

Non-Executive Report of the: Council 15 January 2020	 TOWER HAMLETS
Report of: Asmat Hussain, Corporate Director, Governance	Classification: Unrestricted
Petitions to Council for presentation.	

Originating Officer(s)	Matthew Mannion, Head of Democratic Services Zoe Folley, Democratic Services
Wards affected	All wards

SUMMARY

1. This report sets out details of the valid petitions submitted for presentation at the Council meeting on Wednesday 15th January 2020.
2. The Council's Constitution provides for up to four petitions to be heard at each ordinary Council meeting. These are taken in order of receipt, except that petitions for debate (those in excess of 2,000 signatures) will take precedence. Should more than four petitions be received, all remaining petitions will be listed to be formally noted by Council.
3. Three petitions have been received for presentation at the meeting and the following process applies to these petitions:
 - a. Petitioners may address the meeting for no more than 3 minutes.
 - b. Members may then question the petitioners for a further 4 minutes.
 - c. Finally, the Speaker will invite the Mayor or (at the Mayor's discretion) the relevant Lead Member or Committee Chair to respond to the petition for up to 2 minutes. The petition will then be referred to the relevant Corporate Director for attention who will provide a written response within 28 days of the date of the meeting.
4. Members, other than a Cabinet Member or Committee Chair responding at the end of the item, should confine their contributions to questions and not make statements or attempt to debate.
5. For Petition listed as to be noted, petitioners may not address the meeting. The Speaker will state where they will go for a full response.
6. Responses to all petitions will be sent to the lead petitioner and displayed on the Council's website.

PETITIONS TO BE HEARD

5.1 Petition regarding Free Speech on Palestine submitted by Sybil Cock and others.

We the undersigned petition the council to (1) Adopt the following clarification to the IHRA statement of 19 September 2018. This will safeguard our right to campaign for Palestine in Tower Hamlets. This is important in the light of the refusal of the council to allow the Big Ride for Palestine to hold its welcome Rally in a borough park in July 2019. It is not antisemitic, without additional evidence, :To suggest that it displays anti-Jewish prejudice to criticise the Government of Israel; :To criticise Zionism as a political ideology :To describe any policy or law or practices of the state of Israel as racist, including acts leading to Palestinian dispossession as part of the establishment of the state :To define Israel as an apartheid state :To advocate Boycott Divestment and Sanctions against Israel. (2) Recognise the state of Palestine: Educate residents on the plight of the Palestinian people and their struggle for dignity and self-determination.

5.2 Petition regarding Residents vehicles and Taxis access through the Wapping Bus Gate during operating times submitted by Gina Hayden and others.

We the undersigned petition the council to make Wapping residents' vehicles and taxis exempt during the operating times of the bus gate in Wapping. Currently only buses and bicycles will be exempt during operating times (weekdays 5.30am - 10.30am and 4pm - 7pm). However, this decision by the Council severely restricts the movement and access of Wapping residents at peak times to and from work and schools. The Council's decision to make only buses and bicycles exempt from moving freely through Wapping furthermore ignores and contradicts the findings of the consultation report (Document Reference: 5318 Date 15.05.19) whose findings clearly indicate that 68% of Wapping residents and 52 - 74% of total respondents are in favour of residents' vehicles and taxis being exempt from the bus gate during operating times.

5.3 Petition regarding Stop the Burdett Road Entrapment submitted by Sumaia Begum and others.

Transport for London and Tower Hamlets Council are proposing to ban vehicles turning into St Pauls Way, Burdett Road and Mile End Road. This leaves Tower Hamlets residents trapped and forced to take alternative routes increasing journey times. Tower Hamlets residents & businesses are demanding that the proposals are cancelled. We are growing tired of increased journey times. The proposals will lead to gridlock traffic on our roads. Whilst we do support walking and cycling across Tower Hamlets this should not be at the expense of increasing journey times for drivers through banning vehicle turns on vital parts of our network. The banned turns will severely effect residents, businesses and several schools across St Pauls Way, Devons Road and Burdett Road.

PETITIONS TO BE NOTED

There are none.