of me to comment on the outcome
Those that have halls are able to create income by hiring them out.
We do so much free work for the council every day we should pay no rent

## Training for TRAs

16. The sub-committee expressed a wish to look at what training the council offered to TRA committee members (who are usually responsible for managing TRA Community Halls), particularly in light of some of the issues thrown up by the tenants survey and the TRAs survey.
17. Courses are open to all tenants and residents. The salary of the primary trainers is paid through the Tenants' Levy. Council tenants pay into the Tenants' Levy through their rent and leaseholders pay a contribution through their service charge. According to the trainers themselves, "The training is geared to people who serve on their T&RA committee but we also encourage those who are not on their local committee in the hope that they will join one of the other local community forums which contribute to the consultation programme."
18. The table below shows the training programme on offer to tenants and residents by the Community Engagement Team. Courses are typically 2 ½ - 3 hours in duration and take place at a variety of times during the week. The venue is usually Taplow Area Office or Bells Gardens.

### **Resident Involvement Community Engagement Training Programme October 2012—March 2013**

#### Chairing Skills

"Course description: "For Chairs that want to know how to lead their committee to success and committee members that want to know how they can support the chair that they have elected."

#### Secretary Skills

"Course description: Examines the role of the committee secretary and gives helpful tips for dealing with correspondence, producing agendas, taking notes at meetings and creating effective minutes"

#### Treasurer Skills

Course description: "This course helps you understand committee finances and audited accounts and demonstrates how to keep records of your groups income and expenditure"

#### Committee Skills

Course description: "Together we examine the roles and responsibilities of the Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary, Treasurer and Committee members"

#### Organising an Annual General Meeting (AGM)

Course description: "How much notice do you need to give your members? What information needs to be on your notice letters? You will find the answers to all of your questions in this training session"

#### Resolving Conflict

Course description: "This course gives some practical tips to settling disputes within Tenants and Residents Associations"

#### How to Organise a Fun-day/Event

Course description: "Takes you through the practical steps that help make your event a safe, enjoyable success."

#### How to be Assertive

Course description: "Learn some tips on how to put your point across at meetings"

#### Public Speaking

Course description: "Find yourself lost for words in meetings? Learn some tips on how to present your ideas/objections confidently. This course is in 2 parts and candidates will be required to give a prepared presentation during the final session"

#### Basic Computer Skills

Course description: "Basic Computer Skills for Resource Centre users"

#### Producing Newsletters and Publicity

Course description: "Gives some useful tips on producing eye-catching publicity and newsletters that get read instead of binned. You will spend nearly all of the session on a computer designing a poster"

#### Producing Agendas and Minutes

Course description: "Learn how to produce your groups agendas and minutes using a computer"

#### Involving Everyone

Course description: "A workshop that looks at the barriers committees face to broaden involvement and some possible solutions to get people from all sectors of your community involved and retain their interest."

#### Safeguarding the Vulnerable in our Community

Course description: "This course raises awareness of what to look for and who to contact regarding concerns for the wellbeing of vulnerable Adults and Minors by examining a model Safeguarding Policy"

#### Carrying out Estate Inspections

Course description: "Come along and find out how you can play a role in your local area by working in partnership with your Housing Officer to improve your estate through regular inspections"

#### Understanding the Housing Rent Account (HRA)

Course description: "This course is aimed at Tenants and Residents who work with Southwark Council to agree the Housing expenditure budget using the Annual Report."



**Negotiation Skills - Everyone Wins**

Course description: "Brush up on the art of negotiation using role play -this sessions looks at how to win important debates/disputes without aggression or resorting to behaving badly"

Online courses only**All About Housing**

Course description: "What is Housing? Dealing with Anti-Social Behaviour, Managing a Home, Value for Money, Money Matters—Financial Inclusion"

**Successful Meetings**

Course description: "Problem Solving, conflict Resolution in the workplace/groups, meeting behaviour and problem characters, meeting planning and preparation, conducting effective meetings, an Introduction to Social Media for business"

**Volunteer/Halls Training**

Course description: "Food Hygiene Level 2 City & Guilds, Fire Safety and Evacuation, Health & Safety in the Workplace, First Aid—the Primary Survey, Risk Assessment, Manual Handling, Data Protection"

**Communication Skills**

Course description: "An Introduction to Listening, Introduction to Negotiation, Questioning Skills, Personal Development5, 5Common Core of Skills & Knowledge, Email & the Internet—Office 2007/WindowsVista"

**Equality & Diversity**

Course description: "Cultural Awareness in Safeguarding, an Introduction to Safeguarding Children, Safeguarding Adults (POVA), Understanding Gypsy and Irish Traveller Identity"

**Attendance on courses**

<b>Training Courses delivered April 2012 to 10<sup>th</sup> Jan 2013</b>	<b>Total Attending</b>	<b>Avg attendance per session</b>
Training talk	10	10
Committee skills	75	7
Resolve conflict	20	7
Treasurer skills Part 2	12	6
Chair skills part 2	14	5
Treasurer skills Part 1	23	5
Computer skills	84	4
Public Speaking Part 2	8	4
Secretary skills part 1	17	3
AGM skills	6	3
How to be more assertive	12	3
How to organise a funday	9	3
Secretary skills part 2	14	3

Chair skills part 1	8	3
Chair skills	7	2
	319	4

19. Below are the responses given by TRAs to the training related question in the TRA survey:

<b>What training have members of the TRA committee received in managing the hall/rooms?</b>
Unsure
Adequate enough
Chairing of meetings
Courses run by Southwark resident Involvement as well as SGTO training & courses
Development Trust Association training on sustainability Advancing Assets Programme training and support towards developing a social enterprise Bespoke training via Southwark on managing staff Equal ops in recruitment training Safeguarding training LGBT awareness training H&S trainings First Aid training Fire warden training
Hall Committee will be able to answer this.
Have had chair training and all other training even Southwark events training
I'm not sure, but while I'm fairly new, the other members of the committee have 10 years experience.
None
None
None
none
None
None
None
None at present I understand training is to start soon
Several members of our TRA have been on courses provided by the resident involvement team.
Training by Paulette and Harold, and also I have been a paid premises manager and also managed several multi person houses
We have been trained at a resource centre which has been a great help to the committee
We have residents who are Facility Mangers in their full time work and Club Managers as Hall committee members.
Years of experience

20. These answers present a mixed picture. Clearly there are many TRA Committee members who feel that the training is excellent and the courses well-suited to their needs, but there are also a significant number who do not appear to know what training, if any, is on offer. An additional answer to another question in the survey regarding what additional support might be helpful, the TRA Committee member wrote "I have never had training regarding the hall, so that would be helpful to have." Another TRA Committee member stated in response to the same question: "The council are

expecting TRA's to manage its hall without explaining simply what needs to be done. They send out documents in over complicated fashion that at best the TRA do not understand”

21. The sub-committee has several observations to make regarding the training on offer:
- The table showing take-up of courses reflects the period from April 2012 to present. Additional information provided showed that between April 2012 and December 2012 just 95 different people attended these courses. This is probably due to a combination of factors, most prominent of which is the lack of new people coming forward to get involved in voluntary activity such as running a TRA. However, the sub-committee believes that, in combination with some of the responses to the tenants survey, these figures show us that more could be done to advertise what is on offer and to better suit the courses to the needs of committee members/potential committee members.
  - Clearly lots of work has gone into creating and delivering the training programme, and this appears to be appreciated by TRA Committee members and others who have attended them. The Resident Involvement Team should be congratulated on their work on this programme.
  - The sub-committee feels that there are areas where the programme could be re-modelled and strengthened, in particular with regard to improving the way TRAs engage with residents over activities available in their Community Halls.
  - The Sub-Committee observes that 22 separate courses, some of which are extremely specific in their focus, seems excessive. Courses are run very regularly and often to a very small number of people (an average of 4). The sub-committee wonders if a smaller number of courses covering more general topics might not be more appropriate. TRA Committee members often have very little spare time to attend these courses, and so consolidating some of them may mean that they gain more from the limited amount of time they have available.
  - One TRA Secretary, in conversation with the chair of the sub-committee commented, “What we need is a course on ‘running a TRA hall’. Something that covers everything, from managing room bookings, advertising events and getting the basics right on the finances. Nobody ever tells you how to do this stuff. Once you’re elected, it feels very much like you’re thrown in at the deep-end.” Such a course could then signpost other more detailed training where appropriate.
  - Another TRA committee member pointed out that the treasurer training did not cover auditing of accounts. The sub-committee feels that this important issue should be covered.
  - Feedback for the courses provided is overwhelmingly positive; with virtually no negative comments received whatsoever. This is clearly reflective of the positive experience that those attending have when they attend. However, the sub-committee feels that it may be worth getting a fresh pair of eyes to review the training offer. Perhaps those responsible for delivering training in another part of the council could review the courses currently being delivered.

### **Stock condition survey and capital spend works**

22. A capital sum of £2.1 million has been established for the hall portfolio within the Housing Investment 5-year programme. A dedicated repairs and maintenance budget of £500k per annum has also been set up. £200k of this has been added to the capital sum over the next five years to address the history of lack of investment more quickly. This gives a total capital investment of £3.1 million over the next five years.
23. A full condition survey was carried out to:

- Assess each building and recommend the works required to meet current fire standards
- Assess each building and recommend works required to meet current DDA standards
- Assess the general level of dilapidation within each building and recommend works to rectify any defects noted

24. The September 2012 senior management team paper concluded

“The total estimated cost of works in the survey is manageable within the £3.1million of capital investment that is available over the next 5 years. 48.6% of this cost is for general building works, 13.07% for mechanical/electrical works, 9.8% for fire risk assessment related works and 28.5% for access improvements.”

25. The Stock Condition Survey has identified approximately £2.7million works. The survey includes work to make premises compliant in terms of Health and Safety and DDA but also includes improvement to the fabric and structure of the building. The table below shows the allocations made to phase one of the investment programme.

#### TRA Halls improvement and compliance works – Phase 1

TRA Hall	Area Forum	Amount
Perronet	Borough & Bankside	£10,270
Rockingham (Substantial Risk)	Borough & Bankside	£31,700
Queensborough	Borough & Bankside	£21,750
Astley and Coopers	South Bermondsey	£15,160
Millpond	Bermondsey & Rotherhithe	£27 325
Four Squares	West Bermondsey	£35,700
Silverlock	Rotherhithe	£79 490
Penrose	Walworth West	£83,930
Nelson	Walworth East	£25,500
BACC 84	Aylesbury	£18,000 (likely not to be spent as part of first phase of Aylesbury decant – immediate H&S issues resolved)
Brandon 3	Camberwell West	£29,730
Albrighton	Camberwell East	Complete

Glebe	Camberwell East	£6,935
Buchan	Nunhead & Peckham Rye	£38,075
Brimtonroy	Nunhead & Peckham Rye	£19,020
Consort	Nunhead & Peckham Rye	£28,620
Bells Garden	Peckham	£32,200
Unwin & Friary	Peckham	£17,480
Sydenham	Dulwich	£17,225
Croxted Road	Dulwich	<u>Complete</u>

26. The approach by officers over-seeing the capital investment has been to consult with TRAs before any work is carried out to ensure:
1. It is value for money
  2. The work carried out makes a difference to the TRA and users
  3. Work programme compliments any works planned by individual TRAs
  4. Any major spend will be carried out in tandem with regularising occupation, agreement for implementation of a hire agreement and other good governance arrangements
27. As mentioned above, the Tenants Halls Working Party has been established that is meeting regularly as a consultative body on the management arrangements and to set future aims, priorities and policy objectives. The criteria to establish selection and phasing of Capital Works has been agreed by the working party:
- Compliance – Is there a immediate and significant risk to users
  - Governance – Are they any prevailing issues
  - Bang for our Buck test (proportion of spend vs size of facility, number of users)
  - Alternative Facilities in the Area (looking at the wider Community Sector portfolio and opportunities for rationalisation/maximising usage)
  - Future Proof (DDA compliant, Sustainability)
  - Alternative Uses (Hidden Homes)
  - 'If it was you money' test
  - 'Gold' factor – any project that stands out or has the Wow factor or leveraging in external funding or partnership working.
28. The sub-committee is aware that the Tenants Halls Working Party has been working constructively with officers to move forward the TRA Halls investment programme. It should be noted that the

early part of the scheme has been dominated by investment decisions that are relatively uncontroversial. A point will come in the not too distant future when more difficult decisions will need to be confronted. The main difficulties will be in considering investment in properties where two conditions apply:

1. Where it is simply impossible to make the hall compliant with the Disability Discrimination Act
  2. Where there are already alternative facilities available in the area, and there is the possibility of sharing taking place.
29. TRA Community Halls which fit either (or both) of these criteria might then be converted into new council homes. Clearly, decisions of this type need to be made in conjunction with the TRAs concerned. The sub-committee would recommend that all parties enter into these discussions in a constructive way. We would suggest two guiding principles with regard to these decisions:
1. Where potential sharing or DDA compliance are clearly issues, the council must not waste money by inappropriately upgrading TRA community halls simply because this is the line of least resistance. Where conversion into new council homes is appropriate, both TRAs and council officers must recognise the important of securing value for money.
  2. Where TRA community halls are converted into new council homes, comparable replacement facilities must be made available either through sharing another nearby hall or by other means (e.g. new build).

### Occupation Agreements for HRA Community Halls

30. During the scrutiny process the sub-committee was made aware by officers that very few TRAs have any formal agreement with the council setting out their rights and responsibilities on issues such as:
- day to day management
  - repairs, health and safety
  - rent and service charge
31. The sub-committee considers a standard agreement would be advisable in order to give greater protection to both TRAs and the council and offer greater consistency and fairness to all TRAs across the borough. For example, some TRAs have agreements, some do not, some pay nominal rent, some do not. In addition, occupation agreements are necessary for many external funding applications
32. Options for the different types of agreement were set out by officers in Resident Engagement. These options are quoted below:

#### **Types of Agreement**

Generally there are a number forms of agreement that cover occupation of council owned premises. Each have advantages and disadvantages.

**Freehold-** Has full responsibility and ownership of the land and building. Freeholds are rarely transferred (if ever) by the Council as it does not give the Council any interest or influence in the Property and its future use.

**Lease** (term of over 3 years). The most secure form of tenancy (for Landlord and Tenants). Business Tenancies that are contracted in the 1954 Landlord and Tenant Act give certain rights of the tenant to review once the lease expires (with certain exceptions). Often include break clauses (with notice period, rent reviews and either Full Repairing and Insuring (FRI) or internal repairing responsibilities to the tenant. Funders often expect leases to be in place before considering funding applications.

**Tenancy Agreement** (term of 3 years less 1 day). Normally for non business tenancies.

**Tenancy at Will.** Allows occupation of property owned by another until such time as the landlord or tenant gives notice of termination of the tenancy (usually 30 days) which may be given at any time. A tenancy at will is created by agreement between the tenant and the landlord, but it cannot be transferred by the tenant to someone else since the landlord controls the right to occupy.

**Licence to Occupy** gives a business the right to occupy another's property for a specific time frame. Usually, this time period is short term and the property is not rented exclusively. Other occupants and the landlord can also occupy that space. In law the landlord will hold the rights of possession. However, the landlord can state that once a business signs the agreement they are responsible for partial possession. In a licence to occupy you cannot renew the licence once the landlord asks you to leave. Most Licences to Occupy are short term.

**Management Agreement** A contract between the owner of income-producing property and another, who will manage the property. Management companies offer a wide variety of services and fee schedules, some charging a percentage of collected rents in return for a package of services and others charging a different fee for minimal services and then a menu of extras for varying charges.

**Informal Occupation or usage.** Does not provide any protection or sets out responsibilities of landlord and tenant. Puts both the tenant and Landlord at risk.

33. Having looked at the evidence and considered how best to maximise protection without the system becoming unwieldy and bureaucratic, the sub-committee believes that "Tenancy at Will" agreements appear to be the most attractive option. However, they include the drawback of requiring individual liability for failure to comply with the terms of the agreement (which might discourage people from putting themselves forward for TRA positions.)
34. These types of agreements are far more flexible but would enable the council and TRAs to formalise an agreement on how halls can and should be run. Whichever option is pursued, officers should avoid placing an onerous bureaucratic burden on both the council and TRAs. This matter is pursued further in the recommendations.

### **Equitable Rents policy**

35. Clearly a key element of the new Tenancy at Will Agreement will be the specified rent levels. The sub-committee considers that the current situation with rents is unfair and unsustainable. The table below shows the current state of charges made to TRA Community Halls. TRAs not mentioned in the table are not paying any rent or charges whatsoever.

FULL ADDRESS	SUM OF PAYMENTS 2011-2012
T&Ra Clubroom (1), Marsland Clo, Pasley Est, London	1321.15
Clubroom (1), T&Ra Marie Curie, Southampton Way, Sceaux Gardens Est, London, SE5 7DH	1321.15
Grosvenor T&Ra Hall, 41 Grosvenor Park, Camberwell, London, SE5 0NJ	1319.25
T&Ra Magdalen T Hall, Tower Bridge Rd, Purbrook Est, London	1256.25
T&Ra T/Hall(1a), Neptune St, London, London	1231.24
T&Ra T/Hall(1), Asylum Rd, Brimington Est, London	1205.55
T&Ra Doubtfire Hall, Tatum St, Congreve Est, London	1124.44
T/Hall(1), T&Ra Tissington Ct, Luxford St, London, London	1124.36
T&Ra Tranton Rd, Tranton Rd, Keetons Est, London, SE16	1124.36
T&Ra T/Hall(1), Buchan Rd, London, London, SE15 3HS	1120.95
T&Ra Clubroom (1), Wyndham Rd, Wyndham Est, London	1090.74
T&Ra T/Hall(1), Cossall Walk, Cossall Est, London, SE15	1065.60
T&Ra Clubroom (2), Wyndham Rd, Wyndham Est, London	1030.86
T&Ra T/Hall (1), Canterbury Pl, Newington Est, London, SE17	979.95
T&Ra T/Hall(1), Renforth St, Canada Est, London, SE16	866.35
T&Ra Telfer Hse Nres, Seeley Drive, Kingswood Est, London, SE21	861.25
H.T.R.A.Room, T&Ra Tissington Ct, Luxford St, London, London, SE16 2AG	846.34
T&Ra Andrews Walk, John Ruskin St, Brandon Est, London, SE17 3JQ	821.15
Bill Westcott Room T&Ra Hall, 232 Camberwell Rd, Castlemead Est, London	767.66
T&Ra T/Hall (1), Peckham Rye, Rye Hill Est, London, SE15	699.84
T&Ra Sydenham Hill Tenants & Residents Hall, Sydenham Hill, Sydenham Hill Esta, Forest Hill, London, SE23 3PL	563.70
T&Ra Thomson Hse N-Res, Beckway St, Alvey Est, London, SE17 IT3	532.07
T&Ra Wickway Community Centre, Cator Street, Gloucester Grove Estate, Peckham, London, SE15	426.12
T&Ra New Place Sq Nres, New Place Sq, New Place Est, London	408.07
T&Ra Browning Tenants Hall, 57-59 Browning Street, Walworth, London, SE17 1DB	392.90
15 Fairwall House Glebe Estate, Peckham Road, London, SE5 8QW	350.00
Tenants Room, T&Ra Grasmere Point, Old Kent Rd, Tustin Est, London, SE15	296.00
T&Ra Clubroom (1), Croxted Rd, Croxted Road Est, London, SE21	286.04
T&Ra Courthope Hse Nres, Lower Rd, London, London, SE16 2XH	145.60
T&Ra T/Hall(1), Crawford Rd, Crawford Est, London	61.79
T&Ra Millpond Tenants Hall, 210 Jamaica Rd, London, SE16 4RT	24.36
T&Ra Flt 5 524, Lordship La, London, London, SE22	23.40
T&Ra Ps & St (B), Redcross Way, Marshalsea Est, London, SE1	23.40
T&Ra Bradenham, Boyson Rd, Aylesbury Est, London, SE17 2BA	14.04
T&Ra Trafalgar Hse, East St, Nelson Est, London, SE17 2HF	8.84

36. There is a significant problem with Southwark's data collection systems regarding rents and charges made for TRA Community Halls. The table above is almost certainly not a complete picture of the charges made for halls. Officers provided this information with the comment that it should be taken with a pinch of salt as not all TRA Halls are correctly categorised on Iworld system. The best guess of officers is that total income from rents and charges for TRA Community Halls is in the region of £47,000 for 53 halls.
37. The mess which is represented in this table of rents and charges cannot be allowed to continue.



## TRA Hall Management models in other boroughs

38. The sub-committee asked officers to look into recent developments and changes being made to the management of TRA Community Halls in other London boroughs. The table below shows that a number of London boroughs are looking at the arrangements they have in place and, in particular, there is a trend towards formalising long-standing informal arrangements.

Authority	Policy	Management Model
Kensington & Chelsea	Undertaking major review including use. Mainly verbal historical arrangements in place. No formal policy in place as yet	Managed by TMO. Looking for residents to book online. Residents have £7 per hour, non residents £25 per hour. This income comes straight to the Council. Have caretakers on site, some arrangements with TRA for weekend opening. under goodwill. 15 Halls in total
Islington	Carrying out review. Was an ALMO now back in-house. Having a VCS review across the whole sector. Looking at sharing premises. Nothing further until review is completed	
Lewisham	Manage a combination of community centres to TRA clubroom. Also manage Community Shopfronts (CAB).	Lewisham Homes (ALMO). Some are supported by Community Support Unit. There is an "Asset Rationalisation Process" taking place. Individual arrangements, very piecemeal. Some stock transfer to TMOs.
Tower Hamlets	No leases. Tenancies at Will at moment (£1 per day). This is has established a formal Landlord/Tenant relationship. FRA works in progress and compliance. No Market Rent policy in place but awaiting Cabinet Sign off. Limited to waterproof and Weatherproof and Health & Safety.	
Westminster	City West Homes manage Housing Stock, Knight Frank their commercial portfolio.	They are an ALMO. Estate offices – managed locally or delegated to TRAs (45) and formal agreements (4), monitored on an annual a basis. They have a Halls Working Review Group. Charge rent, keep income and Internal Repairs. Have sliding scale for community groups.  Looking at Governance and beefing up Audit. Having a VCS review to ensure every building is well used (disposals)

## Possible examples of Fraud

39. The sub-committee considered examples of cases of financial irregularity which gave details of the particular circumstances and also the action taken by the council in response. This evidence was considered in closed meeting and a copy is available as a closed appendix.

## Whistle-blowing

40. The sub-committee requested sight of the council's whistle-blowing procedure for tenants and residents who have concerns about fraud or mismanagement in the running of TRA community halls. Unfortunately there is no such procedure. The council's wider ranging whistle-blowing provisions relate almost entirely to councillors and officers.
41. The sub-committee was informed that the custom and practice has been for those with concerns to contact someone at the council and that this is then referred to RSM Tenon (auditors).
42. The sub-committee believes that it is important to have a whistle-blowing agreement in place as a matter of urgency. The most preferable vehicle for delivering this would be for the whistle-blowing procedure to appear as an appendix to the new tenancy at will agreements between the council and the TRAs. The details and the wording of the whistle-blowing procedure should be agreed with the Tenants Halls Working Party.

## Provision across the borough

43. The sub-committee expressed a wish to ensure that TRAs across the borough had access to at least some facilities to carry out their activities. As the table below suggests there are some large estates without a TRA community hall. Clearly some of these estates will have in place alternative arrangements (such as sharing premises with neighbouring estates) but this does give an indication of the problem that some TRAs face.
44. The map below shows where TRA Community Halls are situated in the borough. Officers have informed the chair of the sub-committee that information on this map may be incomplete and that further work is being done to maintain a fully accurate map. However, for the purposes of this scrutiny, the map is still of some indicative use. Clearly this shows a concentration of halls in Walworth and other, more specific parts of the North of the Borough. It also shows that there are very few TRA Community Halls in the South of the borough.
45. However, the sub-committee believes that it is important that we do not pretend to start from a blank sheet of paper. HRA Community Halls have thrived in certain parts of the borough for a reason and their location, in part, reflects the tenant population of these parts of the borough.
46. There is potential for a better use of resources in some parts of the borough and a need to address gaps in provision in others. The recommendations in this report seek to address these issues with reference to the sharing of some facilities, both between TRAs and with the Community and Voluntary Sector, where this can be mutually agreed.



## Sharing with the voluntary and community sector (VCS)

47. Having received evidence from officers, the sub-committee believes that more could be done by the council to address the lack of provision in TRA Community Halls in some parts of borough by matching TRA with other voluntary and community sector premises. Clearly voluntary organisations have premises that TRAs could use and voluntary organisations are already users of existing 'TRA' spaces.
48. The VCS estate currently comprises of approximately 73 properties that can be summarised as follows:
  - Council premises used by the VCS where rents are subsidised and departments pay the rent on behalf of that organisation to property
  - Council premises used by the VCS where groups have entered into lease agreements with the council (or not in some cases) and rents are paid directly to property
  - Council run and managed properties which may be occupied by the VCS tenants e.g. Sojourner Truth, Willowbrook, Bellenden Old School
49. With the appointment of a VCS Premises Officer and a VCS Portfolio Manager in Property in August 2010 there is now a clear channel to pursue greater sharing of premises between VCS and TRAs.
50. A working party has been formed to work through the issues relating to VCS occupation of council premises. The working group will review the issues facing the VCS regarding premises and seek practical solutions to support more efficient use of DDA and H&S compliant premises.
51. A mapping exercise has taken place using various sources of data – resulting in a GIS page showing all VCS groups that exist within Southwark being published on the council's website. Work is also ongoing in conjunction with Community Action Southwark to develop a facility for VCS organisations and individuals to search for room and facilities available for hire across the borough.
52. The sub-committee would suggest (see recommendations) that the TRA Working Party should develop a list of TRAs which it feels are lacking in premises to carry out their activities and that officers should then develop a list of VCS venues with the potential to meet that need.

## Conclusions and Recommendations

**1) HRA Community Halls data held by the council:** The council does not currently have a comprehensive database of its own TRA Halls which provides detailed information on the status, rent, location and management contacts for every hall. As the Senior Management Team Paper referred to in this report notes: "Collection and maintenance of management information has been poor with inadequate arrangements for checks on aspects of their management and condition. At times this has been over reliant on voluntary submission of information rather than proactive checking by the council." Given that these are highly valuable assets, it is important that up to date information is kept on all these properties. The council should never be "unsure" about the status of any of its TRA Halls.

The sub-committee recommends that, as part of the capital investment programme, the current data is refreshed, subsequently kept fully up to date and systems put in place to ensure that this data never becomes out-dated again.

**2) Advertising Training:** The sub-committee believes more could be done to advertise what is on offer via training paid for via the Tenants' Levy. We would recommend that the Tenants Hall Working Party discuss a new communications plan for the training programme to ensure as many tenants as possible know about the courses on offer.

**3) Composite Courses:** The sub-committee has made the observation that offering 22 separate courses may be excessive and that it may be advisable to cut the number of courses and consolidate training. In particular we would recommend a course entitled "How to run a TRA Hall" which covered the basics of running halls. This is a suggestion put to the sub-committee by the Chair of a TRA.

**4) Training feedback:** The sub-committee considered the feedback statistics on the training currently provided. This feedback is overwhelmingly positive; with virtually no negative comments received whatsoever. This is clearly reflective of the positive experience of those attending. However, the sub-committee feels that it may be worth getting a fresh pair of eyes to review the training on offer.

The sub-committee recommends that the TRA Halls Working Party commissions officers to review the training offer and the method for collecting feedback.

**5) Tenancy agreements:** The sub-committee believes that it is no longer acceptable for the Council and TRAs to manage their relationship regarding TRA Community Halls according to a mish-mash of leases, tenancies and informal arrangements. The case study examples given by officers show there is a need to put this relationship on a formal footing which makes clear the responsibilities of all parties with regard to the halls. The sub-committee also believes that, to ensure fairness and consistency, all TRA community halls managed by TRAs should be subject to the same standard agreement. The sub-committee would ask that officers investigate the legal and administrative issues further and work with TRA to introduce a standardized system at the earliest opportunity.

**6) A fair rents system:** The sub-committee believes that it is wrong and unfair that some TRAs are paying significant amounts of money in rent and charges, whilst others are paying nothing. The sub-committee does not believe that the council should be seeking to make *additional* money from the rents paid by TRAs for halls. Further, we believe that the rents which are paid should be fair and that all TRAs should be making at least some contribution, no matter how small. Our suggestion would be that the Halls are categorised by officers (and agreed with the tenants halls working party) according to their revenue raising potential. The rent levels should then be set according to the revenue raising potential of the hall itself. However, because the total amount of money collected will not rise and because there will be 50+ additional halls making at least some contribution, the rent being paid even by higher category halls should be far from punitive.

The sub-committee recommends that officer draw up a new rents system based on the principle of halls with greater revenue raising potential paying more, but with the overall rent receipt for the council remaining unchanged.

**7) Provision across the borough:** The sub-committee believes that it is important that we do not pretend to start from a blank sheet of paper. TRA Community Halls have thrived in certain parts of the borough for a reason and their location, in part, reflects the tenant population of these parts of the borough. There is potential for a better use of resources in some parts of the borough and a need to address gaps in provision in others. The sub-committee would recommend that officers are tasked with identifying those TRAs which are genuinely struggling for space to carry out their meetings and activities. Once a list has been drawn up officers should work with those TRA in identifying possible sharing arrangements with the variety of other council owned premises and community spaces which may be local to those TRAs.

**8) Advertising and information to boost involvement and use of halls:** It is interesting that 70% of people state that they never or rarely use the TRA Community Hall that they have access to. Of those who said they had never used the hall in the survey, a number of the comments indicated that they knew very little about what the hall was used for or even if they were allowed to use it. It was also noticeable that when tenants were asked how the running of their hall might be improved a significant number volunteered that better advertising and more information would be very welcome. To address this issue the sub-committee recommends that all TRAs have a website, a physical bulletin board outside of the TRA and a quarterly newsletter. New residents on estates should also be informed of the contact details of their TRA. The sub-committee suggests that these actions be taken up as part of the work programme of the TRA Halls Working Party who can then communicate with both officers and TRAs to identify what further resources and training could be provided to implement this recommendation.

**9) TRA Community Halls where there is acute under-use:** Clearly, for some TRA Community Halls the problem of under-use is more acute and needs more urgent attention. For some of these halls the situation is now finally coming to a head because of the council's multi-million pound investment programme. The council simply cannot justify investing £60,000 – £120,000 to revamp buildings which are being left virtually unused, particularly when these buildings could be converted in to new council homes. The sub-committee suggests the following principle be applied:

Where a hall is being used less than 15% of the time during “core hours”, the hall should not receive significant financial investment and it should be scheduled for conversion into new homes (where this is possible).

The definition of “core hours” could be informed by contributions from the Tenants Halls Working Party. A list of halls which officers suspect may be acutely under-used should be brought before the Working Party. Once agreed, halls on this list should be subject to an assessment. The assessment could be made over a one month reference period and informed by a diary of events provided by the TRA itself. The assessment should be up-to-date, rather than based on historic information about usage. Where lack of investment may be a central reason for under-use, discretion should be applied.

**10) Defunct TRAs:** Where the TRA is defunct and the hall is not being used at all, the building should be considered for conversion into new homes.

**11) Stock Condition:** The sub-committee is aware that the Tenants Halls working Party has been working constructively with officers to move forward the TRA Halls investment programme. It should be noted that the early part of the scheme has been dominated by investment decisions that are relatively uncontroversial. A point will come in the not-too distant future more difficult decisions will need to be confronted. The main difficulties will be in considering investment in properties where two conditions apply:

a) Where it is simply impossible to make the Hall compliant with the Disability Discrimination Act

- b) Where there are already alternative facilities available in the area, and there is the possibility of sharing taking place.

TRA Community Halls which fit either (or both) of these criteria might then be converted into new council homes. Clearly, decisions of this type need to be made in conjunction with the TRAs concerned. The sub-committee would recommend that all parties enter into these discussions in a constructive way. We would suggest two guiding principles with regard to these decisions:

Where potential sharing or DDA compliance are clearly issues, the council must not waste money by inappropriately upgrading TRA community halls simply because this is the line of least resistance. Where conversion into new council homes is appropriate, both TRAs and council officers must recognise the important of securing value to money.

Where TRA community halls are converted into new council homes, comparable replacement facilities must be made available either through sharing another nearby hall or by other means (e.g. new build).

**12) Whistle-blowing procedure:** In the tenants survey 62% of people said that, if they became aware of fraudulent activity or mis-management, they would not know who they would report it to. This is unsurprising as neither the council nor TRAs have a standard whistle-blowing procedure in place with regard TRA Community Halls. The sub-committee believes that it is important to have a whistle-blowing agreement in place as a matter of urgency. The most preferable vehicle for delivering this would be for the whistle-blowing procedure to appear as an appendix to the new tenancy agreements between the council and the TRAs. The details and the wording of the whistle-blowing procedure should be agreed with the Tenants Halls Working Party and should include a role in whistle-blowing for ward councillors.

**13) Multiple key-holders:** Several of the case studies show the problems that can arise when just one person literally “holds the key” to a HRA Community Hall. The sub-committee would recommend that for every TRA Community Hall, there are at least two, and ideally three individuals given keys to the premises. For security reasons, the sub-committee believes there should be a maximum of 3 keys in circulation at any one time.

**14) Multiple signature withdrawals.** Fraud is rare in Southwark’s TRAs, but we must always be vigilant over safe-guarding against financial malpractice. As the case studies on possible examples of fraud showed, the practice of allowing single signature withdrawals from HRA Community Hall bank accounts is inadvisable. Even in situations where the single signatory’s conduct has always been beyond reproach, this is an unwise arrangement. New committee members come and go, and where a system has been adopted with one person in mind, there may soon be another person put in their place. The sub-committee recommends that all Southwark TRAs handling money generated through TRA Community Halls should operate a system of multi-signatory withdrawals.

## Appendix 1 - Full list of TRA Halls and rooms

Tenant Halls Status	Hall name	Hall address 1	Hall address 2	Hall address 3	Postcode	TRA	Type	TRA List Status
	Kinglake Hall	Wolverton	Sedan Way	London	SE17 2AA			
Closed hall (H&S)	Goschen (Hall 1)	Boundary House	Bethwin Road	Camberwell	SE5 0YD			
Closed hall (H&S)	Goschen (Hall 2)	Causton House	Bethwin Road	Camberwell	SE5 0YF			
Closed hall (H&S)	Jessie Duffet TRA (Large hall) Hall hiring suspended. Not available for public hire till further notice (03/10/11)	Wyndham Rd			SE5 0UB	Wyndham and Comber TRA	TRA	Recognised
Closed hall (H&S)	Jessie Duffet TRA (Small hall) Hall Hiring Suspended (Not available for public hire ) 03/10/11	Wyndham Rd			SE5 0UB	Wyndham and Comber TRA	TRA	Recognised
Closed hall (H&S)	Nunhead Green Community Centre	56 Nunhead Lane	Nunhead		SE15 3TU	Brookstone & Nunhead	TRA	Defunct
Closed hall (H&S)	Priory Court Tenants Hall	Cheltenham Rd		London	SE15			
Closed hall (other use)	Heygate Hall - Large Clubroom	25 Brandon Street	Heygate Estate	London	SE17 1NA	Heygate Estate TRA	TRA	Dissolved
Closed hall (other use)	Heygate TA - Small Clubroom	Deacon Way	Heygate Estate		SE17	Heygate Estate TRA	TRA	Dissolved
Demolished	Acorn TRA	Carlton Grove	Acorn Estate	London	SE15 2UD	Acorn TRA	TRA	Recognised



Demolished	Amersham Community Centre	Inville Rd		London	SE17 2HY			
Hall (empty)	Camberwell Grove Estate TRA Hall	Grove Court	Camberwell Grove	Camberwell	SE5 8RG			
Hall (empty)	Kean House	Doddington Grove		London	SE17 3TA			
Hall (empty)	Oliver Goldsmith	Hardcastle House	Marmont Road	London	SE15 5TA	Oliver Goldsmith TRA	TRA	Defunct
Hall (empty)	Sceaux Gardens 'washroom'	Ground floor, Marie Curie	Sceaux Gardens	London	SE5			
Hall (in use)	Abbeyfield	Maydew House	Abbeyfield Estate	Rotherhithe	SE16 2NP	Abbeyfield TRA	TRA	Recognised
Hall (in use)	Alberta Tenants Room	The Old Wash House	Penton Place	Walworth	SE17 3JT	Alberta TRA	TRA	Recognised
Hall (in use)	Albrighton Community Centre	37 Albrighton Road	East Dulwich Estate	Camberwell	SE22 8AH	East Dulwich Estate TRA	TRA	Recognised
Hall (in use)	Alvey Tenants Room	Thomson House	Beckway Street	Walworth		Alvey TRA	TRA	Recognised
Hall (in use)	Astley Cooper TA (ASCO TA)	375 Old Kent Rd	Wessex House		SE1 5JQ	ASCO TRA	TRA	Recognised
Hall (in use)	Aylton Estate Tenants' Hall	Renforth Street		London	SE16			
Hall (in use)	BACC 84	Unit 2, 2D Level	Bradenham	Boyson Road	SE17 2BA	BACC 84 TRA (Bradenham)	TRA	Recognised
Hall (in use)	Bells Gardens Community Centre	19 Buller Close			SE15 6UJ	Bells Gardens TRA	TRA	Recognised

Hall (in use)	Bew Court Tenants Hall	Lordship Lane	East Dulwich	London	SE22	Lordship Lane and Melford Court TRA	TRA	Recognised
Hall (in use)	Brandon 1 TRA / Jack Hobbs Club	Maddock Way	Brandon Estate	Walworth	SE17 3NQ	Brandon 1 TRA	TRA	Recognised
Hall (in use)	Brandon 3 Senior Citizen Club 1	Grimsell Path			SE5 0TB	Brandon 3 TRA	TRA	Recognised
Hall (in use)	Brandon 3 TRA Hall	32 Andrews Walk	Hillingdon St		SE17 3JQ	Brandon 3 TRA	TRA	Recognised
Hall (in use)	Brenchley Gardens Community Hall	145a Brenchley Gardens	Forest Hill	London	SE23 3RF	Brenchley Gardens TRA	TRA	Recognised
Hall (in use)	Brimmington Hall	2 Culmore Rd			SE15 2RQ	Brimtonroy	TRA	Recognised
Hall (in use)	Browning Tenants Hall	57-59 Browning Street		London	SE17 1DB	Browning EMB	TMO	Recognised
Hall (in use)	Buchan TRA	Buchan Rd	Nunhead		SE15 3HF	Buchan Tenants TRA	TRA	Recognised
Hall (in use)	Canada Tenants Hall	Columbia Point	Moodkee Street	Canada Estate	SE16 7BB	Canada Estate TRA	TRA	Recognised
Hall (in use)	Castlemead (Bill Westcott Room)	232 Camberwell Rd			SE5	Castlemead TRA	TRA	Recognised
Hall (in use)	Castlemead TRA Hall	236 Camberwell Rd			SE5 0EA	Castlemead TRA	TRA	Recognised
Hall (in use)	Clifton Estate	Clayton Road	Clifton Estate	Nunhead	SE15 5EH	Clifton TRA	TRA	Recognised
Hall (in use)	Conant & Rutley TRA Hall	St Agnes Place	Conant House		SE11 4AU	Conant & Rutley TRA	TRA	Recognised

Hall (in use)	Consort Wivenhoe TA Hall	29 Philip Walk	Consort Estate	Nunhead	SE15 3NH	Consort TRA	TRA	Recognised
Hall (in use)	Cossall TRA	48 Mortlock Close	Peckham		SE15 2TR	Cossall Estate TRA	TRA	Recognised
Hall (in use)	Countisbury House	Crecent Wood Road		Dulwich	SE26 6SB			
Hall (in use)	Crawford TRA	Lowth Rd			SE5 9EP	Crawford TRA	TRA	Recognised
Hall (in use)	Croxted Road TRA Hall	25 Kennolds	Croxted Road	London	SE21 8SS	Croxted Road TRA	TRA	Recognised
Hall (in use)	Decima Street Hall	Decima Street	Meakin Estate	London	SE1	Decima TRA	TRA	Recognised
Hall (in use)	Denmark Hill Community Centre	Denmark Hill	Blanchdowne		SE5 8HL	Bessemer Grange TRA	TRA	Recognised
Hall (in use)	Dodson & Amigo Hall	Amigo House	Morley Street	London	SE1 7QE	Dodson and Amigo TRA	TRA	Recognised
Hall (in use)	Doubtfire Hall	Tatum Street		London	SE17 1QR	Congreve & Barlow TRA	TRA	Disputed
Hall (in use)	Draper TRA	Draper Community Hall	1 Howell Walk	Draper Estate	SE1 6TL	Draper Estate TRA	TRA	Recognised
Hall (in use)	Elizabeth	St Mathews House	Phelp Street	Walworth	SE17 2PJ	Elizabeth TRA	TRA	Recognised
Hall (in use)	Elmington TRA Hall	2 Owgan Close	Elmington Estate	Camberwell		Elmington T&RA	TRA	Recognised
Hall (in use)	Four Squares TRA	1 Marden Square			SE16 2HZ	Four Squares TRA	TRA	Recognised
Hall (in use)	Friern Road	397 Friern Road	Friern Estate	East Dulwich		Friern Road TRA	TRA	Recognised

Hall (in use)	Gateway Estate Tenants Hall	2 Dartford Street		Walworth		Gateway TRA	TRA	Recognised
Hall (in use)	Gilesmead Estate Tenants Hall	Vicarage Grove	Camberwell	London	SE5 7LN	Gilesmead TRA	TRA	Recognised
Hall (in use)	Glebe Estate Tenants Room	15 Fairwall Hse	Glebe Estate	Camberwell	SE5	Glebe North and South TRA	TRA	Recognised
Hall (in use)	Grasmere Point Tenants Room	Grasmere Point	Tustin Estate	Old Kent Road		Tustin TRA	TRA	Recognised
Hall (in use)	Grosvenor TRA House	41 Grosvenor Park			SE5 0NH	Grosvenor TRA	TRA	Recognised
Hall (in use)	Hall used by CASP (Camberwell After School Project)	1 Brandon Estate	Maddock Way		SE17 3NH			
Hall (in use)	Hall used by Peabody	1 Brandon Estate	Maddock Way		SE17 3NH			
Hall (in use)	Hankey Hall	Hankey Place	Tabard Gardens Estate	London	SE1	Hankey Hall Committee	Hall committee	
Hall (in use)	Hawkstone TRA	Tissington Court	Warndon Street	London	SE16 2SD	Hawkstone TRA	TRA	Recognised
Hall (in use)	Keetons TA Hall	2 Tranton Rd	Keetons Estate		SE16 4SE	Keetons TRA	TRA	Recognised
Hall (in use)	Kennington Park House Clubroom	Kennington Park House	Kennington Park Place		SE11 4JT	Kennington Park House TRA	TRA	Recognised
Hall (in use)	KETRA Hall (Kingswood Estate)	Telfar House	Seeley Drive		SE21 8QW	Kingswood Estate TRA (KETRA)	TRA	Recognised
Hall (in use)	Kinglake TRA	2 Amery House	Kinglake Street			Kinglake TRA	TRA	Recognised

Hall (in use)	Latimer Rooms / Wendover	Latimer House	Beaconsfield Road	Walworth				
Hall (in use)	Ledbury TRA Hall	Sansfield House	Pencraig Way	London	SE15 1ND	Ledbury TRA	TRA	Recognised
Hall (in use)	Lettsom TRA	114 Vestry Road				Lettsom Move Forward (TRA)	TRA	Recognised
Hall (in use)	Links Community Centre	353 Rotherhithe New Road	Rotherhithe	London	SE16 3HF	Bonamy and Bramcote TRA	TRA	Recognised
Hall (in use)	Lordship Lane and Melford Court TRA	29 Bew Court	Lordship Lane		SE22 8PA	Lordship Lane and Melford Court TRA	TRA	Recognised
Hall (in use)	Magdalen Tenants Hall	Purbrook Street	Bermondsey	London	SE1	SPAM TRA	TRA	Recognised
Hall (in use)	Mardyke Committee Rooms	Mardyke House	Mason Street	London	SE17 1HH	Mardyke House TRA	TRA	Recognised
Hall (in use)	Mayflower TRA - advise residents to pop in on Wednesdays 10-6pm if they want to book. No contact tel no - 'too many nuisance calls'	The Assembly Hall	1 Neptune Street	Rotherhithe	SE16 7JP	Mayflower TRA	TRA	Recognised
Hall (in use)	Millpond TRA	210a Jamaica Rd	Rotherhithe		SE16 4RT	Millpond TRA	TRA	Recognised
Hall (in use)	Nelson Square Tenants Hall	Nelson Square	Borough	London	SE1 0QB	Nelson Square Gardens TRA	TRA	Recognised

Hall (in use)	Newington Estate Tenants Hall	77 Canterbury Place		London	SE17	Newington Estate TRA	TRA	Recognised
Hall (in use)	Osprey Community TRA	Tawny Way	Trident Street		SE16 2NW	Osprey TRA	TRA	Recognised
Hall (in use)	Owgan Pension over 60s Club	2 Owgan Close			SE5 7SH	Elmington T&RA	TRA	Recognised
Hall (in use)	Parkside TRA	46 New Place Square	Rotherhithe		SE16 2HW	Parkside TRA	TRA	Recognised
Hall (in use)	Pasley Estate Tenants Hall	2 Marsland Close			SE17 3JW	Pasley Estate TRA	TRA	Recognised
Hall (in use)	Pelican Tenants Hall	Crane House	Grummant Rd	Peckham	SE15 5NF	Pelican Plus TRA (formerly Puffin TRA)	TRA	Recognised
Hall (in use)	Pelier Clubroom	19 Hillingdon St		London	SE17 3UL	Pelier Estate TRA	TRA	Recognised
Hall (in use)	Pennack Road TRA Hall	Pennack Road			SE15	Dragon & Pennack CA TRA (Dissolved 2010)	TRA	Dissolved
Hall (in use)	Penrose Estate TA Hall	Penrose Grove			SE17 3EZ	Penrose Estate TRA	TRA	Recognised
Hall (in use)	Perronet Tenants Hall	1st floor, 1-90 Princess Street	Opposite numbers 81-85	London	SE1 6JS	Perronet House TRA	TRA	Recognised
Hall (in use)	Poets Corner TRA	Landor House	Camberwell Road	Camberwell	SE5 7JE	Poets Corner TRA	TRA	Recognised
Hall (in use)	Pullens	Crampton Street	Pullens Estate	Walworth	SE17 3AE	Pullens TRA	TRA	Recognised

Hall (in use)	Queensborough Community Centre	Scovell Rd			SE1 1QQ	L'sborough and Scovell TRA	TRA	Recognised
Hall (in use)	Rennie & Manor TRA Hall	Galleywall Road	Rennie Estate	Bermonsey	SE16	Manor Estate TRA	TRA	Recognised
Hall (in use)	Rockingham TA Hall	Falmouth Rd		London	SE1 6RQ			
Hall (in use)	Rodney Road TRA	97 Dawes House	Orb Street	Walworth	SE17 1RE	Rodney Road TRA	TRA	Recognised
Hall (in use)	Rouel Rd Tenants Hall	Market Place	Southwark Park Rd		SE16 3UL	Rouel Road Estate TRA	TRA	Recognised
Hall (in use)	Rye Hill TRA	Rye Hill Estate			SE15 3JN	Rye Hill TRA	TRA	Recognised
Hall (in use)	Ryegates TRA (formerly Brayards)	28 Ryegates	Caulfield Road	Nunhead	SE15 2DF	Brayards Estate TRA	TRA	Recognised
Hall (in use)	Salisbury TRA	Hillery Close	Salisbury Estate	London	SE17 1RQ	Salisbury TRA	TRA	Recognised
Hall (in use)	Sceaux Gardens TRA	Havill Street		London	SE5 7DG	Sceaux Gardens TRA	TRA	Recognised
Hall (in use)	Setchell Estate & Longfield TA	Hazel Way			SE1 5XN	Setchell Estate TRA	TRA	Recognised
Hall (in use)	SHACCA TA hall	10 Swan Mead	Tower Bridge Rd		SE1 4SX	SHACCA	TRA	Recognised
Hall (in use)	Silverlock Hall (Tissiba)	2 Warndon Street	Silverlock Estate		SE16 2SD	Silverlock TRA	TRA	Recognised
Hall (in use)	Southwark Park Community Room TRA	151 Drummond Rd	Layard Square		SE16 2JY	Southwark Park Estate TRA	TRA	Recognised

Hall (in use)	Styles House Tenants Hall	Styles House	The Cut	Borough	SE1 8DF	Styles House TRA	TRA	Recognised
Hall (in use)	Sydenham Hill Tenants Hall	183 Sydenham Hill	Sydenham Hill Estate	Dulwich	SE23 3PL	Sydenham Hill TRA	TRA	Recognised
Hall (in use)	T.A.R.A.	1 Brandon Estate	Maddock Way		SE17 3NH			
Hall (in use)	The Roundhouse Tenants Hall	Great Dover Street	Lawson Estate	Borough		Lawson TRA	TRA	Recognised
Hall (in use)	Thurlow Lodge TRA	241-471 Wendover	Thurlow Street		SE17	Thurlow Lodge TRA	TRA	Recognised
Hall (in use)	Trafalgar House / Nelson	Trafalgar House	Bronti Close	Walworth	SE17 2HF	Nelson TRA	TRA	Recognised
Hall (in use)	Tustin Community Centre	328 Ilderton Rd			SE15 1NT	Tustin TRA	TRA	Recognised
Hall (in use)	United Children's Pop-in Centre	100 Pentridge Street	Peckham	London	SE15 6LG	North Peckham TRA	TRA	Recognised
Hall (in use)	Unwin & Friary	Frensham Street	Friary Estate	Peckham	SE15	Unwin and Friary TRA	TRA	Recognised
Hall (in use)	Wade Hall	Parkers Row	Dickens Estate	Bermondsey	SE1 2DJ	Dickens Estate TRA	TRA	Recognised
Hall (in use)	Walkynscroft Drop in Centre	Firbank Road	Brayards Estate	Nunhead	SE15 2BZ	Brayards Estate TRA	TRA	Recognised
Hall (in use)	Webber Row & Quentin	12-14 Quentin House	9-36 Gray Street	London	SE1 8UY	Webber and Quentin TRA	TRA	Recognised



Hall (in use)	Wickway Community Centre	Cator Street		London	SE15 6AA	Wickway Community Association	Hall committee	
Sold	Tooley Street Tenants Hall	Nutmeg House	^) Gainsford Street	Bermondsey	SE1			
TMO office	Applegarth TMO Office	Applegarth House	Blackfriars Road	London	SE1 0PY			
TMO office	Brenchley Gardens TMO Office	163 Brenchley Gardens	London		SE23 3RF	Brenchley Gardens TMO	TMO	Recognised
TMO office	Juniper TMC Office	1 Juniper House	Pomeroy Street	Nunhead	SE14 5BY	Juniper House TMO	TMO	Recognised
TMO office	TMO Office	1 Tanner House		London	SE1 3LL			

**HOUSING, ENVIRONMENT, TRANSPORT & COMMUNITY SAFETY  
SCRUTINY SUB-COMMITTEE** **MUNICIPAL YEAR 2012-13**

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