

Non-Executive Report of the:  <b>COUNCIL</b>  21 March 2018	 <b>TOWER HAMLETS</b>
<b>Report of:</b> Asmat Hussain, Corporate Director, Governance and Monitoring Officer	<b>Classification:</b> Unrestricted
<b>Amendments to Motion for debate submitted by the Administration</b>	

<b>Originating Officer(s)</b>	Matthew Mannion, Committee Services Manager, Democratic Services.
<b>Wards affected</b>	All wards

## SUMMARY

1. Council Procedure Rule 11 allows for time at each Ordinary Council meeting for the discussion of one specific Motion submitted by the Administration. The debate will follow the rules of debate at Council Procedure Rule 13 and will last no more than 30 minutes.
2. The Administration Motion is submitted by the Labour Group and is listed at Item 7 of the main agenda pack.
3. Council Procedure Rule 11 allows for amendments to the Administration motion to be submitted to the Monitoring Officer by Noon the day before the meeting. The content of amendments must comply with Council Procedure Rule 13.6.
4. One amendment to the Administration Motion was received by the Monitoring Officer by the above deadline and is set out overleaf.

## **Amendment to the Administration Motion regarding the future of Tower Hamlets Council**

**Proposer:** Councillor Ohid Ahmed

**Seconded:** Councillor Oliur Rahman

Deletions – ~~struck through~~

**Additions – in bold**

### **This Council notes that:**

1. ~~Tower Hamlets Council has emerged from a period of turbulence and chaos which was created by the previous mayor Lutfur Rahman and his administration, many of whom still serve as councillors.~~
2. The Government ~~had to~~ **appointed** Commissioners to run services ~~in the wake of Lutfur Rahman's administration.~~
3. Since Lutfur Rahman's removal from office by the Election Court, and the election of Mayor Biggs, Tower Hamlets Council has undergone a significant period of change and improvement which was recognised by the Government who withdrew their Commissioners.
4. Mayor Biggs and his administration have opened up the council's decision-making process, and we now have a council focussed on the services that residents rely upon rather than a council which Secretary of State Sajid Javid said "had completely lost the trust of its residents" and "was mired in corruption and financial mismanagement".

### **This Council further notes that:**

1. ~~The election court in 2015 ruled that 'the election of all THF Councillors must be taken to have been achieved with the benefit of the corrupt and illegal practices'.~~
2. Most of the councillors elected as part of Tower Hamlets First remain on the Council **according to the democratic mandate given to them by the people of Tower Hamlets.**
3. Tower Hamlets First **became** ~~splintered into two groups:~~ the 'Independent Group' (**10 Councillors**) and the 'People's Alliance of Tower Hamlets' (**6 Councillors**).
4. The 'Independent Group' has now **officially registered** ~~renamed itself as~~ 'Aspire', and has formally **recognised** ~~registered as a political party with the~~ Electoral Commission.

5. The 'People's Alliance of Tower Hamlets' has now been formally registered as a political party with the Electoral Commission.

**This Council believes that:**

1. The Council has never unanimously **stated that it will ensure it does not become chaotic, dysfunctional or riddled with cronyism and corruption under any administration** ~~recognised the damage caused by the previous mayor~~ and this motion represents an opportunity for the Council to unanimously declare **as such** ~~that we will never return to the chaos of the past.~~
2. The rebranding, or renaming of political groups, or parties **or misleading politically convenient statements while in administration** does not absolve ~~them~~ **anyone of their responsibility and accountability of their respective record of delivery for residents or indeed** hide their ~~previous~~ failings when in office **if there were any.**

**This Council further believes that:**

1. **Most of the above points in the original motion presented by Mayor Biggs are politically motivated opinions by the current Labour Mayor and his Group. Council therefore notes the following sample of important factors that have been ignored by the current Mayor to clarify the Council's recent record:**
  - a. **Before 2015 Mayor John Biggs himself stated that Tower Hamlets was generally a 'well run borough' and many Council achievements were recognised nationally including by government such as on housebuilding.**
  - b. **Figures from across the political and social spectrum have cast doubt on the merit of the civil election court judgements and indeed the Court ruled that it had not been charged with deciding the validity of the election of any of those remaining Councillors, so they were fully entitled to retain their seats. Democratic mandates must be respected.**
  - c. **The Council's 'Good' OFSTED rating under Mayor Lutfur Rahman has been lost and the Council is now rated 'Inadequate' the worst possible rating with Government Inspectors finding vulnerable children were at risk of harm.**
  - d. **On 10 December 2017, all Tower Hamlets opposition groups unanimously called for "audit commissioners to check Tower Hamlets planning applications over £2m "bribery" allegations"**

**exposed by The Sunday Times under the current Labour Mayor and his Administration**

- e. This motion proposed by current Labour Mayor is a misleading attempt to blame political rivals to hide incompetence by the current administration.**

**This Council resolves:**

- ~~1. To condemn the record of the previous mayor and his administration.~~
2. To ~~reject any attempts to return~~ ensure the Council **does not become chaotic, dysfunctional or riddled with cronyism and corruption under any administration.** ~~to the chaos of the past which the former Secretary of State described as “at best dysfunctional and at worst riddled with cronyism and corruption.”~~
3. To call on whoever is elected Mayor this year to commit to, and build on, the openness and transparency agenda ~~introduced by Mayor Biggs~~ **of the Council and to build on the citizen focussed policy direction originally introduced under the leadership of Mayor Lutfur Rahman and Deputy Mayor Ohid Ahmed’s Administration, including taking active steps to improve accountability such as:**
  - a. Giving the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Audit Committee Chairs to the Opposition Groups**
  - b. Rotate the Speaker of the Council between all significant political groups**