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| Non-Executive Report of the:<br><br><b>Council</b><br><br>21 November 2018 | <br><b>TOWER HAMLETS</b> |
| <b>Report of:</b> Asmat Hussain, Corporate Director,<br>Governance         | <b>Classification:</b><br>Unrestricted  |
| <b>Petitions to Council</b>  |   |

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| <b>Originating Officer(s)</b> | Matthew Mannion, Committee Services Manager,<br>Democratic Services. |
| <b>Wards affected</b>         | All wards  |

## SUMMARY

1. This report sets out the valid petitions submitted for presentation at the Council meeting on Wednesday 21 November 2018. The texts of all petitions received for presentation to this meeting are set out in the attached report.
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. For Petitions listed as for debate:
  - 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. The petition will then be debated by Councillors for a maximum of 15 minutes. All speeches are limited to a maximum of 3 minutes. During his or her speech, any Councillor may move a motion for the Council's consideration relevant to matters in the petition (this does not require the suspension of the Council Procedure Rules).
  - d. 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 3 minutes.
  - e. Following the petition debate, any motions moved will be put to the vote in the order they were tabled.

- f. If no motion is agreed, the petition will stand referred to the relevant Corporate Director for a written response within 28 days of the meeting.
4. For Petitions listed as to be heard:
  - 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.
5. Members, other than a Cabinet Member or Committee Chair responding at the end of the item, should confine their contributions to questions and not make statements or attempt to debate.
6. For Petitions listed as to be noted, petitioners may not address the meeting. The Speaker will state where they will go for a full response.
7. Responses to all petitions will be sent to the lead petitioner and displayed on the Council's website.

## **PETITIONS FOR DEBATE**

No petitions for debate had been received by the petitions deadline.

## **PETITIONS TO BE HEARD**

### **5.1 Petition regarding Stop drug dealing and ASB on Three Colt Street and the Thames Path E14 (from Max Edwards and others)**

The residents and local businesses of Three Colt Street (E14) and surrounding areas call on Tower Hamlets Council to ensure that the PSPO order is properly enforced by the police and council in order to stop the drug dealing and anti social behaviour that is plaguing the area. We call on the council to ensure police patrols are increased in the area and the terms of the PSPO are enforced on all occasions. We also call on the council to install permanent CCTV at the junction of Milligan Street and Three Colt Street and at the junction of Three Colt Street and the Thames Path as a deterrent to the youths and for assistance to the police.

## **5.2 Petition regarding the disposal of part of Island Gardens (from Eric Pemberton and others)**

The Friends of Island Gardens are calling upon Tower Hamlets Council (and the Government if necessary) to investigate possible irregularities in their disposal of what we believe is still publicly owned land; land that should be protected as part of Island Gardens.

We understand that the site of the now-closed Calders Wharf Community Centre was part of Island Gardens before the centre existed and as such was transferred by the Greater London Council to the guardianship of London Borough of Tower Hamlets in 1972.

In 1980 the land was leased for 30 years to a local Tenants' Association and the community centre was opened. The council currently maintains that the land itself was included in a transfer to the independent housing association, East End Homes in 2006, yet no paperwork supporting this inclusion has been found by the council.

It is our understanding that any disposal of this public asset by the council would have been covered by the The Greater London (Parks and Open Spaces) Act 1967 and as such, subject to certain conditions, yet again, the council has not been able to produce any paperwork for this.

Recently obtained land registry records dated December 2016 show that a sale of the land took place from East End Homes to Telford Homes, and we know that planning permission exists to construct luxury flats on this site, inside, what we believe at least, to be part of Island Gardens.

We are calling upon Tower Hamlets:

1. to investigate whether proper process was followed in the "alleged disposal" of part of Island Gardens,

2. re-assert public ownership of the land if applicable.

And

3. to provide every assistance to the Friends of Island Gardens in preventing development on the site, restoring it to being part of the park once again.

### **5.3 Petition regarding the rights of EU citizens to vote in local elections (from Spencer Wood and others)**

In the 2018 Tower Hamlets Labour manifesto for the Mayoral and Local Council Elections, current Mayor John Biggs stated:

“We will campaign for the UK government to retain the rights of EU citizens to vote in local elections.”

We demand that Tower Hamlets Council take action to fulfill this manifesto promise: To campaign for the UK government to retain the rights of EU27 citizens to vote in local elections, and to pass a motion at Tower Hamlets Council to support this campaign

### **5.4 Petition regarding Safeguard Palestinian Solidarity (from Sybil Cock and others)**

We ask the Mayor and the Council to:

(1) Adopt the following caveat to the IHRA statement of 19 September. This safeguards our right to campaign for Palestine in Tower Hamlets. "It is not antisemitic, without additional evidence, to suggest that it displays anti-Jewish prejudice to criticise the Government of Israel; or to criticise Zionism as a political ideology; or to describe any policy or law or practices of the state of Israel as racist, including acts leading to Palestinian dispossession as part of the establishment of the state; or to define Israel as an apartheid state; or to advocate Boycott Divestment and Sanctions against Israel."

(2) Support Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza by flying the flag of Palestine at the Town Hall in the week before and after the UN International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian people on November 29th.

### **PETITIONS TO BE NOTED**

None.