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| <p style="text-align: center;">Non-Executive Report of the:</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Council</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">22 February 2017</p> |  |
| <p><b>Report of:</b> Graham White, Acting Corporate Director<br/>Governance</p>   | <p><b>Classification:</b><br/>Unrestricted</p>                                      |
| <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Petitions to be Presented to Council</b></p>  |   |

## SUMMARY

1. The Council's Constitution provides for up to three petitions to be presented at the Budget Council meeting. These are taken in order of receipt. This report sets out the valid petitions submitted for presentation at the Council meeting on Wednesday 22 February 2017.
2. The deadline for receipt of petitions for this meeting is noon on Thursday, 16th February, 2017. **However, at the time of agenda despatch the maximum number of petitions has already been received as set out overleaf.**
3. The texts of the petitions received for presentation to this meeting are set out in the attached report. In each case the petitioners may address the meeting for no more than three minutes. Members may then question the petitioners for a further four minutes. Finally, the relevant Cabinet Member or Chair of Committee may respond to the petition for up to three minutes.
4. The petition will then be referred to the relevant Corporate Director for attention who will provide a written response within 28 days.
5. 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.

### **5.1 Petition regarding discrimination to minority groups (Petition from Apsana Begum and others)**

We ask the councillors to vote to refer back the mayoral budget (or part thereof) on the grounds that it is discriminatory to Women and Black and Minority Ethnic residents; and thus ask the mayor to reconsider his budget in the light of this statement

### **5.2 Petition regarding the Council Tax**

We the undersigned request Mayor John Biggs to stop his plan to increase the Tower Hamlets Council Tax by 5% this year.

The residents are already struggling due to the record Council Tax increase of 4% last year, other cuts and increases by the Tower Hamlets Council and the Government.

This means the Tower Hamlets Council Tax would rise by a record 9% between February 2016 and February 2017, if you decide to increase it again by 5% this year as proposed by Mayor John Biggs.

### **5.3 Petition regarding Cuts to Children's Services**

We plead with the council not to make any cuts in or to children's services. Especially in light of Tower Hamlets being the borough with the highest rate of child poverty in London.