



Meeting of the

TOWER HAMLETS COUNCIL

Wednesday, 18 September 2019 at 7.00 p.m.

A G E N D A

VENUE

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

Democratic Services Contact:

Matthew Mannion, Head of Democratic Services

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



Directorate of Governance

Democratic Services
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www.towerhamlets.gov.uk

**TO THE MAYOR AND COUNCILLORS OF THE LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER
HAMLETS**

You are summoned to attend a meeting of the Council of the London Borough of Tower Hamlets to be held in **THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, 1ST FLOOR, TOWN HALL, MULBERRY PLACE, 5 CLOVE CRESCENT, LONDON, E14 2BG** at **7.00 p.m.** on **WEDNESDAY, 18 SEPTEMBER 2019**

Will Tuckley
Chief Executive

Public Information

Attendance at meetings.

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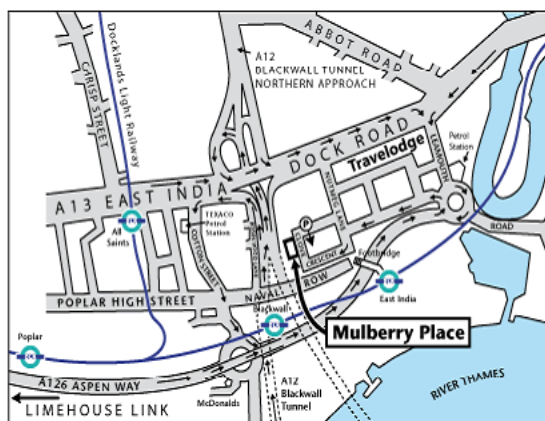
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LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

COUNCIL

WEDNESDAY, 18 SEPTEMBER 2019

7.00 p.m.

PAGE
NUMBER

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

To receive any apologies for absence.

2. **DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS**

7 - 10

To note any declarations of interest made by Members, including those restricting Members from voting on the questions detailed in Section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act, 1992. See attached note from the Monitoring Officer.

3. **MINUTES**

11 - 36

To confirm as a correct record of the proceedings the unrestricted minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council held on 17th July 2019.

4. **TO RECEIVE ANNOUNCEMENTS (IF ANY) FROM THE SPEAKER OF THE COUNCIL OR THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

5. **TO RECEIVE PETITIONS**

37 - 40

The Council Procedure Rules provide for a maximum of four petitions to be discussed at an Ordinary Meeting of the Council.

The attached report presents the received petitions to be discussed. Should any additional petitions be received they will be listed to be noted but not discussed.

6. **MAYOR'S REPORT**

The Council's Constitution provides for the Elected Mayor to give a report at each Ordinary Council Meeting.

A maximum of six minutes is allowed for the Elected Mayor's report.

Following which the Speaker of the Council will invite:

- the leader of the opposition group to respond for up to two

minutes should he so wish

- The Mayor to respond to the leader of the opposition for up to two minutes

7. ADMINISTRATION MOTION DEBATE 41 - 44

To debate a Motion submitted by the Administration in accordance with Rules 11 and 13 of the Council's Constitution. The debate will last for a maximum of 30 minutes.

8. OPPOSITION MOTION DEBATE 45 - 48

To debate a Motion submitted by the Opposition Group in accordance with Rules 11 and 13 of the Council's Constitution. The debate will last for a maximum of 30 minutes.

9. TO RECEIVE WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL 49 - 52

The questions which have been received from Councillors to be put at this Council meeting are set out in the attached report. A maximum period of 30 minutes is allocated to this agenda item.

10. REPORTS FROM THE EXECUTIVE AND THE COUNCIL'S COMMITTEES

Nil items.

11. OTHER BUSINESS

Nil items.

12. TO CONSIDER MOTIONS SUBMITTED BY MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL 53 - 64

The motions submitted by Councillors for debate at this meeting are set out in the attached report.

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Agenda Item 2

DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS - NOTE FROM THE MONITORING OFFICER

This note is for guidance only. For further details please consult the Members' Code of Conduct at Part C Section 31 of the Council's Constitution.

Please note that the question of whether a Member has an interest in any matter, and whether or not that interest is a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest, is for that Member to decide. Advice is available from officers as listed below but they cannot make the decision for the Member. If in doubt as to the nature of an interest it is advisable to seek advice **prior** to attending a meeting.

Interests and Disclosable Pecuniary Interests (DPIs)

You may have an interest in any business of the authority where that business relates to or is likely to affect any of the persons, bodies or matters listed in section 22 and 23 of the Code of Conduct; and might reasonably be regarded as affecting the well-being or financial position of yourself, a member of your family or a person with whom you have a close association, to a greater extent than the majority of other council tax payers, ratepayers or inhabitants of the ward affected.

Where set out in the Code you must notify the Monitoring Officer in writing of any such interest, for inclusion in the Register of Members' Interests which is available for public inspection and on the Council's Website.

Once you have recorded an interest in the Register, you are not then required to declare that interest at each meeting where the business is discussed, unless the interest is a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest (DPI).

A DPI is defined in Regulations as a pecuniary interest of any of the descriptions listed at **Appendix A** overleaf. Please note that a Member's DPIs include his/her own relevant interests and also those of his/her spouse or civil partner; or a person with whom the Member is living as husband and wife; or a person with whom the Member is living as if they were civil partners; if the Member is aware that that other person has the interest.

Effect of a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest on participation at meetings

Where you have a DPI in any business of the Council you must, unless you have obtained a dispensation from the authority's Monitoring Officer following consideration by the Standards Advisory Committee:-

- not seek to improperly influence a decision about that business; and
- not exercise executive functions in relation to that business.

If you are present at a meeting where that business is discussed, you must:-

- Disclose to the meeting the existence and nature of the interest at the start of the meeting or when the interest becomes apparent, if later; and
- Leave the room (including any public viewing area) for the duration of consideration and decision on the item and not seek to influence the debate or decision

When declaring a DPI, Members should specify the nature of the interest and the agenda item to which the interest relates. This procedure is designed to assist the public's understanding of the meeting and to enable a full record to be made in the minutes of the meeting.

Where you have a DPI in any business of the authority which is not included in the Member's register of interests and you attend a meeting of the authority at which the business is considered, in addition to disclosing the interest to that meeting, you must also within 28 days notify the Monitoring Officer of the interest for inclusion in the Register.

Further advice

For further advice please contact:-

Asmat Hussain, Corporate Director, Governance and Monitoring Officer. Tel 020 7364 4800

APPENDIX A: Definition of a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest

(Relevant Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012, Reg 2 and Schedule)

Subject	Prescribed description
Employment, office, trade, profession or vacation	Any employment, office, trade, profession or vocation carried on for profit or gain.
Sponsorship	<p>Any payment or provision of any other financial benefit (other than from the relevant authority) made or provided within the relevant period in respect of any expenses incurred by the Member in carrying out duties as a member, or towards the election expenses of the Member.</p> <p>This includes any payment or financial benefit from a trade union within the meaning of the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992.</p>
Contracts	<p>Any contract which is made between the relevant person (or a body in which the relevant person has a beneficial interest) and the relevant authority—</p> <p>(a) under which goods or services are to be provided or works are to be executed; and</p> <p>(b) which has not been fully discharged.</p>
Land	Any beneficial interest in land which is within the area of the relevant authority.
Licences	Any licence (alone or jointly with others) to occupy land in the area of the relevant authority for a month or longer.
Corporate tenancies	<p>Any tenancy where (to the Member's knowledge)—</p> <p>(a) the landlord is the relevant authority; and</p> <p>(b) the tenant is a body in which the relevant person has a beneficial interest.</p>
Securities	<p>Any beneficial interest in securities of a body where—</p> <p>(a) that body (to the Member's knowledge) has a place of business or land in the area of the relevant authority; and</p> <p>(b) either—</p> <p>(i) the total nominal value of the securities exceeds £25,000 or one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that body; or</p> <p>(ii) if the share capital of that body is of more than one class, the total nominal value of the shares of any one class in which the relevant person has a beneficial interest exceeds one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that class.</p>

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LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL

HELD AT 7.05 P.M. ON WEDNESDAY, 17 JULY 2019

**THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, 1ST FLOOR, TOWN HALL, MULBERRY PLACE, 5
CLOVE CRESCENT, LONDON, E14 2BG**

Members Present:

Mayor John Biggs	Councillor Sirajul Islam
Councillor Farouque Ahmed	Councillor Denise Jones
Councillor Rajib Ahmed	Councillor Rabina Khan
Councillor Sabina Akhtar	Councillor James King
Councillor Sufia Alam	Councillor Eve McQuillan
Councillor Amina Ali	Councillor Ayas Miah
Councillor Shah Ameen	Councillor Puru Miah
Councillor Asma Begum	Councillor Abdul Mukit MBE
Councillor Rachel Blake	Councillor Victoria Obaze
Councillor Kevin Brady	Councillor Kyrsten Perry
Councillor Mufeedah Bustin	Councillor Zenith Rahman
Councillor Kahar Chowdhury	Councillor Candida Ronald
Councillor Shad Chowdhury	Councillor Gabriela Salva Macallan
Councillor Dipa Das	Councillor Dan Tomlinson
Councillor David Edgar	Councillor Helal Uddin
Councillor Marc Francis	Councillor Abdal Ullah
Councillor Peter Golds	Councillor Motin Uz-Zaman
Councillor Ehtasham Haque	Councillor Val Whitehead
Councillor Danny Hassell	Councillor Bex White
Councillor Mohammed Ahbab Hossain	Councillor Andrew Wood
Councillor Asma Islam	

During the meeting the Speaker agreed to change the order of business and took agenda item 10.2 Report of the Standards Advisory Committee: Annual Report Prior to Agenda Item 10.1 Report of the General Purposes Committee: Revised Constitution.

All other business was taken in order. To aid clarity, the minutes are presented in the order the items appeared on the agenda.

The Speaker of the Council, Councillor Victoria Obaze in the Chair

The Speaker of the Council brought the Council up to date with some of her activities since the previous Council meeting.

She advised that she was very pleased to have hosted and attended a variety of events. This included:

- The Eid Reunion and Award Ceremony at the London Muslim Centre;
- Clifford Chance in Canary Wharf to attended the Jewish festival of Shavuot;
- St Mary and St Michael Primary School Annual Dance Festival;
- The London Enterprise Academy annual award celebration which was followed by a Guinness world record attempt to drum continuously for longer than 14 hours;
- Bethnal Green community fitness event; and
- The Canary Wharf Group and residents summer barbecue.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of:

- Councillor Tarik Khan;
- Councillor Harun Miah;
- Councillor Mohammed Pappu;
- Councillor John Pierce; and
- Councillor Leema Qureshi.

2. DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS

The following Councillors declared an interest that must be registered (Other Interests) in Agenda Item 7 Administration Motion Regarding Air Quality and Climate Change.

- Councillor Faroque Ahmed;
- Councillor Rajib Ahmed;
- Councillor Dipa Das; and
- Councillor Asma Islam.

The following Councillors declared an interest that must be registered (Other Interests) in 11.1 Spitalfields and Banglatown Community Governance Review - Final Recommendations.

- Councillor Denise Jones;
- Councillor Tarik Khan; and
- Councillor Shad Chowdhury.

3. MINUTES

RESOLVED:

1. That the unrestricted minutes of the ordinary Council Meeting held on 15th May, 2019 be confirmed as a correct record and the Speaker be authorised to sign them accordingly.

4. TO RECEIVE ANNOUNCEMENTS (IF ANY) FROM THE SPEAKER OF THE COUNCIL OR THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

The Chief Executive was pleased to report the following success stories:

- London Energy Efficiency Award – Which was a council scheme to offer boiler replacements to low income households in Tower Hamlets has been named as the best in the capital at the 2019 Greater London Energy Efficiency Awards;
- Sir John McDougall gardens has been acknowledged by the Green Flag Award Scheme as one of the country's leading parks.

Turning to staffing issues, he reported that Carol Swift would shortly be taking up her appointment to the post of Divisional Director Housing and he thanked Mark Baigent for his service to the Council and his dedication.

He also reported on the latest Ofsted Visit which represents remarkable progress according to Ofsted after the Council set an ambitious target of achieving the good rating following the previous inspection in 2017.

5. TO RECEIVE PETITIONS

5.1 Petition regarding CCTV in Tower Hamlets

It was noted that the petitioner regarding CCTV in Tower Hamlets was not present. The petition was therefore referred to the Corporate Director, Health, Adults and Community for a written response within 28 days.

5.2 Stop the closure of Raines Foundation Secondary School.

Laura Gibson and others addressed the meeting on behalf of the petitioners, and responded to questions from Members. Councillor Danny Hassell, Cabinet Member for Children, Schools and Young People then responded to the matters raised in the petition.

RESOLVED:

1. That the petition be referred to the Corporate Director, Children and Culture, for a written response within 28 days.

5.3 Petition Debate - Stop Stepney Green Boy's School becoming a mixed school

Shahaur A Khan and others addressed the meeting on behalf of the petitioners and the Council then debated the matters raised by the petition.

During the debate Councillor Puru Miah **moved** and Councillor Danny Hassell **seconded** the following motion (As set out in the resolution below).

Following debate on the motion it was then put to a vote and was **agreed**.

That:

1. This Council notes that, despite over eight years of cuts from Conservative-led Governments, Labour in Tower Hamlets has delivered an integrated and inclusive education system in which the vast majority of schools in Tower Hamlets are 'Good' or 'Outstanding'.
2. This Council is proud of all our schools and the staff who work hard to support Tower Hamlets young people to meet their aspirations and ambitions, and ensure they have the same opportunities as young people in wealthier boroughs.
3. This has been achieved thanks to working in close partnership with our schools, teachers and parents.
4. However, this Council is concerned that the advances made for children in Tower Hamlets could be threatened by the Conservative Government's policy of forced Academisation of schools, with no powers to return to local authority governance despite the concerns of parents and teachers.
5. This Council notes that, the Conservative Government was forced to drop its plans to compel every school to become an academy by 2022 because of the loss of their majority in the 2017 General Election.
6. This Council also notes that, in recent months there has been significant media coverage of how Academies are not working in the interests of students. There is evidence to show that once a public school is converted into a Multi-Academy trust the standard of education often drops and financial oversight becomes much more difficult. Academisation does not improve pupil attainment and a report from the Education Policy Institute published in 2018, which compared school performance and pupil improvement at every trust and local authority in England at both key stage two and four, found that there is no difference in the performance of multi-academy trusts and groups of local authority schools. It also revealed that academy chains are "disproportionately represented" amongst the worst performing groups of primary schools, with 12 making it into the bottom 20. The LGA itself has said that 'it is wrong to suggest that academies have more transparency and accountability than council maintained schools.'
7. This Council notes that some academies are not accountable to their local communities and represent a dangerous step towards privatising education. Stepney Green School converting from a single gender to a mixed school, against the wishes of a substantial number of parents, pupils and local stakeholders is a prime example.
8. This Council further notes that Mayor Biggs has written to the Secretary of State about Stepney Green School, highlighting the

petition and emphasising that 'there is considerable disquiet at the openness and thoroughness of the consultation carried out by the school' and stating 'the conversion of Stepney Green into a mixed-sex school will significantly reduce parent choice in the borough.'

9. This Council is concerned that the School Commissioner structure is undemocratic and unaccountable that risks the great work done in partnership between Tower Hamlets Council and schools to raise student results and attainment. Whereas schools in Tower Hamlets currently have their finances funnelled through national and local government, thus ensuring that there is a level of accountability, Academies receive finances straight from the Government, meaning that there is reduced scrutiny and monitoring which could pose risks to the sustainability of schools.
10. This Council is also concerned that, despite there being no clear evidence that Academisation improve schools; the number of schools becoming Academies in Tower Hamlets is growing.
11. This Council is further concerned that the legal requirements regarding consultation for schools becoming academies are not rigorous enough and often mean only minimal consultation with parents and local communities.
12. This Council believes that due to the wider impact on the education system in the borough significant changes to school governance should not be done without a significant mandate from parents and teachers.
13. This Council further believes that it is vital that local authorities like Tower Hamlets continue to act as a 'critical friend' to schools by offering support and challenge in raising standards, as has been the case hitherto.
14. This Council resolves to lobby the government to halt forced Academisation by the Secretary of State.
15. This Council resolves to lobby the government to give greater powers to local authorities to work with failing schools to find solutions, rather than the only option being forced Academisation by the Secretary of State.
16. To also lobby the government to allow schools to return to a local authority governed school.
17. This Council also resolves to investigate other models of governance that allow local authorities greater partnership and influence within schools.
18. This Council resolves to support and focus on continuing the outstanding achievements that a collaborative education system delivers for current and future generations of young people in Tower Hamlets.

19. This council resolves to work with all schools in the borough to improve the educational standards and life chances for our children and young people.
20. This Council resolves to work with Stepney Green Academy School to take a more inclusive approach in engaging with local stakeholders, including parents and children.

RESOLVED:

1. That the petition be referred to the Corporate Director, Children and Culture, for a written response within 28 days.

5.3 Petition Debate - Stop Stepney Green Boy's School becoming a mixed school (Motion)	
Councillor Faroque Ahmed	For
Councillor Rajib Ahmed	For
Councillor Sabina Akhtar	For
Councillor Sufia Alam	For
Councillor Amina Ali	For
Councillor Shah Ameen	For
Councillor Asma Begum	For
Mayor John Biggs	For
Councillor Rachel Blake	For
Councillor Kevin Brady	For
Councillor Mufeedah Bustin	For
Councillor Kahar Chowdhury	For
Councillor Shad Chowdhury	For
Councillor Dipa Das	For
Councillor David Edgar	For
Councillor Marc Francis	For
Councillor Peter Golds	Against
Councillor Ehtasham Haque	For
Councillor Danny Hassell	For
Councillor Mohammed Ahbab Hossain	For
Councillor Asma Islam	For
Councillor Sirajul Islam	For
Councillor Denise Jones	For
Councillor Rabina Khan	For
Councillor James King	For
Councillor Eve McQuillan	For
Councillor Ayas Miah	For
Councillor Puru Miah	For
Councillor Abdul Mukit MBE	For
Councillor Victoria Obaze	For
Councillor Kyrsten Perry	For
Councillor Zenith Rahman	For
Councillor Candida Ronald	For
Councillor Gabriela Salva Macallan	For

Councillor Dan Tomlinson	For
Councillor Helal Uddin	For
Councillor Abdal Ullah	For
Councillor Motin Uz-Zaman	For
Councillor Val Whitehead	For
Councillor Bex White	For
Councillor Andrew Wood	Against
Carried	

6. MAYOR'S REPORT

The Mayor presented his tabled report to the Council. The Leader of the Opposition then responded briefly to the Mayors report.

7. ADMINISTRATION MOTION DEBATE

Councillor Rachel Blake **moved** and Councillor Amina Ali **seconded** the motion as set out in the agenda and proposed a friendly amendment (Additions in **Bold** and Underlined).

This Council resolves:

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 Mayor Biggs wrote to the Leader of Greenwich Council in June 2018 to express our opposition to cruise ship moorings without the use of on-shore power supply next to the Isle of Dogs;**
7. That nationally the Labour Party has announced that climate change would be a core part of the school curriculum under a Labour government;

8. 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. **2,800 trees have been planted across Tower Hamlets over the course of the last year;**
5. Significant investment in a Liveable Streets fund to make it easier to get about by foot, on a bike and on public transport;
6. **Continuing to consult local people on the installation of secure residents' Cycle Parking Hangars, as well as on street visitor cycle parking and developing a proposal for a new Secure Cycle Hub for around 100 cycles at Whitechapel Station;**
7. The aim to install 300 electric vehicle charging points across the borough;
8. **The LED street light replacement programme is continuing and at the moment 63% of lights in the borough have already been replaced with LEDs;**
9. Continuing to review the council's investment decisions, **including exploring all opportunities to divest our pension fund investments, noting that the LBTH Pension Fund has transferred a significant proportion of its investment in equities into Low Carbon funds;**
10. **The Council has removed single use plastic cups from its main buildings and is exploring how to remove other single use plastics, such as plastic drinks bottles in vending machines;**
11. 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;
12. **Tower Hamlets have provisionally agreed to invest £3 million into upgrading the CCTV system and in light of this, we have recently conducted a review of the Council's CCTV network, which included looking at the locations of CCTV in relation to fly-tipping and the evidence base for CCTV's effectiveness in environmental crimes;**
13. 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 although the Council would always look to locate new schools away from major roads, where new sites are close to main roads serious consideration must be given to the design and layout of the school to reduce the effect, including the location of the building, mechanical ventilation and using vegetation to assist with improving air quality;**
7. 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 scrap page scheme.

This Council resolves:

1. To support the declaration of a climate emergency through a formal resolution of the council **and to campaign at the local, London-wide and national level to draw attention to issue and bring about changes at all levels of government;**
2. **To pledge to develop a Tower Hamlets Carbon Neutral Plan, detailing how the Council's pledge to become carbon neutral by 2025 will be achieved – and requests that this Tower Hamlets Carbon Neutral Plan is brought to Full Council for approval;**
3. To support calls for the ban on diesel cars to be brought forward to 2030 and the introduction of a national scrappage scheme;
4. To deliver our Air Quality Action Plan;
5. **To pledge to produce each year between now and 2030 a Tower Hamlets Climate Emergency Annual Report, detailing the Council's progress against the Tower Hamlets Carbon Neutral Plan – which will enable members, residents and other local stakeholders to hold the Council to account for delivery of this pledge;**

6. To work with the community to reduce air pollution through small changes to travel plans **and to ask our partner organisations to make clear commitments to dealing with this crisis;**
7. **To deliver a programme of community climate change engagement to build awareness, support and empower BAME Groups to engage with the projects around climate change.**
8. To campaign for targeted measures to reduce air pollution in our worst affected areas such as Blackwall Tunnel, Bow Roundabout, Aldgate and Whitechapel;
9. To work with neighbouring authorities through our successful Zero Emissions Network to expand support to small businesses to reduce their emissions;
10. 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.

Then Councillor Andrew Wood **moved** and Councillor Peter Golds **seconded** an amendment to the motion. (Additions in **Bold** and **Underlined**).

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 on the 27th June 2019 the 'Climate Change Act 2008 (2050 Target Amendment) Order 2019' was enacted in law which means the government has committed the UK to become the first major economy to set net zero emissions as a target in law by the year 2050.**
5. ~~That Mayor John Biggs declared a climate emergency in March 2019 on behalf of the council,~~ **On behalf of the Council, Cllr Rachel Blake declared a climate emergency in the Borough in March 2019** and announced the aim of becoming a zero-carbon council by 2025;
6. That the Mayor has written to the Prime Minister calling on the Government to bring forward the ban on **selling new petrol and diesel cars (from 2040 to 2030)** and invest in a national scrappage scheme;
7. ~~That nationally the Labour Party has announced that climate change would be a core part of the school curriculum under a~~

Labour government; Climate change is covered in both science and geography at Key Stage 3 (age 11-14) and Key Stage 4 (age 14-16). Both subjects are compulsory at Key Stage 3, while only science is compulsory at Key Stage 4.

8. A recent poll showed that around 75% of UK adults believe climate change to be the biggest crisis facing humanity today.
9. **That the Department of Transport records 43,550 vehicles registered to addresses in Tower Hamlets as at 2014.**
10. **That Tower Hamlets Council operates a vehicle fleet of over 200 vehicles, all fossil fuel powered with only a few hybrids.**
11. **That we currently only have 42 publicly accessible electric vehicle charging points borough wide.**
12. **That annual recycling rates in 2018/19 were 24.3% against a London borough average of 33% and need to be improved;**

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

1. The Breath 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.
9. **The installation by the Port of London Authority of air quality monitors reporting their results online either side of the river Thames where cruise ships moor close to Greenwich / Island Gardens.**
10. **That the Pensions Committee has been working to reduce the carbon component of our pension investments and have looked at investing money in renewable energy infrastructure.**
11. **Applications to the governments grant funding programme for new electric vehicle chargers.**

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 **new petrol and** 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, **and construction companies** to encourage the switch to cleaner forms of transport **and power generation on construction sites**;
5. 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 **for older vehicles**.
6. That the council should review its own vehicle fleet, **to speed up the use of electric , hydrogen or hybrid vehicles, to install electric vehicle chargers on Council properties.**

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 the sale of new petrol and** diesel cars to be brought forward to 2030 and the introduction of a national scrappage scheme **for older vehicles**;
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, **A12 road corridor, Aspen Way/Limehouse Link, Highway road corridor**, 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. **Work with the Local Government Association and other bodies to identify where we can share knowledge and experience on how to implement these objectives**;
8. 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. **To look at installing electric vehicle charging points at ice cream van locations popular with the consumers of ice cream**;
9. **Commit to make Tower Hamlets Council carbon neutral by 2025 – and to make sure that in meeting this commitment the Council takes steps to avoid any adverse impacts on vulnerable residents**;
10. **Develop a Tower Hamlets Carbon Neutral Plan, detailing how the Council's will become carbon neutral by 2025 – and requests that the Tower Hamlets Carbon Neutral Plan is**

brought to Full Council for approval by January 2020 at the latest;

11. Commit to produce, in January of each year between now and 2025, a Tower Hamlets Climate Emergency Annual Report, detailing the Council's progress against the Tower Hamlets Carbon Neutral Plan – which will enable members, residents and other local stakeholders to hold the Council to account for delivery of this commitment;
12. Commit to asking our partner organisations across Tower Hamlets to support this change;
13. Commit to explore all opportunities to reduce over time the carbon content of our pension fund investments, while discharging the relevant fiduciary responsibilities to members of the pension fund, and work to ensure that wherever possible any future investments are assessed against these principles;
14. Commit to improving recycle rates - our annual recycling rates in 2018/19 were just 24.3% against a London borough average of 33%;
15. Look at introducing street bins with different receptacles for different types of waste as is done elsewhere in London and at Canary Wharf to encourage more recycling;
16. Commit to make this council free of single-use plastics by 2020 and work towards reducing the use of 175,000 single-use plastics across all council buildings;
17. Commit to install air quality sensors outside every school, at the entrance to each market, outside each TfL station and Ideas stores in our borough which can provide real time air quality information on a range of pollutants. Make that data widely & easily available so that local people have information about what the air quality is like where they live, work and travel;
18. Acquire portable air quality monitoring equipment which can be used to better identify the sources of pollutants (& not just measure the cumulative impact) so that we can better understand the relative contribution from different types of pollution sources to air quality, in particular pollution produced by construction sites, river traffic, London City Airport, Blackwall Tunnel traffic jams etc.;
19. Commit to not approving new planning applications for homes right next to major roads, that family sized units be built away from major roads or sources of pollution, that green barriers be grown between major roads and any new homes rather than placing homes right next to major roads;
20. Commit to not expanding or building new schools next to major roads which are a known source of pollutants. That where site allocations in the Local Plan include schools, that the schools are built some distance from the major sources of pollutants;
21. Commit to no net loss of trees on any site being redeveloped;
22. Commit to write to the Royal Borough of Greenwich and the Mayor of London to express our opposition to cruise ship moorings without the use of on-shore power supply next to the

Isle of Dogs;

23. Replacing all existing light bulbs whether in Council offices, schools or street lights with LED bulbs in order to reduce electricity used;
24. Find other ways of reducing electricity being used by the Council;
25. Provide information to residents about how to better insulate their homes and the benefits of doing so (including financial);
26. To do further work on the climate change impact of tall glass fronted buildings and to review the decision of New York to phase them out;
27. Commit to publishing an action plan on how quickly the Councils vehicle fleet (leased and owned) can be replaced by electric or hybrid or hydrogen vehicles. To report on whether this will be done before the ULEZ expansion.
28. Commit to installing electric vehicle charging points at Council owned sites to allow new electric Council vehicles;
29. Encourage individual housing developments and offices with their own private car parks to install electric vehicle chargers on site through providing advice, grants and recommending installers;
30. Encourage the few remaining petrol stations in the Borough to also provide electric high capacity rechargers on-site;
31. To not allow the loss of existing petrol stations before 2030 where it would result in existing fossil fuel vehicles having to travel substantially further distances to refuel;
32. Encourage the provision of new high capacity electric vehicle recharging points (for example at supermarkets or taxi parking areas) to create a new generation of clean fuel stations;
33. Commit to install 350 electric vehicle charging points by the end of 2020. Currently there are just 42 borough wide. To then have a phased programme so that every street with on street vehicle parking has on street electric chargers by 2025;
34. Commit to returning to the practise of delivering pink recycling bags to all properties including apartment blocks;
35. Commit to enforce the law on fly tipping and to prosecute and fine those who commit this offence;
36. Commit to install more CCTV across our borough to help track those who illegally dump and to take legal action against perpetrators;
37. Commit to growing green walls/parks/tree barriers/installing planters next to all major roads in the Borough especially where residential properties are next to main roads which will help absorb pollutants and particulate matter;
38. Commit to introducing more greenery whether at ground level, on vertical walls (as at the Barbican estate) or hanging from street lights (as in Belgravia) which will help absorb pollutants and particulate matter (as well as make the Borough a more attractive place);
39. Commit to install new accessible bicycle parking spots across the borough including at our new Town Hall site in Whitechapel

- as well as at Mulberry Place;
40. Work with local communities to identify what local changes are required to encourage more people to cycle in their local area, so that they can build up confidence before using long distance cycle super highways;
 41. Commit to installing solar panels or other methods of generating clean energy on all council buildings/assets. The only council building that does have a solar panel is Watney Market Ideas store;
 42. Write to the Mayor of London calling for the creation of Low Emission Bus Zones in Tower Hamlets so that our local bus network is as clean as possible but develop this further to include electric or hydrogen buses on local bus routes and deliver electric vehicle chargers at bus termini to allow this.

Following debate the amendment was put to a vote and was **defeated**.

Then the motion as amended by the friendly amendment was then put to a vote and was **agreed**.

DECISION:

This Council resolves:

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 Mayor Biggs wrote to the Leader of Greenwich Council in June 2018 to express our opposition to cruise ship moorings without the use of on-shore power supply next to the Isle of Dogs;

7. That nationally the Labour Party has announced that climate change would be a core part of the school curriculum under a Labour government;
8. 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. 2,800 trees have been planted across Tower Hamlets over the course of the last year;
5. Significant investment in a Liveable Streets fund to make it easier to get about by foot, on a bike and on public transport;
6. Continuing to consult local people on the installation of secure residents' Cycle Parking Hangars, as well as on street visitor cycle parking and developing a proposal for a new Secure Cycle Hub for around 100 cycles at Whitechapel Station;
7. The aim to install 300 electric vehicle charging points across the borough;
8. The LED street light replacement programme is continuing and at the moment 63% of lights in the borough have already been replaced with LEDs;
9. Continuing to review the council's investment decisions, including exploring all opportunities to divest our pension fund investments, noting that the LBTH Pension Fund has transferred a significant proportion of its investment in equities into Low Carbon funds;
10. The Council has removed single use plastic cups from its main buildings and is exploring how to remove other single use plastics, such as plastic drinks bottles in vending machines;
11. 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;
12. Tower Hamlets have provisionally agreed to invest £3 million into upgrading the CCTV system and in light of this, we have recently conducted a review of the Council's CCTV network, which included looking at the locations of CCTV in relation to fly-tipping and the evidence base for CCTV's effectiveness in environmental crimes;
13. 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 although the Council would always look to locate new schools away from major roads, where new sites are close to main roads serious consideration must be given to the design and layout of the school to reduce the effect, including the location of the building, mechanical ventilation and using vegetation to assist with improving air quality;
7. 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 and to campaign at the local, London-wide and national level to draw attention to issue and bring about changes at all levels of government;
2. To pledge to develop a Tower Hamlets Carbon Neutral Plan, detailing how the Council's pledge to become carbon neutral by 2025 will be achieved – and requests that this Tower Hamlets Carbon Neutral Plan is brought to Full Council for approval;
3. To support calls for the ban on diesel cars to be brought forward to 2030 and the introduction of a national scrappage scheme;
4. To deliver our Air Quality Action Plan;
5. To pledge to produce each year between now and 2030 a Tower Hamlets Climate Emergency Annual Report, detailing the Council's progress against the Tower Hamlets Carbon Neutral Plan – which will enable members, residents and other local stakeholders to hold the Council to account for delivery of this pledge;

6. To work with the community to reduce air pollution through small changes to travel plans and to ask our partner organisations to make clear commitments to dealing with this crisis;
7. To deliver a programme of community climate change engagement to build awareness, support and empower BAME Groups to engage with the projects around climate change.
8. To campaign for targeted measures to reduce air pollution in our worst affected areas such as Blackwall Tunnel, Bow Roundabout, Aldgate and Whitechapel;
9. To work with neighbouring authorities through our successful Zero Emissions Network to expand support to small businesses to reduce their emissions;
10. 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.

8. OPPOSITION MOTION DEBATE

Motion withdrawn

9. TO RECEIVE WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

The following questions and in each case supplementary questions were put (except where indicated) and were responded to by the Mayor or relevant Executive Member.

9.1 Question from Councillor Asma Islam about a violent incident in the Borough.

The response of Councillor Asma Begum Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Community Safety We are working across the Borough on a multi-pronged approach which includes working with the partnership task force and is focused on the Council's priorities in tackling violence; drugs and anti-social behaviour; the Exploitation Team within Children's Services which was launched in April 2018 has a specific focus on the highest risk children and young people; the Rapid Response Team carries out on street outreach sessions with a structured focus on crime and violence and they work with people under the age of 25; the CCTV Suite is proactive in identifying and responding to violent incidents happen, co-ordination of the police response and the gathering of evidence for any subsequent investigation.

Supplementary question from Councillor Asma Islam Councillor Begum and the Mayor have been extremely helpful in working with the Councillors of Mile End to help the residents of Burdett Estate affected by the incident on St. Pauls Way. Therefore, can I get a commitment from the Mayor and Councillor Begum today that they will continue their work to get a long term solution?

Councillor Begum's response to the supplementary question Yes we do want to work to get a long term solution and I wish to thank the Mile End Councillors for their hard work in this difficult situation.

9.2 Question from Councillor Andrew Wood how much money has been spent since 2010 on upgrading the Raines school sites?

The response of Councillor Danny Hassell, Cabinet Member for Children, Schools and Young People Approximately £1.6 m has been spent on the Raines school sites from 2010-11 and 2018-19 this work was funded from the Department for Education locally Co-ordinated Voluntary Aided Programme and is not a grant received by the Council. In October 2017 the Cabinet agreed a further £4 m however given the uncertainty over the future development of the school only £1.5 m of this funding has been committed to date.

Supplementary question from Councillor Andrew Wood I understood that the Diocese had put money into the school too?

Councillor Hassell's response to the supplementary question The Diocese had put money in through locally Co-ordinated Voluntary Aided Programme but I am happy to confirm that in writing.

9.3 Question from Councillor James King has the Council been part of the consultation on the Academisation of Cyril Jackson.?

The response of Councillor Danny Hassell, Cabinet Member for Children, Schools and Young People the Governing Body at Cyril Jackson has consulted the Council in its proposals to become an academy. We should be clear that whilst the Council should be consulted it is not for the Council to make that determination, as that will be a decision that lies with the Department for Education or the Regional Schools Commissioner. However, as a consultee the Governing Body must seek our views and we have provided a formal response asking for further information to be provided as the Council did not feel it had sufficient information to make a submission especially with reference to (i) timescales for the academy conversion; (ii) a fuller assessment and exploration of the potential risks by the Governing Body and how they would manage those risks; and (iii) An acknowledgement of the potential conflict of interest between the role of the Executive Head Teacher; the Governing Body; the University Trust; and how this would be managed. A response has now been provided but it was near the end of the public consultation.

Supplementary question from Councillor James King Will the Council consider proscribing a more rigorous consultation process for primary schools wishing to become academies and will you and the Mayor join me in seeking to campaign against the Academisation of this school?

Councillor Hassell's response to the supplementary question In terms of the consultation whilst the requirements are not set by the Council, officers made it very clear when they met with the Head Teacher on what were our

expectations where on what good engagement should look like. However, the school is just required to meet the regulations as set out by the Department for Education. In terms of academies, we will continue to work with any school in the Borough to make sure that we provide the best for our young people. We believe that the local authority working closely schools will be able to continue to drive through improvements. We would, therefore, ask all schools considering conversion to an academy to think very carefully about the benefits they would achieve that they cannot achieve as a local authority maintained school?

9.4 Question from Councillor Peter Golds What is being done to reduce emissions from the Council fleet?

The response of Councillor David Edgar, Cabinet Member for Environment the Transport Services Unit has taken steps to replace its older more polluting vehicles with ones that met the requirements of the Ultra-Low Emission Zone (ULEZ) which came into effect on the 8th of April, 2019. What it is also doing is aiming to replace the remaining fleet with vehicles that will meet the ULEZ standards and to put in place electric charging infrastructure. These vehicles will be leased for up to 3 years and during that time that will allow the Council to look at replacing those vehicles with other electric or other clean technology vehicles. We are also going through a similar process with those vehicles that are used for the waste collection service and that will start on April 2020.

Supplementary question from Councillor Peter Golds the Council currently has a vehicle fleet of over 200 vehicle's many of which are diesel, we should be moving to hybrid/electric vehicles. If the Council is as ambitious as you say could we have any indication as to when we will move to hybrid/electric vehicles and have in place an electric charging infrastructure?

Councillor David Edgar response to the supplementary question As I said earlier the direction of travel with the vehicle fleet is to meet cleaner standards and we are looking carefully at putting in place the right infrastructure needed be it hybrid; electric or hydrogen. Also, we are looking at what options are available to replace those more powerful larger vehicles needed for the waste collection.

9.5 Question from Councillor Val Whitehead How many two-year-old children access early learning in the Borough?

The response of Councillor Danny Hassell, Cabinet Member for Children, Schools and Young People as the Mayor referred to in his report we have 1,000 two-year-olds in the Borough accessing their early learning places doubling the number from 5 years ago. Also, more than 300 of these children are in Ofsted outstanding settings, I delighted recently with the Mayor to visit recently Lincoln Hall and to see how they have benefitted from our capital investment to expand places and to support the families. We know that when a child takes up one of these places at 2 years they will be ready to learn at 5 years and gives a chance for every child to have a flying start in life.

Supplementary question from Councillor Val Whitehead Can you tell me what you will be doing to increase that number now?

Councillor Danny Hassell response to the supplementary question Yes we will be developing an action plan around communication and engagement so that parents are aware of their entitlements. We will continue to invest capital funding to allow providers to expand; we have a package of support for our maintained nursery schools which we agreed in the Budget, and in the autumn term we will be able to give an expansion of many school-based placements which I know is the preference for our parents.

9.6 Question from Councillor Shad Chowdhury What is being done to maintain and improve rubbish collection and recycling.

The response of Councillor David Edgar, Cabinet Member for Environment this is clearly an important issue and the Council's contract management team is working very closely with Veolia to improve standards of service delivery across the waste recycling and cleaning services. There are many places where this works particularly well and there are other areas where they could do better. We are putting more resources into monitoring the performance of the contract and the contractor and there are very detailed plans which analyse the way we are applying particular points of pressure to Veolia and making sure that we have the information we need to do it well. We have also committed additional street washing resources to Spitalfields and Banglatown and that has been put in to take account of the night-time economy and the activity that comes with that. A lot of work has taken place and I want to see evidence of the benefits where there are still problems.

Councillor Kevin Brady then moved a procedural motion to proceed to the next item of business and that the agenda order is varied to allow Item 10.2 to be heard as the next item of business.

Questions 9.7 to 9.14 were not put due to lack of time and would be dealt with by written responses.

(**Action by** - Matthew Mannion, Committee Services Manager, Democratic Services to arrange written response)

10. REPORTS FROM THE EXECUTIVE AND THE COUNCIL'S COMMITTEES

10.1 Report of the General Purposes Committee: Revised Constitution

The Council considered the report and tabled supplementary papers of the General Purposes Committee setting out the revisions to the Constitution.

The recommendations set out in the report were put to the vote and were agreed. Accordingly it was:

RESOLVED:

That the Council:

1. Agree the revised Constitution as set out in Appendices 1 – 4 to this report;
2. Note that following agreement the Constitution will be prepared for publication in consultation with the Communications team and therefore to agree to delegate authority to the Corporate Director, Governance and Monitoring Officer to make non-material changes to the Constitution during this process subject that any changes be subsequently reported to the General Purposes Committee for noting;
3. Confirm the refreshed delegations for revising the constitution including as set out in Sections 15, 19 and 42 of the Constitution, for such that:
 - a) The Monitoring Officer can approve all non-material changes to the Constitution including those that reflect decisions taken by the Council or changes in legislation or to correct matters of fact;
 - b) The Monitoring Officer can recommend to Council or General Purposes Committee for approval any material changes to Parts A to C of the Constitution with the exception of the Executive Scheme of Delegation (Section 30) which will be amended by the Monitoring Officer should the Mayor amend his Executive Scheme of Delegation.
 - c) The introduction to Part D of the Constitution sets out the delegated authority to amend each Part D Section. Unless indicated otherwise, the Monitoring Officer has delegated authority to amend Part D documents in consultation with the Chief Executive; and
 - d) All Sections of the Constitution remain in place unless explicitly revised or removed.
4. To note the updated Corporate Scheme of Delegation within the Constitution and to note that Corporate Directors have delegated authority to create their own Directorate Schemes of Delegation. Any such schemes will be published in Part D of the Constitution.

10.2 Report of the Standards Advisory Committee: Annual Report

The Council considered the report of the Standards Advisory Committee: Annual Report. The provision of this annual report highlights the importance Council places on the profile of ethical standards across the organisation and affords the opportunity to highlight areas of good practice and identify any requirements for improvement.

The recommendations set out in the report were put to the vote and were agreed. Accordingly it was:

RESOLVED:

That the Council note the report

10.3 Report of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee: Scrutiny Annual Report

The Council considered the Annual Report of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. The report presented a summary of diverse range of scrutiny work conducted throughout 2018-19 by the Overview & Scrutiny Committee, Health, Housing and Grants Scrutiny Sub Committees.

The recommendations set out in the report were put to the vote and were agreed. Accordingly it was:

RESOLVED:

That the Council note the report

10.4 Report of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee: Scrutiny Work programme 2019/20

The Council considered a report that outlined the Scrutiny Work programme for 2019/20 and covered the:

- 1) Overview and Scrutiny Committee;
- 2) Health & Adults Scrutiny Sub-Committee;
- 3) Housing & Regeneration Scrutiny Sub-Committee; and
- 4) Children & Education Scrutiny Sub-Committee.

The recommendations set out in the report were put to the vote and were agreed. Accordingly it was:

RESOLVED:

That the Council note the report

11. OTHER BUSINESS**11.1 Spitalfields and Banglatown Community Governance Review - Final Recommendations**

The Council considered a report of the Chief Executive that set out the proposed Final Recommendations in respect of the Spitalfields and Banglatown Community Governance Review.

It was noted that:

1. In making its final decision the Council has a duty to ensure that community governance within the area under review:
 - a. reflects the identities and interests of the community in that area, and

- b. is effective and convenient;
2. Relevant considerations which should influence the Council's judgement against these two principal criteria include the impact on community cohesion and the size, population and boundaries of the proposed area;
3. The effectiveness and convenience of local government is best understood in the context of a parish council's ability to deliver quality services economically and efficiently, and to give users of services a democratic voice in the decisions that affect them;
4. The Council has consulted with local people as required by law. It has taken into account representations received in connection with the review. Consultation findings have confirmed the Council's view that there is not significant support for the creation of a parish council. There is also significant opposition to the proposal from some sections of the community;
5. In making its final recommendations, the Council should consider the evidence it has been presented with in the form of consultation findings and other representations by local people. It should also use its own knowledge of the area as set out in the final analysis and conclusions report. In taking this evidence into account and judging the criteria in the 2007 Act against it, the Council may reasonably conclude that the recommendations set out in the petition should not be made;
6. Whilst the legal presumption is in favour of the creation of parishes and parish councils, it remains open to the Council to reject the proposal. This is particularly important where the Council believes that it is not in the interests of the wider local community and if giving effect to it would be likely to damage community relations by dividing communities along ethnic, religious or cultural lines.

The recommendations set out in the report were put to the vote and were agreed. Accordingly it was:

RESOLVED:

That the Council:

1. Notes the final analysis and conclusions of the Community Governance Review as set out in Appendix 1 of the report;
2. Notes the equalities analysis as set out at Annexe 6 to Appendix 1 of the report (final analysis and conclusions);
3. Notes the reasons set out for the Council's proposed recommendation and the alternative options set out in sections 2 and the 3 of this report; and
4. Agrees that there be no change to existing community governance arrangements within the wards of Spitalfields & Banglatown and Weavers and that a parish should not be created.

Spitalfields and Banglatown Community Governance Review - Final Recommendations	
Councillor Faroque Ahmed	For
Councillor Rajib Ahmed	For
Councillor Sabina Akhtar	For
Councillor Sufia Alam	Abstain
Councillor Shah Ameen	For
Councillor Asma Begum	For
Mayor John Biggs	For
Councillor Rachel Blake	For
Councillor Kevin Brady	For
Councillor Mufeedah Bustin	For
Councillor Kahar Chowdhury	For
Councillor Dipa Das	Abstain
Councillor David Edgar	For
Councillor Peter Golds	Against
Councillor Ehtasham Haque	Against
Councillor Danny Hassell	For
Councillor Mohammed Ahbab Hossain	For
Councillor Sirajul Islam	For
Councillor Denise Jones	For
Councillor Rabina Khan	Abstain
Councillor James King	For
Councillor Eve McQuillan	For
Councillor Ayas Miah	For
Councillor Victoria Obaze	For
Councillor Kyrsten Perry	For
Councillor Zenith Rahman	For
Councillor Candida Ronald	For
Councillor Gabriela Salva Macallan	For
Councillor Dan Tomlinson	Abstain
Councillor Helal Uddin	For
Councillor Abdal Ullah	For
Councillor Motin Uz-Zaman	For
Councillor Val Whitehead	For
Councillor Bex White	For
Councillor Andrew Wood	Against
Carried	

12. TO CONSIDER MOTIONS SUBMITTED BY MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL


Nil items

The meeting ended at 10.05 p.m.

Speaker of the Council

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Agenda Item 5

Non-Executive Report of the: Council 18 September 2019	 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 David Knight, 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 18 September 2019.
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. Four 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 Single Use Plastics submitted by Ciaran Cusack and others.

We the undersigned petition the council to eliminate all single-use plastic within council-managed buildings and facilities, by 2021, and eliminate single-use plastic from its supply chain, by 2025.

Request and encourage all businesses with which we engage, via our procurement network, to support the banning of single-use plastic from their place of work.

Ask the waste management team to prepare a report considering how they could promote the reduction of single-use plastic across the Borough, including supporting plastic-free initiatives such as plastic-free communities and plastic-free schools, and to highlight areas of further lobbying to central government by both collection and waste disposal authorities, and for this report to be prepared and then presented at council within 6 months.

5.2 Petition regarding prevent parking on school markings at Arnhem Wharf Primary School submitted by Frances Stephens and others.

We the undersigned petition the council to prevent people from parking dangerously near the entrances to our school on Westferry Road. On a daily basis, several parents of pupils are illegally parking on the yellow lines outside our school, causing pollution and increasing the chance of accidents for our students. We have some actions we would like you to take: send traffic wardens to patrol the area during school opening and closing times (between 8:40-9:15am and between 3:10 and 3:45pm); give fines, warnings or points to offenders who park illegally on yellow lines; and consider improving parking in the local area so people could park nearby. We would like you to do more to stop this dangerous, illegal and selfish act as this would help improve the health and safety of our pupils and help us to have a cleaner environment.

5.3 Petition regarding Stop the Lorries on Pennington Street submitted by Noel Thomas and others

We are looking for the council to change the traffic restrictions on Pennington Street, London E1W, to prevent construction traffic and large Lorries from using the street as a rat run into London. This could be done by making the road a no through-road, creating restrictions on the size and weight of vehicle allowed to use the road, or making sections of the road one way, so vehicles can only travel east along it.

5.4 Petition regarding the Community Hall known as the Canal Club, Waterloo Gardens, E2 9HP submitted by Emma Genders and others.

We the undersigned, petition the Council to refurbish rather than demolish the Community Hall known as the Canal Club, Waterloo Gardens, E2 9HP.

The site of a former wood wharf was purchased by the Greater London Council (GLC) in the 1970s as an extension to the Wellington Estate (THH). By the 1980s and 1990s it had become an important local resource, housing a community centre, designed by Julian Sofaer and providing a laundry, youth club, nursery and play and amenity space. Currently used as a nursery, the building and the surrounding amenities have been neglected but could be refurbished for local community use. We note that the subsequent extra housing built on the estate and the many residential developments in the area have increased the need for this kind of community open green space, as recognised by the Borough's Liveable Streets programme, the borough's support for the Healthy Streets initiative (Transport for London) and the Labour Party's environmental policy, the Green Transformation.


PETITIONS TO BE NOTED

5.5 Petition regarding Glyphosate – Herbicide submitted Mr Geoffrey Juden and others

We the undersigned petition the council to ban the using of Glyphosate in the borough.

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Agenda Item 7

Non-Executive Report of the: COUNCIL 18 September 2019	 TOWER HAMLETS
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 the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) funding crisis

Proposer: Councillor Danny Hassell

Seconder: Mayor John Biggs

This Council notes:

1. There are around 8,000 children and young people in Tower Hamlets who have Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) or are attending alternative provision. 3,000 children and young people have an Education, Health and Care plan (EHCP);
2. Demand for SEND services is increasing rapidly and services are also responding to more complex needs. Over the period 2016/17 to 2018/19 we saw a 48% increase in the number of children with an EHCP;
3. Last year Tower Hamlets received £49.7m from the Government for SEND funding, but it spent more than £56m on services;
4. The funding from Government has failed to keep pace with rapidly increasing costs, leaving big gaps in budgets;
5. This crisis is replicated across London, where the total in-year shortfall for 2017/18 across SEND services came to £77 million and the cumulative overspend on the high needs block is higher in London than in any other region;
6. Analysis from the National Education Union shows that had funding kept pace with rising numbers and increased in line with inflation, the budget gap would almost be eliminated. However as things stand, the Local Government Association estimates that councils in England face a SEND funding gap of up to £1.6 billion by 2021;
7. The council has responded to the Government's 'call for evidence' on high needs funding and the Mayor and Cabinet Member have written directly to the Prime Minister on this issue.
8. That Tower Hamlets Council organised a cross-party letter from council cabinet members across London with responsibility for children's services to the Secretary of State for Education calling for an end to the funding crisis in SEND services.
9. The recent announcement from the Government pledging additional funding for schools, including £700m for children with SEND.

This Council believes:


1. We face a national crisis in high needs funding, but this crisis is hitting London harder than anywhere else in the country;
2. We have now reached a tipping point: whilst in previous years many councils have been able to meet the gap from reserves or underspending on other education budgets, as other education budgets tighten this is no longer an option. Deficits will now become cumulative, rolling over into the next year and the pressure on high needs funding will rise exponentially;
3. The Government is failing to fund SEND services properly and it's falling to local councils to plug the gaps;
4. That while the additional £700m is very welcome, it doesn't even cover the gap we already face now, nor will it fill the SEND funding gap estimated by the LGA at £1.6bn by 2021.
5. Children and young people with special needs and disabilities are some of the most vulnerable in our society and it's vital that the services that support them are funded fairly and properly;
6. Funding cuts to general school budgets are threatening the ability of our local schools to maintain their levels of quality, inclusive education.

This Council resolves:

1. To call on the Government to urgently invest in our SEND services and ensure that Government funding keeps pace with rising demand, complexity of need and additional responsibilities;
2. To call on the Mayor and Cabinet Member to write to the Secretary of State for Education with a copy of this motion, welcoming the additional funding, but urging him to invest further to bring an end to the SEND funding crisis;
3. To continue to work with school leaders, trade unions and parents to campaign against schools cuts.

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Agenda Item 8

Non-Executive Report of the: COUNCIL 18 September 2019	 TOWER HAMLETS
Report of: Asmat Hussain, Corporate Director, Governance and Monitoring Officer	Classification: Unrestricted
Motion for debate submitted by an Opposition Group	

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 Motion submitted by an Opposition Group. 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. In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 11, submission of the Opposition Motion for Debate will alternate in sequence between the opposition groups. This Opposition Motion is submitted by the Conservative 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.

8 – Opposition Motion by the Conservative Group – regarding Tower Hamlets Annual Residents’ Survey 2019

Proposer: Councillor Andrew Wood
 Seconder: Councillor Peter Golds

This Council notes:

- [The recent publication of the Tower Hamlets Annual Residents’ Survey 2019](#)
- [A news update on the Council website titled “Residents survey results revealed” released on Tuesday 3rd September](#)
- [Commitments made at the 19th September 2018 full Council meeting as regards anti-social behaviour & crime in Tower Hamlets](#)

Summary Table 1 page 4 Residents Survey 2019 - Service satisfaction ratings (%) – all residents and all users

	2016	2019	Change 2019 on 2016	Change 2019 on 2019 %		
Views of all residents, total % (not including nursery education)	925	879	-46	-5%		
	2016	2017	2018	2019	Change 2019 on 2016	Change 2019 on 2019 %
Views of all service users, total %	651	635	603	546	-105	-16%

Figure 4: Views about the area, cohesion and influencing decisions (%) in Tower Hamlets, 2012 to 2019

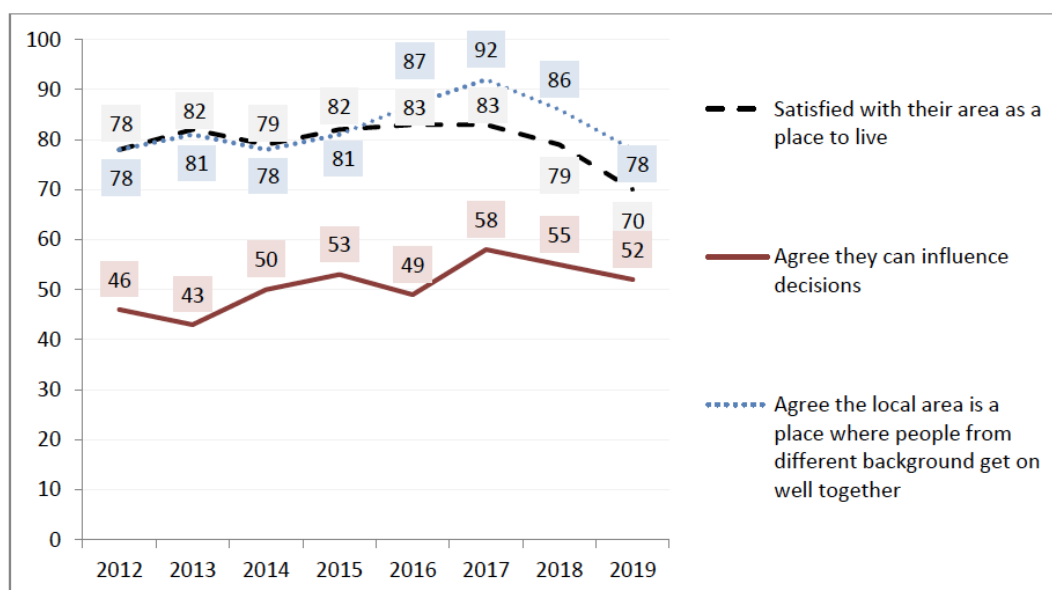
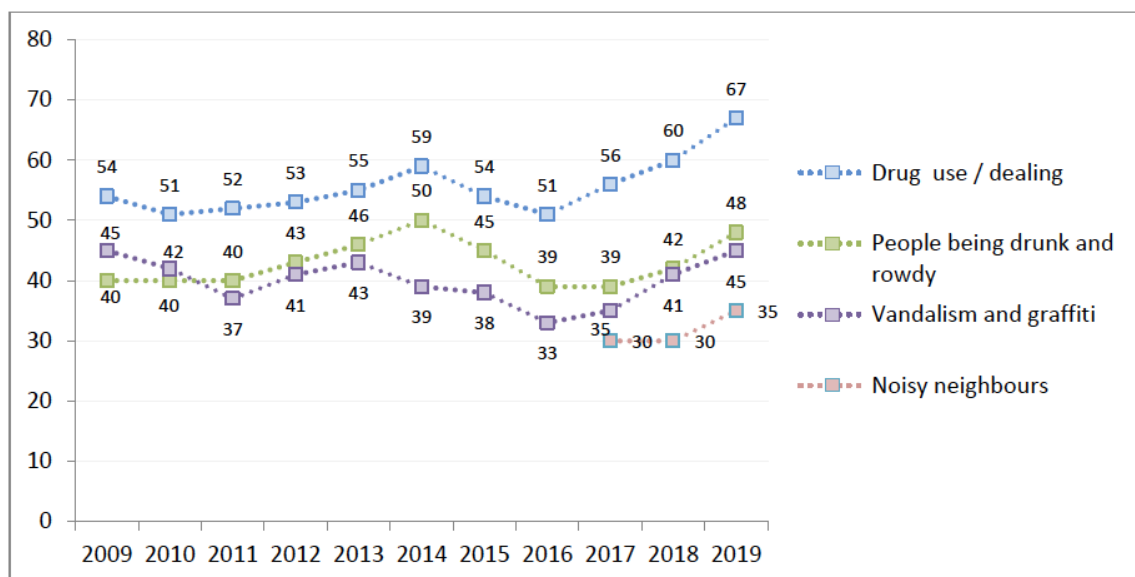


Figure 5: Views about ASB in Tower Hamlets, 2009 to 2019



The Council is concerned:

About the year on year decline in resident’s perception about a range of issues

That the news release dated 3rd September 2019 titled “Residents survey results revealed” does not mention any of the issues raised above and is not an accurate summary of the survey results

That the commitments & promises made at full Council on the 19th September 2018 as regards ASB have not been fully answered

The Council resolves:

To reverse the year on year declines in the issues raised in the Annual Residents Survey, to rebuild trust in our ability to deliver improvements

To ensure that press releases accurately summarise Councils documents and are not a Pravda like distortion of the truth

To ask the Cabinet Member for Community Safety to respond urgently to all of the issues raised and commitments made 364 days ago.

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Agenda Item 9

Non-Executive Report of the: Council 18 September 2019	 TOWER HAMLETS
Report of: Asmat Hussain, Corporate Director, Governance	Classification: Unrestricted
Questions submitted by Members of the Council	

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

SUMMARY

1. Set out overleaf are the questions that were submitted by Members of the Council for response by the Mayor, the Speaker or the Chair of a Committee or Sub-Committee at the Council meeting on Wednesday 18 September 2019.
2. In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 10.4, questions relating to Executive functions and decisions taken by the Mayor are put to the Mayor unless he delegates such a decision to another Member, who will therefore be responsible for answering the question. In the absence of the Mayor, the Deputy Mayor will answer questions directed to the Mayor.
3. Questions are limited to one per Member per meeting, plus one supplementary question unless the Member has indicated that only a written reply is required and in these circumstances a supplementary question is not permitted. Oral responses are time limited to one minute. Supplementary questions and responses are also time limited to one minute each.
4. Council Procedure Rule 10.7 provides for an answer to take the form of a written answer circulated to the questioner, a reference to a published work or a direct oral answer.
5. There is a time limit of thirty minutes at the Council meeting for consideration of Members' questions with no extension of time allowed and any questions not put within this time are dealt with by way of written responses.
6. Members must confine their contributions to questions and answers and not make statements or attempt to debate.

MEMBERS' QUESTIONS

14 questions have been received from Members of the Council as follows:-

9.1 Question from Councillor Tarik Khan

Can the cabinet member please update members about the council's investment in its summer programme and what indicators we have about the success of the programme?

9.2 Question from Councillor Andrew Wood

Can the Council confirm that the new Wapping London Dock secondary school which the Council confirmed would be given the lease for the land is a free school being opened up under the free school presumption process?

9.3 Question from Councillor Kyrsten Perry

Will the cabinet member update members on the recent A-level and GCSE results?

9.4 Question from Councillor Peter Golds

Will the Mayor outline what protection and support is given to council officers who face or have been intimidated within or near council premises or their private homes?

9.5 Question from Councillor Marc Francis

To ask the Lead Member, further to the response to my question at Full Council on 17th July, detailing the growing number of housing OT assessments in the past 18 months and the action now being taken to reduce unacceptably long average waiting times, what factors does he believe have caused this increased demand and consequent delay in ensuring disabled and unwell households are given the Health priority their case merits?

9.6 Question from Councillor Mufedah Bustin

What are the next steps for improvement following Ofsted's 'good' rating for Tower Hamlets Children's Services?

9.7 Question from Councillor Ehtasham Haque

Will the Mayor recognise the importance of saving the Whitechapel Bell Foundry as one of the greatest heritage of the UK and commit to a Compulsory Purchase Order so that it can be preserved?

9.8 Question from Councillor Val Whitehead

Can the lead member provide an update on its programme to tackle holiday hunger?

9.9 Question from Councillor Dan Tomlinson

New car-free housing developments at Bow River Village are causing significant parking issues for long-standing residents in Bromley-by-Bow, will the council extend the parking permit times into the evenings and weekends to help these residents?

9.10 Question from Councillor Shad Chowdhury

Spitalfields has a huge number of historical buildings, what is the Council doing to preserve not just the external face of historical buildings but to ensure the historical planning use of buildings is preserved, like the Whitechapel Bell Foundry?

9.11 Question from Councillor Asma Islam

To ask whether the council will be participating in National Democracy Week and what activities are planned?

9.12 Question from Councillor Puru Miah

Why is the Mayor not using Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) powers to save the irreplaceable heritage status of the Whitechapel Bell Foundry?


9.13 Question from Councillor Rabina Khan

Will the council carry out a serious case review on the Bethnal Green Schoolgirls who left for Syrian?

9.14 Question from Councillor Harun Miah

Recently I have noticed few large size public litter bins outside Shadwell Overground station, can Mr Mayor tell us, are these new smart bins being rolled out across the borough

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Non-Executive Report of the: COUNCIL 18 September 2019	
Report of: Asmat Hussain, Corporate Director, Governance and Monitoring Officer	Classification: Unrestricted
Motions submitted by Members of the Council	

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

SUMMARY

1. Five motions have been submitted by Members of the Council under Council Procedure Rule 11 for debate at the Council meeting on Wednesday 18th September 2019
2. The motions submitted are listed overleaf. In accordance with the Council Procedure Rules, the motions alternate between the administration and the other Political Groups, with the Opposition Group motions starting with the largest Political Group not to have that meeting's Opposition Motion Debate slot.
3. Motions must be about matters for which the Council has a responsibility or which affect the Borough. 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. There is no specific duration set for this agenda item and consideration of the attached motions may continue until the time limit for the meeting is reached. The guillotine procedure at Council Procedure Rule 9.2 does not apply to motions on notice and any of the attached motions which have not been put to the vote when the time limit for the meeting is reached will be deemed to have fallen. A motion which is not put to the vote at the current meeting may be resubmitted for the next meeting but is not automatically carried forward.

MOTIONS

Set out overleaf is the motions that have been submitted.

12.1 Motion regarding cyberbullying and e-safety

Proposer: Councillor Asma Islam

Seconder: Councillor Danny Hassell

This Council Notes:

1. Bullying and cyberbullying are two of the most serious issues facing children's and young people's lives.
2. Research undertaken by the NSPCC has found:
 - a. almost 1 in 4 of 8 to 11-year-olds and 3 in 4 of 12 to 15-year-olds has a social media profile;
 - b. 1 in 3 internet users are children;
 - c. 1 in 4 children have experienced something upsetting on a social networking site;
 - d. around 1 in 8 young people have been bullied on social media;
 - e. 3 in 4 parents have looked for or received information or advice about how to help their child manage online risks;
 - f. almost 1 in 4 young people have come across racist or hate messages online; and
 - g. there were over 2,200 counselling sessions with young people who talked to Childline about online sexual abuse online in 2017/18
3. There are many forms of cyber-bullying including harassment, denigration, flaming, impersonation, outing and trickery, cyber-stalking, exclusion, bullying by spreading rumours and gossip, threatening behaviour, blackmail and grooming.
4. Some of the triggers found in young victims include; low self-esteem, withdrawal from social activities, changes in appearance, weight loss, depression and even self-harm.
5. It is currently impossible to know how many children are reporting content, what they are reporting and how these reports are dealt with.
6. The recommendation of the Children's Commissioner to establish a Children's Digital Ombudsman to mediate between under 18s and social media companies over the removal of content.
7. That parents, educators, and counsellors across UK are responding to this behaviour with new and innovative approaches.
8. Here in Tower Hamlets the council's Parental Engagement Team has developed workshops and courses which explore internet safety. More than 200 parents and carers have attended a course or workshop delivered in school and community settings in 2018 – 19. The PET has also recruited and trained 8 Safer Families Champions to promote key safeguarding messages to families.
9. Digital inclusion, including e-safety for young people is a strand in the Local Community Fund.

This Council Believes:

1. The impact of cyber-bullying and exposure to other inappropriate content online is a threat to a child's safety and wellbeing and if they are not handled swiftly it can cause long-term psychological damage that can affect everything from their personal relationships to their performance in school.
2. That in a digital age, the internet has significant advantages for young people future but that the disadvantages should not outweigh the advantages.
3. Enabling children and young people to use technology safely is also about tackling wider issues related to safeguarding, such as reducing exposure to violent and other inappropriate content.

4. That the Tower Hamlets schools that have developed cyber bullying policies and advocated safe online policies, including comprehensive reporting procedures, are to be congratulated and supported.

This Council Resolves:

1. To annually recognise the third Friday in June as the international 'Stop Cyberbullying Day' and to use this to raise awareness, working with organisations including the Cybersmile Foundation.
2. To use the council's website and other communication channels, including through the youth services and Young WorkPath to promote organisations and services available that offer support to young people suffering from cyberbullying.
3. To support local schools to strengthen their own policies on cyberbullying and their reporting procedures for both teachers and young people.
4. To continue to support and strengthen our work with parents so they are empowered to support young people to stay safe online.
5. To support the proposal from the Children's Commissioner to establish a Children's Digital Ombudsman.

12.2 Motion regarding Transport in Tower Hamlets

Proposer: Councillor Peter Golds

Secunder: Councillor Andrew Wood

This Council notes:

- That the Council is consulting on a draft Transport Strategy 2019-2041
- That the Bow Liveable Street week-long road closure trial was ended prematurely on its first day
- That a bus gate will be introduced in Wapping following a public consultation

That the GLA forecast the population in the Borough to increase from 328,043 people in 2019 to 400,382 by 2041, an increase of 72,339 people or 22%. Mostly in the extremities of Tower Hamlets.

In addition, the GLA plans another 50,500 jobs in the City Fringe Opportunity Area plus another 110,000 jobs in the Isle of Dogs & South Poplar Opportunity Area. That there is planning permission for buildings to house an additional 37,500 jobs at Canary Wharf already.

We also note substantial developments to the east in Newham, south In Lewisham and Greenwich as well as at Canada Water which affect transport options within Tower Hamlets.

That the Isle of Dogs and South Poplar Opportunity Area Planning Framework and the accompanying TfL OAPF Transport Strategy (both started in 2014) is still incomplete nine months after it was meant to be finalised.

That unlike the Royal Docks and Old Oak Common Opportunity Areas the GLA has chosen not to commit teams to help support growth in Tower Hamlets.

This Council notes as regards the Transport Strategy:

That the transport strategy does not mention a number of key transport issues or only in passing, it does not deal with issues raised in its own evidence base, for example bus capacity constraints on a number of key routes. For example, the word river appears only once, the word ferry does not appear at all despite both being important elements of the transport mix. That there is no analysis of the budgeted increases in DLR capacity. No comment about the proposed Canary Wharf to Euston private underground railroad. No comment about what happens after the delivery of the Elizabeth line which would still not be sufficient to support planned office growth in Tower Hamlets according to major businesses in the area.

That the Councils Transport strategy has this comment *“Areas such as the City Fringe and Whitechapel have very good access whilst parts of Leamouth and the Isle of Dogs have lower access to public transport services. There are areas with low PTAL scores and less good access, for example Lansbury Ward, which also have high levels of deprivation.*

That the Councils Local Plan plans to put a disproportionate number of new homes in those areas with lower access to public transport services.

This Council notes as regards the Wapping bus gate decision:

That in the Wapping bus gate consultation, that the Council asked five key questions about the proposed bus gate.

That the consultation had a record 2,370 responses, 1,528 from within the ward itself.

That despite this record response, the Council decided to implement options which had the least public support from residents in the ward itself:

- Q3. What time should the bus gate be in operation? Only 4% within the ward picked the eventual option of weekday, morning and afternoon closures
- Q4. Who should be allowed through the bus gate? That only 22% picked the eventual option, cyclist's and buses only
- Q6. Should taxis be allowed? Only 26% picked the option to ban taxis

That only on the location of the bus gate and banning mopeds/motorcycles did residents preferences match the final Council decision.

That it is unclear who and why decided to ignore resident's preferences as expressed in this survey.

This Council notes as regards the Bow Liveable Streets trial:

That press reports issued after the closure of the Bow Liveable Streets trial had this headline

"Bow road closure trial cut short after aggressive behaviour from people opposed to plan"

That no arrests nor reports of Police intervention were made, that social media comments and videos from the protests suggested passion but not aggressive behaviour.

That the Council has not yet issued a report on what happened on that day

That many people in Bow said they were not aware of the road closure and did not feel consulted.

Finally, this Council notes as regards cycling:

That the Tower Hamlets Council Annual Residents Survey 2019 shows that cycling frequency in Tower Hamlets, shows a decline in the % that cycle Frequently (weekly /daily) from 9% in 2017 down to 5% in 2019. And that the % that cycle Occasionally (less often) dropped from 13% to 12%.

Despite nearly two-thirds of residents agreeing that Tower Hamlets is a cycle friendly borough (64 per cent) with around a quarter (24 per cent) disagreeing. Although this has dropped by 10% since 2017.

The Council Recommends:

To produce a Strategy document which is a strategy for Transport issues in the whole of Tower Hamlets not just a wish list of desired outcomes

To produce a Transport strategy that clearly covers the full range of transport options, that deals with growth and makes clear our expectations of what we required from the

GLA, TfL and central government.

Not to blame residents for its failings, unless there is clear & documented evidence to the contrary

To publish publicly the report on what happened with the Bow Liveable Streets trial.

To work with all affected residents on any changes to roads or transport, to respect all resident's views not just those it already agrees with

Not to consult residents if it has no intention of adopting resident's opinions if they differ from the Councils, it destroys trust

That if the Council does choose to ignore the majority of resident's views that it needs to be much clearer on why and who decided not to follow resident's recommendations as expressed in a survey

12.3 Motion regarding Improving diversity and inclusion in Tower Hamlets

Proposer: Councillor Mufeedah Bustin

Secunder: Councillor Kyrsten Perry

Tower Hamlets is a rich and diverse borough. The 2018 election increased the diversity of our elected representatives, by gender and by ethnicity, further reflecting the make-up of our borough.

This council notes:

1. Diverse teams provide great benefits. This includes at a senior level where the knowledge, skills and experiences of people from different backgrounds is vital: complex challenges require multi-faceted solutions.
2. Diversity alone does not achieve success. Meaningful diversity, not tokenism, should be the aim. Inclusion creates a culture of openness and opportunity; diversity is an indicator of the success of inclusion programmes.
3. There are many barriers to inclusion and often organisational and societal structures will unintentionally prevent the progression of under-represented groups.

This council further notes:

1. That diversity in senior management across local government nationally leaves much to be desired. According to the Local Government Leadership report produced by Green Park in October 2018 only two of London's 32 Boroughs have BAME CEOs. Progress has been made in the representation of BAME people at Top 20 level in London Boroughs with an increase of 5.6% in 2017 to 10.5% in 2018. Local authorities outside London average about 3%.
2. That the gender pay gap and the underrepresentation of women needs to be properly addressed; a significant gap still exists across the UK.
3. Research from the Fawcett Society highlights that of the council seats across the country that were up for election in 2018, 38% went to women, up just 3 percentage points on 2014 when these seats were last contested.
4. Improving diversity and inclusion takes time. Best practice factors include:
 - a. Delivering training to decision makers and across the organisation
 - b. Recruitment adverts that look for a range of experiences, not those traditionally filled by white men.
 - c. Recruitment processes e.g. gender-neutral job ads; skills/competencies over experiences; blind CVs; diverse recruitment panels;
 - d. Mentoring/coaching/training for talented individuals
 - e. Promotion opportunities including safe environments for individuals to learn new skills and experiences
5. Tower Hamlets Council publishes data on the gender pay gap, as well as data in relation to the pay gap for other protected characteristics: BAME staff; staff with disabilities; and LGBT staff.

This council recognises the efforts made by this council to improve inclusion. However, we acknowledge that leadership roles across London and across our council and partners in the community often lacks the diversity that we wish to see. In 2019, we need to see a bigger step change.

This council wishes to see the same requirement extended to partners and suppliers where there is no statutory impediment.

This council believes we should be encouraging our local government colleagues across London, and our partners and community groups locally to improve inclusion by having senior management teams that reflect the diversity of our borough and city. This council welcomes the addition of a question asking about the existence and effectiveness of applicants' diversity and inclusion policies in the Local Community Fund application. This council wishes to see a movement towards a model where such an improvement in inclusion becomes a key consideration in appointments and funding (where there is no statutory impediment in doing so).

This council resolves:

1. To annually request a range of inclusion statistics from partner organisations and funded community groups, with a focus on how inclusion is to be improved at a leadership level. The intention initially is that this signals the importance of inclusion to the borough. The level and detail should vary depending on the size of the group.
2. To produce a plan to make diversity and inclusion key decision factors (focusing on senior management) in appointing suppliers and issuing grants. The plan should cover the medium-long term and consider how this can be achieved in line with procurement rules.
3. To lead by example and review the council's own recruitment processes and development & training programmes to improve diversity and inclusion at a senior management level.
4. To require any headhunters/recruitment consultants to demonstrate how they will address diversity during the recruitment process and demonstrate how they address diversity in their own organisation.
5. To call on the Mayor of Tower Hamlets in his role at London Councils to push for the establishment of development programmes for BAME senior managers in London Local Government in order to address the current under-representation at senior level.
6. That the above should be reflected in the annual equalities workforce monitoring report action plan where applicable.

12.4 Motion regarding London City Airport

Proposer: Councillor Val Whitehead

Secunder: Councillor Ehtasham Haque

Tower Hamlets Council recognises the high impact of any increase in air traffic on carbon emissions and also on the lives of those who live in the flight path or will lose their homes to airport expansion. Following our earlier recognition of a Climate Emergency we therefore oppose the expansion proposals at Heathrow and the proposed increase in the number of flights allowed at City Airport and any extension to its hours of operation.

As an eco-friendly alternative to increased flights, Tower Hamlets residents have easy access to multiple railway stations and we believe the government should work to increase access and decrease the cost of rail travel for all.

We also believe that the concentration of flight paths from City Airport in 2016, which has a disproportionate effect on those affected, is unfair and should be reversed.

The council must ensure that it submits a formal response to the London City Airport Master Plan 2020-2035 consultation, including a copy of this motion in the response, and ensuring that residents are engaged in the consultation process.

12.5 Motion regarding Serious Case Review of Radicalisation of BGA Schoolgirls

Proposer: Councillor Rabina Khan

The Council Notes:

- To date, Tower Hamlets Council's Local Safeguarding Children's Board has failed to undertake a serious case review of the circumstances surrounding the radicalisation and handling of the Bethnal Green Academy schoolgirls (Sharmeena Begum, Shamima Begum, Amira Abase and Kadiza Sultana) who travelled to Syria to join ISIS.

A letter to the Rt Hon Sajid Javid from Shamima Begum's family solicitor claims the following:

- In March 2015, the DfE announced that experts from its due diligence and counter-extremism division would review possible links to extremism at BGA, yet no findings have been made public
- The police questioned seven of Sharmeena's friends from BGA without the knowledge or consent of their parents and that, allegedly, consent letters given to the girls were not delivered to their parents. Neither the police, nor BGA contacted their parents
- It is alleged that the Met Police attempted to stop the families from receiving legal advice
- None of the BGA girls were referred to Prevent, the government's anti-radicalisation programme
- The Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 contains a [duty on specified authorities](#) (local authorities, education providers, health sector, police, prisons) to have due regard for the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism. This is the origin of the 'Prevent' strategy
- Shamima Begum's family lawyer, Tasnime Akunjee, has also questioned [what failures took place](#) that allowed teenage girls to evade the police and security services and make their way into a terrorist-occupied territory

The Council Further Notes:

- In December 2014, during Luftur Rahman's administration, Sharmeena Begum was the first schoolgirl who travelled to Syria. It is reported that her father, Mohammed Uddin, was so concerned about her friends [he informed the police](#) and school to keep an eye on her friends
- In February 2015, Sharmeena's friends Amira Abase, 15, [Shamina Begum](#), 15, and Kadiza Sultana, 16, ran away to Syria.
- The Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 did not come into force until July 2015, after the girls had travelled to Syria.
- In March 2015, four other female students at Bethnal Green Academy, aged 15 and 16, were made wards of court, as was another teenaged girl with no known links to the school. The judge held that the orders were '*based on a perceived risk, not assessed as high, that the children may take steps to leave the jurisdiction and travel to a conflict zone*'. No formal findings were sought or made against the BGA girls in the wardship proceedings, as no one opposed the final orders.
- [Amira's parents](#) report that they were unaware that their daughter had gone to Syria until they saw it on the TV news headlines

- It is understood that Sharmeena had been attempting to radicalise Shamima, Amira and Kadiza since September 2014, shortly after she was radicalised herself, as it is something they are asked to do.
- In July 2015, under John Biggs' administration Cllr Rabina Khan brought a motion to council to safeguard children and young people from radicalisation
- In 2017, [Ofsted condemned](#) Tower Hamlets Children's Services overall as "inadequate".
- Cllr Rabina Khan brought a motion for extra resources for safeguarding against radicalisation in the February 2019 Budget Meeting.
- During her time in Syria, Shamima Begum reported that she has given birth to three children, all of whom have died
- In 2015, following [extensive press coverage](#) of Shamima, Amira and Kadiza, BGA changed its name to Green Spring Academy Shoreditch
- Sara Khan, the government's Lead Commissioner for Countering Extremism, stated that Tower Hamlets Council found that the Shamima Begum case "did not [meet the threshold](#) for a serious case review."
- Earlier this year, Waltham Forest Council carried out a [serious case review on two schoolgirls](#) from the same school, Bethnal Green Academy (that SCR did not relate to radicalisation). <https://www.standard.co.uk/news/uk/schoolgirls-feared-fgm-after-being-sent-abroad-to-be-dewesternised-a4178071.html>

The Council Resolves:

This case has to be one of the biggest failures of the Prevent strategy and with no enquiry to learn lessons from the past.

A Serious Case Review must be carried out for the 4 girls who went to Syria aged 15 at the time.

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