

Meeting of the
COUNCIL

Wednesday, 17 March 2021 at 7.00 p.m.

TABLED PAPERS

	PAGE NUMBER	WARD(S) AFFECTED
6. MAYOR'S REPORT		
Attached.	3 - 12	
7. ADMINISTRATION MOTION DEBATE		
Amendments submitted by Councillor Rabina Khan and from Councillor Peter Golds (Conservative Group) attached.	13 - 18	
8. OPPOSITION MOTION DEBATE		
Amendment submitted by Councillor Danny Hassel (Labour Group) attached.	19 - 22	
12. TO CONSIDER MOTIONS SUBMITTED BY MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL		
Amendments submitted by Labour Group on Motions 12.2 and 12.3 attached	23 - 28	
13. URGENT MOTIONS	29 - 30	
Urgent Motion regarding aftermath of Sarah Everard protests attached.		

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Mayor's Report to Council

17th March 2021

John Biggs, Mayor of Tower Hamlets

Key Events/Announcements

Sarah Everard: We have all been moved and saddened by the brutal killing of Sarah Everard.

She was a daughter, a friend, a colleague and she had her life ahead of her. It feels so unfair that she should choose to walk and never return home. The apparent randomness is painful and worrying – she could have been our daughter, our friend, our colleague.

Since this tragedy many other women have spoken up as they have also been subject to abuse or harassment. It was a stark reminder that 118 women and girls have been killed by men in the UK this year and their names were read out in Parliament to remind us of this. This should not be what is considered normal in 2021.

Women should not feel unsafe going about their daily business – or bear the responsibility for attacks based on their gender. This is unacceptable and we want you to know we stand in solidarity with you.

I was very concerned by the police response to the vigil in Clapham earlier this week and, alongside others including the Mayor of London and the Home Secretary, believe it is right that Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary conducts a review into what happened.

I joined many others in lighting a candle on their doorstep to remember Sarah Everard and all women affected by and lost to violence.

As a council we offer a range of services and support to tackle Violence Against Women and Girls, with details on the council's website, and we encourage our residents to report any incidents of harassment or violence to the police.

Covid-19: The council's response to the pandemic continues and we are working hard to drive up vaccination rates, including by addressing 'vaccine hesitancy', with vigorous targeted outreach and promotion.

We have just submitted a revised 'Local Outbreak Management Plan' and continuing to promote and encourage both testing and vaccination are crucial aspects of our response. Although many indicators show we are moving in the right direction, with children back in school we could experience an increased infection rate and we must remain vigilant.

The pandemic threw multiple inequalities under the spotlight, especially those impacting our nation's school children, like free school meals and access to online learning. Even with children back in school, the digital disadvantage that many face will continue to impact children's ability to catch up, and to access other online opportunities that would benefit their education.

One-in-four school children in Tower Hamlets, approximately 10,000 students, are digitally disadvantaged and so we've launched our Every Child Online campaign, including a pledge of £50,000 from the council. As well as lobbying the Government to do more, we're working with the Tower Hamlets Education Partnership to raise £1 million to buy devices, which can be distributed through local schools to children in need. With support from Community Fibre,

its hoped every school child in the borough can get both the kit and the connectivity they need to access online learning.

Council budget: We agreed our council budget at our last meeting. A budget which, despite the huge pressures we face, protects spending on our residents' priorities:

We will:

- Continue to fund free school meals for all primary school children, one of only a small number of councils in the country to do this.
- Continue to invest to tackle crime and ASB by funding additional police officers to keep our streets safe, and a council operated ASB service.
- Protect our Children's Centres to give future generations the best start in life.
- Continue our Tackling Poverty Fund providing financial support and advice for our most vulnerable residents.
- Build hundreds of new council homes, three new secondary schools and invest to create Liveable Streets and improve air quality across our borough.
- Continue to fund our 100% council tax discount for the poorest in our community, one of the few places in the UK to offer this.

As I announced at our last meeting, we are also developing options for our £3m Covid-19 Recovery Fund, which will help kickstart our community's recovery from the pandemic.

We are also retaining five days opening at Cubitt Town & Bethnal Green Library and Watney Market Idea Store including Saturdays and a late night at the two libraries.

50th anniversary of Bangladesh: At our last meeting I updated members about an allocation of £50k of funding to mark the anniversary of the founding of Bangladesh, and that we are looking at ways that we can celebrate the occasion during 2021, dependent on Covid-19 regulations.

I'm delighted to say that celebrations from March to December 2021 are being coordinated by Tower Hamlets Council, working with Bangladeshi artists, community organisations, businesses, the National Portrait Gallery, the Local History Library & Archives, residents, and the Bangladeshi High Commission in the UK. Thank you to everyone involved in marking this important anniversary.

Tower Hamlets Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic Inequalities Commission: We launched this Commission following the killing of George Floyd and the Black Lives Matter protests, including in Tower Hamlets, where we removed the statue of a slave trader.

The Commission, led by Cllr Asma Begum, was officially launched last September with a special focus on education, employment, health inequalities and community leadership, and their report will be launched tomorrow (18th March). The publication of this report is an important milestone for our borough.

I'm grateful for the work of the Commission and everyone who has supported its work and been involved, and we now need to get on and put in place the right steps to create tangible and positive change.

NHS privatisation: I have written to the Health Secretary, alongside Cllr Rachel Blake and Cllr Gabriela Salva Macallan, calling for an urgent review of the decision to approve the takeover of AT Medics, which operates GP surgeries within the North Central London Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) including two GP practices here (Whitechapel Health Centre and E1 Health), by a UK subsidiary of an American company.

We have deep concerns that there was a lack of scrutiny around this decision but also that this is an example of further privatisation of a vital health service. We believe that the Care Quality Commission should investigate as a matter of urgency.

Climate Emergency: It has been two years since we declared a climate emergency in Tower Hamlets, and our administration motion highlights some of the progress we've made since then:

https://www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/lgnl/environment_and_waste/Sustainability/Climate_emergency.aspx

I'm proud of the positive action we're taking as a council, but there is a great deal more to do and there is no room for complacency.

Levelling Up Fund: Details of the Chancellor's 'Levelling Up Fund' have been announced which, astonishingly, places Tower Hamlets in the lowest category of need whilst the Chancellor's own constituency, rural and mainly wealthy, is placed in a higher category.

This is further evidence that the Government intends to move more funding from London to other parts of the country and we should expect this agenda to make our finances even tougher over the coming years.

John Biggs
Mayor of Tower Hamlets

Individual Mayoral Decisions taken since last meeting

None.

Mayor's engagements and meetings

Below is a summary of the Mayor's main engagements and meetings from 21st January to 17th March 2021.

Engagements and Meetings 21 January 2021

21 January 2021

- Covid 19 - NE London Leaders and Mayors meeting
- Central London Forward meeting
- Adults, Health & Wellbeing portfolio meeting
- Chief Executive Will Tuckley
- Isle of Dogs & South Poplar Area Board meeting
- Pre-Meet Explorers Court Cladding
- Explorers Court Cladding Resident meeting
- Community Safety & Youth portfolio meeting

22 January 2021

- LGA commercial leadership and decision making
- Westferry Printworks meeting

- Annual Governance Report

25 January 2021

- Liveable Streets meeting
- Central London Forward Employment and Skills Board pre-meet
- Overview and Scrutiny Committee

26 January 2021

- Mayor's casework surgery
- Meeting with Councillor Sirajul Islam
- Strategy & Equalities portfolio meeting
- Brick Lane meeting
- RSE meeting

27 January 2021

- Central London Forward Partnership Board
- Children & Schools portfolio meeting
- Mayor's Political Cabinet
- Mayor's Advisory Board
- Cabinet Meeting

28 January 2021

- Covid 19 - NE London Leaders and Mayors briefing
- South Poplar Masterplan meeting
- Strategic forward planning meeting
- Chief Executive Will Tuckley
- Communications portfolio meeting
- Audit Committee meeting

29 January 2021

- Councillor Rachel Blake

2 February 2021

- Corporate Leadership meeting
- Central London Forward meeting
- Regeneration Board pre-meet
- Town Hall Project Board
- Traffic meeting
- London Bangladeshi Community Covid-19 Webinar

3 February 2021

- Resources - Mayor's Portfolio meeting
- Environment & Public Realm Portfolio meeting
- Mount Anvil follow up meeting

- RSE meeting
- Mayor's Advisory Board Meeting
- Grants Determination sub-committee

4 February 2021

- Covid 19 - NE London Leaders and Mayors Meeting
- Mayor's casework surgery
- Evening Standard interview
- Idea Store Public consultation meeting
- Rushanara Ali MP
- Meeting with resident
- Liveable Streets briefing with Rushanara Ali MP

5 February 2021

- Meeting with Councillor Rachel Blake
- ITV London - work of Tower Hamlets Stay Safe Ambassadors and role of council
- LGA Labour - Leaders Summit
- Meeting with Divisional Director Kevin Bartle regarding Oxford House
- Meeting with Councillor Rachel Blake

6 February 2021

- East London Mosque- BBC London re: Vaccinations
- Meeting with Councillor Asma Islam

8 February 2021

- Corporate Induction
- Mayor's casework surgery
- Meeting with Apsana Begum MP
- Wapping Station meeting with Transport for London

9 February 2021

- Channel S Interview
- Culture, Arts & Brexit Portfolio meeting
- 25th Anniversary of the Docklands Bombing

10 February 2021

- City Fringe Area Board pre-meet
- Central London Forward Leaders CAZ research meeting
- Housing portfolio meeting
- Mayor's Political Cabinet
- Mayor's Advisory Board
- Chief Executive Will Tuckley
- Housing and Regeneration Scrutiny sub committee

11 February 2021

- Liveable Streets meeting
- Greater London Employment Forum
- Councillor Rachel Blake
- Homelessness and housing policy meeting
- Meeting with Mayor Glanville
- Assets/Property Portfolio meeting
- London Housing Group - Homelessness Q&A

12 February 2021

- Councillor Rachel Blake
- Councillor John Pierce

15 February 2021

- Susmita Sen
- Councillor Asma Begum
- Voluntary and Community Sector conference call
- HR policy meeting
- Berkeley Group meeting

16 February 2021

- Liveable Streets Brick Lane
- Mayor's casework surgery
- Chief Executive Will Tuckley
- COVID 19 Local Engagement Board

17 February 2021

- City Fringe Area Board
- Mayor and Speaker Martyr's Day memorial
- Mayor's Advisory Board
- National Education Union public meeting
- Covid-19 Q&A and panel discussion

18 February 2021

- Covid 19 - NE London Leaders and Mayors meeting
- GLA & LB Tower Hamlets meeting
- Housing meeting with THH
- Partnership briefing
- Meeting with Poplar Harca
- ITV London interview on vaccine hesitancy

19 February 2021

- Cllr Rachel Blake

22 February 2021

- Appointments Sub-Committee - Shortlisting for DD, Education and Partnerships
- Pauline Maddison, Interim Divisional Director, Education and Partnerships
- NEL ICS leaders' meeting
- High Commissioner of Bangladesh
- Community Safety & Equalities Portfolio meeting

23 February 2021

- Rapid testing site - Canary Wharf Photo/Video
- MHCLG Ministerial Webinar
- Christ Church Garden Meeting
- 999 Cenotaph Briefing
- Civil Contingencies & Emergency Planning
- Communications Portfolio meeting
- RLH Patient and Families Group Meeting with Mayor

24 February 2021

- Children Education & Youth Services Portfolio meeting
- Mayor's Planning & Social Inclusion Portfolio meeting
- Mayor's Political Cabinet
- Community Buildings briefing

25 February 2021

- Mayor's casework surgery
- Housing association meeting
- Housing Portfolio meeting
- Cllr Sirajul Islam
- Chief Executive Will Tuckley
- Planning meeting
- Adults, Health & Wellbeing Portfolio meeting
- Virtual interfaith gathering

26 February 2021

- Cllr Rachel Blake

01 March 2021

- Covid 19 Leaders and Chief Executives weekly briefing
- Overview and Scrutiny Committee

02 March 2021

- Registrars team meeting
- Mayor's faith leaders teleconference

- Channel S and ATN interview

03 March 2021

- Resources Portfolio meeting
- Regeneration Board
- Clarion housing association re. improvement plan
- Mayor's Advisory Board
- Cabinet

04 March 2021

- Director of Education and Partnership interviews
- Budget Council

05 March 2021

- Councillor Rachel Blake
- Councillor Sufia Alam
- Sutton Wharf meeting with residents
- Rushanara Ali MP

08 March 2021

- TH Partnership Executive Group
- London TULO
- NJC Pay Regional Consultation Briefing
- Growth Borough Partnership meeting
- Digital inclusion briefing
- Brick Lane meeting
- Covid 19 Leaders and Chief Executive weekly meeting

09 March 2021

- Mayor's casework surgery
- Councillor Amina Ali
- Swan housing association
- Councillor Sirajul Islam
- Access to Remote Learning in Tower Hamlets briefing
- Will Tuckley, Chief Executive
- Culture, Arts & Brexit Mayor's Portfolio meeting
- International Women's Day Event
- Sharon Godman, Divisional Director Strategy, Policy and Performance

10 March 2021

- Work & Economic Growth Portfolio meeting
- Environment and Public Realm Portfolio meeting
- Mayor's Political Cabinet
- Mayor's Advisory Board
- Vaccination rates briefing

11 March 2021

- Meeting with TfL re. Arnold Circus bus routes
- Covid 19 - NE London Leaders and Mayors briefing
- Paul Rock, Head of Audit
- Capital Strategy Board
- Unmesh Desai AM
- Berner estate meeting
- Shortlisting for Divisional Director, Customer Services
- Explorers Court residents meeting

15 March 2021

- JBP Round Table
- Councillor Rachel Blake
- Liveable Streets and TFL
- Executive Committee
- Labour Group

16 March 2021

- Head of Mayor's Office
- Mayor's casework surgery
- Councillor Asma Begum
- One Housing Group
- Will Tuckley, Chief Executive
- Press Conference on 50th Anniversary of Bangladesh celebrations
- Janet Fasan, Divisional Director, Legal
- Covid 19 Local Engagement Board

17 March 2021

- Poplar Harca quarterly meeting
- Climate engagement summit
- Assets Property Portfolio meeting
- Council Meeting

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Agenda Item 7

7 – Administration Motion for Debate - regarding the Climate emergency – Amendment

Proposer: Cllr Rabina Khan
Seconder: Cllr Andrew Wood

To be added to the existing text:

The Council Notes:

- Friends of the Earth claims that the environment movement is “still overwhelmingly white and middle-class. It further states that we need a “diverse range of voices to solve global problems and achieve social justice.”
- In January 2020 in Davos, Switzerland, Ugandan climate activist, Vanessa Nakate, posed for a photo with Greta Thunberg and three other white climate campaigners. However, when Vanessa subsequently “struggled to find photos” that included her, she discovered that the Associated Press news agency had cropped her out of the image with Greta and that none of her comments from the press conference were included.
- Theo Cullen-Mouze, an Irish climate activist was appalled that Africa is “deliberately removed from the picture. He said: “Africa has contributed the least [carbon emissions] but will suffer the most from climate breakdown.”
- The Archdeacon of Croydon, the Venerable Dr Rosemarie Mallet, is a leading figure within the Church of England on climate change. Her aim is to give a voice to those who are keen to bring about change, but fear the repercussions of doing so. During Extinction Rebellion protests for example, people from BAME backgrounds fear being targeted by the police in a less favourable way than white protesters.
- When Lucy Craig, a 73-year-old white activist was asked whether she thought that being a middle-class, well off white woman helped her within the protest, she said: “Absolutely. Everything is fuelled by white privilege.”

The Council Believes:

- Despite the fact that BAME people have been involved in climate activism for decades, their views and efforts seem to be excluded from debates. International climate lawyer, Farhana Yamin, for example, was a lead proponent of the net zero emissions by 2050 goal in the Paris Agreements. She was tired of the promises made by the carbon emission trading system. “I wanted to think bolder and bigger – no more mucking around with carbon budgets. These gases are toxic. We shouldn’t create trading systems for toxic pollutants.”
- Although people from BAME backgrounds have been invisible in the climate debate and protests, they are disproportionately affected by air pollution, not least because areas of London with the highest levels of pollution are occupied by a large BAME population. Most people will recall the tragic case of Ella Kissi-Debrah, the 9-year-old whose mother believes that her daughter’s fatal asthma attack was linked to illegal levels of pollution.
- In August 2020, Anjali Raman-Middleton set up the pollution advocacy group Choked Up with three other students. Anjali had attended the same primary school as Ella.

The Council Resolves:

- The council proposes a programme called Tower Hamlets Diversity in Climate Change Engagement to deliver effective engagement with all communities, particularly the hard-to-reach communities and people from Black, Asian, Minority and diverse communities, people with access and mobility requirements.
- To engage with organisations such as Climate Reframe, which amplifies diverse voices in the UK Environmental Movement, and Choked Up.
- The programme also works with faith communities to look at how faith and climate change can work together. During Ramadan, for example, families and communities come together to celebrate and help each other. Muslims deliver food packages to the needy and recognise the importance of never wasting food, which in turn benefits the environment.
- That the council actively seeks climate change campaigners from Black, Asian, Ethnic Minority, Diverse and disabled backgrounds to speak at climate change events and become involved in the third sector, thereby empowering other marginalised communities to participate and make a valuable contribution to tackling climate change.

7 – Administration Motion for Debate - regarding the Climate emergency – Conservative group amendment

Proposer – Cllr Peter Golds

Seconder – Cllr Andrew Wood

Amendments showed in bold red and underlined:

This Council notes:

1. In March 2019, Tower Hamlets became one of the first councils in the country to declare a climate emergency, **more than three years after the Paris Agreement was signed;**
2. **That the Oxford English dictionary defines emergency as a “situation requiring immediate action”**
3. The Council has committed to becoming a net zero carbon Council by 2025 and a net zero carbon borough by 2050;
4. The Council is implementing its Net Zero Carbon Action Plan which sets out the aim to do all we can to reach zero carbon by 2025, including actions around the new Town Hall, procurement, the electrification of the council’s vehicle fleet, amongst other actions. The Net Zero Carbon 2025 action plan sets out our commitment to tackling the climate emergency:
<https://democracy.towerhamlets.gov.uk/mgConvert2PDF.aspx?ID=165906>
5. The council is delivering against its climate emergency ambitions through a number of actions and decisions including:
 1. Switching to a renewable energy supplier – in October 2019 LBTH transferred to a 100% renewable electricity tariff **more than ten years after it was possible to do so.**
 2. The Pensions Committee have actively engaged with the climate change agenda and are looking at revising their investment strategy towards a greener portfolio
 3. Commenced a Sustainable Workplace programme to instil sustainable behaviours for council employees including: promoting resource efficiency (reducing energy use; moving to paperless working); reduction in single use plastics including elimination of plastic cups from buildings; and introduction of food waste collection to council offices to reduce waste being sent to landfill and incineration.
 4. **Tower Hamlets has one of the worse records in the country for dealing with litter and punishing fly tipping.**
 5. Adoption of Tower Hamlets Transport Strategy which sets out our vision and priorities for travel in Tower Hamlets from 2020 – 2041 through sustainable means of transport
 6. **Which will include enforcement of parking restrictions on double yellow lines as opposed to the recent situation in Blackwall where a resident parked a vehicle so regularly on double yellow lines, without penalties that it could be seen on Google Maps. Ensuring that parking fines are collected, rather than the situation where one person alone ran up unpaid fines of over £30,000 for a single vehicle and when the council describes no residences as car free, this means that rather than the current situation whereby the developments and surrounding streets are clogged with residents ignoring the car free status because of the lack of enforcement by estate management and the Council.**
 7. Commenced the Liveable Streets programme which aims to improve the look and feel of public spaces in neighbourhoods across the borough and make it easier, safer, and more convenient to get around by foot, bike and public transport **and it seems delay the arrival of ambulances through blocking roads rather than providing lockable access.**
8. Continuing to deliver our tree planting programme to deliver over

- 1,000 street trees. This programme will increase carbon capture
9. That the Council continue to agree to the cutting down of mature trees well in advance of construction work taking place including on sites it owns despite being areas of low air quality.
 10. Agreeing to the removal of two mature trees on what is becoming the densest road in the UK for a temporary sales office;
 11. Our programme of installation of electrical vehicle charging points across the borough, with 159 new points to be installed between February and April 2021 but none installed in 2019 and 2020 after the emergency was declared except for some test sites. That there are over 30,000 parking bays on Tower Hamlets streets.
 12. That there are no electric vehicle charging points in any Council building
 13. That the Council still only operates two all-electric vehicles, neither of them road worthy as can only be used in a park and the other at the transport depot. That it only has a couple of hybrid vehicles.
 14. That the Council spent £10 million on a fleet of new diesel refuse vehicles a year ago while our neighbours in the City of London now have an all-electric refuse fleet.
 15. That the Council after it declared a climate emergency installed new diesel storage tanks at its transport depot.
 16. That an increasing number of local petrol stations are being lost which has the short term impact of creating more traffic as drivers have to drive further to refill.
 17. That the new Local Plan 2031 only requires new developments to have 40% electric vehicle charging in their parking bays, most new development going through planning now won't complete until close to 2030.
 18. Tower Hamlets Councils record in recent years of locating new schools and permitting new housing right next to major roads..
 19. Adopted Local Plan policies that require all new developments to achieve net-zero carbon status.
 20. Only one Council building has a solar panel or other form of renewable energy.
 21. That solar panels are extremely rare in Tower Hamlets and even rarer are wind turbines.
 22. Commenced a review of Council Assets for Zero Carbon retrofit feasibility and successfully bid for the public sector decarbonisation fund to tackle our highest emitting buildings
 23. Completed initial feasibility for decarbonisation of Barkantine district heating network
 24. Undertaking a review of design standards for new council development to ensure that requirements align to the climate emergency declaration and deliver net-zero carbon objectives
 25. Developed a draft Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) for waste and recycling developments, currently out for consultation, which aims to revise planning policies to encourage and enforce waste reduction and recycling
 26. That the recycling rate in Tower Hamlets has been falling for years from 28% in 2016/17 to 19.9% in Q2 2020/21.
 27. Commenced a review of Tower Hamlets Homes properties for Bio-solar retrofit
 - o Other retrofit initiatives as set out in the housing capital programme, and the Net Zero Carbon Plan
 - o Continued delivery of carbon reduction projects: grants programme for schools to deliver carbon reduction measures; grants programme for SME's for energy efficiency measures; residential heating efficiency project
 - o Undertaking a review of new civic centre proposals to ensure design is as energy efficient as possible and the operating environment and systems are

low carbon which we should have already done.

- o Continuing to roll out the phased programme of LED street lighting upgrades to replace all lamp columns in the borough **and missing the opportunity in the early phases to equip them with EV chargers in the base when located next to parking bays.**
- o **That Brent Council has more EV chargers in its Town Hall car park than Tower Hamlets Council has in the whole of the Borough.**
- o Focus on delivering the proposal to roll out flats recycling package, as recommended by the Resource London project “making recycling work for people in flats”.

This Council also notes:

1. The Climate Engagement Event organised for 17th March to raise awareness and demonstrate progress made by the Council and its partners since the Climate Emergency Declaration **as we realised two years were up and we had not done very much yet.**

This Council believes:

1. We continue to face a climate emergency and need to take immediate action at a local, national and international level;
2. ~~That since the declaration of a Climate Emergency in Tower Hamlets, the Council has made significant progress but must continue to focus on this as a priority issue for the borough~~ **That since the declaration of a Climate Emergency in Tower Hamlets, the council has made little progress except in publicity and must therefore focus on actual delivery;**
3. The Council must continue to lead by example but given it accounts for a relatively small amount of the borough’s carbon, it is vital that we use our community leadership role to encourage and work alongside residents, businesses and partners to make changes in order to address the crisis;
4. Tower Hamlets is known for its diversity and we will use positive approaches to engage BAME residents with the climate emergency agenda.

This Council resolves:

1. To deliver its Net Zero Carbon Action Plan;
2. To continue to work with local residents, businesses and council partners to achieve our net zero commitment, including developing an action plan to meet our target;
3. To review our recycling targets and revise our waste strategy;
4. **To make pink recycling bags easy to access;**
5. To set up a new waste and recycling board **representative of the Borough and not just the administration** to enable us to work with our partners and residents which will work towards mitigating issues and help us work towards the aims of our waste strategy;
6. To adopt a targeted campaign strategy to decrease contamination and encourage recycling amongst residents and businesses.
7. **To stop cutting down its own trees or permitting others to do so until there is no other choice, to look instead at pruning trees rather than cutting them down as a compromise and with the knowledge that replacements are being grown in nurseries elsewhere in the country**

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LABOUR GROUP AMENDMENT TO THE OPPOSITION MOTION IMPACT OF CONSTRUCTION ON THE ISLE OF DOGS AND SOUTH POPLAR

Proposer: Cllr Eve McQuillan

Seconder: Cllr Danny Hassell

Added text underlined

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That the scale of development in the London Borough of Tower Hamlets is the highest in the country, which is why we receive the most New Homes Bonus of any local authority and that the Councils Local Plan 2031 allocates 57% of all new homes in the Borough to the Isle of Dogs and South Poplar area which already contains three of the ten densest small places in the country.

~~This scale of development seriously impacts on the health and quality of life of existing residents as well as visitors to the area. It also disrupts local roads and transport.~~ needs to be managed carefully to mitigate the impact on residents and businesses but also to ensure that we continue to provide the much-needed new council and affordable homes across the borough.

We note the positive work that the Council does to minimise the impact of construction, to support residents, and to promote and enforce good standards, and we note the ongoing reviews – including a review of the Construction Code of Practice – and the establishment of the Development Coordination Pilot which means we can take an holistic approach to addressing recurring issues.

The Council recently launched the Development Coordination Pilot, with a team formed in February 2021, to complement the wide range of compliance activity the Council already undertakes. The team are currently engaging all stakeholders, including service areas, developers, residents, members and more.

We recognise the challenges involved in accommodating the significant levels of construction activity and the establishment of this team demonstrates the Council's desire to address those challenges.

Two residents have died in construction related injuries while living next to or walking past a construction site, namely in Bow and Burdett Road, Limehouse.

There have also been dangerous incidents in the Isle of Dogs and South Poplar caused by construction. During construction of the Calders Wharf development a crane accidentally hit the residential property located on Douglas Path. This year, a bollard being lifted by a crane fell onto Marsh Wall. A metal pole fell from a site next to a dockside path in Crossharbour in February. During the demolition of Robin Hood Gardens concrete fell onto a pavement by the site. Although there were no injuries resulting from these latter incidents they did cause concern to residents.

The impact of construction noise also affects peoples mental health and air quality is affected by construction dust and particles.

This Council believes that we should promote and focus on good industry standards and champion those who meet those standards.

The Council also notes the move of economic activity from offices to homes in the area as working from home becomes more common.

We believe as a Council that we should discourage the unnecessary destruction of trees and green cover adjacent to and within sites, and work to ensure the maintenance of street furniture and bollards, and to protect pavements and accessible walking routes.

This Council therefore welcomes the commencement of an eighteen-month pilot project to explore opportunities to address the cumulative impacts of construction predominantly focussed on the Isle of Dogs and South Poplar.

We note that a review of the Construction Code of Practice is currently underway, and the Council will also be reviewing:

- The potential for setting up an off-site waiting area for construction vehicles;
- The Council's approach to Considerate Constructors Scheme and other similar initiatives;
- Considerations for setting and reviewing hours of construction;
- Management of trees near construction sites;
- Opportunities to monitor and mitigate construction impacts including air quality, dust, noise and vibrations;
- Public safety and accessibility around construction sites including the use of bollards;
- Provision and access for emergency vehicles around construction sites;

The Council has also put in place a planning obligation requiring developers to contribute funds to Council coordination of construction impacts in the future. The pilot will also therefore set out the longer-term plans for this funding to ensure resilient and on-going solutions are put in place.

This Council therefore resolves to note the following actions that the Council takes; recommends that the following issues be addressed as part of that project;

- We are reviewing the Construction Code of Practice.
- That we are committed to greater transparency and easier access to information on construction sites and regulatory requirements and conditions, including Construction Management Plans.
- That we take careful consideration of the impact of construction in close proximity to residential areas, whilst noting that very few sites in Tower Hamlets are not in close proximity to residential areas.
- That within the powers available to us, we, the GLA, and good constructors, work to coordinate road and lane closures to reduce their impact on others.

and where multiple sites and events are involved, and including the safe access for emergency vehicles to residential areas due to development.

- That we encourage and promote compliance with Considerate Construction Schemes, ensuring that there is publicity on site and via websites and other information to enable residents to know who to contact in case of problems.
- ~~To update the Construction Code of Practise which we think may now be over 14 years old, it refers to Council buildings that no longer exist.~~
- ~~The Council learn to say no to construction companies that ask for an extension of working hours. To address the culture that seems to prioritise the needs of construction companies over that of residents health.~~
- A key priority for the Development Coordination Pilot is to review the way we engage and share information with residents about construction timelines, road closures, hours of construction (including any extensions), key contacts and construction management plans, and it is important that we review how we publicise information.
- ~~That where it says no or modifies what the construction companies have asked for, that it publicises that in order to regain the confidence of residents in its willingness to stand up for them.~~
- ~~That it makes it easier to find information about construction, construction management plans, permission to grant extended hours and road works and road or lane closures.~~
- ~~That it considers requests for out of hours street works in the same way as it does for work on construction sites.~~
- ~~That Construction Management Plans become live easy to find documents that guide everybody (including other Council departments) in the progress of construction and what is being done to mitigate the negative impacts.~~
- ~~That the Council demonstrates how it complies with the;~~
 - ~~Noise Policy Statement for England~~
 - ~~Section 79 of Environmental Protection Act 1990~~
 - ~~Section 60(4)(d) Control of Pollution Act 1974~~
- That the Council will work closely with residents and community groups to understand the impact on communities and use local people's expertise on how best to coordinate work.
- That the Council complies with the Noise Policy Statement for England through the use of planning conditions seeking to mitigate noise impacts.
- That in accordance with Section 79 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990, the Council provides a noise nuisance investigation service from Monday to

Friday (9am-5pm) and Thursday to Sunday evening (8pm-3.30am). The Environmental Protection Team record and investigate all noise nuisance complaints and take relevant action when statutory nuisance is witnessed including the issuing of noise abatement notices where appropriate. On many occasions noise nuisance is abated through dialogue, informing, educating and warnings.

- That to comply with Section 60(4)(d) Control of Pollution Act 1974, the Environmental Protection Team serve s60 notices on construction sites restricting the hours of operation and the noise and vibration limits a site can make. They also consider s61 applications for consent and issue consents limiting hours of operation together with noise and vibration limits whilst at the same time making it clear to contractors that best practical means to minimise noise are adhered to. If continuous non-compliance is witnessed legal action is taken. The Team also carry out surveillance visits at the weekends.
- ~~That careful consideration will need to be given to applications which are made in relation to sites in close proximity to residential areas where the request for changing hours is likely to have a significant impact on health (to quote the government guidance on extending working hours during COVID)~~
- ~~That were work results in closed roads or lanes that it be better co-ordinated with other closures or events.~~
- ~~That it installs its own live online air quality sensors and noise monitoring sensors close to construction sites which enable the monitoring of a range of pollutants. That the results be made available online in real time.~~
- ~~That like one central London Borough it only allows noisy works five days of the week where close to homes or at least gives residents an extra hour of rest on Saturday mornings.~~
- ~~To ensure the safe access for emergency vehicles to residential areas due to development.~~
- ~~That it discourages the chopping down of trees on or next to sites unless absolutely necessary and even then only at the last moment.~~
- ~~To replace bollards in some areas like Marsh Wall which are being continuously knocked over and damaged, they are clearly not strong enough to protect pedestrians on pavements.~~
- ~~That the council requiring developers to sign up to the Considerate Construction Scheme, and ensuring that there is publicity on site and via websites and other information to enable residents to know who to contact in case of problems.~~
- ~~Establish an offsite waiting area for construction vehicles, as happened on the London 2012 Olympic site, rather have them wait next to people's homes to be called onto site.~~

Item 12.2 - Martyn's Law and the Protection of our residents and visitors' Labour Group amendment to the motion

Proposer: Cllr Sirajul Islam

Seconder: Mayor John Biggs

Added text underlined

Deleted text scored out

This council notes:

That there have been a number of attacks in London identified as terrorism, these have involved the lethal use of knives and the use of vehicles to knock down, kill and maim vulnerable pedestrians in well visited areas of the city and in a location in the vicinity of a Mosque. Tower Hamlets is a borough with many tourist attractions and places of worship, many located on streets which have large numbers of pedestrians in the past and are likely to have again once travel resumes.

A feature of concern has been crowded places which includes shopping centres, sports stadia, bars, pubs and clubs and residential areas which are easily accessible to the public and attractive to terrorists. Concerns have grown with regard to public security inside venues where people congregate as well as measures to protect our streets. The Shoreditch Triangle which includes, Bishopsgate, Spitalfields and parts of Bethnal Green is already a visitor hotspot with a large night-time economy and is intersected by busy roads. We now also have the prospect of a major Embassy moving to Tower Hamlets.

Since 2018, the local authority has employed a Protective Security Manager – one of few councils to do so – to develop our protective security response and work closely with the police and other partners on mitigating identified areas of risk. The Protective Security Manager has a close working relationship with the Metropolitan Police Counter Terrorism Security Advisors and is a standing member of the Metropolitan Police monthly Security Review Meeting. The CONTEST Board oversees the protective security work for the local authority.

The Metropolitan Police Counter Terrorism Security Advisors have their own 'priority location assessments' which is part of their normal business and which the local authority may not necessarily be part of. The CTSA's also provide routine protective security advice to businesses as part of their normal business.

The Council also invests significantly in public space CCTV, which plays an important role in security and policing, and the Council is also upgrading the existing infrastructure through a £3m capital investment programme.

The government on the 26th February 2021 set out its proposals on a new Protect Duty; a legal requirement for public places to ensure preparedness for and protection from terrorist attacks. It would require those in scope to consider terrorist threats, and consider and implement appropriate and proportionate protective security and organisational preparedness measures.

The Home Office's proposed Protect Duty, which is currently out for consultation, delivers on a manifesto commitment to improve the safety and security of public venues and spaces, drawing on lessons learned from previous terrorist incidents. Tower Hamlets Council will be responding to the consultation.

These changes follow a campaign run by the mother of Martyn Hett who was among 22 people killed in the 2017 Manchester Arena bombing. The changes will be to consider airport-style security checks to be mandatory at major sporting and entertainment venues. No such law currently exists so security remains the decision of individual operators.

That the proposed new law would require venue operators to consider the risk of a terrorist attack and take "proportionate and reasonable measures to prepare for and protect the public from such an attack", according to the Home Office. This could include increased physical security, training, incident response plans and exercises for staff on what to do during an attack

There is an existing Capital Project for the development of protective security measures around identified key locations on the borough including the East London Mosque, Brick Lane and Columbia Road Market. All work in these locations goes through a rigorous technical assessment process with relevant experts in the protective security field including our Protective Security Manager. In addition the Liveable Streets project is improving local infrastructure at Brick Lane, Columbia Road and Whitechapel to reduce vehicle access in these areas which complements the protective security work. Both the CTSA's and the Protective Security Manager are providing advice and support to Liveable Streets and Planning as appropriate.

All faith centres on the borough have previously been invited to bid for additional funding from the Home Office 'Places of Worship' fund for any specific protective security work they wished to undertake, and the Mayor has also lobbied the Home Office to provide more funding. During 2019, 13 locations applied, with 4 locations accepting funding. Other institutions were either not successful or withdrew their applications for various reasons. In 2020 only one institution applied and were successful.

That the City of London continues to invest in security measures which include manned checkpoints, rising street bollards, restricted roads and crash-proof barricades. These precautions follow a warning by MI5 that the "eastern cluster" of towers planned around Bishopsgate is "highly sensitive to the threat of a hostile, vehicle-borne" attack and will replace the previous ring of steel installed to ward off IRA attacks.

That in addition the City of London is seeking S106 funds from developers in order to help fund this work.

That within Tower Hamlets only the Canary Wharf estate and the Tower of London has a similar level of physical protection.

That elsewhere in London concrete or other barriers have been erected to protect pedestrians from vehicle attacks.

The Council further notes;

That in February 1996 the IRA bombed Marsh Wall which killed two and injured and maimed many more, some who died of their wounds years later. This location was deliberately chosen as a less defended target than Canary Wharf estate to the immediate north but one with the same level of publicity value.

That like the City of London Tower Hamlets has emerging clusters of tall towers in Aldgate, Blackwall, Marsh Wall and the areas to the north of Canary Wharf.

The Chinese Embassy planning application.

That some areas containing high value targets have no public CCTV cameras.

This Council believes that;

The borough needs to continue to review our security measures and have appropriate security measures in place to protect and deter potential attacks.

The Council resolves ~~calls on the Mayor to;~~

Forward a copy of this motion to the Protective Security Manager and the BCU Commander to ensure that these matters are raised with the relevant security professionals and to ensure that ~~Initiate a full security and safety is continually reviewed of the Borough which will be submitted to Cabinet, Overview and Scrutiny and the full council for consideration and final recommendations, and;~~

1. Continue to c~~onsult~~ with the Security Services on the potential threats to Tower Hamlets given its strategic location and national assets
2. ~~Consider adding to~~Explore the role of future S106 agreements additional funding for additional security measures over and above those funded through CIL
3. Note the ongoing work of the Protective Security Manager and others in ~~Identifying~~ in advance likely targets and considering what steps would be required to mitigate the impact of any future attack using vehicles or other methods as the new Protect Duty requires us to do.
4. Publicise such preparation where appropriate, in order to reassure residents and deter potential attackers
5. Implement existing capital projects for the development of protective security measures including areas ~~security measures in the areas adjoining Canary Wharf and other possible targets~~ such as the Whitechapel Road, Brick Lane, Columbia Road Flower Market and mosques including the East London Mosque.

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Labour Group amendment to the motion ‘regarding the proposed new Chinese Embassy in Tower Hamlets and a proposal to investigate naming of roads or new buildings – Tiananmen Square, Uyghur Court, Hong Kong Road and Tibet Hill and establish that any collaboration between the Chinese Embassy and local schools reflects the borough’s heritage of standing up for each other.’

Proposer: Mayor John Biggs

Secunder: Cllr Asma Begum

Added text underlined

Deleted text scored out

This Council notes:

1. The purchase of the Royal Mint site in Tower Hamlets for the new People’s Republic of China London embassy building.
2. The number of residents living in Tower Hamlets from the People’s Republic of China including Hong Kong residents. In addition, the number of businesses from there that are active and investing in Tower Hamlets. There is also a Tibetan community in the borough and Tibet has also been subjected to human rights’ violations by the CCP.
3. The long history dating back to before the 1880’s of the Chinese community in Tower Hamlets and that many people from the region are now citizens of the United Kingdom.
4. The historic ties between China, Hong Kong and Tower Hamlets due to the trade between these two countries, whether tea shipped into the docks or from the trading desks of the Hong Kong & Shanghai Banking Corporation (now HSBC) whose global headquarters are in Tower Hamlets.
5. Discussions on the potential to raise the Tibetan Flag and rename roads near the Royal Mint site as Tiananmen Square, Uyghur Court and Hong Kong Road.’
6. We are very proud of the fact that Tower Hamlets is such an open and tolerant borough where we truly value our diversity and understand the strength that it brings, and where we also understand and appreciate the need to be good partners and to foster good relationships.
7. We remain deeply concerned about China’s human rights’ record on a number of issues, in particular the appalling treatment of the largely Muslim Uyghurs, and the situations in Hong Kong and Tibet.
8. The BBC coverage of the allegations of systematic rape of Uyghur women in China.
9. That the Chinese Embassy in the UK has written to a [number of local schools](#) as part of its consultation to explore opportunities for future collaboration.

This Council further notes:

1. That Mayor Biggs wrote to the Chinese Ambassador on behalf of the Council to express deep concerns about China’s human rights record.
2. Cllr Peter Golds has written to English Heritage regarding the heritage of the Royal Mint Street site; the plague pits at the Royal Mint Street site (New Chinese Embassy plans plagued by Black Death burial pits

<https://bit.ly/3r9nB3h>).

3. That the Tibetan Community in Tower Hamlets wrote to the Mayor, Cllrs Khan, Wood and Golds requesting to raise the Tibetan Flag on 10th March 2021.
4. 10th March is Tibet's National Uprising Day, and the Tibetan flag is currently raised annually by Waltham Forest, Northampton, Woolwich and others.
5. Cllrs Khan, Wood and Golds responded that they welcomed raising the Tibetan Flag on 10th March 2021.
6. Mayor Biggs met with a representative of the Chinese Embassy last year to convey the council's concerns about China's actions and passed the request to raise the Tibetan flag to the Council's Chief Executive who has responsibility for such matters.
7. The Council's Chief Executive rejected the call for the Tibetan flag to be raised, citing protocols, even though other councils are raising the flag, as mentioned above.

This Council Resolves:

1. That Tower Hamlets Council investigates whether roads or possibly new buildings near the location of the proposed Chinese Embassy could be renamed appropriately as acts of solidarity with historic symbols or place names of Chinese significance; for example: Tiananmen Square, Uyghur Court, Hong Kong Road and/or "Xiaobo Road" (in memory of Xiaobo Liu) – noting also the Council's review of the borough's public realm which included a resident consultation to identify monuments, plaques, buildings, roads which celebrated legacies which are not in keeping with the borough's values of diversity – and to investigate what other actions the council could take to show solidarity.
2. That there is no financial cost associated with naming roads and buildings to residents, businesses and schools or any other stakeholder.
3. Welcomes the relocation of the Chinese Embassy and its staff moving to Tower Hamlets. But that as new neighbours and friends we must continue to make clear where our own standards and principles apply, and we will not refrain from expressing the views of the Council, on behalf of our community, or asserting our support for the freedom and diversity of our borough.
4. That we in Tower Hamlets welcome residents of Hong Kong who wish to take advantage of their now increased ability to move to the United Kingdom (even if more could be done). The Borough has a long and proud history of being the first home in the UK for many people fleeing persecution in their original countries. And that those earlier arrivals are now British citizens.
5. To establish what kind of collaboration the Chinese Embassy in the UK is seeking with local schools and whether it will reflect the Borough's Strategic Plan, which states clearly: "We have a proud history of standing up for each other as one community and celebrating our differences." <https://democracy.towerhamlets.gov.uk/mgConvert2PDF.aspx?ID=130890>

Urgent motion – aftermath of Sarah Everard protests

Proposed by Cllr Asma Begum

Seconded by Cllr Rachel Blake

This Council notes:

1. The murder of Sarah Everard has launched a wave of anger and protest across the country. Reports from the vigil held at Clapham Common show police officers using excessive force against protestors
2. Blessing Olusogun's death remains unexplained
3. Nicole Smallman and Bibaa Henry were killed after meeting friends in a park. Police officers were detained at the time on suspicion of misconduct in public office on the grounds that they took and shared unofficial and inappropriate photographs of the women at the crime scene
4. Deaf and Disabled women, women from Black Asian Minority Ethnic backgrounds and LGBTQ women are even more likely to experience harassment, discrimination and abuse. Women from diverse backgrounds experience abuse differently and male power is used against them differently.
5. Women living in poverty are particularly vulnerable to experiencing violence and face disproportionate challenges in accessing the necessary support to make them safe. Lack of access to secure housing, precarious employment, difficulty accessing social security and poverty work to keep women in abusive situations.
6. There are on average 12 honour killings every year in the UK
7. Whilst serious physical assaults by strangers are rare, street harassment and violence against women and girls is endemic in the UK:
 - 80% of women of all ages have been sexually harassed in public
 - 97% of young women have been sexually harassed
 - One in two women are sexually harassed in the workplace
 - One in three women experience domestic violence in their lifetime
 - One in five women will be raped in their lifetime
 - 2 women a week are killed by a current or former partner, and 3 women take their own lives following domestic abuse
8. Women who report rape have a 3% chance of it ever being heard in court. Most women who survive domestic violence do not receive justice from the criminal justice system.
9. In Nottingham, police have trialled treating misogyny as a hate crime.
10. Tower Hamlets Council has an established a Champions programme to tackle Violence Against Women and Girls
11. Tower Hamlets has a No Place for Hate campaign to send a clear and consistent message that hate will not be tolerated in our borough
12. Tower Hamlets has invested in Independent Domestic Violence Advocates

This Council believes:

1. Male violence against women and girls is part of a broader culture of misogyny in society.
2. Perpetrators of serious violence usually have a history of inflicting abuse and harassment against other women and girls. Tackling violence against women and girls means dismantling this culture.

3. It also means tackling other forms of discrimination and the economic system that further enables abuse against women and girls.
4. That a justice system that allows one of the most heinous crimes to be effectively decriminalised is not fit for purpose. Sustained cuts to all elements of the justice system, as well as institutional misogyny mean that crimes against women and girls that are reported are not effectively investigated. The decision to fail to resource this work is a political choice.

This Council resolves to:

1. Stand in solidarity with protestors against violence against women and girls
2. Call for an urgent and thorough investigation into the operational policing of the vigil which took place on 13 March 2021 and for swift action to be taken
3. Call on the Home Secretary to thoroughly investigate the leadership of the policing of the vigil which took place on 13 March 2021
4. Call for this investigation to be held sensitively in public
5. Call for investment in the whole justice system
6. Call for the CPS not to insist that victims phones are confiscated, particularly when this isn't necessary, and making this a condition for the crime to be investigated
7. Call on the Government to ratify the Istanbul Convention on preventing and combatting VAWG
8. Call on the Government to ratify the International Labour Organisation's No.190, recognising the right of everyone to work free from gender based violence and harassment
9. Work with women across Tower Hamlets, organising listening and peer engagement events, to submit evidence to the investigation into the policing at the weekend
10. Call on the Tower Hamlets Borough Command Unit to prioritise investigating crimes against women and girls and ask them to ensure that people aren't penalised when they report a crime
11. Deliver culturally competent services which fully serve our diverse population
12. Support the design of a feminist city through our planning and design processes
13. Work with the Tower Hamlets Borough Command Unit on improving women's safety
14. Educate men through campaigns and bringing in male "allies"
15. Utilise all our resources to publicise all missing women and girls
16. Strengthen ward panels to have agenda items on hate crime incidents and domestic violence.
17. Continue the Violence Against Women and Girls Champions Programme
18. Work with schools and families to tackle toxic masculinity culture
19. Join local, London and national networks working to end Violence Against Women and Girls
20. Campaign for misogyny to legally recognised as a hate crime.