



Meeting of the

Tower Hamlets Council

Supplemental Agenda

Wednesday, 18 January 2023 at 7.00 p.m.

VENUE

Council Chamber, 1st Floor,
Town Hall, Mulberry Place,
5 Clove Crescent,
London E14 2BG

Further information about this meeting is available in the main agenda.

Democratic Services Contact:

Matthew Mannion, Head of Democratic Services

Tel: 020 7364 4651, E-mail: matthew.mannion@towerhamlets.gov.uk



London Borough of Tower Hamlets

Council



Supplemental Agenda

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7.00 p.m.

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| 7. | ADMINISTRATION MOTION DEBATE
Tabled proposed amendment | 3 - 6 |
| 8. | OPPOSITION MOTION DEBATE
Tabled proposed amendment. | 7 - 8 |
| 12. | TO CONSIDER MOTIONS SUBMITTED BY MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL
Tabled proposed amendments. | 9 - 16 |



LABOUR GROUP AMENDMENT TO THE ADMINISTRATION MOTION FOR DEBATE – MOTION ON TACKLING CRIME

Proposed by: Cllr Amina Ali

Seconded by: Cllr Rebaka Sultana

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This Council notes:

- ~~• The rising levels of crime in Tower Hamlets since 2015. That Community Safety remains a vital issue for residents across Tower Hamlets borough.~~
- That Tower Hamlets is ranked in the top ten of London's most dangerous Boroughs, ranking third out of a possible thirty-two.
- That, according to 2022 data, serious crimes are on the rise and are much higher than the London average, including Anti-Social Behaviour, Drugs, Robberies and Burglaries and violent crime, including periodic explosions in knife crime and murder.
- According to the latest reported statistics from the Metropolitan Police, homophobic hate crime in Tower Hamlets has increased by 39% in the last 8 months. At the Hate Crime Awareness event run in October 2022 by the Council-funded LGBTQI + forum, residents shared their concerns over safety in Tower Hamlets. This fear within the LGBTQI+ community in Tower Hamlets has increased since the horrific and tragic murder of Roy Kankanamalage last year, and further violence against our LGBTQI+ community in Mile End in July, continues to create fear and terror amongst our residents.
- That it is no coincidence that this rise in crime has coincided with the cuts to police and other key public services in London due to the decimation of neighbourhood policing by 13 years of Conservative government austerity where PCSOs have been halved since 2010, destroying the vital community link between residents and the police and the previous administration's indifference and unwillingness to invest in community safety.
- Despite Government inaction, the previous Labour administration did a lot of work with its partners in the Metropolitan Police Service and other local agencies to ensure that residents were protected from the worst effects of Conservative austerity on community safety.
- That the previous Labour administration invested in council-funded police officers, known as the Partnership Task Force (PTF), and since April 2021 the PTF undertook more than 9,000 hours of uniformed patrols, issued nearly 200 anti-social behaviour warnings, conducted 376 stop and searches and made 53 detections for possession of drugs or possession with intent to supply.
- The Council's award-winning Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG), funded by the previous Labour administration, offers vital support for victims

of domestic abuse and looked to improve women's safety, offering training sessions to encourage male allyship and reporting of abuse, a new contract with Solace Women's Aid to support victims of domestic abuse, and continued to deliver the sanctuary scheme which allowed domestic abuse victims to stay in their own homes.

- That the previous Labour administration also invested in the Council's CCTV Transformation Programme, a £3.1 million investment to upgrade the whole CCTV network to new digital technology, which will increase visibility and allow the Council to better support the police and tackle crime.
- That huge volumes of complaints and concerns have been received by the Mayor at his surgeries and to his office from residents concerned by this increase in crime.
- That crime disproportionately impacts members of the Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) communities, ~~and~~ those on the lowest incomes, and members of the LGBTQI community.

This Council believes:

- That the residents of Tower Hamlets should be able to walk their streets and live in their homes in the knowledge that they are safe, secure and protected.
- That the fear of crime alone has a corrosive impact on people's day-to-day quality of life.
- That to achieve this sense of security, continued serious investment is required in the Borough's Community Safety services – from Police Officers to Tower Hamlets Enforcement Officers (THEOS) – to ensure that these numbers can be driven down.
- That investment in key services, such as Youth Services, Community Services and third sector groups formulates an equally important part of any preventative strategy to reduce crime rates in the Borough.
- That the Mayor of London has a strong record in tackling crime across London and should the Council is grateful in his continued assistance assist this Council in providing the resources to recruit additional Police Officers.

This Council resolves:

- To support the Mayor and his administration to build on the strong record of the previous Labour administration in investing in Community Safety and procuring additional resources to drive down crime rates in the Borough.
- To continue the work of the previous Labour administration which developed a partnership Violence Reduction Plan, and request task Officers with the formulation of a Crime Reduction Plan that pulls together the relevant

~~agencies and combines prevention, intervention and inter-agency cooperation, subject to due process. build on this plan and continue to work in partnership with the police, the voluntary community sector, probation, schools and other community safety partners.~~

- To continue to work and partner with the Metropolitan Police in the sharing of information and joint-tasking in tackling crime.
- To continue the strong record on tackling crime from the previous Labour administration and support this Administration to invest £2.9million in the recruitment of 40 Tower Hamlets Enforcement Officers (THEOs), £1.6million of investment in recruiting 33 new Police Officers over the next three years and £200,000 in CCTV investment.
- To further invest in the Council's Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) Team, to ensure that action is taken by the administration on this important issue, and look at the expansion of the previous Labour administration's Young Person and VAWG focussed enforcement officers.
- To support the LBTH LGBTQI+ forum to conduct a review of safety concerns for the community in Tower Hamlets, and to resolve to end violence against the LGBTQI+ community in Tower Hamlets to truly become a No Place for Hate borough.
- To support an additional £8.5million of investment on top of the existing £3.4million in youth services through the new Young Tower Hamlets programme, a continued significant investment in Drug Treatment Services and a redesigned and rejuvenated Community Grants programme to help strengthen community cohesion in the Borough, which will be open to all and subject to a fair and transparent allocation system, in turn reducing crime and improving standards of living.
- To work with all housing providers in the Borough to improve the safety of housing and estates in Tower Hamlets, through the assessment of existing planning design and the designing out of crime hotspots and blind spots.

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Amendment to Opposition Motion for debate

Proposed by Cllr Kabir Ahmed,
Seconded by Cllr Harun Miah

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This Council believes:

- ~~• Tower Hamlets Homes (THH) has on balance led to a significant improvement in the quality of housing management than was achieved when council housing was last a direct in-house service.~~
- ~~• Simply bringing THH back in-house will not deliver the improvements in repairs services and value for money tenants and leaseholders consistently say they want to see.~~
- ~~• Stronger direct accountability to council tenants and leaseholders and to elected councillors is an essential component of the alternative governance arrangements.~~
- ~~• The current arrangements for the democratic oversight of THH's performance are already inadequate and will be even more so if the service is brought back in-house and councillors no longer serve on its Board.~~
- Tower Hamlets Homes (THH) was established as an Arm's Length Management Organisation (ALMO) in 2008 to assist with elevating all Tower Hamlets homes to compliance with the *Decent Homes Standard*.
- That the ALMO model has served its purpose, with Tower Hamlets comprising one of only four London Boroughs who still adhere to the ALMO model.
- That another of these Labour-run Boroughs with the ALMO model (Lewisham) have just voted to conclude their ALMO services and bring housing back in-house.
- That the building of new homes and the tackling of the overcrowding crisis in Tower Hamlets, and the maintenance and improvement of existing stock, was and remains the central pledge of Mayor Lutfur Rahman's transformative *Manifesto*.
- That this is reflected in both the Council's *Strategic* and *Delivery* plans.
- The insourcing of the ALMO would enable the council to deliver services to residents living in social and council housing that meet their needs, and assist in the delivery of this Administration's central pledges around housing.

- That this Administration is confident that the insourcing of Tower Hamlets Homes has overwhelming support from residents.
- That Officers have already begun the necessary processes to instigate a review of housing management functions, that will strengthen accountability and resident and stakeholder engagement with the service if it were to come in-house.

This Council therefore resolves:

- ~~To call on the Executive Mayor to commit to instruct THH/LBTH to proactively organise a minimum of four Tenants & Residents Association meetings on each estate/neighbourhood.~~
- ~~To call on the Executive Mayor to instruct officers to begin an open and transparent consultation with stakeholders on the level of performance an in-house service would be expected to achieve over the next three years.~~
- ~~To call on the Executive Mayor to establish and resource either a new Housing Committee of elected councillors to oversee the performance of THH increase the number of meetings of the existing Housing & Regeneration Scrutiny Sub-committee to ten each year, with an expanded membership.~~
- To support officers in the process of insourcing Tower Hamlets Homes, should residents vote to return to the Council.
- To regularly update residents and all related stakeholders on the progress of this process.
- To provide reassurances and updates to all Tower Hamlets Homes staff, to ensure that they are aware that their jobs are safe if the service comes in-house.
- To call on the Executive Mayor to re-establish the Borough wide Tenants Federation with resources.

12.1 Labour Group Amendment to the Aspire Group Motion on RSL Service Standards

Proposer: Cllr Amina Ali

Secunder: Cllr Asma Islam

Additions in red and underlined

Deletions in red and struck through

This Council notes:

- The inadequate conditions that residents in the Milo and Diagoras House estate in Bow have been living in since September 2022, with issues exacerbated by the cold weather.
- That Bow East Councillors had been working with residents to secure fire safety works since 2020.
- That many residents in the estate were without hot water and heating for 91 days – three months – as of the 22nd December, and that several properties remain unheated and without hot water.
- That this has caused an increase in damp and mould in properties, which can be particularly dangerous for children and the elderly.
- That internal works to rectify these issues did not begin until the 31st October – over a month after the initial failings had been reported.
- That there have been reports of serious respiratory, skin and other internal illnesses as a result of these failings, with many of those worst affected being children.
- That in September and October 2022 Bow East Councillors worked with residents to identify the necessary compensation and mitigation for the works.
- That residents were not sufficiently informed of the progress of the works, with shifting deadlines, physical disruption and the aforementioned threat of illness creating an intolerable atmosphere of distress and uncertainty for those affected.
- That many residents feel let down and betrayed by the level of care and support that has been offered to them by Swan Housing – who are the Registered Social Landlords (RSL) for the properties – with many suffering mental health and financial issues due to the turmoil created by their indecision.
- That the purpose of a Registered Social Landlord, as defined by the National Government's own criterion, is: "to carry on for the benefit of the community the business of providing housing and any associated amenities for persons in necessitous circumstances upon terms appropriate to their means"
- That homes across Tower Hamlets are affected by delays to fire safety works.
- That Bow East Councillors have a good track record for holding housing associations to account including securing investigations into Clarion Estates and have campaigned widely on this issue with other Councillors.
- That Bow East Councillors have called for regular updates from Swan Housing and were in regular contact with residents throughout the Christmas and New Year break regarding the progress of the works.
- That Bow East Councillors have been invited by residents across Tower Hamlets to support them with securing repairs from Swan Housing.
- That the serious detriment test for consumer regulation within the current framework – which prevents the Regulator for Social Housing intervening unless tenants are at risk of 'serious detriment' – is not sufficient for protecting tenants.
- That the Conservative Government has historically abandoned the proper consumer regulation of housing providers and needs to prioritise the Social Housing Regulation Bill that is currently going through parliament.

- That Mayor Lutfur Rahman directly addressed landlords in his transformative Manifesto, which stipulated the following: “There is a social housing crisis in Tower Hamlets. Having a roof over your head is a basic human right, but at the moment we cannot house the people who want to live here and too many live in housing that doesn’t meet their needs or struggle with unresponsive landlords.
- That this document further highlighted the role that social landlords should play in ‘improving the condition of the homes they let and the service they provide to their tenants’, and that they should work with the Council, ‘collectively and individually, to improve housing services, stock condition and governance’. 1 Guidance for charitable registered social landlords, Guidance for charitable registered social landlords (publishing.service.gov.uk), p.2 (Objects of Charitable RSLs) 2 Aspire Manifesto, p.10 Page 98

This Council believes:

- That Swan Housing is providing an inadequate service to residents. It failed to provide stable and adequate temporary accommodation to countless residents, while at the same time failing to provide the associated amenities for residents in necessitous circumstances.
- That Swan Housing controls a large amount of properties formerly owned by the Local Authority that have since been transferred under Housing Choice, with the provision that they would improve and maintain the stock sufficiently.
- The aforementioned failures to rectify the issues faced by residents in Milo and Diagoras house exposes Swan Housing’s inability to adequately provide and maintain good standards.
- That the residents of Tower Hamlets should not be subjected to poor housing conditions and should expect warm, decent, comfortable homes, where any issues that arise are resolved swiftly and with minimal delays.
- The Mayor of Tower Hamlets has not established sufficient monitoring arrangements for Housing Association performance.
- That Swan Housing’s right to provide homes to residents of this Borough should be reviewed and scrutinised accordingly, following such inadequate performance. That Swan Housing should be referred to the Social Housing regulator for their contractual failings at Milo and Diagoras House.

This Council resolves:

- To review stock transfer agreements and the contractual situation and agreement relationship between Swan Housing and the London Borough of Tower Hamlets as a Local Authority.
- To enforce any outstanding requirements from the Stock Transfer agreements.
- To ~~adopt~~ bring the forthcoming Mayor’s Decent Homes Charter to Full Council for debate as a prerequisite for all RSLs to adhere to if they are to continue as housing providers and partners with Tower Hamlets Council.
- To invite residents to meet with the Mayor to outline their views and frustrations at their mistreatment by Swan Housing.
- To call on Officers and the Housing Scrutiny Committee to review the process of scrutiny relating to RSLs in the Borough, to ensure that it is as rigorous as possible, and holds those RSLs failing to deliver the levels of excellence expected of them by this Council to account.

- That a paper should be prepared for a [Housing Scrutiny](#) spotlight session on the failings of Swan Housing with a view to extend the scope of this scrutiny session to other RSLs if required.
- That the findings and recommendations of this scrutiny session are to be brought to the earliest possible meeting of Cabinet for the Executive's consideration.

12.2 Aspire Amendment to Motion regarding Access to GPs

Proposed by Councillor Maium Talukdar
Seconded by Councillor Kibria Choudhury

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Deletions in red and struckthrough

This Council notes that:

- Primary care is in crisis, with people across Tower Hamlets and the rest of the UK struggling to access GP services and dental treatment.
- New figures from NHS England show that 18% of people in the NHS North East London Integrated Care Board, covering Tower Hamlets, could not get an appointment to see or speak to a GP or nurse the last time they tried.
- The Government has failed to remain on track to deliver 6000 additional GPs by 2024-25.
- Our doctors and nurses across the NHS in Tower Hamlets work hard for residents while grappling with the biggest staffing crisis in its history in the face of Government inaction.
- That social and domiciliary care in this Borough have declined over the past seven years, following on from a series of cuts, underfunding and poor policy decisions.

This Council believes:

- That everyone should be able to get an appointment to see a doctor when they need to and has the right to receive dental treatment when they need it.
- That preventative measures and initiatives, such as a good, effective social and domiciliary care service, will also push down the demand on GPs and appointment spaces.

This Council, therefore, resolves to:

- Forward a copy of this motion to the new Secretary of State for Health and Social Care and call on her to urgently bring forward a plan to fix the crisis in primary care, to meet the Government's GP target and ensure everyone who needs an NHS dentist can access one.
- Request the local Members of Parliament support this motion and raise this important issue in Parliament.
- Work with the local NHS trust to ensure Tower Hamlets residents have full access to their GP and dentists.

- Support the Mayor in his pledge to invest in the provision of care for vulnerable members of society, including children and adults, to enhance preventative measures against demand for appointments and on GPs.
- Support the Mayor in his pledge to look after Tower Hamlets' care workers to make sure they are adequately rewarded, and supported, for their work for the most vulnerable members of our community.

12.3 Aspire Amendment to Motion on Local Electricity Bills

Proposed by Councillor Saied Ahmed
Seconded by Councillor Musthak Ahmed

Additions in red and underlined.
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This Council notes:

1. The efforts that ~~this council has made under the previous administration~~ the current administration has made to improve the previous administration's efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and promote renewable energy, including:
 - ~~i. Declaring a climate emergency in March 2019;~~
 - ~~ii. Launched the Net Zero Carbon (NZC) Partnership Action Plan in November 2021 to become a net zero carbon council by 2025 and a net zero carbon borough by 2045 or sooner;~~
 - ~~iii. Planted hundreds of street trees;~~
 - ~~iv. Approved 400 new electric vehicle charging points across the borough;~~
 - ~~v. In 2021, Tower Hamlets Council was named the greenest local authority in the country.~~

- i. The development of a Mayor's Greener Future for Tower Hamlets policy programme, including the creation of four interconnected bodies to deliver this plan including:
 - a. The Mayor's Energy Fund to help the poorest and most vulnerable with their energy bills
 - b. The Mayor's Advisory Board on Climate Change to develop a cohesive strategy that tackles the threats of the climate emergency
 - c. The Mayor's Waste Management Taskforce to tackle the appalling levels of dirt and waste on the Borough's streets left to this Administration
 - d. The Keep Our Borough Moving Taskforce to ensure that people can move cleanly and quickly around Tower Hamlets.
 - ii. Committing to reducing the Council's shift towards net-zero as soon as possible, without punishing the working and most vulnerable people of Tower Hamlets;
 - iii. Committing to plant a greater number of trees compared to existing levels;
 - iv. Increasing the number of charging points for electric vehicles
 - v. Installing green heating systems on our estates, including the use of solar panels, wind turbines and heat and power schemes

- ~~2. That very large financial setup and running costs involved in selling locally generated renewable electricity to local customers result in it being impossible for local renewable electricity generators to do so.~~
 - ~~3. That making these financial costs proportionate to the scale of a renewable electricity supplier's operation would enable and empower new local businesses, or councils, to be providers of locally generated renewable electricity directly to local customers.~~
 - ~~4. That revenues received by new local renewable electricity providers could be used to help improve the local economy, local services and facilities and to reduce local greenhouse gas emissions.~~
2. That the Mayor has committed £28million worth of subsidization for 850 businesses across the Borough with help for their energy bills.
 3. That the Mayor has already held several meetings with businesses, residents and stakeholders to continue this support.
 4. That the Mayor has already pledged to use Section 106 money from the Council's Carbon Fund to ensure that schools, businesses and homes receive as much new, green technology to keep energy prices down.

This Council resolves to:

1. To support the Local Electricity Bill, supported by 306 MPs which, if made law, would establish a Right to Local Supply which would promote local renewable electricity supply companies and co-operatives by making the setup and running costs of selling renewable electricity to local customers proportionate to the size of the supply operation.
 - ~~2. Inform the local media of this decision.~~
 - ~~3. Instruct the Mayor to write to the borough's Members of Parliament local MPs, asking them to support the Bill.~~
 - ~~4. Instruct the Mayor to write to the organisers of the campaign for the Bill, Power for People, (at 8 Delancey Passage, Camden, London NW1 7NN) expressing its support.~~
2. Support the Mayor and his administration to continue to liaise and work with key stakeholders, including other elected representatives, businesses, residents and third sector organisations to ensure that existing support continues and is built upon.

3. Call on all members support the Mayor and his administration in delivering these changes and savings.