


Non-Executive Report of the: COUNCIL 21 March 2018	
Report of: Asmat Hussain, Corporate Director, Governance and Monitoring Officer	Classification: Unrestricted
Motion for debate submitted by the Administration	

Originating Officer(s)	Matthew Mannion, Committee Services Manager, 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in the previous six months; or which proposes that a decision of the Council taken in the previous six months be rescinded; unless notice of the motion is given signed by at least twenty Members.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 future of Tower Hamlets Council

Proposer: Mayor John Biggs

Secunder: Councillor Sirajul Islam

This Council notes that:

1. Tower Hamlets Council has emerged from a period of turbulence and chaos which was created by the previous mayor Lutfur Rahman and his administration, many of whom still serve as councillors.
2. The Government had to appoint Commissioners to run services in the wake of Lutfur Rahman's administration.
3. Since Lutfur Rahman's removal from office by the Election Court, and the election of Mayor Biggs, Tower Hamlets Council has undergone a significant period of change and improvement which was recognised by the Government who withdrew their Commissioners.
4. Mayor Biggs and his administration have opened up the council's decision making process, and we now have a council focussed on the services that residents rely upon rather than a council which Secretary of State Sajid Javid said "had completely lost the trust of its residents" and "was mired in corruption and financial mismanagement".

This Council further notes that:

1. The election court in 2015 ruled that 'the election of all THF Councillors must be taken to have been achieved with the benefit of the corrupt and illegal practices'.
2. Most of the councillors elected as part of Tower Hamlets First remain on the Council.
3. Tower Hamlets First splintered into two groups: the 'Independent Group' and the 'People's Alliance of Tower Hamlets'.
4. The 'Independent Group' has now renamed itself as 'Aspire', and has formally registered as a political party with the Electoral Commission.
5. The 'People's Alliance of Tower Hamlets' has now been formally registered as a political party with the Electoral Commission.

This Council believes that:

1. The Council has never unanimously recognised the damage caused by the previous mayor and this motion represents an opportunity for the Council to unanimously declare that we will never return to the chaos of the past.
2. The rebranding or renaming of political groups or parties does not absolve them of or hide their previous failings when in office.

This Council resolves:

1. To condemn the record of the previous mayor and his administration.

2. To reject any attempts to return the Council to the chaos of the past which the former Secretary of State described as “at best dysfunctional and at worst riddled with cronyism and corruption.”
3. To call on whoever is elected Mayor this year to commit to, and build on, the openness and transparency agenda introduced by Mayor Biggs.