

Non-Executive Report of the: COUNCIL 17 July 2019	
Report of: Asmat Hussain, Corporate Director, Governance and Monitoring Officer	Classification: Unrestricted
Motion for debate submitted by the Administration	

Originating Officer(s)	Matthew Mannion, Head of Democratic Services
Wards affected	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 motion submitted is listed overleaf. The Administration Motion is submitted by the Labour Group.
3. Motions must be about matters for which the Council or its partners has a direct responsibility. A motion may not be moved which is substantially the same as a motion which has been put at a meeting of the Council in the previous six months; or which proposes that a decision of the Council taken in the previous six months be rescinded; unless notice of the motion is given signed by at least twenty Members.
4. Notice of any proposed amendments to the Motions must be given to the Monitoring Officer by Noon the day before the meeting.

MOTION

Set out overleaf is the motion that has been submitted.

7 – Administration Motion Regarding Air Quality and Climate Change

Proposer: Councillor Rachel Blake

Secunder: Councillor Amina Ali

This Council notes:

1. 40% of residents in Tower Hamlets live in areas that breach EU and government guidance on safe levels of air pollution and it's the fifth worst borough in London for air pollution;
2. A recent scientific study showed that children in Tower Hamlets have up to 10% less lung capacity than normal;
3. As highlighted in the 2010 Marmot Review, individuals in deprived areas experience more adverse health effects at the same level of exposure compared to those from less deprived areas. This is, in part, because of a higher prevalence of underlying cardio-respiratory and other diseases, as well as greater exposure to air pollution as a result of homes being situated nearer to busy congested roads and with fewer green spaces;
4. That Mayor John Biggs declared a climate emergency in March 2019 on behalf of the council, and announced the aim of becoming a zero-carbon council by 2025;
5. That the Mayor has written to the Prime Minister calling on the Government to bring forward the ban on diesel cars and invest in a national scrappage scheme;
6. That nationally the Labour Party has announced that climate change would be a core part of the school curriculum under a Labour government;
7. A recent poll showed that around 75% of UK adults believe climate change to be the biggest crisis facing humanity today.

This Council further notes the council's ongoing work to tackle poor air quality, including:

1. The Breathe Clean campaign, launched in 2018, to tackle air pollution across Tower Hamlets and raise awareness about what can be done locally to improve air quality and reduce risk to residents' health;
2. The anti-idling campaign, with a particular focus on drivers who idle outside schools;
3. 50 planned 'school streets' and 'play streets', with some roads closed off to improve air quality around schools;
4. Significant investment in a Liveable Streets fund to make it easier to get about by foot, on a bike and on public transport;
5. The aim to install 300 electric vehicle charging points across the borough;
6. Continuing to review the council's investment decisions;
7. An Air Quality Fund, providing a total of £200,000 funding to innovative groups in the community who want to do their bit to tackle air pollution;
8. Investment in new waste fleet, reducing emissions.

This Council believes:

1. We face a climate emergency and need to take immediate action at a local, national and international level;
2. That air quality is not only a health issue but also a social justice issue. Deprived areas in the London region have a higher concentration of Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂) than in any other deprived region in England, levels are 40% higher in deprived wards than non-deprived wards;
3. That the ban on diesel cars planned for 2040 should be brought forward to 2030;
4. That the council should work with companies and individuals, including ice cream van owners, to encourage the switch to cleaner forms of transport;
5. That the council should review its own vehicle fleet;

6. That the Government must support those who rely on cars for family or employment reasons by providing financial help to make the switch from more polluting cars to cleaner vehicles and other forms of transport, as well as investing in a national diesel scrappage scheme.

This Council resolves:

1. To support the declaration of a climate emergency through a formal resolution of the council;
2. To support calls for the ban on diesel cars to be brought forward to 2030 and the introduction of a national scrappage scheme;
3. To deliver our Air Quality Action Plan;
4. To work with the community to reduce air pollution through small changes to travel plans;
5. To campaign for targeted measures to reduce air pollution in our worst affected areas such as Blackwall Tunnel, Bow Roundabout, Aldgate and Whitechapel;
6. To work with neighbouring authorities through our successful Zero Emissions Network to expand support to small businesses to reduce their emissions;
7. To investigate zero emissions ice cream vans in our parks and work with neighbouring authorities on regulations to restrict emissions from fossil fuel ice cream vans.